

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape design and construction in Mount Prospect. Use these planning questions to prepare a project conversation.

Planning considerations

This is a guide to what that foundation actually entails, how to tailor it to your topography, and how professional crews avoid common landscape planning mistakes that shorten the life of a hardscape. Whether you are hiring hardscape installation services or managing a phased landscape project planning effort yourself, understanding base preparation for paver installation will help you budget wisely, ask sharper questions, and end up with a patio or driveway that behaves for decades.

What a “Base” Really Means

The subgrade is native soil or structural fill shaped to the design elevation and the desired pitch. If you are on clay, it will need reinforcement and careful moisture management. If you are on well-drained sand, you will still need compaction because voids settle under load. The subgrade is not the place for shortcuts. One hidden soft spot can telegraph upward as a dip that collects water.

Then come the pavers, set snug with consistent joints, cut clean at edges, locked by edging restraint, and swept with joint sand or a specialized aggregate. That last layer seems cosmetic, yet joint performance affects how the whole surface sheds water and resists movement.

Drainage Is Not Optional

On heavy clay or in low-lying yards, a subdrain is non-negotiable. Think of a narrow perforated pipe set at the bottom of the base, wrapped in a non-woven geotextile, sloped to daylight or a dry well. The geotextile keeps fines out of the pipe, and the pipe keeps water out of your living room. Catch basins, trench drains at door thresholds, and permeable paver benefits become part of the drainage strategy when the site demands it. Choosing permeable systems is not only about sustainability, though eco-friendly landscaping solutions matter. It can be the most economical way to solve runoff challenges without building a forest of drains.

How Deep Should the Base Be?

On slopes, base thickness varies to manage cut and fill. Some homeowners want the patio perfectly level, then balk at the retaining wall design services required to hold the uphill cut. Other times, a mild pitch that echoes the lawn looks natural and avoids a wall entirely. There is no universal rule. The right answer uses topography in landscape design and studies water, views, and circulation.

Rigid vs Flexible, and When You Need a Wall

Rigid mortared patios on a concrete slab can look crisp, especially with large format porcelain or stone. They demand expansion joints, a control-joint plan, and drainage slopes with little tolerance for error. Flexible paver systems forgive small movements and allow repairs. If you have a steep grade and want a level terrace, do not heap base stone against a slope and hope it holds. You need retaining wall design services or professional vs DIY retaining walls analysis. An engineered wall with proper grid, drainage, and footing protects your investment and

avoids common masonry failures like bulging or overturning. Budgeting full property renovation often means sequencing walls first, then patios, then plantings.

Aesthetics, Planting, and Comfort

Hardscapes age well when softened by planting. Evergreen and perennial garden planning keeps structure through winter. Seasonal flower rotation plans add freshness at entries. Native plants support a pollinator friendly garden design and tolerate local weather swings with less fuss. For privacy, outdoor privacy walls and screens can be integrated at the base, with footings set before the patio goes in. Pergola installation works the same way. Know your post locations, pour footings to frost depth, and flash connections if you tie into a deck. Pergola installation on deck requires structural verification. A ledger that holds a pergola also holds snow, wind loads, and the weight of a few happy people under string lights.

Lighting turns a static patio into a year-round outdoor living room. Low, warm path lights at grade, cap lights on walls, and subtle downlights in pergolas create layers. Prepare outdoor lighting for winter by verifying connections, raising transformer locations above snow, and using sealed fixtures. If you like music outside, run conduit early for outdoor audio system installation so you do not cut into your base later.

Choosing Help and Knowing What to Ask

Not everyone wants to swing a pick for a week. A full service landscaping business that offers hardscape installation, irrigation installation services, and landscape maintenance services can carry a project from render to ribbon cutting. If you [landscape designer mount prospect il](#) are searching for a local landscaper or a top rated landscaping company, ask to see cross-sections of their proposed base. Ask how many lifts they compact and what equipment they use. If they gloss over drainage, keep looking. Reputable firms often hold credentials like ILCA certification meaning they invest in training, but the proof lives in built work and client references.

A Brief, Practical Checklist for Homeowners

Confirm the drainage plan, slopes, and where water goes in a one-inch rain. Look at neighboring grades too. Ask for base depth by area: patio, walkway, driveway. Verify compaction is in lifts, not just at the end. Require appropriate geotextile where soils are weak and at permeable assemblies. Avoid plastic. Specify edge restraint anchored into the base, and a flexible joint wherever the patio meets fixed structures. Plan utilities early: lighting, audio, gas, and irrigation sleeves under the hardscape.

A patio is not a surface, it is a system. The joy you feel sipping coffee on a June morning or watching kids chalk the joints in August comes from hundreds of quiet choices beneath your feet. Build the base with the same care you give the finish, and the surface will reward you for years.

Business Name: Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design

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Phone: (312) 772-2300

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Website: <https://waveoutdoors.com/>

[View on Google Maps](#)

Business hours: Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM; Saturday and Sunday closed

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Landscape design and construction

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design is located at 600 S Emerson St, Mt Prospect, IL 60056.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design uses the phone number (312) 772-2300.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design has the website <https://waveoutdoors.com/>.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design has a Google Maps listing for its Mount Prospect business.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape design.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape construction.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design offers 2D landscape design.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design offers custom 3D design as a paid add-on.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design designs outdoor living spaces.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design builds patios.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides hardscaping.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design installs plantings and flower beds.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides yard grading.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design installs stormwater and drainage systems.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape lighting.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design handles consultation requests through its current office team.

Project planning questions

Where is the business based?

At 600 S Emerson St, Mt Prospect, IL 60056.

How can I discuss a landscape project?

Call (312) 772-2300 or request a consultation through the website.

Is landscape design offered?

Yes, Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape design and construction.

Are 2D plans offered?

The company offers 2D landscape design.

Can I request a 3D design?

Custom 3D design is available as a paid add-on.

Can patios be part of a project?

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design builds patios and hardscapes.

Can a project include planting?

Planting and flower-bed installation are offered.

Are drainage and grading offered?

The company provides yard grading and installs drainage and stormwater systems.

What should I bring to a design conversation?

Bring site photos, priorities, desired uses and questions about the proposed scope.

How can I compare design proposals?

Compare the stated drawings, materials, installation scope, exclusions and revision process.

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