



UC Master Gardeners of Napa County

## **GARDEN DESIGN RELATED SIGNIFICANT POINTS**

### **-Your gardening experience:**

- Are you an avid gardener, have no interest in gardening other than the visual aspect or are you somewhere in between?
- Consider partnering w/a professional

### **-Purpose of the garden & type of garden desired:**

- What are you planning to accomplish in this area?
  - ease of upkeep; year round color; what?
- Type of garden
  - Pollinator, low-water, native; vegetable etc.

### **-Scope of project (wish list)**

- What are your plans for the Design?
- Think about creating a 'dream book' with pictures from magazines and descriptions that apply to the proposed project. Refer to it in the planning process.
- Check out what your neighbors are doing in their landscapes and ask who did their project(s)

### **-Who will be doing the work?**

- DIY or professional or a combination of both?
  - Divide the ideas between DIY and a professional
    - ex: DIY-planting; Professional-lawn removal, and so on

### **-When desired start time of the project?**

- Within a couple of months or longer? (plan on project to exceed time frame)
- Will project be broken down into installments over a period of time (months/years)?

### **-Cost & other considerations:**

- Explore all costs of materials/labor on all projects including any irrigation needed to complete the project.
- Be prepared for cost overruns
- Research landscape professionals in the area and interview selected ones
- Be aware of HMO's, CCR's, local City, County & State regulations & any permits required to implement/complete project
- To help control budget plant small rather than large. Plan on slow gratification as the plants grow in.

### **-Draw out existing landscape**

- Landscape as it is now including measurements using plot map or Google Earth

### **-Add important notations:**

- points of the compass
- Prevailing winds

- Different lines of sight e.g. want view of mountains maintained but not the view of the neighbor's yard, etc.
- different areas of the garden shaded at different times of the year e.g. where sun rises in fall, winter, spring & summer; any existing tall trees in landscape or perimeter; etc.
- Location of main water shut off valve; existing irrigation lines & water
- Mark proposed design project location(s) on current landscape map

**-Additional Considerations:**

- Check local nurseries for guidance, design help and plant selections
  - Don't plant invasives <https://plantright.org/>
- Hardscape vs landscape-know the difference
  - With some exceptions.....best time for hardscape additions/alterations or construction is in spring and early summer; best time for new landscape plants to be installed is in fall or early winter.
- Create & keep a map of existing & updated irrigation to refer to
- Keep a plant ID list of plants added to landscape for future reference
- Check out all the garden design related free apps & software online
- Consider future Climate Changes-drought, freezes, flooding etc.

**-Locate research based gardening info to facilitate the proposed project**

- See the document entitled 'Garden Design related research based info/links' listed on this link's contents

***Gardening Questions? Call our Help Desk***

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 am - 12 pm*

*UC Master Gardeners of Napa County are available to answer your home gardening questions. We encourage you to bring your questions or plant samples!*

*Drop-in:*

*UC Cooperative Extension-Napa County*

*1710 Soscol Avenue, Ste 4, Napa*

*By phone:707-253-4143 877-279-3065 (Toll free for AmCan & Up Valley) or through our website [napamg.ucanr.edu](http://napamg.ucanr.edu)*

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