Initial Guide to Your South Carolina Upstate Landscape



Welcome to Justin Robinson's initial guide to your South Carolina Upstate Landscape. I am excited to share some experience gained from my years in the industry. Hopefully, this will help you get started toward a successful landscape and outdoor living experience at your home. This is not a comprehensive guide but can be used as a starting point and to help simplify the process for you.

I know this process and document can be a little overwhelming. Please take your time, look at the information a little at a time, and get help when needed. There are many steps and pieces to these types of projects and getting professional help is highly recommended.

If you have any questions, comments, or need help getting started, I would love to assist you along the way.

Justin Robinson

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Things to think about...



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Again, this list is not meant to overwhelm, but to get you started thinking about the end results of your project. It can be helpful to have a professional to help you along the way and take care of the big picture while you are able to enjoy the end results. Please reach out if you need any help, consulting, design work, or have questions about the process.

- 1 HOA / ARC Requirements Located and Listed
- 2 🗌 Style of Landscape
- 3 Access to property (Walkways/Cart Paths, Steps, etc.)
- 4 🗌 Amount of Site Clearing
- 5 Additional Rules/Regulations (Duke Energy, DEHEC, etc.)
- 6 🗌 Landscape Budgeting
- 7 🗌 Irrigation
- 8 Depart likes and Dislikes
- 9 Outdoor Living (Patios, Firepits, etc.)
- 10 Gardens and Special Interest Areas
- 11 🗌 Water Features
- 12 Outdoor Lighting (Path, Accent, etc.)
- 13 Grass Amount and Types
- 14 🔲 Mulch/Groundcover Plan and Types
- 15 🗌 Parking and Driveway
- 16 🗌 Other Special Features
- 17 🗌 Landscape Contractor/s
- 18 🔲 Landscape Designer / Consultant



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Property Owner Name					
Neighborhood		HOA Requirr	nents: Grading & Drain	age Plan Y/N	
Property Address			Landsca	apePlan Y/N	Sizes
	-		Plant M	inimums Y/N	Shrub #
Property Size	-				Tree #
Home Size			Other Requ	irements	
Property Details	Lake Front / Interior / Rural	Gentle Slope / Step Lot			
GRADING	Septic / Sewer	Fill Dirt will be Requirred - Y	/ N		
	Special Requirements:			27	
RETAINING STRUCTURES	None / Boulder Wall / Concrete Wall / Block Wall / Other:				
DRAINAGE	Gutter Drains / Catch Basins / Dry Creek Beds / Large Pipe Required / Unknown				
SOD/GRASS	Zoysia Sod / Bermuda Sod / Fescue Sod / Fescue Seed / Love Grass /				
HARDSCAPING	Walkways/Cart Path:				
	Patios:				
IRRIGATION	Estimated Turf Zones	Estimated Drip Zones	Pump Syste	m - Y / N	
MULCH/GROUND COVER	Double Ground Hardwood Mulch / Single Ground Hardwood Mulch / PineStraw / River Rock / Other:				
OUTDOOR LIVING	FirePit - Y / N WaterFeatures - Y /	/ N			
PLANTS	Foundation Plantings - Y / N En	trance Plantings - Y/ N	Garden Areas - Y / N	Ground Cover in Be	ds - Y / N
	Large Trees - Y / N Additional:				
LIGHTING	Path Lighting - Y / N Landscape	and Up Lighting - Y / N	Home Accent Lighting - Y ,	N Additional:	
ANNUAL BEDS	Estimated Number of Annual Bed Log	cations			
DESIGN & CONSULTING	Hours Projected				
Additional Notes:					



One of the most important things to do before you begin a major project, such as this, is to produce a budget and determine what your needs are for your landscape project. There are certain costs that are required for each home and getting a better understanding of these is a good first step. The budget samples on page 8 of this document should help but be careful not to get scared of the numbers. Remember these are just a sample and your project will most likely be very different.

I am available to help you navigate these budgetary items and get you moving the right direction. This is recommended early in the construction process, or even during the design phase. The hardest thing to do is wait until the very end of the project and realize that your budget is not going to be enough to get you your desired results.





No two projects are ever the same and there are many different scopes and sizes to landscape construction projects. For this reason, a detailed plan of action is recommended for all projects which will detail out the process and keep everyone on the same page.

This process can also look different depending upon how many contractors will be involved. Looking for the right contractors will most likely be the key to your success, meeting deadlines, and getting your project completed in the most efficient way.

Although I do not complete any of the installation, I can assist you with the process and working with contractors to help you get the best results.

