



QUESTIONNAIRE TO HELP US IDENTIFY YOUR LANDSCAPE DESIGN NEEDS

Please fill out this questionnaire with your spouse and family members, as appropriate. The more input you get from those who will be sharing your outdoor living spaces the better.

In general, what do you like most about your present landscape? What do you like the least?

Now, let's take a look at some specific questions to help fine-tune your needs.

A. PLANTS, MATERIALS, STYLES, COLORS

- a. Do you have any favorite trees, shrubs, groundcovers? Any you dislike?
- b. Any favorite paving/building materials? Any you dislike?
- c. Any favorite landscape styles (i.e., formal, natural, Japanese, etc.)?
- d. Any particular colors you like? Any you dislike?

B. ACCESS – VEHICULAR & PEDESTRIAN

- a. Is your drive adequate? Do you need more parking? Turnaround?
- b. Do front and/or other entrances need defining? Are walks adequate? Do you need to block/direct traffic (i.e., service people, neighborhood kids, animals, etc.)?
- c. How about access to service areas (i.e., trash, firewood, etc.)?

C. VIEWS – PRIVACY - STORAGE

- a. What views do you especially like? Dislike? Views in home through windows? Views from the yard? Street?
- b. Does your site require any special screening (i.e., storage, neighbors, etc.)?
- c. Are storage areas adequate (i.e., size, location, etc.)?

D. SPECIAL SITE/HOME CONSIDERATIONS

- a. What is your plan's influence on your neighbors' interests? Any community restrictions/neighborhood covenants?
- b. Are there any easements, setbacks, other zoning regulations, building codes, restrictions?
- c. Any overhead/underground utility lines or water pipes? Location of?
- d. Are there any site problems (i.e., soil quality, drainage, erosion, etc.)?
- e. What areas would you describe as windy, sunny, part sun, full shade?
- f. Are there any particular aspects of your home that you want to accent? That you want to soften?
- g. Would you like a water feature (i.e., fountains, small reflective pool, natural pond, dry creek bed, etc.)?
- h. How about statues, lighting for safety, beauty, nighttime use?

E. SPECIAL FAMILY NEEDS/DESIRES

- a. If you have children, what specific needs do they have at present and in the future (i.e., sandbox, basketball goal, etc.)? Separate play area or integrate into entire landscape?
- b. If you have pets, do they have any specific requirements (i.e., dog runs, cat access, etc.)?
- c. Any birdwatchers and butterfly lovers in the family? How about fruiting plants, feeders, birdbaths, birdhouses?
- d. Are any family members allergic to bees or certain plants?
- e. Any avid gardeners (i.e., vegetable, herb, flower-perennial/annual)?
- f. Are there any other special family needs or desires?

F. RECREATION/ENTERTAINMENT

- a. Do you spend a lot of time outside? Would you like to? Back or front yard? Would you like any additional sitting areas (i.e., backyard and/or front entry)?
- b. What kind of entertaining/outdoor use? Large gatherings? How often?
- c. To enhance your enjoyment of the outdoors, do you have, or would you like to have, a pool, spa, screened-in porch, deck or deck extension, patio, open lawn for volleyball, etc. What landscaping needs do you envision for these areas?
- d. How about a grill area connected to deck/patio?

G. MAINTENANCE/TIMING/BUDGET

- a. How important is low maintenance (i.e., placement of thorns, reduction of lawn area, taking care of flowering plants, annual pruning, etc.)?
- b. Would you like a referral to a few companies that offer a maintenance program (i.e., schedule for mulching, pruning, fertilizing, insect/disease control, weeding, mowing)? If so, circle all that apply.
- c. Do you want an immediate effect or an intermediate effect (i.e., how long before you prefer pruning and plant replacement to become necessary)?

Note: An immediate effect could require extensive pruning to control size within 3-5 years and replacing in 15-20 years. Such an effect would also require larger plant sizes, if they can be found and spaced appropriately which is, of course, more expensive.

An intermediate effect would use of small to medium size plants, spaced appropriately, and designed to fill out in 3-5 years, and require extensive and minor pruning (depending on plant) in 10-15 years and replacing in 35-40 years.

Most plants need some annual pruning to encourage better fullness and flowering. Also, plants have a lifespan, just as humans do, which can be shortened by what we call "acts of God."

- d. How much money have you budgeted for immediate landscape improvements?
- e. Do you have a ballpark figure in mind for total site improvement? If so, what is it?

H. Are there any further needs you would like to express?

For identification purposes, what is your contact information?

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Thank you for completing this questionnaire, so I can better prepare to meet your specific needs. In addition to your responses to this questionnaire, I will also need a copy of the plat map of your property. Please note that what is needed is a plat map for your specific property, *not a plat map of your neighborhood*.

Note: Residential plat maps are often printed on legal size paper and show the layout and dimensions of your overall property, plus the layout and dimensions of all permanent buildings, driveways, any easements, etc. Plat maps are usually filed with the important documents you received when you purchased and/or mortgaged your home. If you are unable to locate a plat map for your home, it can generally be obtained from your developer/builder, lending institution, or county court house.

Please mail your completed questionnaire, along with a copy of your plat map, to...

Living Landscapes
Attn: Loretta Sawaski
12063 Laurel Oak Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46236

Upon receipt of your completed questionnaire and plat map, I will get back with you to determine how I might best be of service to you. I will be using your responses and your plat map to orient myself to your situation, and will bring along an enlarged copy of your plat map for use during our initial visit and discussion of your needs.