Introduction

Thank you for taking a few moments to review Classic's Landscape Handbook. Compiled from information found at our website (classicnursery.com), this simple guide offers some basic information that may help you organize your landscape project, from determining a budget and project phasing, to choosing materials and reviewing additional materials. It is our goal at Classic to offer creative and budget-based solutions that help you make the most of your property.

On any given day, while our talented design staff and landscape crews are building outdoor projects for homeowners all over the Puget Sound. Classic's Garden Center is serving serves as a horticultural resource for the area, offering plant classes, garden sales and a place to get answers to your garden questions. If you live nearby, you know that we've been answering garden questions and building award-winning outdoor environments for over 30 years. At Classic, you'll find not only a wide variety of plants, but handcrafted antiques, folk art and cool one-of-a-kind items. Classic is a great place to come out and just have a stroll. Our 10-acre nursery and garden center is just south of Woodinville's wineries and extends to the Sammamish River Trail.

Protected as part of King County's Farmland Preservation Program and as a center for horticultural and environmental education, Classic's Garden Center offers a wealth of information on plants, planting and garden pests. Stop by and browse our wide selection of trees, shrubs, perennials and annual color. Or just come by & see Don, our Nursery manager. (He's been with us for over 30 years - every gardener in a five-mile radius knows him). Our on staff landscape architect is state licensed and a member of the ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects). We are also a 5-star King County Envirostar Company and a member of a number of professional nursery, landscape design and building associations, such as WALP, ASLA, APLD and the MBA. (See our reference and “questions to ask your landscape designer” sections).

We'll offer creative and flexible solutions specifically tailored to fit your site. We base our horticultural recommendations on our vast experience working on properties from Everett to Maple Valley as well as research completed by the Washington State Cooperative Extension Service. Our nursery staff is a team of green-industry professionals with a passion for plants. Stocking the tried & true garden favorites and unique varieties for the region, our Garden Center is your local gardening resource center. As part of our unique, flexible approach to landscaping, we offer optional "do-it-yourself" pricing as well as "direct-to-owner" subcontract bids.

Our designers also utilize laptop computer estimating that enables you to get instant answers to your pricing and "what if" questions. Our designers carry a wide variety of product catalogues and landscape information for you to review as well. Our Garden Center allows landscape clients the ability to "see the plants before you start". Our installations include a range of design innovations, from mixed seasonal perennial plantings to unique "dry stream" arrangements that serve as an aesthetic alternative to common gravel landscape drains. Our award-winning ponds and waterfalls utilize a unique skimmer and biofalls system that functions as a self-regulating water ecosystem.
In addition to our guaranteed work, landscape clients receive a year-long discount at our Garden Center with our unique “Classic Card” and often sign up to receive our monthly garden tips via email. We want to establish an ongoing relationship with you. We'll be happy to mail you announcements regarding plant sales and tours that we offer and our staff will always try to be courteous and helpful. Our installation clients also receive valuable discounts from the Garden Center after project completion. Finally, you will not find a better installation warranty than you'll get from us. As long as you take reasonably good care of your landscape, we guarantee newly installed plants for a year. If we are taking continuing care of your home site, we warranty the planting as long as our staff is maintaining your property.

Nursery & garden center

Classic's Garden Center serves as a horticultural and wildlife resource for the area, offering plant classes, garden sales and a place to get answers to your garden questions. At Classic, you'll find not only a wide variety of plants, but handcrafted antiques, folk art and cool one-of-a-kind items. Classic is a great place to come out and just have a stroll. As a center for horticultural and environmental education, Classic's Garden Center offers a wealth of information on plants, planting and garden pests.

Classic & community

We have been educating local homeowners for decades now on the benefits of low maintenance, least-toxic garden methods, habitat restoration and other “green” issues. In addition, we assist and contribute to a variety of ecological and child supporting non-profits.

Landscape architecture, garden design and your home

Our landscape installation division constructs scores of outdoor projects annually with as many as eight landscape crews managed by our on-staff landscape architect and trained project managers.

Our work has been featured by Pacific Magazine as well as American Home, Northwest Home + Garden, 425 and Seattle Home & Lifestyle. Our design for a residential garden was featured by Sunset and is displayed on the back cover of the first edition of The Sunset Western Landscaping Book.

We received the "Best of Show/Founders Cup" award from the Northwest Flower & Garden Show for our display garden “Portage to the Pacific”, an exhibit of plants collected by Meriwether Lewis displayed with ancient Native American artifacts. A water feature of our design was given a full page photograph in a fall issue of Sunset magazine and Classic was featured by Northwest Home + Garden as the lead design firm in a Spring “40 top landscape designers” issue.

