

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape design and construction in Mount Prospect. Use these planning questions to prepare a project conversation.

The ROI fundamentals most homeowners miss

Backyard value is not a single feature. It is a stack of decisions that reduce friction for future owners. A simple example: a paver patio with proper base, a short run of steps that meets code, integrated outdoor lighting design for safety, drip irrigation zones for adjacent beds, and a small pergola installation for shade. Each element on its own is modest. As a set, they read as a turnkey outdoor living space. That is what appraisers note and buyers pay for.

Function: spaces that support regular use, like dining, lounging, grilling, play, gardening, and pets. Durability and maintenance: materials and plant choices that age well and keep annual costs predictable. Water and drainage: a well-designed irrigation system and proper drainage installation prevent the two budget killers, dead plants and water-damaged hardscape. Lighting and safety: steps, paths, and seating areas that are safe to navigate at night. Proportions and flow: clear circulation from the door to the yard, to the side gate, to utilities, without awkward detours.

Start with surfaces: patios, walkways, and decks

Walkway installation is equally important. A paver walkway or stone walkway creates sightlines, keeps shoes clean, and signals care. A direct line from the back door to the dining area, then a branch to the gate or a garden path, curbs wear on the lawn and prevents dead spots. If you must choose between a larger patio and a patio plus a simple path, the combination usually wins on usability.

Decks still add value when grade changes demand elevation. Composite decking reduces maintenance and appeals to buyers who do not want to stain annually. If you go with wood, use a durable species and commit to seasonal maintenance. Inspectors and buyers notice wobbly railings and spongy steps. Nothing drains value faster than a deck that feels unsafe.

Shade sells: pergolas, pavilions, and patio covers

Buyers imagine themselves in a backyard during summer, not on the perfect spring day. Shade makes hot weather bearable and increases actual hours of use. A pergola installation, even a modest wooden pergola with simple rafters, can deliver outsize value if it is scaled correctly and anchored properly. Aluminum pergolas and [Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design](#) louvered pergolas add control and a crisp modern look. If your climate sees frequent rain or intense sun, a covered patio or pavilion extends the outdoor season significantly and reads as an additional "room." Tie the structure into your patio design to avoid the look of a tacked-on canopy.

Water management, irrigation, and drainage

An irrigation system installation with separate zones for lawn and drip irrigation for beds does two things. It keeps plants healthy without waste, and it reassures future buyers that they won't be hand-watering all summer. Smart irrigation controllers paired with soil moisture sensors are a defensible upgrade because they cut water bills, support eco-friendly landscaping solutions, and protect plantings. The best ROI move inside irrigation is often drip lines in garden beds, not more turf spray heads. Drip wastes less and reduces disease on foliage.

Lighting that pays back every night

Landscape lighting fences in value because it handles safety and ambiance with the same fixtures. Low voltage lighting along walkways, at steps, and on risers makes night use easy and reduces liability. Soft downlighting from a pergola beam or a tree gives a warm wash without glare. Limit uplights unless you are highlighting a specimen plant or architectural feature. Buyers like lighting when it's subtle and coordinated.

Planting design that looks good all year and won't spook the buyer

A backyard that reads as low maintenance tends to attract more offers. That does not mean sterile. It means the right plant in the right place, not a collection that needs constant intervention. Start with a clean bed layout, then choose low maintenance plants for your zone. Native plant landscaping, ornamental grasses, and evergreen structure give a backbone that looks good in shoulder seasons. Perennial gardens add color bursts without constant replanting. In high-sun spots, drought resistant landscaping and xeriscaping services cut water use and work. In shaded side yards, ground cover installation beats patchy turf.

Tree and shrub care can be a stealth ROI saver. Tree trimming and removal protects structures and brings light to the yard. If a tree leans over the roof or a large branch threatens the neighbor's fence, buyers notice the risk. Remove unsafe trees before listing. Keep healthy trees and prune them well. They anchor the yard and add value that new plantings cannot match.

Outdoor kitchens and entertaining zones

Outdoor kitchen design services and built-in grills can add strong lifestyle value in mid to high price ranges. The key is scale and utility. A simple built-in grill with a small counter, storage, and a waste bin integrated into the patio reads as complete without becoming a budget buster. Outdoor refrigerators sound great, but in cold climates they require winterization and can fail early if exposed. Spend money on a quality grill, durable counters like granite or porcelain, and a run of weatherproof cabinets large enough to store basics. Add a single outlet on a GFCI circuit for blenders or lights. If you entertain often or plan to stay long-term, a nearby shade structure and a small dining zone become more important than extra appliances.

Poolside landscaping ideas deserve a note. If you already have a pool, pool hardscaping and pool deck pavers in a cool-touch color, paired with a poolside pergola, can transform the look and function without touching the pool shell. For sellers without a pool, adding one rarely pays back in the short term unless you're in a market that expects it. If you have a hot tub area, stage it well and keep decking and steps safe and code compliant.

Retaining walls and grade solutions

Many backyards lose usable area to slopes. Retaining wall design and proper wall installation can reclaim square footage that appraisers count. Segmental block walls with geogrid, stone retaining walls for a natural look, or concrete retaining walls for tight spaces each have their place. The ROI trick is combining walls with seating walls and terraced walls that create functional tiers: play lawn above, dining terrace below, garden walls to define beds. Curved retaining walls soften the view and create niches for planters or a fire pit.

Front yard curb appeal still matters

Even when you are investing out back, the first look from the street sets expectations. Driveway installation and paver driveway upgrades, especially with a simple soldier course border or a permeable paver band for drainage,

can lift the whole property. Driveway landscaping ideas like a pair of widened planting beds at the entry and clean walkway installation to the front door reinforce that the property is well maintained. Best plants for front yard landscaping are not the same as backyard selections, because scale and evergreen presence rule the front. Keep sightlines clear and consider native evergreens for structure.

