



**Are You Ready For A New Landscape?
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Most of us don't realize how often our life changes. You live one way when you're single. Owning a home is a consideration although seldom a priority. When you get married, having a house and a yard climbs the priority list, especially if you plan on having children. As you add children and pets to the family, your housing and yard needs change accordingly.

It seems easy to get the lawn mowed when you're young and full of energy, especially when there are no toys or pet surprises in the yard. Then you have to fence in the back yard to keep your pets in or the neighbor's out. As you age, it gets harder to re-stain the fence every three years or aerate the lawn every five.

You add expensive playground equipment to entertain the children. You build a deck to entertain your friends. If there's room, you add a hot tub or pool; possibly a water feature and a garden. Cleaning the pool or draining the spa becomes a costly chore the older you get.

Is the landscape too much when your children move away? Does it really fit your lifestyle any more?

A properly designed, sustainable landscape can adapt with your lifestyle as it changes through the phases of life.

A common trap that homeowners fall into is anticipating that a huge lawn with a sprinkler system will make maintaining the landscape quick and easy. For those who are meticulous about the appearance of their property, mowing can be a pleasure. We know one property owner who mows his yard twice a week, and twice (once each way) every time he does. He edges and removes the clippings, and that's his nature.

What if things change and your new position requires four days a week on the road, away from home? Did you want to spend all your free time mowing the lawn? Or would you rather sit back and relax on the patio with your favorite beverage, watching your steaks grill?

Having a landscape that fits your lifestyle today and adapts to your needs in the future is worth its weight in gold. You decide whether an adaptable landscape that fits your changing lifestyles is what you want. It doesn't just happen. Choosing a sustainable landscape that grows and changes as you need it to means you need to prepare for it ahead of time so you don't panic and make poor decisions.

Our mission is to help you with the process of developing a sustainable landscape that matches your lifestyles. We help you plan so you're prepared for eventualities.

Here are some elements that can be incorporated immediately to develop a landscape that will better fit your changing lifestyle:

1) Reduce energy use. With rising costs of fuel, your landscape could get more difficult to maintain. If mowing your lawn takes a two-gallon tank of gas each time, and you mow twice a week for half the year (26 weeks), that's more than \$300 a year for gas at \$3.00 per gallon. Could you use that extra money for a vacation? Reducing the use of power equipment on your property saves you money ... and precious time.

2) Limit watering. Water use is restricted in many parts of the United States, and the short supply increases the costs. Even if you have your own well, electricity and pump maintenance can add up. What about the future? An acre of turf requires more than 300,000 gallons of water in a season. We don't use anywhere near that amount on our property, and that includes three acres of intensive nursery and food plants. We use drip irrigation. Are you prepared for limited water availability?

3) Protect free time. What is your time worth? Are you getting paid \$15 or \$75 an hour to mow your lawn? Does it make sense to be doing some meaningless chore on your property when you could be enjoying family time? A well-designed Eco-Building & Forestry landscape can significantly reduce the time you spend maintaining it.

4) Increase health benefits. Do you realize the impact on your health from the chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, and even the exhaust fumes involved in taking care of your yard? A landscape without these hazards, where you can enjoy peace and quiet and safely entertain friends, has documented health benefits. People are wisely choosing healthier lifestyles to enjoy their passions in life. Your landscape should be a destination for you to do that. Doesn't fresh air and exercise sound better than expensive medical treatments and drugs? Wouldn't it be nice to know you could still stay in your home and enjoy your landscape, despite a health problem?

5) Grow organic foods. The trend toward purchasing more responsibly grown foods continues to grow. If we could show you how easy it is, wouldn't it be wonderful to have asparagus, blueberries, rhubarb, strawberries, apples, pears, or even horseradish growing right outside your back door? They are easy to grow; some are perennials that come back every year so you don't have to purchase and replant them. At Eco-Building

& Forestry, we can help you design and install very low maintenance growing areas that will fit your lifestyle, and your landscape. You can grow fresh, better tasting food in season right on your property, and the plants will add great visual interest to your landscape throughout the year.

Change is one of the only things in life that is permanent. When it comes to your landscape, however, you can master that change and decide how it adapts to your lifestyle. If your life changes and catches you off guard, we can still help. But if you'd rather be prepared, Eco-Building & Forestry provides you with experts at guiding you to a sustainable landscape that adapts to your changing lifestyle. Contact us today!