Whether it's the professional horticulturalists you'll find at our 10-acre nursery or our creative design staff, we've got the team and the talent to design and construct your project on time and on budget. Have a look through our website and judge for yourself. Call us for a complimentary on site consultation or visit us at our nursery or design office. We'll be glad to speak with you.
Landscape as investment. The benefits of high-quality landscaping and outdoor design

If you ask us if we think landscaping is a good investment, of course we’ll say that it’s a good value. Sure, if you’d bought a couple of hydrangeas instead of those shares of bevisnbutthead.com stock in 2000, you would have made out ok, but it’s more than that. We believe that a well designed landscape offers an enjoyable outdoor space for your family and represents a rock-solid monetary investment as well. Research studies from all over the nation underscore that landscaping can be a great investment in your home:

Smart Money magazine notes in the March 2003 issue that spending 5 percent of the total value of your home on landscaping, and doing it wisely, you can add 15 percent or more to the value of your home.

A Clemson University study found that landscaping can result in more than a 100% return on investment. The report concluded that “Homeowners wanting to increase the value of their property will do well to consider the cost-effective, return potential of quality landscaping, and to safeguard their investments by hiring licensed, professional landscape contractors to perform the work.” The return on investment is contingent upon the quality of the landscape installation. This study also found that consumers value a landscaped home up to 11.3% higher than its base price.

95% of respondents to a Society of Real Estate Appraisers survey said that landscaping adds to the dollar value of residential real estate, while 99% of them said it enhanced the sales appeal of residential real estate.

According to Money magazine (May 2003), spending on landscape design and installation has more than tripled in the past five years, as it offers the best return on investment of any home improvement. Smart homeowners are hiring landscape architects to help them realize their dreams. Think about what you want and how you will use your landscape. Formal entertaining, herb gardens, and children’s playgrounds are all possibilities. Don’t limit yourself to plants and trees; maybe you would like a fence, a fountain, a deck, a patio, or other outdoor element. Make a realistic budget. One rule of thumb is to invest 5 to 10 percent of your house’s worth. If this seems steep, consider that appropriate landscape improvements are estimated to return 100 to 200 percent of their cost when a house is sold.

According to the Money magazine story on home renovations, “not all improvements will increase the value of a house by the amount they cost to perform.” Landscaping, however, according to their research, has a recovery value of 100% to 200%, “if it is well done and harmonizes with foliage nearby.” This compares to a recovery value of 75-125% for a kitchen remodel, 80-120% for a bathroom, and 20-50% for a swimming pool.

The Florida Nursery Growers & Landscape Association researched and compiled the following statistics:
Landscaping can increase the resale value of a property by as much as 14% and speed up the sale of a property by as much as six weeks. A landscaped patio can raise property value by 12.4%, a landscaped curb by 4.4% and hedges can add 3.6%. 5% of a home’s value invested in low-maintenance, quality landscaping can increase resale value by as much as 15%, earning a return of 150% or more on the original landscape budget. When plants are properly selected and placed the results can come in lowering heating and cooling cost by as much as 20%.
According to the *Guide for Plant Appraisal*, published by the *International Society of Arboriculture*, homes with nice landscaping are likely to see sale prices that are 4 percent to 5 percent higher compared to similar properties in the neighborhood. Homes with landscapes that are not as nice as others in the neighborhood could see sales prices that are 8 percent to 10 percent lower. Eighty-four percent of the real estate agents interviewed for the study said a house with trees would be as much as 20 percent more salable than a house without trees. A popular landscape trade magazine notes that “a mature tree can have an appraised value of $1,000 to $10,000.

According to the *American Nursery & Landscape Association*, an improved landscape can increase the value of a homeowner’s property value by 7 percent to 14 percent. The association's study also revealed that such improvements could accelerate the sale of a home by five to six weeks.

**A Gallup poll** study shows that homeowners polled feel that landscaping “adds almost 15% to the value of their property and that landscaping is an investment with lasting value.” According to this poll, 95% of residential homeowners believe that good landscaping adds value to their homes; 86% of commercial property owners feel the same about their commercial properties.

In *The Value of Landscaping*, homes with nice landscaping are likely to see sale prices that are 4 percent to 5 percent higher compared to similar properties in the neighborhood. The general rule of thumb is that you get back 100 percent to 200 percent of what you invest in landscaping when you sell your home.

**Environmental & Health Benefits**

It’s a known fact that plants improve the quality of our air. Did you know that one tree could remove from the atmosphere around 26 pounds of carbon dioxide per year? When the proper tree is selected, planted and well maintained it can significantly absorb sounds waves and reduce noise pollution by “eating up” unwanted sound, although your tree won’t protect you from the neighbor kid’s new Metallica album. Carefully designed and well planted native gardens enhance wildlife and bring butterflies, hummingbirds, bees and songbirds into your life. Everybody needs more hummingbirds in their life. Erosion and the flow of pollutants and sediment can be reduced to nearby bodies of water when landscape buffers are planted. The salmon will thank you. A well designed irrigation system can not only save you unnecessary time spent hand-watering, but save water and reduce your utility bill.

