

**SMALL YARDS ARE IN !**

# **5 Small Backyard Design Ideas**

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**OUR 2022 GUIDEBOOK TO HELP YOU PLAN YOUR NEXT BACKYARD PROJECT**

**[THECOZYURBANITE.COM](https://thecozyurbanite.com)**

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Draw Out Your Ideas





# Vision & Theme

How You Want Your Space To Feel Based On 2022 Trends!

## I. Outdoor Workspace

We all know that work-from-home life is too well. If you're tired of working inside, take advantage of the nice weather and set up a space outdoors!

- Turn your shed into a small office
- Put down a stone patio tucked away in the corner where you can escape and work for a few hours

## II. Backyard Escape

On the opposite side of the spectrum, if you're sick of seeing the inside of your house, turn your yard into a relaxing oasis.

- Put up some outdoor lighting to set the mood
- Make sure to have some comfy seating where you can hang out

## III. Family

Kids not going to camp this year? Mom and dad visiting a lot? Maybe you need an outdoor space for you and your family to hang out in.

- Create a warm and inviting dining area
- Get a pool or a playground (if it's in the budget)!

## IV. Green Thumb

This one is probably one of my favorites. If you're like me and want to tap into your inner urban (or rural) gardener, this one is for you!

- Plan a vegetable garden with raised beds
- Plant flowers and other greenery to liven up the space. Be wary of the amount of sun you get, though! Do your research on which plants do best in your area.

## V. Home Entertaining

Are you the hostess with the mostest? Do you love making dinner for people and having a good time? Turn your space into the new place to be!

- Outdoor furniture is a must
- Have a cooking feature. This can be a BBQ, outdoor kitchen, fire pit, smoker, etc.
- Make the space cozy and inviting with lights and soft furnishings



# Your Wishlist

Your Absolute Must Haves | Checklist Included

## Greenery

- VEGETABLE GARDEN
- RAISED PLANTERS
- FRUIT TREES
- NON-FRUITING TREES
- LAWN
- FLOWER BEDS
- ORNAMENTAL GRASSES
- HEDGES
- CUT FLOWER GARDEN

## Family Fun

- PLAYGROUND AREA
- POOL (ABOVE OR IN GROUND)
- MINI-PUTT AREA
- HOT TUB
- TREE HOUSE
- OUTDOOR GAMES

## Outdoor Features

- PATIO/DINING AREA
- SEATING/LOUNGING AREA
- OUTDOOR STORAGE
- BBQ AREA
- LIGHTING
- WALKWAY
- PERGOLA
- GAZEBO
- WATER FEATURE
- FENCING
- FIRE PIT/FIRE PLACE
- OUTDOOR KITCHEN





# Your Wishlist

Your Absolute Must Haves | Checklist Included

## Did We Miss Something? Add It Here!

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# Your Budget

Time To Crunch The Numbers

## Estimate Your Budget

I'm a numbers girl so running them any time I start a project is a must. I love knowing exactly how much I'm going to spend on something, and if I have a general idea of what something it going to cost but can't find exact numbers, I give myself a 10%-15% buffer.

Here are some rough numbers of what you can expect when planning a project. These numbers reflect low to mid-range cost estimates.

Keep in mind that the more elaborate and complex the project, the more likely you'll need to involve a professional and the more expensive the project will get.

### COST EXAMPLES:

Deck Build :	\$1,000-\$15,000
Patio or Pathway :	free-\$10,000
Sod Install :	\$500-\$3,000
Soil, Mulch or Rock :	free-\$8,000
Retaining Wall :	\$5,000-\$15,000
Pond Install :	\$1,500-\$4,000
Fire Pit :	\$50-\$500
Pergola :	\$50-\$5,000
Lighting :	\$50-\$500
Patio Furniture :	free-\$7,500
BBQ :	\$100-\$2,500

## Important Note!

I've noted some free items in the list because there are many resources out there that could help bring the cost of your project down. For example, some of our vegetable beds were built using pallets that we were able to pick up for free. Wood is expensive people!!

Don't think you can get a BBQ for \$100? Our first BBQ was off of Kijiji and it was \$80. If you're looking to revamp your yard on a budget, it's a great place to start.



# Picking Your Products

Items Picked Based On Your Budget

## Now What?

Now that you've established your theme, your wishlist, and your budget, it's time to start picking materials and items. You'll want to make a list of things you might need depending on your project.

For example, let's look at building a few raised vegetable beds. Here are the things you might need:

- Wood
- Screws
- Landscape Cloth
- Tools
- Garden Soil
- Plants (or seedlings that you started)
- A rain barrel if you wanted one



## Alternatives

We've all heard the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" line as kids. Your yard is the best time to apply this.

If you have a car, its tires likely need replacing roughly every 4-6 years depending on how and how often you drive.

A great way to upcycle tires is to use them as a planter. The rubber keeps the soil temperature consistent and they're great when used to overwinter certain plants like strawberries or lavender! Our oregano has always done exceptionally well in the tire and it comes back every year.





# Pro VS. DIY

Deciding If You Need a Professional

## Should You DIY It?

If you're anything like me, you'll try to save as much as you can. Hiring a designer, a contractor, a landscaping company, a mason, etc. is expensive, and sometimes not worth it.

