

Landscape Design for Maintenance - by George Fogg, ASLA

“Natural landscapes” do not need to be designed or maintained.

1. The greater number of people who use the site, the greater need to design the site to their needs.

2. People

a. Users

b. The client

c. The neighbors

d. Managers.

i. Individuals

ii. Staff

iii. Know their limits, abilities.

iv. We are to consider their needs and try to resolve conflicts between them during design.

v. Who will be doing maintenance? In house, contracted out? How often do they change?

vi. What special equipment will they need?

1. Who will store and maintain the equipment?

vii. Is there storage for trash vs. clippings?

viii. Pesticide, fuel, fertilizer storage?

ix. Security.

x. Access for machinery?

3. Facilities

a. Hardscape

i. Buildings, shelters, arbors, signs, decks, fencing, irrigation, lighting.

1. Who will paint/stain, how often?

2. Will they need a license?

ii. Choose quality materials that last.

iii. Consider repair and replacement budget.

b. Softscape

i. Choosing the right plants for the right place will reduce maintenance.

ii. Pick the plants that gives the user the results they want.

iii. Analyze the site, then select the plants that are suitable.

iv. Plant Selection.

1. Choose drought-tolerant and native plants to reduce water needs.

2. Arrange plants by water needs.

3. Turfgrass is inexpensive to plant but can be expensive to maintain.

a. Locate lawns to irrigated areas.

b. Use recycled irrigation water if available.

4. Choose plants that grow to the desired size.

5. Use disease-resistant varieties.

6. Use mulch for all its benefits.

a. Water retention

b. Soil improvement

c. Weed prevention

7. Choose low-feeding plants.

4. Environment

a. A good design protects and enhances the existing environmental conditions.

i. It reduces water use and runoff.

ii. Attract wildlife and beneficial insects.

1. Pollinator plants,

2. Fruit-bearing plants for birds

3. Shelter for birds, bats and toads.

5. Operations and Maintenance Plan

- a. AKA Management Plan
- b. Guides the use and care of the facility.
- c. Delineates the intended effect.
- d. Include a maintenance schedule.
- e. May need a map to clarify areas along with level of maintenance.
- f. Larger operations need an inventory of equipment with records of maintenance.