**Establishing a budget for your outdoor project**

Landscaping can be a complex series of decisions. You’ve got the basic aspects of wind, water and sun as well as soil, slope and drainage. Mix in the difficulties of budgets, phasing and the fact that you have to make the decision with your spouse...and, well, we don’t need to tell you how difficult it is. We help people make these decisions all the time. It really doesn’t have to be that difficult for you. In fact, if you break it into simple steps, landscape solutions can be relatively easy to resolve. First of all, take a few moments to analyze your property. Make some notes. What is it that you like about your home site? Are you having drainage problems? Do you need to screen or accent a view? What plants do you like or dislike? Is there a “style” of plant arrangement that appeals to you? Do you need all the work completed for you? Would you be willing to complete portions of the work yourself?

Take a few moments to establish a budget. Not just your “first phase”, but what you might invest in the outside of your home over a few years. Of course we're going to say that "landscaping is a good investment". Up to a point, that is. You've also got to think of your home’s overall value and contrast that against how much you plan to enjoy the area around your home. We've got some information here on our website and at the Garden Center that can help you set some guidelines and to get a sense of how landscaping increases your home’s value. You can also assess your needs with our online Landscape Questionnaire. Submit the questionnaire form and our design staff will use it to determine the types of complementary catalogues (plants, drainage, stone, pavers, etc.) to bring for you at the first visit to your home.
Plan or proposal?

Having some confusion as to whether a complimentary proposal or a landscape plan is the best way to move ahead with your project? At the time of your initial consultation, we'll be happy to write up a proposal for you. It usually takes about a week or so to put it together, then we'll send it by mail and email. A plan is a more methodical process, involving more time, (from two weeks to a month or more), as well as an additional investment on your part. We base your design investment on a $65 per hour charge with a 10 hour minimum. This includes not only multiple drafted, scaled, blueprinted copies, but accurate estimates and a revision to the plan at your request. The design fee is not based upon your budget, but the overall complexity of the design. This could be related to issues involving your property measurements, the types of construction and whether your brother in law is going to be giving us advice.

Most properties will fall into the 20-40 hour range. If you are having trouble determining whether to have a complimentary estimate prepared or invest in a design plan, the following information may help:

Choosing an estimate only for your project: Advantage: No charge. Can be prepared in 7-10 days. Disadvantage: Does not graphically show you where each item is placed.

Choosing a plan and estimate for your project: Advantage: Shows all the work to be completed. May be implemented as a "Do it Yourself" or phased project more easily. Allows a number of companies to bid the same thing. Disadvantage: Invest $65/hr, minimum 10hr charge or more.

Note: One way to determine whether a landscape architectural plan might be a good value for you is to consider how long you will live in your home. Cut that time in half and assume that you will be done with all of your landscape phases within that period. Try to project how much you will have been comfortable investing in the landscape (including decks, walks and patios, etc.) by that future date.

Now, take 5% of that number, and if you can have plans prepared for 5% or less, design plans may be a good value for you. Again, please note that planning costs are not based upon your budget, but on the complexity of the project. Just being able to discuss ideas clearly with your spouse and methodically "plant the lavender on the corner of the patio" yourself during phase two has good value once you know where everything is going. All of our plans are reviewed by a licensed landscape architect and include firm estimates based upon the discussed and approved budget.

To establish a simple budget:

1. Number of years I will live in my home divided by 2 = what year? _________
   This might be when all the phases should be completed.

2. Amount that I am willing to invest overall by year noted above $________

3. 5% of that amount = $________

4. Quoted price of my landscape architectural plan $________

Is #3 higher than #4 above? If so, a plan may be a good investment for you.
20 Questions to ask your potential landscape designer.

(Print this out and put your designer on the hot seat.)

1. If we want to revise our plan after our meeting, will you update it at no charge?
2. Will your plan be scaled and blueprinted? Do you bring extra copies to our meeting?
3. If appropriate, will the plan encompass my entire property?
4. Will the plan be accompanied by an estimate for the work? Can you guarantee pricing?
5. Can you also give me unit prices and information about phasing the installation?
6. Can you prepare plans for work I will complete myself?
7. Do you bring plant books, catalogues and product samples for me to our presentation?
8. Are you affiliated with a Nursery where we can see the plants before the installation?
9. Can I get estimates from other landscape companies?
10. Are you able to estimate other construction, ie; decks, patios, spas and fencing?
11. Are you familiar with availability and unit prices for plants?
12. Are you familiar with unit prices for construction finishes such as brick, flagstone, etc?
13. How can I reach you? Can I contact you by, cell phone, webpage, fax and E-mail?
14. Can you supply references?
15. Are you a licensed landscape architect? Are you a member of ASLA, WALP, APLD* and the Master Builders Association?
16. Do you have a portfolio and references? Have you been published or received awards?
17. Are you recommended by respected suppliers, such as Marenakos Rock Center, Mutual Materials and other respected material sources?
18. Can I come in to your office and meet with your design staff?
19. Are you using organic and all-natural products and are you a King County Envirostar Company?
20. Can I reach you when the job is over and do you guarantee all that you do?

