

# What does a Landscape Designer Do?

A landscape designer is someone who designs, plants and sometimes takes care of gardens. These gardens can be anywhere: homes, schools, parks, businesses, etc. They create a landscape design to communicate their plan for how a garden will look.

## What do you need to know to be a Landscape Designer?

A landscape designer often has a college degree in horticulture or landscape architecture but sometimes they can learn on the job by working on a landscape crew or in a garden center.

A landscape designer needs to be able to:

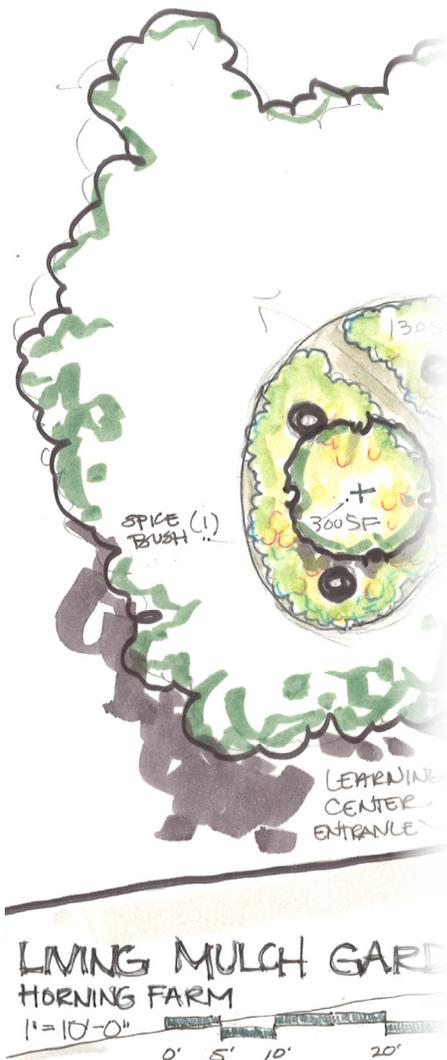
- Identify many different types of trees, shrubs, perennial plants and grasses.
- Know where these plant can live and what they need to grow and be healthy.
- Make decisions about what plants will grow best together and how much space they need.
- Understand structures that are used in a garden such as gazebos, walkways, bridges and walls.
- Draw a scale map of where plants are placed in the garden typically using design software.
- Know how to care for different plants; how much water they need and if they need pruning.
- Be good salespeople who are able to understand what their client wants and help them create it.

## Who does a Landscape Designer work for?

Landscape designers can own their own business in which they find their own client and purchase plants from local nurseries and garden centers. They can also work for a nursery or garden center, a neighborhood or commercial land developer, and sometimes they work for a city designing parks and downtown greenspaces.

## How does a Landscape Designer plan a garden?

1. They visit the site they will be designing to take measurements for a map and understand the conditions such as sunlight and moisture.
2. They talk to the owner of the site to understand how they want the garden to look.
3. They research plants that will meet both the client's requirements and the site conditions and make sure they are available at a local nursery or garden center.
4. They draw a scale map of the site showing the new plants and take it back to the client for their approval.
5. After the client approves the design, the designer may be in charge of purchasing the plants and planting the garden for them.
6. Some landscape designers continue to maintain the garden every year for their clients.



# Design your own Pollinator Garden

Follow the same steps a Landscape Designer uses to plan your own pollinator garden and complete a design to share with your classmates.

Use these measurements and site conditions to plan your garden.

- Garden dimensions: 7 ft by 15 ft
- Full Sun (6-8 hours)
- Medium moisture

1. Describe how you would like your garden to look. For example: do you have a favorite color? Do you like short plants or tall plants better?

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2. To make your garden successful, you will need to properly prepare the site. First any existing lawn grass and/or weeds must be removed. Then the soil is loosened up and compost is added to improve the soil. Straw mulch is used to control erosion until it's time to plant. After planting the mulch helps control weeds until the plants grow up. *Use the area of the garden to calculate the volume of compost and straw you will need.*

- a) Your garden is 15 feet long and 7 feet wide. Calculate the area. Area of the garden: \_\_\_\_\_ Square Feet  
Work: \_\_\_\_\_

- b) You will need to spread compost 6 inches deep over the whole area. Calculate the volume of compost you will need. Volume of compost: \_\_\_\_\_ Cubic Feet  
Work: \_\_\_\_\_

- c) You will need to spread straw 2.5 inches deep over the whole area. Calculate the volume of straw you will need. Volume of straw: \_\_\_\_\_ Cubic Feet  
Work: \_\_\_\_\_

- e) Your local garden center sells straw in bales that contain 2 cubic feet of straw. How many bales will you need to cover your garden? Number of bales: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work: \_\_\_\_\_

3.

