

Landscaping Upgrades On a Budget For 2025

The average landscaping cost for 2025 is projected to be \$12,825.00 per yard. Just because you can't—or don't want to—invest a lot of money in landscaping your yard doesn't mean you have to settle for something plain and pedestrian. Spending less money often involves creative design, smart planning, and DIY projects. Saving money is one reward. Your feeling of accomplishment is even more rewarding. Consider some of these budget-friendly upgrades to create an attractive yard and improve your home's **curb appeal**. Almost all landscaping upgrades provide a 100% return on your investment.

Planning



Hiring a landscape designer could cost as much as \$7000.00. Many online landscape design sites are free. Or the cost of using them is not very high. You can get ideas for layout, suggestions for types of plants, and where to place them. Some apps invite you to enter the garden style you want. The program makes suggestions for you to achieve the result you want. Make sure you include **budget-friendly garden projects** in your planning.

Build Inexpensive Focal Points

Add eye-catching upgrades to your yard without spending a lot of money. Inexpensive upgrades done properly can be tasteful improvements to your yard without appearing cheap.

Firepits

Build a firepit in your yard. Dig a four-foot diameter pit six inches deep. Toss in about two inches of gravel. Build a retaining wall around the pit from used brick or rocks. Surround the pit with logs or stumps for seating and you have a nighttime gathering spot.

DIY Water Feature



Build an inexpensive water feature with an old barrel or large pot, a small recycling pump, some rocks or gravel, and a little imagination. Surround your fountain with interesting and/or colorful plants and flowers. Add a chair or two to create the perfect reading spot with the peaceful sound of bubbling and gurgling water.

Bright Spots

Grow vibrantly colored annual flowers in pots. Be creative with pot choices—old cans, old painted boots, old metal watering cans, antique wood crates, etc. (Garage sales often provide wide ranges of choices.) Paint or decorate the containers as you see fit and group them to provide bright spots of color in your yard.

Garden Entrance



A couple of posts, some lattice, and climbing plants can turn your garden gate into a colorful garden entrance. Be sure to use fast-growing climbing plants—like morning glories, clematis, or climbing roses—with plenty of blossoms all year long.

Build a Patio

Concrete pavers, stepping stones, and sidewalk blocks cost as little as \$2.00 each, so a 100-square-foot patio could cost as little as \$200.00. Or dig out the grass and fill it with washed gravel or mulch for even less expense. Add some wood pallet furniture. Wood pallets are usually free. A little DIY sanding, painting, and building along with cheap outdoor cushions finishes your patio. Add an inexpensive firepit for under \$200.00 and you have an outdoor entertainment area for well under \$1000.00.

Install Outdoor Lighting



Solar-powered garden lights are available in multiple designs and colors. They are very easy to install and inexpensive to buy. You can find 10 or 20 lights online for under \$100.00. Use them to light pathways, sidewalks, trees, flowers, your patio, firepit, etc.

Build Pathways

Pathways in your garden add definition. Build them with defined edges or free-formed. Straight or curved. Use washed gravel, rocks, or mulch and flat smooth pavers to walk on. Installing solar-powered lights along the edges provides lighting and creative designs.

Add Mulch To Flower Beds

New mulch makes flower beds look clean and fresh. Mulch adds nutrients to the soil, helps prevent weeds, and retains soil moisture. Wood chip and bark mulch are usually inexpensive—even free in some localities where they mulch tree trimmings. Washed gravel, colored stones, and rocks also make good mulch. Unless you have an inexpensive source of gravel, stone mulch is more expensive than wood chips or bark.

Plant Local

Use as many local plants as possible. Native plants are adapted to the environmental conditions and grow well without much care. They are usually inexpensive. Incorporate the natural terrain of your property into your landscaping plan. Hillsides can be left wild for a natural look. Or you can build a small rock stream into a pool.

Perennials and Ground Cover

You only have to buy perennial plants once. They keep growing and blooming every year after. Perennial evergreen shrubs provide color even in winter. Planting ground cover like sedum, phlox, ajuga, creeping juniper, etc. prevents erosion on hillsides, eliminates lawnmowing, and requires little maintenance.