Classic answers to questions 1-20....."Yes".

* The American Society of Landscape Architects, Washington Association of Landscape Professionals, Association of Professional Landscape Designers.

Keep in mind that one of the greatest mistakes you can make in commissioning a design is to not set budget parameters for your designer. We know. We bid plans from other companies. You'll want to be careful that your designer can guarantee that your project will stay within a stipulated, mutually agreeable budget. We are what is called in the trade, a "design/build" firm. That is, we install what we design. We will always try to design within a pre-established budget for you. At the same time, you are always free to "shop" our plans. OK, enough about the budget! Have we beaten the budget thing to death?
If you have a plan from Classic

1. Review the project carefully.

Call anytime with comments or questions. Continue to make notes on the meeting copy of the blueprint and estimate. We can use it as a basis for a revision later. You can correspond with us by phone or email us.

2. Establish priorities.

If you’re phasing, establish a budget for your first phase. Determine to do the best value, most site-damaging and/or highest impact things first. We’ll tell you if you can’t decide.

3. Call us with your first phase ideas.

Some people will want to commission work, if not by budget, then by area. "I want to get the front yard done", or "Put it together as the front yard, not to exceed $X". Here’s a tip: For some projects it may be an ok value to do small phases, as long as you commission the work in increments that will keep a 2 man crew on site for at least 1/2 a day at a time. Generally, the longer the crew is on site for a given phase, the more efficient the installation may be and the better the value is for you. Talk to us about it, if you’re not sure. We’ll help you to purchase materials efficiently and advise you about the proper "order of construction".

4. If you need to, consider where best to make savings.

Bringing a big budget down isn’t usually dropping one big item out. Rather, it’s a combination of a bunch of small things whittled away. In addition, understanding how much you save by purchasing a bulk quantity (all of your compost or rock at once, rather than 3 yards at a time for individual phases), may be a factor in deciding how much work you want to have done. Some things like irrigation valve stations or low voltage lighting fixtures can be installed in sections and added to later. Paths can be narrowed a bit, trees reduced in height by a foot, groundcover spread out and dry streams shortened. If you are willing to wait, some of your plants can be reduced in size or quantity (with the goal of ultimately yielding the same end result over time).

For many, the joy of gardening is planting perennials. Who wouldn’t want to spend a sunny Saturday planting a garden with junior? (Have we even had a sunny Saturday or actually met junior?) You can save money by planting some of the smaller 1 gallon or 4” pot material after the first phase. These items go in quickly and easily.

5. Get on the schedule.

The early bird catches the worm, a stitch in time saves nine, etc, etc. If we haven’t already made arrangements with you, call us and give us a general idea of your budget and preferred time for installation. We’ll do our best to hold a date on our schedule for you. Once your project is on our schedule, we will try to keep you posted should the schedule be revised. Please check with us periodically as your date may change.

As always, a signature on a contract for work will take precedence, but we will keep you on the crew calendar for as long as we can.
If you have approved your proposal and your project is scheduled

1. Get your scheduled start date. We will call you with an approximated start date. This start date may change as our projects may vary from their anticipated start and end times. You can generally expect us within ten days of the first date noted to you. It may be earlier if we have a postponement or cancellation. You can stay up to date with the schedule by contacting our front desk by phone or email.

2. Send in your deposit. Upon signing, we will ask for a $500 minimum and up to 2% ‘pre-deposit’. When we are within 10 days of the project start date, we will invoice and anticipate the remaining deposit to 50%. You can drop it by the Nursery, pay it online or mail it no later than 10 days before the start date.

3. Review and sign the installation agreement. We will send you a more comprehensive installation agreement for review and signature, typically as a digital agreement. This document notifies you regarding lien rights as required by state law, liability, warranty and payment issues.

4. We mark the site for utilities. We will send a "Locating Service" out to your site. (You don't have to be there to meet them). They will spray out approximated locations of major utilities. (You may want to note these locations for your future reference).

5. We "pre-review" the project. Your Project Manager may be out to the site approximately 5-10 days before the anticipated start date to "line-out" the project, paint out new bed locations and further choreograph the scope of work to be completed.

6. Review your plant list. You may want to contact the Garden Center manager to review plant selections and make substitutions if necessary. Garden Center staff are normally available by appointment.