It takes many different types of plants to make up a garden, calculate how many plants you will need in each category. You will need 60 total plants in your design.

a) **Anchor Plants:** These are tall, long-lived plants that are the center piece of your garden. 5% of your plants need to be Anchors.  
Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_

b) **Seasonal Stars:** These are medium height plants with flowers that bloom only once during the year. 20% of your plants need to be Seasonal Stars.  
Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_

c) **Clean Edge Plants:** These are smaller plants that help create a border to your garden. 15% of your plants need to be Clean Edge Plants.  
Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_

d) **Ground Huggers:** These plants spread low over the ground to keep out weeds. 50% of your plants need to be Ground Huggers.  
Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_

e) **Placeholders:** These plants grow quickly but only live for a couple of years. They help make the garden look finished and keep out weeds while the other plants grow up. 10% of your plants need to be Placeholders.  
Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_

4.

Choose the species of plants you will use. Use the plant list provided and choose the required number of species from each category. Remember your answer to #1, can you find plants that meet the requirements and also match what you want your garden to look like?

a) **Anchor Plants:** Choose 1 species from the list.  
Species 1: \_\_\_\_\_

b) **Seasonal Stars:** Choose 1 flower species and 1 grass species from the list.  
Species 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Species 2: \_\_\_\_\_

c) **Clean Edge Plants:** Choose 1 flower species and 1 grass species from the list.  
Flower: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grass: \_\_\_\_\_

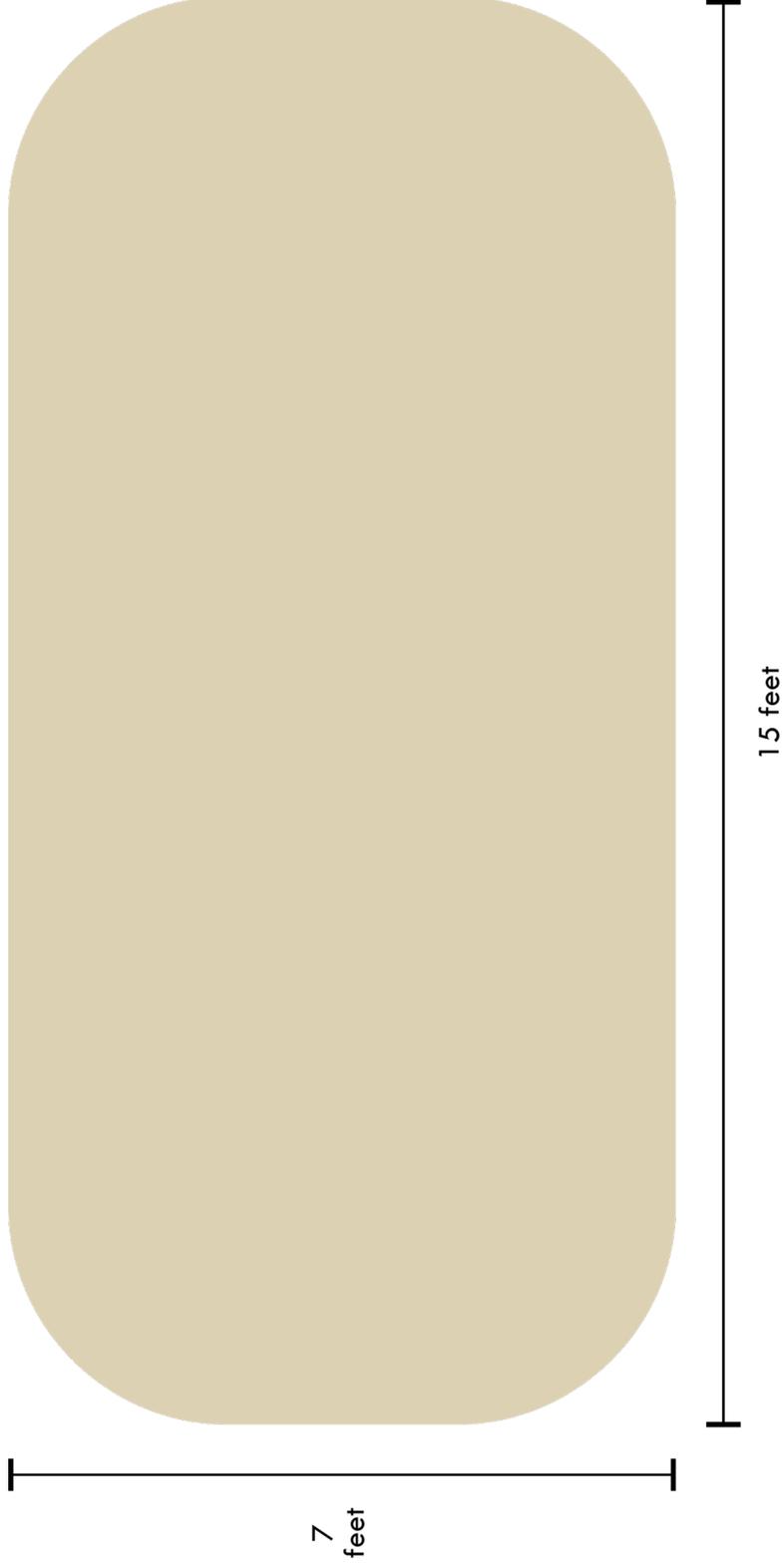
d) **Ground Huggers:** Choose 1 species from the list.  
Species 1: \_\_\_\_\_

