

BENEFITS OF A PROPER LANDSCAPE DESIGN

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An integral part of any land development process is the establishment of landscaped areas. There are many benefits that can result from proper landscape design including improvement of a property's real estate value, reduction of a building's heating and cooling costs, lower property maintenance expenses, and the enhancement of our quality of life. Whether it is the preservation of specimen trees or the establishment of new plantings, a properly landscaped development is good for the community and those who live in it.

Studies have shown that attractive landscapes can increase property value by seven to 14 percent and can accelerate the sale of a home by five to six weeks. Businesses with proper landscaping and street trees show 20% higher sales income. In addition, when it comes time to sell, property owners can expect to recover as much as 100% of the investment in good landscaping. The Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers has found that mature trees in well-maintained landscapes can add an appraised value of \$1,000 to \$10,000, when compared to similar properties with no trees or poor landscapes. Proper landscape design can increase a building's energy efficiency. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, carefully positioned trees can cut as much as 25% off of a household's energy consumption for heating and cooling.



Professional landscape architects have the experience, creativity, and expertise to develop innovative and sustainable designs for an unlimited array of landscape projects. EMC has provided this service to our clients for many years for a wide variety of developments from the design of intimate courtyards to large-scale commercial and urban sites.

For example, deciduous trees can block and absorb the sun's heat in the summer while allowing for solar heat gain in the winter. Within eight to ten years a well-designed landscape can provide enough energy savings to return the initial investment.

Lower maintenance cost is nearly always a goal for both commercial and residential properties. The preparation of a well conceived landscape plan can reduce outdoor water consumption by as much as 50 percent without sacrificing the quality and beauty of the development. Appropriate plant selection, practical turf areas, efficient irrigation, and use of mulches will result in less fertilizer, fewer chemicals, reduced mowing, and less pruning costs.