Maintenance plans that protect value

If you are a do-it-yourself owner, set a calendar. How often to aerate lawn depends on soil. Clay-heavy areas benefit from annual aeration, sandy soils can stretch to every other year. Overseeding after aeration refreshes thin turf. Schedule seasonal landscaping services like seasonal planting in spring and fall, and a mid-summer check on irrigation coverage as plants grow in.

Small yards, big returns

Landscape design for small yards requires restraint and clarity. The fastest way to reduce value in a small space is to cram too many elements. Modern landscape ideas for small spaces often combine a compact paver patio, a bench or seating wall, a narrow planting bed with varied textures, and outdoor lighting to extend the evening. Landscape design for small yards lives or dies by scale. Choose furniture that fits, keep a simple plant palette, and use vertical elements like a slim arbor installation or trellis for height. In tiny spaces, artificial turf installation can solve the wish for a green patch without committing to mowing and irrigation.

Sustainable choices buyers actually value

Sustainable landscape design services and eco-friendly landscaping solutions can boost resale, but only when they translate to lower operating costs and less work. Xeriscaping services that reduce turf and use drought tolerant plants read well in water-stressed regions. Permeable pavers reduce runoff fees in some municipalities, a tangible win. Smart irrigation paired with mulch installation saves water. Native plantings that support pollinators speak to buyers, but avoid overgrown looks. Intentional edges and clear bed lines keep sustainable choices from reading as neglect.

The role of professionals, and how to hire well

When vetting a top rated landscape designer or a best landscape design company, look for built projects similar to yours, not just renderings. Ask to see a patio that is at least three winters old. Good work endures. If you need speed, search for landscaping services open now but do not skip references. A local landscaper with reliable crews often delivers better results than a flashy commercial landscaping company unfamiliar with residential details.

What to expect during a landscape consultation

A solid landscape consultation starts with how you live and ends with a phased plan. Be ready to discuss budget range, drainage issues, sun patterns, and utilities. A designer should measure, study grade, ask about pets and kids, and map traffic flow. Expect a concept plan first, then refinement into a construction plan with materials. For landscape construction, clarify who handles permits, inspections, and utility locates. For irrigation installation, confirm backflow prevention and controller programming. For outdoor lighting, ensure transformers are accessible and circuits are labeled.

If budget is limited, phase work. Often phase one covers drainage, patio installation, and a small shade structure. Phase two adds planting and lighting. Phase three finishes with an outdoor kitchen or water feature. Phased projects protect ROI by getting the backbone right first.

The intangibles that quietly raise value

Two homes can have similar patios and plant lists, yet one feels better. It is usually small details. A stepping stones run from the hose bib to the garden so shoes stay dry. A gate that swings fully open and latches cleanly. Outdoor rooms that align with interior rooms so movement feels natural. A retaining wall cap that is wide enough to sit on. A stone fireplace set where smoke doesn't blow into the door. These touches cost little, but they shape perception. Buyers notice ease.

If you work with a local landscape designer or outdoor living design company, ask them to walk you through a day in the backyard. Where do you set the platter from the grill. Where does the dog run. Where do kids play. That lived-use audit, paired with professional detailing, is what turns a landscape project into a value multiplier.

Final guidance for different owners

If you plan to sell in under two years, focus on the basics: patio and walkway installation, a shade element, simple planting with mulch and edging, low voltage lighting for safety, and an irrigation tune-up. Freshen turf or replace with artificial turf in stubborn shade. Keep it neutral and durable.

If you plan to stay five years or more, invest in custom landscape projects that match your habits, like an outdoor kitchen or a water feature, but build the backbone first. Phase wisely, maintain consistently, and document warranties and manuals for future owners.

If you manage commercial landscaping or business property landscaping, design for crews and traffic. Durable hardscape, straightforward plant palettes, and clear access beats boutique details. The best landscaper in your area for commercial work will talk logistics and life cycle costs more than plant varieties.

Value in backyards rarely comes from a single showpiece. It grows from the way hardscape, plants, water, and light support the way people live. Plan for function, control maintenance, respect water, and shape comfort with shade and lighting. When you do, the yard will pay you back in daily use and at the closing table.

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Landscape design and construction

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design is located at 600 S Emerson St, Mt Prospect, IL 60056.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design uses the phone number (312) 772-2300.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design has the website <https://waveoutdoors.com/>.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design has a Google Maps listing for its Mount Prospect business.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape design.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape construction.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design offers 2D landscape design.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design offers custom 3D design as a paid add-on.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design designs outdoor living spaces.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design builds patios.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides hardscaping.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design installs plantings and flower beds.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides yard grading.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design installs stormwater and drainage systems.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape lighting.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design handles consultation requests through its current office team.

Project planning questions

Where is the business based?

At 600 S Emerson St, Mt Prospect, IL 60056.

How can I discuss a landscape project?

Call (312) 772-2300 or request a consultation through the website.

Is landscape design offered?

Yes, Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape design and construction.

Are 2D plans offered?

The company offers 2D landscape design.

Can I request a 3D design?

Custom 3D design is available as a paid add-on.

Can patios be part of a project?

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design builds patios and hardscapes.

Can a project include planting?

Planting and flower-bed installation are offered.

Are drainage and grading offered?

The company provides yard grading and installs drainage and stormwater systems.

What should I bring to a design conversation?

Bring site photos, priorities, desired uses and questions about the proposed scope.

How can I compare design proposals?

Compare the stated drawings, materials, installation scope, exclusions and revision process.

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