7. Stay in touch. Your Project Manager will be out intermittently throughout the project. You can reach your project manager (or your landscape foreman) through the design office, their cell number or email. You can also reach our on staff landscape architect Alan Burke through the nursery, by cell or simply email on the "Contact us" page.

8. Understand anticipated "extras". Additional items may be requested of us from you as the project gets under way. Typically, our clients may request drainage, soil and additional plants. If you desire unit prices in anticipation of these items, ask your Project Manager. Each "Extra" will be written up as a work order and you should immediately receive a copy on site, by email, mail and/or fax. If you don't get a written copy of an "extra" item, noting the charges, please call the Classic office manager and request a copy for your file.

9. Expect an invoice. In some cases, you'll get a single invoice for the remainder at the final project walk-through. In the case of a larger project that goes more than a week, we will update you with weekly progress reports that describe the completed work to date. We may ask for a progress payment equal to the amount of the work completed through that date.

10. Schedule a walk through. You may request a complimentary "walk-through" if one was not suggested to you after completion, to talk about care for your landscape and discuss your warranties.

11. Finally, enjoy your landscape... sit back and relax! As always, we thank you for your business. We appreciate that you have selected us and we plan to do our best to make this an enjoyable experience for you.
FAQ

When to plant
We try to make landscaping an easy to understand and enjoyable process for you. As part of this effort, we create landscapes utilizing readily available, low-maintenance plants that are hardy in our climate. As you may know, we guarantee our plants for a year, so it is in all of our best interest as well to choose reliable materials when we look at plant materials. Except for certain situations, we generally select hardy broadleaf evergreen plants with a mix of deciduous materials for seasonal interest. We limit the use of annuals in the landscape, preferring the value and recurring color of perennials. We do encourage annuals in containers and in seasonal color rotation planting.

Horticulturally, FALL is the best time to plant. The season is cooling and existing planted vegetation is more forgiving of rigors of transplant shock. Best of all, we have our annual Fall sale.

WINTER can be a good time to plant as plants are fully dormant and are resistant to transplant shock. Our landscape crews may be more readily available to concentrate on your project during winter as well. In addition, drainage issues are more easily seen and corrected.

SPRING offers the best availability of plants and "feels" like the right season to plant. This time of year is very busy and our crews can book out 90 days or more in advance! While we can always service you in a timely manner, be sure to plan ahead and call us early if you want a Spring installation.

With our cool and temperate climate, SUMMER can also be a great time to plant. Many people worry about watering during the hotter season and this may be an issue for some folks. That noted, the sun will get those roots and new foliage established in time for the cool fall season. We will usually plant using a natural water-retention additive for summer planting. If you water adequately and take generally good care of your landscaping, our one-year warranty may be the assurance you need to complete a successful Summer landscaping project.

Soils
Providing good soils for you means more to us than just bringing out compost. Our local glacial till soils generally lack a great deal of nutrient and may not be the best medium for ornamental shrubs and perennials. In addition, with a new home, you may be looking at fill soils or over-turned soil as a result of recent construction. We can fix that. Rototilling your bed soils is the first key to a healthy planting environment. Liming your soils may also be necessary. Finally tilling in or using a topdress of compost can create the "diggable", nutrient rich environment that your new landscape desires. Keep in mind that it may not always be prudent to create a "nutrient-rich" soil environment. Native plant materials may actually prefer to be planted in un-amended local glacial-till soils. Look further into our landscape handbook for a discussion of other aspects of your outdoor environment such as retaining walls, paths, patios, irrigation, lighting and our award-winning water features.

Wall types

Rock
Rock walls may be constructed from ledgestone or boulders. Boulders are generally measured in “man” size, roughly 1-5 man basalt or granite. Allow an additional foot below grade and drainage behind the wall. Make sure you have good trackhoe access for large rock, at least a clear 8 foot opening. Smaller format “1 to 2 man” stone walls can also be built by hand. Typically, walls are measured by "vertical square foot" or "face footage" (FF). Cost: $20-30 per FF. $45+ FF for ledgestone. If the slope is not too severe, we can also save on the budget by creating an aesthetically pleasing "dry stream" out of softball-sized river cobble mixed with bowling ball sized small basalt boulders. Cut into the slope, this type of retaining can channel water as well as minimize erosion and the cost savings can be put into accent planting. Cost: $20-40 per SF.
Wood
Generally use pressure treated Douglas fir at a minimum 4” (4x4x8) size. Allow for visqueen or waterproofing behind the wall. Perpendicular “deadman” timbers are placed into the slope at regular intervals.
Cost $30-50 per FF.

Modular block walls
Precast concrete units. Hand stacked by our skilled crew, this type of construction has the advantage of forming a very uniform geometry of wall and steps and can be built using alternating wall and cap colors. A variety of products are available from inexpensive smaller blocks to more architectural grade “Pisa” type stone.
Cost: $30-45 per FF.