However, there are so many other moments where it is, and if you're looking to get the job done right the first time, hiring a pro can make a huge difference.

Here are some situations where you would be better off hiring a professional:

- Pool Installation
  - Getting a pool installed is a MASSIVE undertaking and not something I would recommend doing yourself. It can cost a lot of money to install a pool so you might as well get it done right.
- Elaborate Deck Design
- Large Stone Retaining Wall Installation
- Complex projects that require lots of planning
- Designing a coach house
- Building a greenhouse
- and so much more...

That being said, don't be scared to try something new! Lots of projects can be DIY'd without issue and can actually end up being really enjoyable.

## Pros

Here are some pros to hiring a professional:

- They are trained to manage projects and are experts in their field
- You don't need to buy tools. They have their own
- Meaningful design is hard! A good designer is able to bring vision to life
- Landscape designers will be bring out the best of your yard, no matter the size.

## Cons

Here are the cons:

- It can be very expensive to hire a professional
- It usually takes time because you're following their schedule
- For smaller projects, it's rarely worth it unless you know someone.

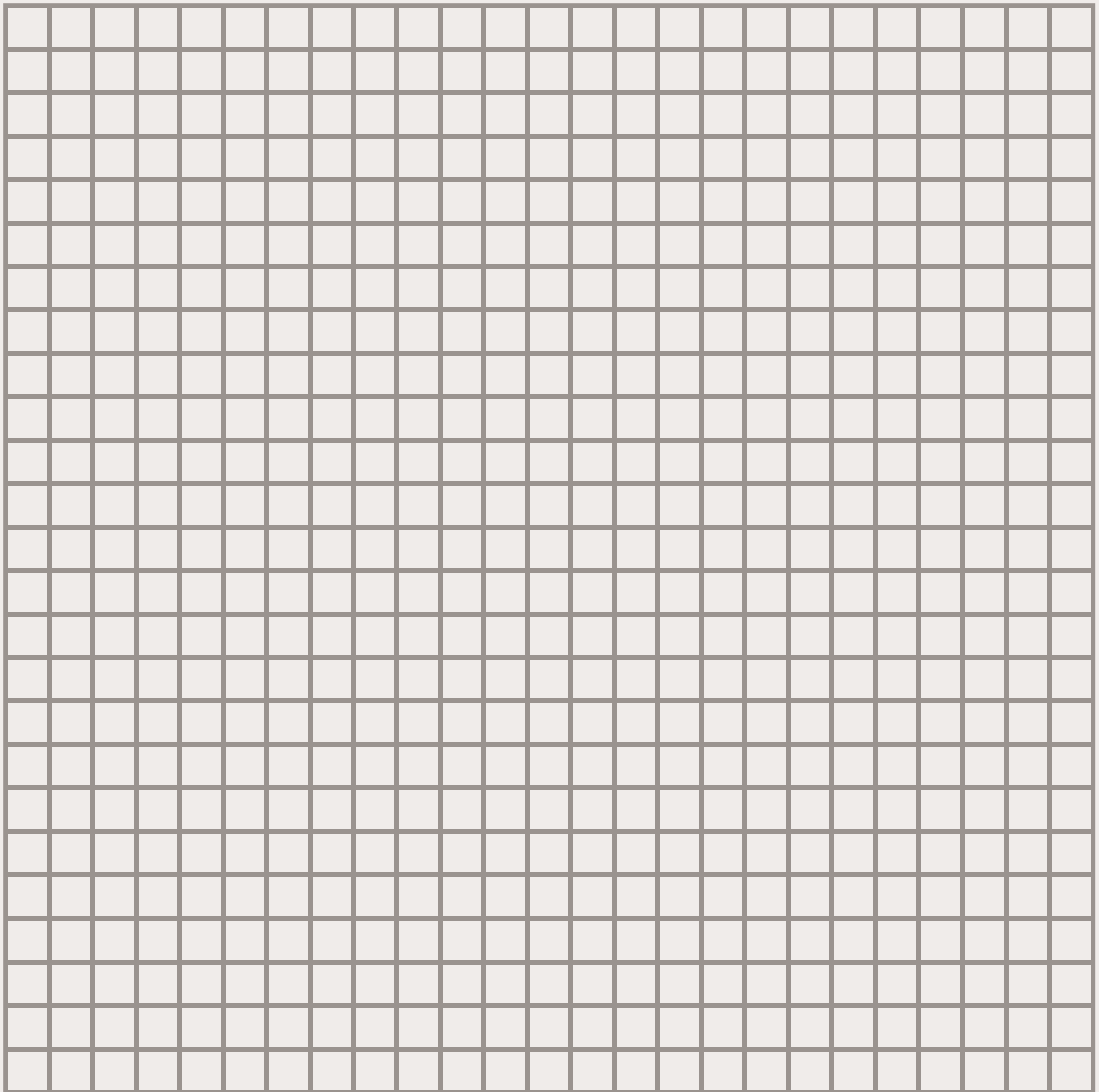
There will always be pros and cons to hiring pros to do the things we aren't used to doing, but if you're just looking to spruce up your yard, make a fun project out of it! It'll be much more rewarding.

# Plan Your Own Yard!

Draw Out Your Ideas  
(Copy the page if needed)

**What's The Vision :** \_\_\_\_\_

**What's The Budget:** \_\_\_\_\_



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