



Compounding Your Landscape Investment

How much have you got invested in your landscape?

What kind of return have you earned from all that money, time, and effort?

Whether you installed a standard landscape when you built your home or inherited one when you bought it, you have a pretty good idea of how much it costs.

When you build a new house, installing a landscape can cost as much as \$20,000 or more. With standard landscapes, that's only the beginning! Add in the following and you can rack up thousands of dollars in expenses within a few years:

- Mowing
- Maintenance
- Fuel
- Watering
- Pesticides
- Fertilizing
- Pruning
- Updating
- Planting
- Seeding.

Homeowners seldom weigh the return on that investment. It's either negligible or outrageous. We often hear, "I don't want to know!" because it's so scary; plus it's detrimental to an ecologically sound lifestyle. These same homeowners don't realize there are wiser options. Think of having a sustainable landscape as being the same as using the power of compounding with your financial investments.

If you set aside significant savings on a consistent basis and allow the power of compounding to work in your favor, your investments grow considerably over time. You are then able to enjoy your retirement at the level you want.

The same can be true with a sustainable landscape, building gains and taking you to your desired destination. What are some choices for a sustainable landscape that generates a return on your investment?

Solid Planning. Start with a good plan for a sustainable landscape and you avoid mistakes and the expense of correcting them. A sustainable landscape plan that fits your lifestyle generates benefits while minimizing expenses.

Turf Reduction. How much is your time worth? Traditional lawns are usually a high maintenance element of a landscape. They require a lot of time and money! You can achieve financial and time advantages through less mowing, watering, fertilizing, and pesticide applications. Those gains can then be applied to other areas of your property, especially ones you want to enjoy.

A large lawn with an expensive sprinkler system is not necessarily an advantage when it comes to selling your property. Most people know how expensive they are to maintain ... or replace ... and would rather not pay for that feature of your home.

Special Areas. If you or some of your friends would enjoy sitting on the patio enjoying cup of coffee in the morning, ask them if they have such a place. If you like to barbecue and entertain friends, consider developing an area that fits your lifestyle as part of your landscape. Some of us like a quiet, secluded place where we can totally relax and have some solitude. With children, you may want to consider play areas for recreational activities. Would you like an area to enjoy your favorite sport?

How ridiculous is it to burn a few gallons of gas driving to a park when you could have your own park in the backyard? That is a real gain, and compounds your savings! If you spent \$20 less per week on dining out (probably one less night out with your spouse would easily cover that), you save at least \$1,040 per year. That's only the food.

Grow Things. If you like fresh fruit, consider how beneficial it would be to walk out your back door and select the best apple on the tree for your enjoyment. Add in the pride you feel from nurturing that tree and the value multiplies. Fruit trees are an easily sustained element of your landscape. Vegetables can also be incorporated into your landscape if you like to eat them and want to grow them yourself. Imagine having fresh lettuce for your salad every evening. There are several varieties of nut trees that grow in most climates. If you want to see lots of birds but not have to fill the feeder all the time, there is vegetation you can plant that birds want. If you've got a fireplace, there are trees you can grow just for the firewood. If you like to cook, you can have an herb garden right outside the kitchen door. Imagine the other possibilities.

With the growing concern about our environment, there are large gains available from even the smallest landscapes when you can avoid trips to the store for one item.

There is also great satisfaction in growing your own food and becoming more self-sufficient by using resources available on your property.

Start Now. The power of compounding pays greater dividends when you begin your investments sooner and keep them longer. Sustainable landscapes benefit with time, too. Apple trees might need five years to produce in quantity. Perennial vegetables such as asparagus may need five years as well.

At Eco-Building & Forestry, our systems of design and installation have been known to move customers and their property ahead by 10 years in a single season.

What would 10 years be worth to you?

The sooner you begin implementing a sustainable landscape that fits your lifestyle, the quicker you compound the benefits of your property. Let us guide you through investing in your landscape and creating a destination that best fits your lifestyle!