



# The Picture Perfect Times

## Spring 2020



A Newsletter from  
Picture Perfect Landscape & Christmas Decor

*Celebrating over 28 years of  
quality landscape and design services*

This winter has been mild considering the temperatures going up and down from cold wind chills to the mid 40s spring like and balmy last 2 weeks. You just have to love Connecticut weather, so unpredictable and never 2 years the same. But once we get through the short month of February; Spring is right around the corner so let's focus on warmer sunnier days ahead. Each spring, during that first warm week, we get swamped with calls from new customers that have finally emerged from their winter cocoons to take a look at their yards. **Our goal has always been taking care of our existing clients first.** That's why we send out our spring maintenance packages now to past clients who sign up for pruning and mulching early. This allows us to prepare and schedule before the spring rush hits in April and May with new work. Spring cleanups are our first type of work that we do and gets the ball rolling. It's easier to work in beds where flower bulbs have not come up yet. The work temperatures are much cooler and weeds are still minimal **PLUS** you can check us off your **SPRING To Do List!** **Note: When snow free we are already estimating walks, patios and spring landscape designs including updating shrubs and trees which are hardier & more compact for smaller spaces like home foundations and backyards.**



Ron Poulin



### Spring Plantings & Landscape Renovations

Winter's snow/ice and the summer's hot and dry temperatures can damage shrubs and trees so that no amount of pruning will get those landscapes looking good again, and they just need to be replaced. Has Mother Nature really done a number on your shrubs and trees the last few seasons? Maybe you're tired of that evergreen look happening in your yard after spring flowers are done. Perhaps you skipped a few seasons and now your landscape is so overgrown that pruning will not help and you can no longer see out your windows! We can update your landscape by adding easier to care for plants that offer color & textures from spring to fall. Many homeowners like to budget their yard renovation into phases. We can work with you over the next few months. Step 1 remove any unwanted shrubs & clean up areas now. Step 2 is working with us to design an updated planting to be installed later in the spring or fall. Had a new addition or pool put in last year? Plant a privacy hedge of trees or install some easy to take care of shrubs. Take advantage of the cooler springtime which means less watering too.

### Fun Facts 2020

**Valentine's Day February 14th**  
About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year. This makes it the second largest seasonal card giving time of the year.

**St. Patrick's Day March 17th**  
The very first St. Patrick's Day parade was not in Ireland. It was in Boston in 1737. In Chicago, on St. Patrick's Day, the rivers are dyed green. Odds of finding a 4 leaf clover 1 in 10,000 and I actually found one back in 2016 while weeding my beds!

**First Day of Spring March 20th**  
Some popular spring flowering trees are plum, cherry, dogwoods, ivory silk lilac, and the earliest is the magnolia.

**Easter Sunday April 12th** This year it's almost 2 weeks earlier than last so hoping temps are warm and more spring like for those little ones and outdoor egg hunts!

**Arbor Day April 24th** Plant a tree or garden in honor of someone you love or to celebrate a birth. Trees benefit everyone in this and future generations and is perhaps the most fitting memorial of all.

**Mother's Day Sunday May 10th** The 1st Mother's Day in US: May 10, 1908; It's the busiest day of the year for restaurants and florists besides Valentines Day.

### Spring Bed Cleanup: Prune and Mulch



### Spring Pruning & Mulching to Keep Plants in Check

*"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".*

This especially holds true with your plantings. Preventive pruning in late winter/ early spring and then again in early summer or fall will help your plantings stay healthy and full and keep them from becoming leggy and overgrown. Pruning once or maybe twice a year is recommended depending on the amount of rain each spring and new growth. If you wait too long the shrubs become too big & they may be beyond saving and then need to be removed & replaced.

Most planting beds should be trimmed back slightly in March or early April before new growth emerges, and a fresh layer of mulch applied to dress things up. An exception would be any shrubs or trees with flower buds which can get pruned later in July after blooms are done. An application of "Preen", pre-emergent weed control, put down after mulch will greatly assist with preventing new weeds for about 12 weeks as well as spraying Roundup on any existing weeds.

Mid-summer, around the fourth of July weekend after the majority of growing for the season has occurred, is the next time to prune and tighten up your shrubs, that will last the rest of the year. This is especially important if we have had a warm and rainy spring. You can tell by the amount of new growth that appears on your shrubs and trees. It's also time to apply another round of Preen for 12 more weeks of weed control. Give us a call if we can answer any questions for you, or give you a free quote on doing this work for you, or if you have any other spring projects in mind!



