

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape design and construction in Mount Prospect. Use these planning questions to prepare a project conversation.

## Phase two: structural hardscapes and access

This is where the property starts to look different. Retaining walls set the architecture of the land. Tiered retaining walls can create terraces on a steep hillside, spreading foot traffic and offering planting opportunities between levels. The choice between segmental retaining wall blocks and natural stone walls is often a budget and style conversation. Segmental systems install faster, handle curves and terraced walls gracefully, and integrate with capstones for seating walls. Natural stone is timeless but demands more skilled labor. Concrete retaining walls with veneer are a hybrid option when structural loads are high and a specific finish [landscape designer mount prospect il](#) is desired. Your builder should analyze surcharge loads, especially where a patio or driveway sits close to the top of a wall.

## Phase three: anchor structures and outdoor rooms

With grades and access set, you can add outdoor living spaces that people will actually use. For many homes, that means a covered patio or pergola installation to provide shade and extend the season. A wooden pergola offers warmth and can be stained to match trim. Aluminum pergolas with louvered roofs bring adjustability and lower maintenance. When installing a pergola on a deck, ensure posts bear on structure, not just deck boards, and add lateral bracing for wind. In sun-baked backyards, a pavilion construction over a concrete patio or paver patio changes daytime usability from two months to six.

Outdoor kitchens demand honest conversation about cooking habits and budget. A built-in grill with counter, storage, and a small fridge can start around mid-four figures in basic masonry, and climb quickly with appliances. Consider utilities in phase zero, then build in phase three so you do not reopen hardscapes. Think about smoke path, cross breezes, and traffic flow to the interior kitchen. For clients who grill occasionally, a movable cart and a fixed stone or block wall windbreak save thousands and still deliver the outdoor living experience.

Fire adds a social anchor. Choose between a fire pit and an outdoor fireplace based on space and wind. Fire pits seat more people in a circle, great for casual gatherings. Outdoor fireplaces create a wind block and frame a room, but they dominate a small space. Gas lines simplify ignition and reduce ash mess, but wood remains the cheapest operating cost. In places with burn restrictions, a gas fire feature is the only option. Set clearances, use noncombustible materials, and consider a stone fire pit with a removable grate so the area converts to a coffee table in warm months.

## Phase four: planting structure first, then layers

For privacy, evergreen and perennial garden planning can mix, layering upright evergreens with deciduous shrubs and ornamental grasses for movement. Layered planting techniques build depth: taller forms at the back, mid-layer shrubs, and a front carpet of ground cover installation. If you have deer pressure, plan accordingly with resistant species and protective measures for the first two to three years.

## A realistic phasing timeline

A typical residential phased plan might look like this. In year one, complete drainage installation, rough grading, and one primary patio or walkway for immediate function. In year two, add retaining walls and a second hardscape element like a paver driveway or stone patio, then plant structural trees and shrubs. In year three, build a pergola or covered patio, install irrigation, and add perennial layers, ground covers, and landscape lighting. Larger estates or commercial properties stretch these phases over three to five years, sometimes aligning work with capital budgets or tenant cycles.

Seasonality matters. In cold climates, prioritize concrete and masonry work when temperatures allow proper curing, typically spring through early fall. Planting trees and shrubs does best in spring and fall. Sod installation can happen through much of the growing season, but avoid the hottest weeks without robust irrigation. Irrigation installation can occur throughout, but plan for backflow preventer testing when utilities are available.

## **Where to save and where not to shave**

Some homeowners try to economize by pushing off drainage or skimping on base prep. That is money burned. The place to save is on finish materials and scope size, not the hidden structure. For a patio, choose a concrete patio with a clean broom finish, then upgrade with furniture and planters, rather than overspending on premium stone and underinvesting in base. For a retaining wall, a well-designed block wall with good geogrid reinforcement can be more cost effective and more durable than a budget natural stone wall set without proper footing.

Avoid false economy on irrigation and lighting. Cheap fixtures and valves often fail early, and replacements add soft costs. Mid-grade, proven components deliver the best life-cycle value. Similarly, for outdoor kitchen structural design, build the block or masonry core well now, and you can upgrade appliances later without gutting the structure.

## **Maintenance as the bridge between phases**

Protect and maintain what is built: fix small drainage issues, reset loose pavers, touch up mulch, and keep irrigation tuned. Stick to a planting schedule: add a few well-chosen trees or shrubs each season rather than many cheap fillers. Save for utilities and structure first: fund sleeves, conduit, and base prep before furniture, grills, or decor. Document everything: keep a folder of plans, elevations, product specs, finish colors, and warranty info. Review annually: walk the property each spring, update the phasing plan, and adjust for how you actually use the space.

