

# Treeways

2020 - 4

## Managing Your Estate Landscape

It starts with your dream .... Do you imagine a place for the kids to run free outdoors with no worries? Or do you just want a traditional bluegrass lawn around your home down the lane in your woods? Or have your travels helped you visualize a landscape that gives you joy, that helps you refresh and relax, that gives you a place to escape for a while? There is no typical landscape style in Sunfish Lake unlike our neighboring communities of Mendota Heights and West St. Paul. Sunfish Lake is a community of larger and more private properties. Landscape treatments range from minimalist tiny yards with almost no lawn with close woods to mowed manicured green acres adjacent to one of our three lakes. The possibilities are endless as long as you choose to develop your landscape within the constraints of our Minnesota climate. The choices are all yours, however even if you like Hawaiian flowers and palm trees they won't work here.

Most residents prefer at least a modest sized lawn. An often or occasionally mowed area to enjoy lawn games, family activities or entertain. One resident's oak savanna is mowed once or twice each year depending on summer rainfall. Most properties have turf that is mowed weekly spring through fall. Your choices will determine the intensity of landscape management activities.

So what are some choices that you need to make?

1. Do we want a mowed lawn or a meadow or a combination?
2. Do we want pathways, a fire ring, meditation boulder or bench, scenic views, bike trail, beehive, bluebird houses, chickens, memorial tree/trees, garden art?
3. Do we want more trees, fewer trees, more wild flowers, more wildlife, less wildlife, less lawn?
4. Do we want to use only native species from Minnesota or are non-native, non-invasive species OK?
5. How hard do I want to work at my landscaping or how much am I willing to pay to have it maintained for me?

There are many professionals out there that can help you flesh out your landscape dreams and develop a long-term plan. Your City Forester is available for no charge discussions and recommendations especially regarding woodland management, reforestation, and wildflower reintroduction. A landscape is not like furnishing a room in the house. A landscape changes and develops starting from the day that it is installed so a long-term plan that includes knowledge of how your landscape will change as it matures is important. A thoughtful beginning will lead to a mature landscape more wonderful than how it started. Chances are that as your new landscape grows it will need editing and embellishing. That is normal and should be expected. Editing also allows you to guide a change of direction if your landscape vision changes. Dream big and dream long and grow your landscape into something unique and wonderful for you.