Other types of walls
At the high end of the spectrum, you can elect to have a concrete wall built, then finished (typically to complement your homes existing finishes) using stucco, dryvit, brick or any number of “cultured stone” products. Cost: $40-50+ per FF.

Paths & patios

Crushed rock
For the simplest of exterior finished paths, we use a 5/8"(-) basalt crushed rock with an underlying weed barrier and a construction-grade vinyl edge. You can also select a cobbled rock, steel, aluminum or brick/paver edge. This type of path forms a good basis for a perimeter route or path in a natural area. Crushed rock can also serve as a base for a later installation of concrete or a paver. You'll want to avoid pea gravel or drainrock, as this tends to give way underfoot. Cost: $5-10+ per SF.

Concrete
Concrete is typically designated as smooth finished, hard finished with a broom or as exposed aggregate. You should have a plan that shows tooled scoring or cut joints at regular, sensible intervals. Try not to allow any clear areas larger than 6x6ft without a score or joint. You can also add color in a variety of ways. Stamped concrete is a unique way to get the look of a paver without going to the expense. In this type of construction, a flexible form is pressed into the concrete and typically two colors are added and hand-finished into the area.
Cost $10-15 per SF (concrete), $14-20+ (stamped).

Pavers
A myriad of concrete and stone pavers are available from interlocking units to antique roman cobble. Set in a base of sand or mortared onto a concrete base, this type of paving can create a pleasing effect. Edges can be set in a mortared base or set against a rigid steel or aluminum form. Cut to form a complex geometry in basketweave or herringbone, accented with edge and field colors and mixed and matched, pavers can create limitless patterns.
Cost: $23-30+ per SF (sandset), $24-40+ (mortared).

Flagstone
Flagstone is requested more often than any other walk or patio finish. Complementing any home, a finished flagstone walk or patio is perhaps the most attractive type of walk or patio. Flagstone is available in a wide array of stone types and thickness. Flagstone is sold by the ton and coverage per ton is critical to determining cost. The thicker the stone, the less coverage you'll get. Look for 2"(+/-) thickness for sandset installations, 2"(-) for mortared work. In addition, look for stone with a regular, uniform flat finish and a dense structure. This will create a comfortable walk surface that will absorb less water and thus not crack as easily during a winter freeze. Cost $20-30+ per SF.
Decks
Most local decks are constructed with a pressure treated Douglas fir structure and cedar walk surface. Above 32" height in many municipalities you will need a railing. After completion, you may want to color stain the deck and/or seal the finish to preserve the woods integrity. Although a deck may represent the most cost per square foot, if it is cantilevered over a sloped that otherwise might require retaining; it can actually save in overall costs. Cost: $16-20+ per SF. $22-30+ per SF for recycled or other manufactured lumber. Railing cost: $30+ per lineal foot. Steps: $30-40+ per SF.

In addition to our Woodinville sample library, good places to review these products are: Trendset Products (Woodinville), Marenakos Rock Center (Issaquah), Mutual Materials (Bellevue-Woodinville) or Rock Mountain Products (Woodinville/Ames Lake area). Keep in mind that minimum costs may apply, both for work that you contract directly and to allow for delivery. For example, a trackhoe operator might charge a minimum price of $900 or so to come out and do any work at your home or a load of stone may cost a minimum of $200 to have delivered.

Irrigation and Lighting
Sprinkler systems offer a convenient way to keep your plant materials healthy. At Classic, we can install almost any type of irrigation system. With scores of guaranteed watering system completed throughout King County, we typically use Rainbird 1800 or Hunter series "pop-up" type heads for shrub and small lawn zones and Hunter spray heads for larger bed and lawn areas. As with all of our new installation work, we guarantee our irrigation systems for one year. Ever concerned about conserving water (and saving you money), we will also install a rain sensing device that will "sense" when it is wet in order to keep your system from coming on unnecessarily. We will also locate our green valve boxes in bed areas (not in your lawn as some landscape companies do), pre-program your automatic clock for you and install additional hose bibbs at your request. Your investment for this type of system will of course vary, but might start at a $3400 minimum for a complete small system with most small Seattle lots ranging from $6000+. Figure about $900-1500 per zone installed as an equitable investment.

Lighting
Low voltage LED lighting adds a dramatic dimension to your landscape, giving you the ability to see landscape elements at night, define circulation around your home and giving you greater security. We will usually provide you with a consultation at night to best show our lighting fixtures and to make sure they are located to your best advantage. A myriad of fixtures are available. Under most circumstances, we will typically install a high-quality copper "mushroom-type" pathlight that will patina nicely with age. Your lighting system can be integrated with your home computer, simply switched from inside your home or set with motion sensors. For most lighting systems, we will simply install an outdoor transformer and timer/photocell. This allows the system to come on automatically at dusk throughout the year, while being timed to shut off at a prescribed time. Lighting starts at about $1200 or so and the 110v receptacle is usually supplied by others. You might be investing up to $350 per fixture installed.

