



LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Congratulations on the improvements you are about to make to your landscape! Beginning a new project can seem a daunting task, but with the capable guidance of your landscape designer, and some information provided by you, the process can be both smooth and successful. To help you in the success of your project, APLDCT has put together a sampling of questions, along with a list of landscape elements which might be discussed with your designer during the initial consult or be presented to you in the form of a project questionnaire.

The information gathered during the initial phase of the design process is a great tool for both the designer and the homeowner. For the designer, it communicates the homeowner's needs and goals, along with the budgetary guidelines to make appropriate suggestions for improvements. For the homeowner it provides a discovery process of landscape elements they may wish to have included in their new design. For both, it reinforces ideas and sets a guideline for the process.

Here then, are some questions and elements to get you started in your process. Your designer will communicate their specific methods of information gathering and elaborate on the choices to consider.

APLDCT wishes you and your designer success!

Site Use & Evaluation

- How do you use your property - full or part time, summers only?
- How long do you plan on staying in your current location?
- What does your property lack or need (curb appeal, driveway, outdoor lighting, irrigation, fencing, hardscaping, patios, pool, barbeque, outdoor kitchen, bocci court, trash storage, privacy, clearing, more/less shade/sun)?
- What are the strengths of your property?
- What areas are priorities?
- Do you entertain? Frequently, large or small groups, family oriented?
- Do you desire a specific type of gardens – e.g., vegetable, cutting, butterfly, etc.?
- Would you describe your preferred aesthetic as formal or naturalistic? Or other?
- How do you plan on maintaining the property; by yourself or professionally?
- What is your budget range?

Elements to Consider

- Plantings – Trees, shrubs, possibly a meadow, evergreen, deciduous?
- Theme gardens – Butterfly, white, vegetable, herb, succulent, alpine?
- Hardscaping – Natural or manufactured stone, maybe reclaimed materials
- Garden structures – Arbors, pergolas, fire pit, outdoor kitchen for landscaping
- Lighting- Low voltage?
- Irrigation – Lawn or planting beds, both? Drip (good water conservation) or sprinkler?
- Fencing – Privacy, wood or iron, deer
- Decking – Composite materials or natural
- Masonry – dry laid walls or mortared, stone, brick, veneer? Decking – Composite materials or natural