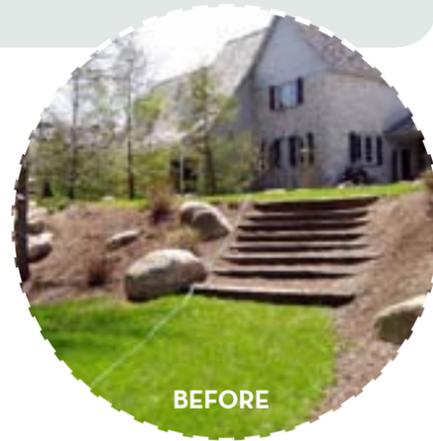


before

Wood beams made a ho-hum stairway to connect lawns over a slope

after

A 60' stream and stone steps create a naturalistic and inviting journey down to a lower patio



BEFORE

ROCKY meander

Stone steppers provide safe passage along a hillside stream

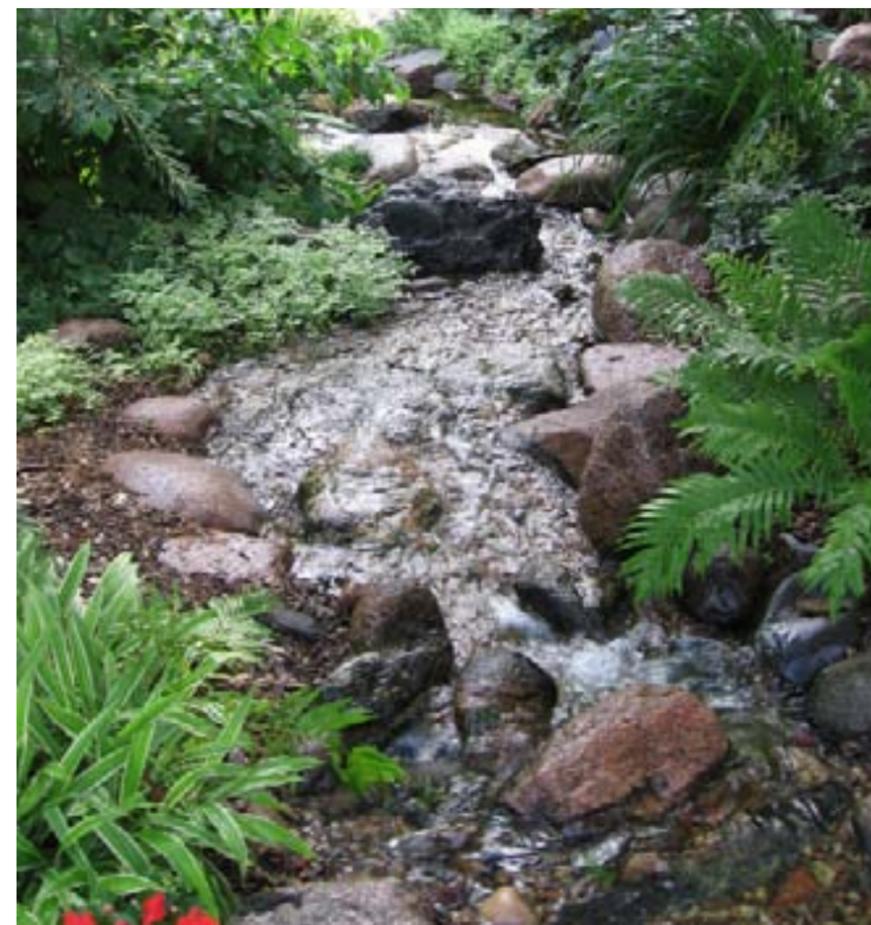


On a several-hundred-acre site near Wausau, Wisconsin, landscape designer Susan Murphy Jones, APLD, offered Mother Nature competition in fashioning a naturalistic stream, reflecting pools and rocky paths. The owners of this estate, with a trout stream running along the property, asked Murphy Jones to create a water feature to provide access to the bottom of the property, where they wanted a sitting area. Murphy Jones built a reflective pool at the top near the house and another at the base of the hill, with a patio area connecting the ponds. On one side is a staircase of stones, planted horizontally for safety and well lit for night-time enjoyment. Murphy Jones brought in boulders and rocks in all shapes and colors—and arranged them casually here and there as nature would have.

things we love

- 1 Soothing sound as water travels through stream and waterfall
- 2 Nighttime views, with lighting dotted throughout
- 3 Naturalistic beauty of rocks, plantings, water

LANDSCAPE DESIGNER: Susan M. Murphy Jones, APLD, Landscape Solutions, Weston, WI, landscapesolutionsbysusanmurphy.com, 715-355-1771 PHOTOGRAPHY: Susan M. Murphy Jones



* **KEY PLANTINGS** *Chamaecyparis pisifera* (Threadleaf Cypress); *Stephanandra incisa* (Cutleaf Stephanandra); *Rhus aromatic 'Gro Low'* (Grow Low Sumac); *Spiraea spp.* (Spiraea) **ZONE:** 3

\$ **MONEY-SAVERS** Although the budget covered the stream and plantings, Jones economized by setting stones into the hill without cutting or preparing them. "We used natural rocks and boulders as we found them for a more natural look," she says; they're also less costly.



DURING