1	Initial Site Analysis	11	Landscape Plans Developed to a more finished state
2	Home Site Located and Survey Completed	12	Drainage, Driveway, Hardscapes, Retaining Structures
3	HOA / ARC Requirements Located and Listed	13	Finish Grade
4	HOA / ARC Requirements meet and carried out throughout project	14	Irrigation
5	Drainage, Grading, and Construction Site Planning	15	Plants
6	Initial Landscape Planning and Budgeting	16	Landscape Lighting
7	Initial Grading and Site Preperation (Possibly some Retaining Structures as needed)	17	Special Features (Water Features, etc.)
8	Scheduling and Timelines worked out with Builder	18	Ground Cover (Mulch, Pine Straw, Rock, etc.)
9	Home Construction Process (through 50% competion)	19	Sod and/or Seed Installation
10	Finished Grading Begins	20	Final walkthrough and completion



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Property Owner Name				
RETAINING STRUCTURES	None / Boulder Wall / Concrete Wall / Block Wall / Other:			
SOD/GRASS	Zoysia Sod / Bermuda Sod / Fescue Sod / Fescue Seed / Love Grass / Other:			
HARDSCAPING	Walkways/Cart Path:			
	Patios:			
MULCH/GROUND COVER	Double Ground Hardwood Mulch / Single Ground Hardwood Mulch / PineStraw / River Rock / Other:			
OUTDOOR LIVING	FirePit - Y / N WaterFeatures - Y / N Other:			
	Favorite Shrubs:			
PLANTS	Favorite Trees:			
	Plant Dislikes:			
IDEAS TO INCORPORATE				
LANSCAPE GOALS				
LIGHTING	Path Lighting - Y / N Landscape and Up Lighting - Y / N Home Accent Lighting - Y / N Additional:			
Maintanence	My landscape will be: Professionally Maintained / Self-Maintained Resources and Time devoted to landscape: Low / Medium / High			
Additional Notes:				

SAMPLE BUDGET PAGE 1

Worksheet for:

Custom Landscape Budget Sample Client



Landscape Budget Worksheet

Budget is based upon Plan Named: Sample Client for Lake Keowee Site

RECOMMENDED BUDGETED AMOUNT

\$150,000

This is the recommended budget for this property and landscape. The price has budgets for plans as shown and will provide a high quality and low maintenance outdoor landscape experience.

MINIMUM BUDGET

\$105,000

This is the absolute minimum budget for this property. Minimum plants, grading, etc. will be included in this product. (Not Recommended)

MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED BUDGET

\$225,000

This is for the extras, more outdoor living, lighting, bigger plants, etc. If you would like the best from the start, lets adjust the design and build something even greater!



CATEGORY	Description	Quantity		Cost		Total Budget
GRADING	Finish Grade and Soil	1	x	\$12,600 =	= \$	12,600.00
RETAINING STRUCTURES	Walls or Boulder Placements	1	x	\$6,500 =	= \$	6,500.00
DRAINAGE	Gutter Drains, Dry Creeks, Catch Basins	1	x	\$10,000 =	\$	10,000.00
SOD/GRASS	Palisades Zoysia	10000	x	\$2 =	\$	20,000.00
HARDSCAPING	Path and Borders Per Square Foot	1200	x	\$20 =	\$	24,000.00
IRRIGATION	5-6 zones (turf) 2 zones (Drip)	8	x	\$2,000 =	\$	16,000.00
MULCH/GROUND COVER	Double Ground Hardwood Mulch	120	x	\$60 =	\$	7,200.00
OUTDOOR LIVING	Firepit Area and Outdoor Living	1	x	\$12,000 =	\$	12,000.00
PLANTS ALLOWANCE	Based on plan and availability	1	x	\$35,000 =	\$	35,000.00
LIGHTING	Low Voltage Lights and Transformer	12	x	\$350 =	\$	4,200.00
DESIGN & CONSULTING	Hourly Rate Estimates	20	x	\$125 =	\$	2,500.00

NOTES:

These are Averaged Estimates for budgeting purposes only and should only be used for planning purposes. To get your customized Landscape Design and to fill your individual needs, please reach out to Justin Robinson at 864-710-4450 or Justin@JustinRobinsonDesigns.com

SAMPLE BUDGET PAGE 2 – SAMPLE CONTRACT

864./10.4450		LANDSCAPE DESIGN & CONSULTING 864,710,4450
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Landscape Contract

