

The Landscape Plan

Think about how you want to use your yard, how much time you wish to spend enjoying it and maintaining it, and what special features you would like to incorporate in the design. For inspiration, tour your neighborhood yards or stop by your local garden centre. Make a list of your needs, preferences, likes and dislikes; find images that illustrate design ideas that appeal to you.



Your landscape is an investment...

one that can add far more value to your home than the actual cost of the work. Creating this outdoor extension of your own home involves a combination of thoughtful planning, artful design, solid construction and proper maintenance - all important factors in the success of your investment.



Benefits of Green Spaces

What to discuss with a Landscape Contractor

- Assemble your notes, pictures, drawings and a copy of your lot plan for the first meeting.
- Discuss your budget freely. The landscape contractor can suggest the most economical approach to achieve what you are looking for.
- Inquire about the firm's qualifications: number of years in business, staff experience and training/certification.
- Ask for a list of references and contact them.
- Inquire about professional affiliations such as membership in Landscape Alberta.
- Ensure the contractor has proof of insurance coverage.
- Ask about warranty; what is covered, what is not.
- Be absolutely clear about the contractor's terms of payment and date(s) of completion.
- Get it in writing! Prior to making any agreement, have the contractor prepare the details in writing; read and ensure you understand the contract.

Whether hiring a landscape contractor to design your plan, proceed with project construction or provide maintenance, you will want to work with people you can trust - professionals who know their business and the industry. Your best guarantee of satisfaction is to seek the services of a member of Landscape Alberta. These businesses have made a commitment to professionalism in their industry.



Community

Trees and healthy turf absorb and block sound pollution, as well as give people a sense of pride in their community.

Environment

Trees produce oxygen and sequester carbon, absorbing 150 kg of air pollution per year. They also improve water, soil and air quality.



Nature

Landscapes and green spaces create ecosystems and natural habitats for birds and other animals.

Home

Landscaping can add 20% to the property value of a building. Even small projects like adding a patio, hedge or garden can add 4-12%.



Energy

Trees planted near homes provide shade in the summer and block wind in the winter, helping homeowners save money on their heating and cooling bills.

Health

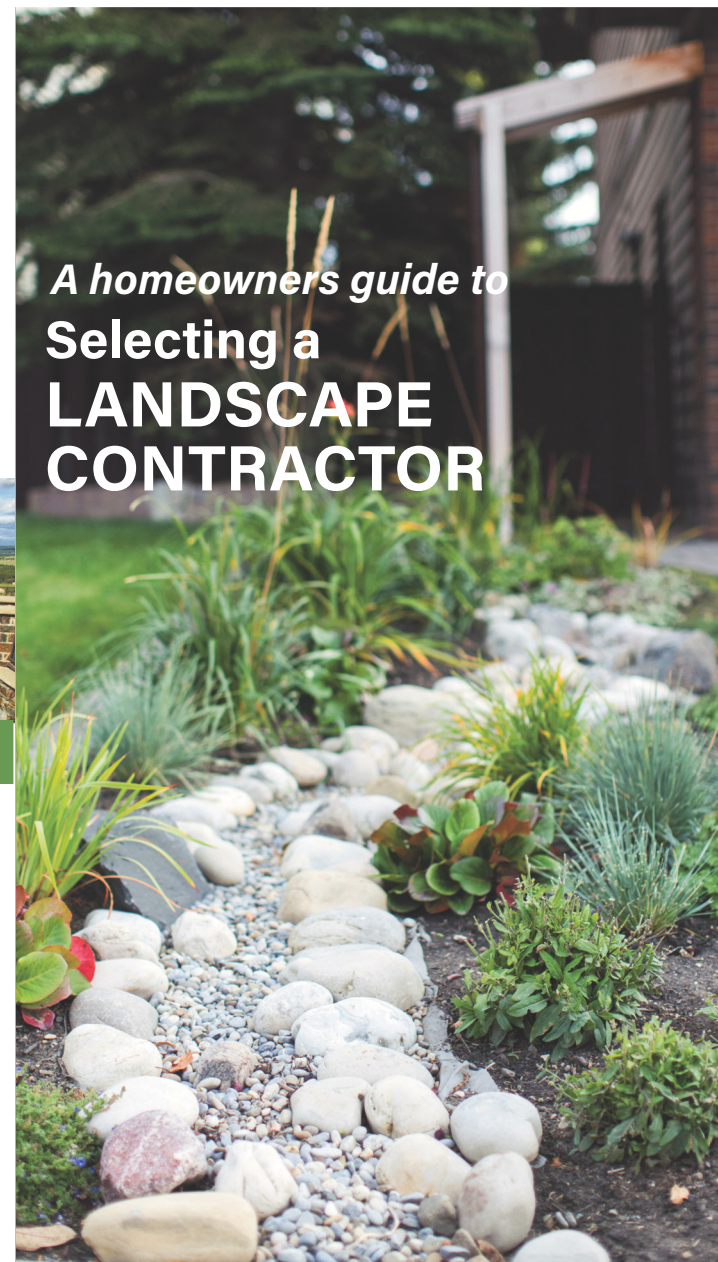
Green spaces are known to lower blood pressure and reduce stress. Not only is gardening therapeutic, but it also improves focus.



Safety

There is less violence and crime in communities with more trees and green spaces.

A homeowners guide to Selecting a LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR



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