Create a Budget for Landscape Retrofits

RESOURCES FOR LANDSCAPE RETROFITS
Design ideas, professional assistance, incentives and financing

WaterSmart Gardens
There’s nothing like experiencing the beauty, texture and scents of WaterSmart gardens in person. Several neighborhood nurseries and regional gardens across San Diego County are dedicated to showcasing climate-appropriate plants and landscapes. Take advantage of tours, classes and one-on-one design consultations offered by these resources. Great places to start are:
- The Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College
- TheGarden.org
- San Diego Botanic Garden
- SanDiegoBotanicGarden.org

WaterSmart Resources
WaterSmartSD.org is an excellent online source for water-use efficiency programs, incentives, tools and more. Use the interactive locator tool to find information specific to local water agencies. San Diego County Plant Finder
Another resource to help upgrade landscapes is WaterSmartSD.org. It has thousands of pictures of plants and garden designs that are well-suited to San Diego’s Mediterranean climate.

eGuide to a WaterSmart Lifestyle
The digital magazine, “eGuide to a WaterSmart Lifestyle,” is your go-to resource for water-efficient living in San Diego County. WaterSmartSD.org offers:
- Inspirational plant and garden photos
- Landscape ideas
- Helpful videos
- Plant finders
- Design tools
- Garden calculators
- Links to certified landscape professionals
- And much more ...

Flash cards.

Create a Budget for Landscape Retrofits

Know what you can afford with your landscape before you start

Of all the water-efficient upgrades homeowners can make, landscape retrofits are the most expensive. However, in the long run, replacing turf with a water-efficient landscape saves water, reduces maintenance and increases your home’s value.

But do your landscape ideas match your budget? According to the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, homeowners should budget 5 to 10 percent of their home’s market value for the installation or renovation of the entire landscape and expect up to a 200 percent return on the investment. However, resourceful homeowners can find ways to get a quality landscape for less. A budget will help you decide which of your design ideas stay, which don’t, and which need tweaking.

It Pays to be WaterSmart!
Visit WaterSmartSD.org to learn about incentives and discounts, including rebates on high-efficiency irrigation equipment. The site also lists free landscaping classes offered around the San Diego region.

COST ESTIMATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hardscape</td>
<td>$6-35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concrete</td>
<td>$6-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavers</td>
<td>$10-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brick</td>
<td>$12-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flagstone</td>
<td>$15-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor kitchen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irrigation System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plants</td>
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<td>Trees</td>
<td>$15-30</td>
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<td>Shrubs</td>
<td>$20-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perennials</td>
<td>$4-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assin</td>
<td>$35-50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amenities</td>
<td>$600-7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire pit</td>
<td>$3,800-5,000</td>
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<td>Pot cover</td>
<td>$3,000-30,000</td>
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<td>Deck</td>
<td>$16-35 sq. ft.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

WaterSmartSD.org
For residential programs, classes, incentives and more, go to WaterSmartSD.org.
Create a Budget for Landscape Retrofits

Stretch Your Budget
Here are a few ideas to make your new garden more affordable.

1. **Do It Yourself**
   - Do what you are capable of yourself. Take advantage of no-cost or low-cost classes, design workshops and one-on-one design consultations.

2. **Use Less-Expensive Materials**
   - Reduce the quantity or size of plant material. Divide existing plants onsite and replant them throughout the project. Go with gravel instead of flagstone; use rocks you find on your property to make a fire pit; and shop estate sales for outdoor furniture and give your found treasure a new coat of paint.

3. **Upgrade Your Irrigation**
   - Avoid the cost of installing new irrigation pipe by keeping your existing irrigation zones and upgrading your sprinklers. Upgrades can be as simple as replacing spray nozzles with rotary nozzles and drip emitters, and adding a smart controller.

4. **Go Zone by Zone**
   - Instead of tackling your whole property at once, create your new garden one irrigation zone at a time and spread the cost over two or three years.

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**REAL PROJECTS, REAL BUDGETS**

**Where did the budget go?**

**Before**

1.600 Sq. Ft.
$3/Sq. Ft.

18% Labor
10% Design Assistance
4% Demo/Soil Prep Supplies
24% Irrigation
32% Plants & Mulch
12% Hardscape

12% Other

**Before**

630 Sq. Ft.
$13/Sq. Ft.

43% Labor
13% Plants & Mulch
17% Hardscape
14% Irrigation
9% Demo/Soil Prep Supplies
4% Other

**Before**

2,923 Sq. Ft.
$10/Sq. Ft.