Deposit Required, Due first day on site (25%) \$37,500 Remaining Balance will be \$ 112500	Quote for Landscape as Designed	\$ 150,000.00				
Key Estimated Installation Dates:	Landscape Contract for: Sample Cl	lient				
Start Date:2022		e Lakefront Property				
End Date:2022	Oconee Cour	nty, SC				
plan and quote to meet budgetary needsn such as 2. All budgeted areas are based upon total landsca to complete design as close to plan as possible. Ma 3. All plants, materials, and workmanship will carry	 Landscape contract and budget is based off of the attached plan titled Sample Client for Lake Keowee Site. If desired, changes may be made to the plan and quote to meet budgetary needsn such as the minimum and maximum numbers shown above. All budgeted areas are based upon total landscape budget. Landscape Contractor will stay inside of this budget but may need to allocate some funds to complete design as close to plan as possible. Major relocations will be discussed with homeowner prior to implementation. All plants, materials, and workmanship will carry a one year warranty against defects. This does not include items that are damaged due to neglect or acts out of the contractor's control such as incitement or weather (freezing, lightning, etc.), improper maintenance, and other unforeseen incidents. 					
any outside agency or other contractors. The cost of price shown and the homeowner or purchaser may the contract is executed, any additional design and	of the Landscape design is show in the quote above, if desired t y use at their discretion. Please make sure to follow all notes an consulting needs outside of the project scope must be aggreed ctual property of Justin Robinson Designs and Consulting and sh	the design can be purchased for the nd directions given with the plan. Once d upon in a seperate aggreement.				
7. Any project that will last over 30 days may requi	 6. All landscape and outdoor living work is dependent upon weather, please be understanding of delays that may be incurred. 7. Any project that will last over 30 days may require a draw schedule that will be agreed upon as an addendum to this contract. Typical draws may be requested but should not exceed 50% of the cost of work that has been started. Contractor reserves the right to stop or delay work based upon payment and terms not being met. 					
 Local permits, HOA, and ARC approval/standards will be addressed and should be met by the contractor at all times. Contractor will not be responsible for delays based upon these entities and their requirements. Estimated start and end dates are only estimates and may need to be adjusted. If the site is not ready for work due to external factors, delays may be unavoidable. 						
10. Contractor and Homeowner agree to communi	cate effectively and in a timely manner.					
11. Industry standards shall be used on all applicat	ions and work to be completed.					
 Maintenance of the landscape shall transfer to the homeowner upon completion of the installation unless otherwise specified in writing. All utilities will be marked before and during the project. This does not hold the contractor responsible for damages to unmarked or mismarked utilities or other items buried on site. 						
 Contractor will maintain all required licenses and insurance as required by the state of South Carolina during the project. In the case of any possible legal actions from either party: ARBITRATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES SHALL BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THE HOME CONSTRUCTION ARBITRATION RULES OF THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION OR SIMILAR RULES USED BY THE SELECTED ARBITRAL FORUM. 						
Landscape Contract will be executed once contract is signed and deposit is received. A signed contract will get your project on Landscape Contractor's schedule but no work will begin until the contract is in effect (after deposit is received). Change orders to this contract and associated plan may be done through email or other forms of written communication (other than text messages)						
Landscape Contrac	tor Signature	Time Date				
Home Owner S	Signature	Time Date				

SAMPLE BUDGET PAGE 3



Landscape Budget Breakdown

Budget is based upon Plan Named:

Sample Client for Lake Keowee Site

Landscape Contract for: Sample Client

Lake Keowee Lakefront Property Oconee County, SC



Note: This budget breakdown is based off of landscape plan Sample Client for Lake Keowee Site. This does not include any projects that are not specifically called out in this plan or other work that has been previously aggreed upon or completed. Please reach out to your Landscape Contractor with any questions or concerns.









SAMPLE LANDSCAPE PLAN





1.= 50.

Date: 9/9/2022

SAMPLE PLANT LIST - 1



Plant List

Budget is based upon Plan Named: Sample Client-vC-For Review

2" Caliper

2" Caliper

2" Caliper

6-8'

6-8'

3 Gal.

Sample Client

Hosta

Camellia

Seneca, SC 29678 **Plant Name Plant Type** Label Size Qty Flower - Perennial Daylily, Stella D'oro A 21 Each Flower - Perennial В 3 Each Liriope, Variegated Flower - Perennial С 12 Each D 6 3 Gal Abelia, Kaleidoscope Shrub - Deciduous Shrub - Deciduous E 1 3 Gal **Butterfly Bush** F 3 3 Gal Hydrangea, Endless-Summer Shrub - Deciduous 8 Shrub - Deciduous G 3 Gal Hydrangea, Oakleaf Lantana, Mixed Shrub - Deciduous Н 7 3 Gal Rose, Double Knockout Shrub - Deciduous L 10 3 Gal Shrub - Deciduous J 3 3 Gal Spirea, Goldmound Κ 11 3 Gal Azalea, Encore Shrub - Evergreen Broadleaf Azalea, Formosa Shrub - Evergreen Broadleaf L 10 3 Gal 3 Gal Azalea, Satsuki Gumpo Pink Shrub - Evergreen Broadleaf M 11 3 Camellia, Shishi-Gashira Shrub - Evergreen Broadleaf N 3 Gal 0 6 3 Gal Shrub - Evergreen Broadleaf 5 Gardenia, Dwarf Ρ Shrub - Evergreen Broadleaf 3 Gal Gardenia Shrub - Evergreen Broadleaf Q 3 3 Gal 7 Ligustrum, Variegated Shrub - Evergreen Broadleaf R 5 Gal S 4 5 Gal Ligustrum Shrub - Evergreen Broadleaf Т Loropetalum, Burgundy Shrub - Evergreen Broadleaf 8 3 Gal Osmanthus U 3 7 Gal Shrub - Evergreen Broadleaf 8 Rhododendron V 3 Gal Shrub - Evergreen Broadleaf 3 Arborvitae, Degroots Spire Shrub - Evergreen Conifer W 7-10 Gal 2 Х 5 Gal Shrub - Evergreen Conifer

