The first step toward updating your landscaping is to figure out what you want, what you need and what it will take to achieve either goal within your budget. Go through the “Givens:” note elements of your current yard, assess how the yard is and will be used, and identify major issues.

The next step is to create a wish list, where you separate the “must haves” from the “nice to haves.” Start prioritizing landscaping elements on this list by placing one star next to Desirables and two stars next to Essentials.

### Part I: The Givens

**Who will use the yard?**
- Adults
- Children
- Eldery
- Pets

**When is the yard used?**
- Spring
- Summer
- Fall
- Winter

**What are the primary activities?**
- Playing
- Entertaining
- Vegetable gardening
- Display gardening
- Swimming
- Other

**Maintenance**
- DIY
- Professional crew

**Existing elements that can’t/don’t need to be changed:**
- Fence
- Flower beds
- Pond
- Pool
- Structures (shed, arbor, etc.)
- Trees

**Issues:**
- Access/egress
- Allergies
- Drainage/erosion
- Fire risk
- Insects
- Invasive plants

**Issues (cont.):**
- Irrigation
- Lack of cohesion
- Lack of curb appeal
- Lighting
- Noise
- Overgrowth
- Parking
- Pets
- Privacy
- Security
- Shade
- Slope
- Storage
- Sun Exposure
- Transition areas/flow
- Walkways
- Wildlife
- Wind
- Other

... continued on page 2
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**WORKSHEET: LANDSCAPING PRIORITIES PG. 2 OF 3**

**Part II: Wish List**
Tip: To prioritize your wish list, put one star for items that are Desirable, and two stars for ones that are Essential.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storage Needs</th>
<th>Structural Features</th>
<th>Water/plumbing Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bicycles</td>
<td>Arbor/Arch/Trellis</td>
<td>Fountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garbage/Recycling cans</td>
<td>Fence</td>
<td>French drain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden equipment &amp; supplies</td>
<td>Fire feature</td>
<td>Hot tub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawn furniture &amp; cushions</td>
<td>Fountain</td>
<td>Irrigation system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor toys</td>
<td>Gazebo</td>
<td>Misting system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pool toys</td>
<td>Greenhouse</td>
<td>Pond/waterfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports equipment</td>
<td>Mound/berm</td>
<td>Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Outdoor kitchen</td>
<td>Rain barrel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patio or deck</td>
<td>Dry creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pet run</td>
<td>Grassed swale</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Accessories**
- Bench
- Bird feeder
- Boulders
- Flag pole
- Furniture
- Putting green
- Sculpture
- Swing

... continued on page 3
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**WORKSHEET: LANDSCAPING PRIORITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lighting</th>
<th>Plant Preferences</th>
<th>Design Preferences &amp; Philosophy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ground</td>
<td>Deciduous trees/shrubs</td>
<td>Formal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood lights</td>
<td>Deer-proof</td>
<td>Laid-back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamp posts</td>
<td>Evergreen trees/shrubs</td>
<td>Bird-friendly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion-detection</td>
<td>Flowering trees/shrubs</td>
<td>Butterfly-friendly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spot lights</td>
<td>Flowers</td>
<td>Organic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar-powered</td>
<td>Annuals</td>
<td>Sustainable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Perennials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fruit Trees/shrubs</td>
<td>Alpine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full sun</td>
<td>Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grass</td>
<td>Country cottage</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ground cover</td>
<td>Cutting garden</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hedges</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Herbs</td>
<td>European</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low-water</td>
<td>Meadow/prairie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Native</td>
<td>Rock garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roses</td>
<td>Tropical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shade</td>
<td>Water garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vines</td>
<td>Woodland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Favorite colors:**

**Least favorite colors:**