



Landscape Budget or Blunder?  
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Failing to plan is planning to fail. Can a great landscape that fits your lifestyle be done without planning? Do you want to know what your landscape will cost before you install it? What will your landscape cost to maintain and will you get any benefits from your landscape to offset those costs?

Budgeting for landscape planning, installation, and maintenance is an absolute necessity for success. Many people, who have only planted a few flats of flowers in the past, are shocked when they find out the costs for just a lawn and sprinklers at their new home; a landscape that doesn't fit their lifestyle. How would you react to estimates for landscaping that might run \$10,000, \$20,000, \$30,000 or even more? Will it include the patio for entertaining, the herb garden you always wanted, the place to practice your golf swing and a place for the kids to play? If you don't have the money, what are you supposed to do with those huge piles of dirt, dead trees and the bleak barren parts of your property?

If you are building a new home, will you set aside at least 10% of the entire project budget to address the largest area of your home – the outside portion? Will you leave that money in a separate escrow account so it doesn't get used for draperies? Will you resist the temptation of a countertop upgrade during construction that will drain your landscape budget? Will you believe your builder when he tells you that his brother-in-law can give you the same landscape with all of the benefits for only \$5000?

If you have an existing home where you want to change the landscape to fit your lifestyle, where will the funds come from to do the work and buy the materials? Retrofitting your existing home with just the right landscape for you might cost \$5000 for a small area to \$50,000 for extensive work that includes removing poorly planned landscape features that already exist. Did you set aside money for this or will you finance or get a home equity loan to do the project?

What about maintenance? Landscapes that fit your lifestyle can be very easy, inexpensive and even fun to maintain. If you choose a high maintenance landscape that uses lots of equipment, water, chemicals and energy, are you ready for those things to continue to go up in price faster than inflation? And what about labor costs for that kind of maintenance?

Planning and budgeting go together and at Eco-Building & Forestry we provide the information that you need to make an informed decision. The sooner you meet with us to discuss your project and your budget the easier it is to achieve a landscape that is just right for you. The important thing to remember is that when we help create your landscape it is not about money spent, never to be seen again. It is about creating a landscape that fits your lifestyle with tangible benefits that offer a real payback on your initial investment.