**Kim's Corner**

**Spring Landscape Projects: Plan Ahead and Get Outdoors**

You don't have to wait until it's 70 degrees out to start thinking about what you would like to do to your landscape this year. This way you will be able to enjoy the outdoors as soon as the weather warms up. Busy homeowners want simple, easy to care for landscapes. They don't have the time to prune hedges, weed, or dead-head flowers every weekend to keep their yards looking good. With the right combination of flowers, shrubs and trees, you can obtain a front landscape that not only has new curb appeal, but also you will spend less time and money on maintaining it each year. We just want to come home, grab a drink and sit for a few minutes to unwind from the day. Have you thought about sprucing up a section of your backyard to make it more usable for either yourself or your family? Maybe you have grandchildren that visit and you don't just want them glued to the TV, texting on cellphones, or their tablets playing video games all the time. **How about a clean, easy to care for patio and safe play area?**

In today's hectic tech-driven world, everyone craves more quality time to enjoy family and catching up with friends. If you're like me, just a place to be alone, put down the cellphone, unplug the Wi-Fi and enjoy Mother Nature is nice. I've found that's my favorite form of therapy lately. **Our son Jason (who was born with special needs) just turned 13 this month.** As many of you know, raising a special needs child is not easy and I'm constantly reminded to take care of myself first so I can be there to better take care of him. This means stopping and taking some "me time" each day to relax, de-stress, and enjoy a few minutes to myself & breathe. Whether it's reading a book, listening to Country 92.5 while rocking in my backyard swing, or sometimes I just space out watching the trees and wildlife and listening to the clear water tumbling over the river rocks in our backyard water feature. Being outdoors and enjoying Nature is good for not just kids but adults of all ages as well. Having easy access to the outdoors encourages physical activity which in turn has positive health effects. I spend a lot of my time indoors on the computer or on the phone. Years ago before I was pregnant, Ron created an outdoor patio area to use during the warmer months so I can go sit outside as soon as it's 50 degrees out. We added a carpet, table and furniture with cushions, shaded gazebo with canopy curtains, and even a standup fan for those warmer days and it helps with insects too. We enjoy the firepit & also have a section of **artificial turf** where I set up Jason's pool each summer; less mess and cleaner! This year, make the resolution to stop and take some time to yourself and try putting that cellphone down for an hour. Create your own **backyard oasis** or even a **sensory garden** to enjoy at your leisure. More info on my website blog...**Happy Spring!**

Email [kim@perfectscapes.com](mailto:kim@perfectscapes.com) or call 860-228-3915

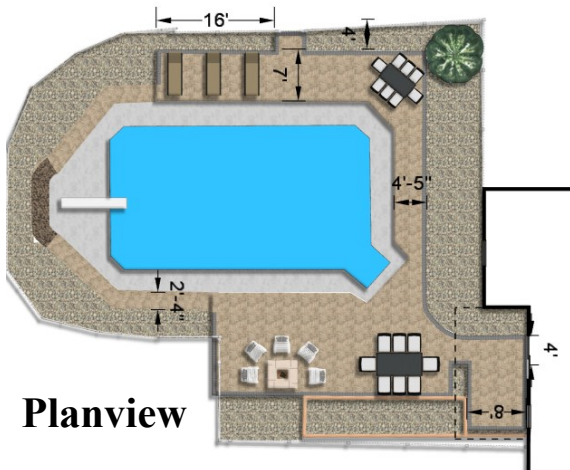
**We can create 3D design Ideas for your Space**



**3D Design**



Did you have a pool installed last year or looking to have one done this year? Give us a call to talk about the space around your pool and also privacy plantings...



**Planview**



Concrete pavers are a great option for pool decks because they are durable; chlorine and salt resistant, and can provide the look of natural stone. Pavers also provide good traction and are comfortable underfoot, because the joints take on moisture that helps cool the surface.



**Waterfalls**

**Expand Your Outdoor Space...**



**Paver Patio w/  
Firepit & Seating Walls**

Staycations and Family Backyard entertaining continues to be landscaping's **top trends for 2020**. Folks here in the Northeast are incorporating fireplaces, outdoor fire pits, grills & propane heaters in their backyard so they can enjoy a cozy fire during the cool evenings of spring, summer, and fall and sometimes even winter. For decades, homeowners out West and down South, have extended their quality time outdoors by installing heating elements that are both functional as well as enjoyable. In addition to the pool and hot tub, it opens up the options when company comes over. If they don't want to get wet, they can still hang outside comfortably when areas with benches and pillows, chairs and even bar stools are added.

