



**Analyze your current outdoor space:**

- What do you like most about it right now?
- What areas on your property bother you the most?
- How do you live in it?
- Do you know the identity of all the plants?
- Have you identified all the microclimates or trouble spots?
- What would improve that experience?
- Do you have a budget in mind?
- What timeframe do you have in mind for the project?
- List hobbies & interests which influence property use
- Are there any allergies or other medical conditions which should be considered?
- Do you want or need a fence? Are their county or local height restrictions?
- Do you live in a development where there are any covenants I should be aware of?

**THE FUNCTIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

***Please check each function that will apply to your use of the garden space.***

- Outdoor Dining? \_\_\_\_\_ How many people? \_\_\_\_\_ How often? \_\_\_\_\_
- Indoor/Outdoor Entertaining \_\_\_\_\_ How many people? \_\_\_\_\_ How often? \_\_\_\_\_
- Children? \_\_\_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_\_\_ What age? \_\_\_\_\_
- Pets? \_\_\_\_\_ What kind? \_\_\_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_\_\_

**CONSIDER THE VIEW FROM INSIDE**

- Consider what areas of your garden are viewed from the inside of your house.
- Which views are the most important?
- Are there specific features that you would like to see from certain windows?
- Think about some ways that your outside garden can enhance the inside of your home when seen through

**ENVIRONMENT'S VITAL STATISTICS**

- What is the style and age of your home?
- Do you want to screen features with plants or architecture?
- Make notes of the location of underground utilities and any distinct drainage patterns or problems.
- Do you have measurements of design areas? Plot plans or surveys?

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Entryway**

- Would you like it open, or more enclosed and private?
- What type of walkway exists? Is it wide enough (welcoming)? Is the shape pleasing?
- Do you see the need for other major walkways or paths?
- What paving material (stone, brick, gravel, pavers) do you prefer?

### **Driveway**

- Is it adequate in size for the cars in the family?
- Is there adequate parking for guests?

### **Utility**

- Where will you place your garbage cans?
- Do you need an outdoor storage shed?
- Woodpile? Compost?
- Future outbuildings (on rural properties)
- greenhouse / barn ?

### **Children's area**

- Do you want a specific play surface?
- Do you need room for play equipment?

### **Entertaining - Outdoor living**

- Do you entertain large groups?  small,  informal,  formal
- Would you like (more) decking or a large patio?
- Permanent outdoor seating?

- How much of this area do you want in the shade, sun?
- Outdoor cooking area?
- Swimming pool or hot tub?
- Special game area or sport court?
- Outdoor lighting?

**Edible Gardening:**

- Do you want specific areas for vegetables, flowers, herbs, fruit trees?
- Are you opposed to the use of pesticides and chemicals in the garden?

**Maintenance:**

- How many hours per week are you willing to work on your property?
  - Will you be hiring out the maintenance chores?
  - Do you want an irrigation system so that you don't have to water?

**Do you want an immediate landscape or are you willing to watch it grow and develop over time?**

- Do you have specific plant preferences and colors? (list separately if necessary)
- Plants or colors to avoid?
- Circle the following that you especially want to include: lawn areas (large or small)/ground covers / perennial flowers / river rock / graveled areas /edible plants / rose bed / rock garden / ornamental grasses/ fragrant plants
- Do you want any of the following decorative features / accessories?  Bird attractors,  water features,  large boulders,  gazebo,  pergola,  arbor,  garden sculpture,  container plants ( pots),  garden furniture, other \_\_\_\_\_
- Circulation: In considering typical outdoor activities of your family, are there areas where you foresee a path, or traffic-tolerant surface needed?

**Site Plan - Do you have a site map / plot plan (available from builder or county)?**

- Do you have the dimensions and house footprint and locations of utilities?
- Approx. size of property \_\_\_\_\_ ( provide specific dimensions of property lines if available)
- Is the site wooded, open meadow, steep, urban lot, rural...
- Problem areas- steep slopes, poor drainage? Erosion?

**Considering your lifestyle, what feeling or mood do you want to establish? ( natural, formal, oriental, English country.....)**

- Does this tie in with architectural style of house?
- Are there any natural features on the property that you would like to emphasize or change?
- Boulders, woods, stream, slope/ hillside (site contours), view...
- Where is drain field, or septic tank location? Can you locate the lines?
- Are there easements or deeded restrictions that you know of?
- Prevailing wind direction?
- Are there street lights, noises, or views outside the property that cause problems or need screening attention?? Are there drainage or traffic patterns that influence site?
- Do any existing plants, trees or structures need to be removed or relocated?
- Do you want an immediate landscape or are you willing to watch it grow and develop over time?
- Additional comments:

**INSTALLATION, CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

- How much time will be spent on maintenance each week by family members?
- Do you employ a gardening service?
- Who fertilizes/treats lawns and shrubs?
- Will you hire someone to install the landscape or do it yourself?
- Do you have the time and equipment to keep your lawn well-maintained?

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

Please circle the budget figure that is closest to what you are willing to spend:

Under \$5000                    \$5000 - \$10,000                    \$10,000 - \$20,000

\$20,000 - \$50,000            Over \$50,000

**IRRIGATION**

Once a landscape design has been installed, even with drought-tolerant plants, the vegetation needs to be watered consistently for two years. What is your form of irrigation?

**LIGHTING**

- Are you interested in landscape lighting?
- Do you have a need for security lighting and or surveillance cameras?
- Do you like a dramatic or subtle lighting scheme?

#### **HEATED WALKWAY, STEPS, DRIVEWAYS**

- Are there areas that you would like automatically heated during snow and ice events?