## **Family life, pets, and accessibility are design drivers**

Privacy and neighbor relations also affect phasing. Garden privacy solutions like fast-growing shrubs or modular screens can be installed quickly to improve daily life while larger structures wait. On tight lots, outdoor privacy walls and screens integrated with seating walls create intimate spaces without feeling boxed in. Plant selection should consider winter interest, not just summer show. Evergreen structure and bark texture carry a garden through the off season, especially in front yard landscaping where curb appeal counts all year.

## **Avoiding common pitfalls**

Another pitfall is overcomplicating materials. Concrete vs pavers vs natural stone is not only an aesthetic conversation. It is a maintenance and operations conversation. Mixing five different hardscape finishes in a small

yard creates visual noise and can complicate expansion joints and base transitions. Two complementary materials often look more intentional and cost less to maintain.

## Special cases: water, pools, and slopes

Water features require discipline in phasing. The plumbing, power, and basins sit below grade. A pond installation or stream installation should precede nearby patios and planting. For homeowners who want sound without maintenance, a pondless waterfall is a fine option. It recirculates water into a hidden basin and removes mosquito concerns. Where kids play, a shallow reflecting pool is risky. Consider a rill or wall-mounted fountain instead.

Pools change everything. Pool hardscaping needs expansion joints and careful drainage. Pool deck pavers stay cooler underfoot than dark concrete, and permeable options handle splash and stormwater well. Pool lighting design should integrate with landscape lighting to avoid glare. Think through poolside pergola placement for shade without blocking lifeguard sightlines, and equip the pool surround with non-slip finishes.

On steep lots, foundation and drainage for hardscapes become engineering exercises. Terraced walls done right create more usable square footage. Done wrong, they fail spectacularly. Hire retaining wall design services when walls exceed local thresholds, when surcharge loads are present, or when soils are questionable. A geotechnical report costs something, but it unlocks the correct wall system choice and grid lengths. For long slopes, a mix of terraced walls and vegetated swales often handles both aesthetics and stormwater better than one tall wall.

## Working with professionals without losing control

Local landscape contractors bring regional knowledge you cannot learn from pictures. Freeze-thaw durability in hardscaping, soil quirks, and plant selections all vary by microclimate. Ask about ILCA or similar certifications, ask to see prior work three to five years old, and ask how they phase projects. Good firms will talk you out of mistakes and show you how to stage work to protect both your budget and the site.

If you prefer to manage parts of the project yourself, divide labor wisely. Professional vs DIY retaining walls is a classic inflection point. Low garden walls are within a skilled DIYer's reach, but structural walls, gas lines, and complex paver driveways are pro work. Many companies offer full service landscaping, but some will partner on hybrid jobs where homeowners handle planting after pros complete wall installation and patio construction. Clear scopes and timelines prevent friction.

**Business Name:** Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design

**Address:** 600 S Emerson St, Mt Prospect, IL 60056, USA

**Phone:** (312) 772-2300

## Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design

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Business hours: Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM; Saturday and Sunday closed

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## Landscape design and construction

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design is located at 600 S Emerson St, Mt Prospect, IL 60056.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design uses the phone number (312) 772-2300.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design has the website <https://waveoutdoors.com/>.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design has a Google Maps listing for its Mount Prospect business.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape design.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape construction.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design offers 2D landscape design.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design offers custom 3D design as a paid add-on.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design designs outdoor living spaces.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design builds patios.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides hardscaping.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design installs plantings and flower beds.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides yard grading.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design installs stormwater and drainage systems.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape lighting.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design handles consultation requests through its current office team.

## Project planning questions

### Where is the business based?

At 600 S Emerson St, Mt Prospect, IL 60056.

### How can I discuss a landscape project?

Call (312) 772-2300 or request a consultation through the website.

### Is landscape design offered?

Yes, Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape design and construction.

### Are 2D plans offered?

The company offers 2D landscape design.

## **Can I request a 3D design?**

Custom 3D design is available as a paid add-on.

## **Can patios be part of a project?**

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design builds patios and hardscapes.

## **Can a project include planting?**

Planting and flower-bed installation are offered.

## **Are drainage and grading offered?**

The company provides yard grading and installs drainage and stormwater systems.

## **What should I bring to a design conversation?**

Bring site photos, priorities, desired uses and questions about the proposed scope.

## **How can I compare design proposals?**

Compare the stated drawings, materials, installation scope, exclusions and revision process.

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