Ponds and Water Features
A waterfall, stream or re-circulating pond can be an attractive and calming amenity for any home. The pleasant sound of splashing water and the beauty of colorful fish can create a wonderful sense of serenity in even a small backyard. At Classic, we have been building water features for years. We know that a successful waterfall or pond should look like a natural element in the landscape. Creating that effect involves utilizing a wide range of materials, including rock, concrete, PVC pipe and pump assemblies. There are also considerations regarding placement, excavation of soil, electrical and plumbing utilities and access for equipment. As we consult with you on your home site, you have some choices in creating your water environment. First, we can simply mark out an area on the ground, outlining a possible pond and falls and write up an estimate. You can then watch it come together as what we call a "field installation". (There is no charge for the estimate). Small bubbler column units might start at $1200 and a large natural looking pond and waterfall can be an investment of $6000-9000+ depending upon size, access and other variables.
You may also have a landscape architectural plan drawn up for the area at an additional charge or possibly a complimentary sketch with a preliminary budget based go-ahead. If so, you may want to allow for additional work such as expanded patios, walks or other design elements or perhaps go ahead and master plan the entire site. After seeing a few different ponds and waterfalls, you'll notice that our ponds and water features are built quite a bit differently from the average installation. For example:

1. **Our water features are easier to care for**
   The Classic pond utilizes a debris skimmer, much like a swimming pool. Other pond installations may have a filter around the pump area. These filters are often difficult to reach and clean and can diminish your pumps effectiveness over time. Our skimmer assembly is cleaned simply by lifting a hidden cover, taking out a reusable filter and rinsing it with a hose. Second, we have additional filters in the skimmer and at the falls area. Finally, we provide a bacterial additive and ask that you purchase inexpensive fish to create a relatively self-sustaining "ecosystem".

2. **We offer a range of pond options**
   We can provide overflow assemblies, pump timers, self-filling valves, pond lighting and a wide range of aquatic plants and different types of flagstone, rock and paving materials.

3. **Our ponds are built to last**
   We provide a one-year guarantee for all of our construction. Our high-efficiency pumps are a little more expensive, but can save you in monthly electrical costs. (Keep in mind that your pond pump is essentially a little motor that runs virtually all of the time). We also use a "double liner" construction that utilizes a fabric "underliner" beneath the heavy gauge butyl pond liner. This minimizes the possibility of rips and tears along vertical faces of the pond. Most companies use a sand base that only covers flat areas well. We also give you a printed "owners manual".

**Drainage**
A well-conceived drainage system may not be the most exciting thing that you will purchase from us, but you generally know when you need one. The problem with most locally installed perforated pipe type installations is the method of construction. Most perforated type systems won't last more than five years or so due to pipe siltation buildup. In our experience completing a number of projects for the City of Bellevue as well as a range of residential systems, we've just about seen it all. The key to most per type systems is a working outflow at the end of the drainage pattern and one or more "cleanouts" (a sweep or a "T") that will enable you to periodically flush the system out with a hose. This will give you the ability to wash out fine silt and debris, keeping the drain clear for a much longer period. A typical perforated pipe system can cost about $15+ per lineal foot installed or so.

**The Native Edge**
During the process of development, most residential property areas were cleared of trees and native vegetation. Soil may have been artificially graded to site your home and the grounds around your home may have been further compacted. Native alder, broom and blackberry, among other things, may be coming up all around your property. You may have a neighbor that can peek at you from behind a thinned-out native edge area. The key to maximizing the potential of your native areas is to understand how you might use it, if at all. Do you just need screening? Would you like to walk through it? Are there a lot of non-native "weed" species disturbing it?
These and other questions will yield the answers that will help us determine how to improve these areas. In many cases, we will re-introduce native tree selections such as Hemlock and Douglas Fir to screen and fill as needed. Dogwood, Mountain ash, Serviceberry and Maple can offer seasonal color. Blueberry, lingonberry, evergreen huckleberry and a wide variety of native plants can make your natural areas interactive and educational; attract wildlife and add to your properties value.

**Controlling weeds and pests**

One of the problems with creating a rich environment for planting is that it can become a rich environment for weeds as well. Controlling weeds does not necessarily mean continually applying herbicides. The best way to inhibit weed growth is to introduce groundcovers that will compete with undesirable weeds. Bark mulch can also slow weed growth, but does so in part by depleting your soils of nitrogen, thereby slowing the growth of desirable plants. It also breaks down to "become" part of the soil and, as such, must be purchased anew each year.

