Landscaping Made Easy

# Designing Your Yard[[1]](#footnote-1)

# Step 1: Determine Your Needs

The first step in designing your yard is to identify your needs. Do you want a yard for a play area, a flower garden, or an outdoor area to entertain guests? Do you want a zero-maintenance yard, or do you love mowing, weeding, pruning, and caring for plants? Only you can determine your needs, but our expert landscapers are always available to answer your questions.

# Step 2: Take Inventory

The next step is to identify existing plants and features that already exist in your yard that you’d like to keep. Take a look at how your space is arranged and notice the things you like and dislike. Sketch your yard and label the contents as either “keep” or “remove.” If you have a camera, use it to help you identify each of these items.

# Step 3: Sketch Your Dream Yard

Now the fun starts! Draw a rough sketch of how you’d like your new yard to look. Remember to keep the features from Step 2 in your new plan and then add new items to fit the needs identified in Step 1.

# Step 4: Select Your Plants

Now is the final step. Complete your sketch by choosing the plants and other features appropriate for your new yard. Select items with characteristics that match not only your needs but also your yard conditions, such as the amount of sun, the soil type, and the moisture available. Develop a list of suitable plants.

# Choosing a Tree

General Appearance

* The shape of the tree should look balanced.
* The tree should have an overall healthy appearance.
* The tree should have a single strong "central” leader trunk.
* The crown and root ball should be proportionate to the size of the tree.

Trunk

* The trunk should be free of insect damage, such as bore holes.
* The trunk should be straight and have a healthy appearance.
* The bigger the root ball, the better.

Crown

* Make sure the branches come off the leader trunk at an angle between 45 and 90 degrees. Any wounds from pruned branches should be healed or almost healed.
* Branches should have good scaffolding, which means they are evenly distributed throughout the tree.
* Branches should not grow in clusters. The length of each branch should be no longer than one-quarter of the height of the tree.

If you have any problems or questions, contact us. We can help!

Our office hours are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monday – Saturday | 8:00am to 5:00pm |
| Sunday | Closed |

1. Ask about enrolling in our community education class on “Landscape Design.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)