



Hardscaping

What is hardscaping? Hardscaping refers to the non-living hard surfaces incorporated in your landscape project and includes elements like wood, stone, and concrete. Living plants and natural elements are what most people think of when they hear the term landscaping; however, the term landscaping technically includes both the living and non-living elements of the yard of your dreams! The living elements of landscaping have been discussed numerous times but we hear little about hardscaping. Hardscaping has many benefits, check out a few below:

- ✓ Unlike the living elements, hardscaping elements are not alive and therefore require no water, mowing, pruning, sun, etc. In short, there is little to no maintenance required for hardscapes.
- ✓ Instead of a yard that is simply soft and green, hardscaping can bring texture and depth to your yard giving visual diversity through the addition of hard edges and lines.
- ✓ Hardscaping improves the accessibility of your yard – be sure to think about pathways and walkways which will allow you and your guests to more thoroughly enjoy your yard.
- ✓ A porch or patio with a seating area and/or an outdoor kitchen will help to bring your living space outdoors. Add an arbor for shade.
- ✓ Courtyard walls or other hardscaping elements help to create privacy and can help to add natural boundaries between close neighbors.
- ✓ Effective hardscaping can help to reduce the opportunities for erosion and can divert water from your home.
- ✓ Hardscaping helps to increase property value and improve showings. Consider that plants and other living elements can die or brown during times of extreme heat or drought while hardscaping is permanent and will generally maintain its appearance despite the weather.