As a company known for environmental outreach efforts, we do not recommend chemical use, but, on occasion selected products can be helpful. Used minimally, herbicides such as Roundup can help kill growing weeds, while breaking down to become a nitrogen-like product in the soil. Surflan herbicide, essentially a sugar-based product, helps inhibit weed seed from sprouting. At the nursery, we sell "Burnout", an effective clove oil and vinegar based herbicide that is devastating to weeds and makes your garden smell like you just came back from seeing Lollapalooza at the Gorge. Nevertheless, a closely planted groundcover such as native bearberry or salal can save you thousand in future bark installations if planted early. IPM or Integrated Pest Management offers a new approach to managing your outdoor environment. Essentially, IPM dictates that you take a moment to try to understand what is happening in an ecological sense and respond in a way that reflects your own tolerance for the pest, weed or plant disease, while using a "least-toxic" approach. Our professional Nursery & Landscape staff can help you make the right decisions and offer you appropriate products and research materials.

**Landscape care**

We chose an ecologically orientation years ago. If you live in the Puget Sound region, you already know why. Look around. Fertilizer runoff is killing salmon in our streams. Wonder where the robins went? Our competitors butch your shrubs into cute little balls and spray pesticides and herbicides on your lawn whether you have pests or not. We are different. Your kids might have seen the salmon run at our former Bear Creek facility and if you’ve visited our nursery, you’ve found natural and least-toxic products on our shelves with a mix of handmade crafts and metal art throughout the grounds.

If you've had a consultation from us, you've also noticed that we offer specific, common sense solutions to many landscape problems. By working with nature's processes, we can help you maintain healthy soil, use less water and find real, low-maintenance landscape answers. We care for a select number of residential and small commercial properties in King County on a seasonal basis. We're not a weekly visit “mow and blow” company, but a team of professional horticulturalists that work on your property a number of times a year. At any given season we may be replacing and transplanting plants, pruning, cleaning up, fertilizing, aerating, thatching, liming or hauling debris. In addition to the many innovative services that we offer, we hold a unique position as an environmentally conscious full service landscape maintenance company and King County 5-star Envirostar Company. Beyond our Garden Center, landscape architectural and contracting services, our Landscape Care clients take advantage of complimentary horticultural and design consulting, ongoing discounts on plant material purchased from our Nursery, and a limited lifetime warranty on all new plants that we install.
Care options

**Classic color.** As part of our seasonal care effort, you can have bright, colorful annual and perennial color planted in your pots or by the front door. Changed out seasonally, this type of planting keeps everything fresh and vibrant.

**Professional plans.** You can have a 24x36” drafted plan of your property created, specifically describing each area and inventorying the existing plants. We'll note clearly on the sheet what needs to be done and at what time of year. These plans are a great way to "part the clouds" and fully understand how to care for your site.

**Creative cleanups.** Tired of that damn blackberry growing out near the back fence, that old pile of leaf debris or that long forgotten area out by the shed? Call us for a cleanup. We can probably quote it to you on the phone and you’ll be amazed at what two skilled laborers can do to transform your yard in a day.

**Muck makeovers.** Fine, compacted glacial till soils are what you've probably got out there by the rear patio. These local soils are lacking in fertility and slow to drain, these areas need aeration, liming, a little soil and a reseeding or sodding to bring them back to life. We'll do it. Guaranteed.

**Consultation inquiry**
In some cases, you might not need an estimate for an overall landscape project, but only a quick consultation. You may be a homeowner that wants to landscape their own yard, but needs a little guidance. Maybe you only need to know what kind of plants are on your property. What kind of rhody is that? How do I prune that big ugly thing? When do I fertilize? What should I put over there to screen Mabel's shower window? For a moderate charge, one of our Certified Professional Horticulturalists can come and spend an hour with you at your home. Your consultation will include a comprehensive follow-up email, a gift certificate to the nursery and sometimes a plan sketch. Whether you need do-it-yourself design help for different areas in your yard, suggestions on renovation, identification of existing trees & shrubs or pruning-how-to’s, our professional horticultural staff can help. Feel free to call or email our office for details and to set-up an appointment.

As always, if you have an outdoor construction project or would like to discuss landscape plans or have an estimate for project installation services, contact our office and ask for a landscape design consultation.

**Monthly tips**
Is it hard to know when to divide the daylilies? Prune the peony or trim the taxus? Sign up for our email Garden Tips and you'll get a monthly reminder about what's happening in your garden and what you need to do about it. (Don't want to do anything about it? Ouch. Better see our Landscape Care section!)

To receive the "Monthly Gardening Tip" just fill out the form and Submit. Note: We are unable to send the "Monthly Gardening Tip" via an email attachment to some ISP's. If you asked for, but aren't getting it, either find a teenager to reconfigure your computer or simply send a self-addressed stamped envelope to receive "snail mail".

**Classic Nursery & Landscape Company**
16215 140th PL N Woodinville, WA 98072 classicnursery.com