e) **Placeholders:** Choose 1 species from the list.  
Species 1: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Complete your design using the stickers to show where your plants will go. If you need ideas look at your Bloom Box Planting Guide. Don't forget to fill out the key and the scale so that someone else can read your design. *Hint: start by using a pencil to mark where your anchor plants will be, then begin placing the smallest stickers first and work up to the anchor stickers.*

<b>Key:</b>		Anchor Plants _____		Seasonal Stars 1 _____		Edge Flowers _____		Ground Huggers 1 _____
		Seasonal Stars 2 _____		Edge Grasses _____		Placeholder Plants _____		

**Scale:** 1 inch = \_\_\_\_\_ feet



# Plants for Pollinators

## ANCHOR PLANTS



**White Wild Indigo**  
*Baptisia lactea*  
36-48 inches tall



**Wild Indigo**  
*Baptisia australis*  
36-48 inches tall



**Gayfeather**  
*Liatrix ligulistylus*  
36-48 inches tall



**Leadplant**  
*Amorpha canescens*  
18-36 inches tall



**Rose Milkweed**  
*Asclepias incarnata*  
18-36 inches tall

## SEASONAL STAR PLANTS



**Tharp's Spiderwort**  
*Tradescantia tharpii*  
6-18 inches tall



**Wild Beebalm**  
*Monarda fistulosa*  
36-48 inches tall



**Virginia Mountain Mint**  
*Pycnan. virginianum*  
18-36 inches tall



**Prairie Aster**  
*Symph. turbinellum*  
18-36 inches tall



**Coneflower**  
*Echinacea pallida*  
18-36 inches tall

## CLEAN EDGE FLOWERS



**October Skies Aster**  
*Symph. 'October Skies'*  
18-36 inches tall



**Bluestar**  
*Amsonia illustris*  
18-36 inches tall



**Butterfly Milkweed**  
*Asclepias tuberosa*  
18-36 inches tall



**Golden Fleece**  
*Solidago 'Golden Fleece'*  
18-36 inches tall



**Bottle Gentian**  
*Gentiana andrewsii*  
18-36 inches tall

## CLEAN EDGE GRASSES



**Plains Muhly Grass**  
*muhlenbergia cuspidata*  
18-36 inches tall



**Prairie Dropseed**  
*Sporobolus heterolepis*  
18-36 inches tall



**Plains Oval Sedge**  
*Carex brevior*  
6-18 inches tall



**Sideoats Grama**  
*Bouteloua curtipendula*  
18-36 inches tall



**Little Bluestem**  
*Schiz. scoparium*  
36-48 inches tall

## GROUND HUGGER PLANTS



**Poppy Mallow**  
*Callirhoe involucreata*  
6-18 inches tall



**Golden Alexander**  
*Zizia aurea*  
18-36 inches tall

## PLACEHOLDER PLANTS



**Blue Flax**  
*Linum perenne*  
6-18 inches tall



**Wild Onion**  
*Allium stellatum*  
6-18 inches tall



**Blackeyed Susan**  
*Rudbeckia hirta*  
18-36 inches tall



**Penstemon**  
*Penstemon spp*  
18-36 inches tall