Cypress, Hinoki Dwarf Gracilis

Y 2 Crapemyrtle Tree - Deciduous Tree - Deciduous Ζ 1 Japanese Laceleaf Maple 2 Maple, Japanese, Coral Bark Tree - Deciduous AA 3 BB Arborvitae, Green Giant Tree - Evergreen CC 3 Arborvitae, Variegated Tree - Evergreen DD 8 Cypress, Gold Mop Tree - Evergreen

NOTES:

These are basic plant details, some of the specifics may be slightly changed as these are derived from design software.

SAMPLE PLANT LIST - 2





DWARF HINOKI CYPRESS

Dramatic Foliage Color Filtered to Full Sun 5'T x 4'W Slow Growth



LIGUSTRUM

Partial – Full Sun 12'T x8'W Great Border or screen and has a nice white bloom in spring.



DOUBLE KNOCK-OUT ROSE

Full Sun 4'T x 4'-5'W Not the old school roses you think of, they bloom spring through fall and come in multiple colors. www.JustinRobinsonDesigns.com 2022©



D. MONDO GRASS

Clumping Ground Cover Filtered to Full Sun Slow Growth



EASTERN REDBUD

Dramatic Foliage Color, Fall Color Full Sun 30'Tx 30'W



OAK HOLLY

Ornamental Berries, Easy Care Partial to Full Sun 14'T x 8'W Fast Growth



LACE LEAF JAP. MAPLE

Dramatic Foliage Color, Compact Full Sun 6'-10'T x 6'-10'W Moderate Growth



KOUSA DOGWOOD

Fall Color Full Sun 20'T x 15'W Moderate Growth



ENDLESS S. HYDRANGEA Partial Sun 6'T x 8'W Multiple sizes and colors, blooms from early spring through fall.

SAMPLE PLANT LIST - 3





GOLD MOUND SPIREA

Full Sun 2'T x 3'W Low maintenance plant that grows in a ball shape and will give yearround green color.



SATSUKI AZALEA

Filtered Sun - Shade 2'T x 3'W Small and compact azalea that blooms in early spring – summer.



 KALEIDOSCOPE ABELIA

 Partial – Full Sun
 2'T x 3'W

 Awesome year-round color, blooms
 summer through early fall



DWARF GARDENIAPartial Sun - Shade2'T x 3'WGreat fragrance and beautiful whiteblooms in late spring into summer.



 WINTER GEM BOXWOOD

 Partial – Full Sun
 4'T x 5'W

 Great Border or Hedge, and even containers



GOLDEN GLOBE ARBOR.Partial – Full Sun4'T x 4'WBright color evergreen, variousvarieties in variety of sizes



ENCORE AZALEAS Partial – Full Sun 4-6'T x5'W Bloom in the spring and fall. They can come in many sizes and colors.



SASANQUA CAMELIA Partial Sun – Shade 3'T x6'W Dark Green with beautiful pink blooms in the fall through winter. Many varieties and colors.



LIGUSTRUM

Partial – Full Sun 12'T x8'W Great Border or screen and has a nice white bloom in spring.



LOROPETALUM

Partial – Full Sun 4-6'T x5'W Dark Purple color with bright pink blooms. Comes in many sizes and varieties.



OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA

Partial SunS'T x 6'WLarge, dense, white flower clustersare held upright above the darkgreen oak leaf-shaped foliage.



CAMELLIA JAPONICA

Partial Sun– Shade 8'T x 10'W Dark green foliage year-round and awesome blooms in Summer.



When it comes to choosing plant materials, everyone has varying preferences and ideas. I recommend doing a little research and us discussing your likes and dislikes as we try to finalize a plan. Below are some great resources to help you get started. I always love to see what clients find and working together to get everything in just the right place.





Thank you for taking the time to look over this packet designed to help you get started and have a successful landscape design and construction project. I would love to hear your feedback and remember that I am here to help if needed.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions about getting started. I am also able available to assist with your plans for submission to your HOA/ARC or if you need help with project management and contractors, consulting, or any other landscape project needs.

I look forward to meeting you soon!

Justin Robinson

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