27% Labor
28% Plants & Mulch
17% Hardscape
8% Design Assistance
17% Demo/Soil Prep Supplies
9% Irrigation
5% Other

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Photo credit: Schmidt Design Group, Inc.

Where did the budget go?

BEFORE

The homeowners saved money by doing much of the work themselves and using cuttings from plants on site.

The use of boulders adds a unique, no-water-use element. Homeowners designed the landscape themselves. Expect to pay a landscape designer about $800 for a project of this size.

Winding pathways and adaptive native plants resistant to drought create a park-like setting.

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Where did the budget go?

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The use of boulders adds a unique, no-water-use element. Homeowners designed the landscape themselves. Expect to pay a landscape designer about $800 for a project of this size.

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Real Projects, Real Budgets

Where did the budget go?

Before

- Plants/Mulch: 32%
- Hardscape: 12%
- Irrigation: 10%
- Demo/Soil Prep Supplies: 18%
- Labor: 14%

1,600 Sq. Ft.
$3/Sq. Ft.

Example A

Where did the budget go?

- Plants/Mulch: 12%
- Hardscape: 32%
- Irrigation: 24%
- Demo/Soil Prep Supplies: 10%
- Labor: 18%

The homeowners saved money by doing much of the work themselves and using cuttings from plants on site.

Before

- Plants/Mulch: 17%
- Hardscape: 28%
- Irrigation: 43%
- Demo/Soil Prep Supplies: 9%
- Labor: 13%

630 Sq. Ft.
$13/Sq. Ft.

The use of boulders adds a unique, no-water-use element. Homeowners designed the landscape themselves. Expect to pay a landscape designer about $800 for a project of this size.

Before

- Plants/Mulch: 9%
- Hardscape: 27%
- Irrigation: 28%
- Demo/Soil Prep Supplies: 17%
- Labor: 8%

2,923 Sq. Ft.
$10/Sq. Ft.

Winding pathways and adaptive native plants resistant to drought create a park-like setting.

Photo credit: Schmidt Design Group, Inc.

Photo credit: Eco Minded Solutions

Where did the budget go?

BEFORE

9%
8%
4%
4%
6%
27%
28%
17%
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13%
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14%
17%
12%
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32%
12%
24%
18%
100%
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RESOURCES FOR LANDSCAPE RETROFITS

Design ideas, professional assistance, incentives and financing.

San Diego County Water Authority

Our Region’s Trusted Water Leader

DIVERSIFICATION

Enhancing Water Supply Reliability

RESOURCES

Design ideas, professional assistance, incentives and financing.

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COST ESTIMATES

LandscapingNetwork.com, a California-based source of landscaping information for homeowners and professionals, can help you get a handle on project costs. Most prices are based on national averages, and Southern California prices may be higher. Call local designers, contractors or supply centers to discuss pricing.

Designer or Architect $500 - 16,000

Hardscapes/sq. ft; professionally installed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gravel</td>
<td>$6-35</td>
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<td>Concrete</td>
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<td>Pavers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brick</td>
<td>$12-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flagstone</td>
<td>$15-30</td>
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Fencing/linear ft; professionally installed

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<td>Wood (6 feet high)</td>
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<td>Wrought Iron</td>
<td>$22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vinyl</td>
<td>$25</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Irrigation System/zone; professionally installed

- Sprinkler $1,000; Drip $650-750

San Diego Botanic Garden

1498 C宝石 Avenue, Encinitas, California

858.486.2900

sdgarden.org

SanDiegoBotanicGarden.org

The San Diego Botanic Garden is dedicated to showcasing climate-appropriate plants and landscapes. Visitors can experience the beauty, texture and scents of WaterSmart gardens in person.

Renee’s Garden

1111 E Lake Shore Drive, Encinitas, California

760.943.8565

ReneesGarden.com

Renee’s Garden is a 20-acre outdoor flower garden featuring thousands of plants and flowers. Visitors can enjoy the beauty, texture and scents of WaterSmart gardens in person.

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