

**the
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Landscape Budgeting: Sample budgets

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Summary: By breaking the overall landscape project into smaller “bites”, one can more easily implement their outdoor living spaces.

Below are some examples of what a given amount of money often buys; **or** means buying one option versus another option. Consider which items will really provide the most beauty and enjoyment for the money.

\$1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Removal of (1) medium dying, fast-growing tree (such as an elm or cottonwood) or + Minor grading; 700 sq ft mulch, (1) 6 ft yucca and (10) 5 gal plants (no irrigation) or + 1200 sq ft of mulch and filter fabric or + Small stone fountain or + (7) commercial grade low-voltage lights and a transformer or + Drip irrigation for (25) plants, including a valve assembly and a basic controller or + (4) 6 to 8 ft trees, soil preparation and mulch (no irrigation) or + Filter fabric to place under 7500 sq ft of mulch, a common subdivision lot size
\$2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Removal of (1) large dying cottonwood or mulberry or + 1000 sq ft mulch, (1) 6-8 ft tree, (2) 6 ft yuccas, (18) 5 gal plants (no irrigation) or + 1000 sq ft turfgrass and irrigation (no mulch, plants) or + 3000 sq ft of mulch and filter fabric (no plants or irrigation) or + 250-300 ft length of brick edging (no mulch, plants, or irrigation) or + (3) 4 ft boulders, (5) 3 ft boulders
\$5000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Removal of (3) established, high water-use trees and 1000 sq ft of bluegrass sod, and installing (2) 5 gal plants and mulch in a front yard or + Minor grading, installation of 2000 sq ft of mulch, (1) drip irrigation zone on a timer, (1) 24" box tree, (1) 15 gal tree, (15) 5 gal plants, and (20) 1 gal plants or + 200 sq ft pond using flexible liner, rock waterfall, and pump (no plants or irrigation) or + An outdoor fireplace and a basic built-in gas barbecue, with a 5 ft long tile counter or + 1/3 acre of revegetation seeding and plants, and temporary rotary irrigation or + A large stone fountain or + A nice riding lawn mower
\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + A 3000 sq ft landscape, containing: a small stone fountain, minor grading, 2500 sq ft of mulch, 500 sq ft of compacted crusher fines for a sitting area, 25 foot seat wall with a stone cap, (2) drip irrigation zones on a timer, (4) 6-8 ft trees, (40) 5 gal plants, and (75) 1 gal plants or + A 6000-9000 sq ft flagstone or brick patio (no plants, irrigation, or mulch)

\$20,000	+ The \$10,000 landscape above, plus a commercial grade low-voltage lighting system for the plantings, larger plantings, and an outdoor fireplace / barbecue combination
\$50,000	+ 1/3 acre of revegetation seeding and plants, with a temporary in-ground irrigation system; on the other 1/3 acre, some walls, basic ornamental plantings and drip irrigation, a 16' x 30' swimming pool with automatic cover, and mulch
\$75,000	+ The \$50,000 landscape above, plus more hardscape (walls, paving), low-voltage lighting, and a more intensive planting with greater short-term appeal

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