Visit: <http://www.woodlanddirect.com/> for more ideas on fire places, fire pits, tables, bowls (either propane or wood burning options.) Our designers can show you ideas that are available to you, depending on your particular budget. We can create a 3D design video exploring your yard and it's possibilities. Contact us to go over your project and ideas today in more detail.

**2020 Outdoor Living Spaces** Many clients are putting a lot of thought & planning into their home additions these days. Many homeowners are choosing to **age in place rather than go into nursing homes or other facilities especially with the rising costs of healthcare.**

Also, many find themselves having to care for a child, spouse, parent, or other family member with limited mobility. Concerns such as steep stairs, uneven and dangerous walkways, challenging slopes and no wheelchair accessibility are just a few of the things that need to be taken into consideration as people get older, but want to stay in their homes as long as possible. Nearly 3 million households did renovations to ease access for the elderly or disabled back in 2015, according to the American Housing Survey conducted by the federal government. Newer homes, designed to keep this in mind, already have showers that are flush to the floor with grab bars, front door entrances that are wider and with no steps to climb, easy to reach switches and outlets, lower counters for wheelchairs and wider hallways as well.

Accommodations are being considered for front entrance areas and backyard recreational spaces as well. We can create wider concrete paver paths and eliminate stairs to get to the front door. Smoother, safe pavers that allow wheelchairs, strollers, and motorized scooters to meander through the backyard or to get to a garden area to enjoy some time outdoors. By creating an open outdoor living area that includes a nice view of your backyard for the warmer seasons, you can enjoy Mother Nature and not feel cooped up inside. Place a bench or glider under a pergola or shaded umbrella or tree. By utilizing an open gazebo/canopy on a patio with side curtains, you get privacy & protection from the elements and insects. Having different areas on a smooth paver patio for relaxing with a good book, gardening, grilling, enjoying a fire, area with picnic table for the grandchildren, or entertaining with friends by a water feature or raised bar...the ideas are endless. **Also consider installing artificial grass for a dog area, practice putting green or just for kids (or adults) to play on that's clean, safe, and no mowing required.** Let us show you how to come up with a landscape project plan designed for your lifestyle and budget today.



**Before**

**During**



**After**

**Let Us Plan Your Picture  
Perfect Patio Space Today!**

# 2020 Celebrating over 28 Years of Quality Landscape Services and Products



Landscaping from Spring to October: Specializing in lower maintenance projects designed for today's busy homeowner...

**We Design:** Landscape Design 1, 2 and 5 year phased plans • 3D Before and After designs and photos • Virtual Video Walk-throughs • Drawn-to-scale full color and labeled plans • Computer Generated Landscape Design; initial free onsite meeting and consultation to go over budget and plans

**We Build:** Landscape Foundation Plantings • Privacy Hedges • Fences • Easy to Care For Gardens • Concrete Paver Walkways & Patios • Built In Fire Pits • Retaining Wall Systems • PlayScape and Shed Area Prep • Cobblestone and Crushed Natural Stone for Plantings, Pathways, Driveways • Energy Efficient Water Features that you can turn on/off • Natural Drainage Systems and River Rock Beds • Artificial Turf • Landscape Renovations

**We Maintain:** Lower Maintenance Planting Beds • Leaf/Debris Cleanup • Pruning • Weeding • Edging • Plant Removal • Mulching • Crushed Stone

**October through January: CHRISTMAS DÉCOR** Full Service Holiday Lighting and Decorating celebrating 20 years. Our crews take care of over 120 locations each year including both *homes and businesses*. Places such as the Glastonbury Shoppes at Somerset, Highland Park Market Manchester, Enfield Square, Bushnell Park in Hartford, Ted's and Hebron Eye Care in Hebron, Westside Market in Rocky Hill, Bowlorama in Newington, Willowbrook Plaza in Cromwell, Munson's Chocolates in Bolton, Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, and A Villa Louisa Banquet Facility in Bolton, Baribault Jewelers in Glastonbury, just to name a few local places you may know. Already pre-booking for next season so call if you would like a free design and estimate today with early incentives and best off-season prices.



**Is It Time for a Landscape Make-Over?**  
Add curb appeal for yourself or to sell your home to potential buyers. Overgrown shrubs and trees. Too close together & plants touching. Can't look out your windows anymore. Evergreen look after spring flowers done-add new gold and burgundy tones to update your landscape. Landscape Envy. Do your Neighbors have newer plants-varieties that have vibrant color and interest especially after Spring (May through October)? Too much maintenance and looks outdated—need to simplify upkeep. Shrubs are too close to the house and need to be constantly kept in check. Difficult to get close to house or roofline. Painters, gutter cleaners and power washers need to access & keep your home exterior safe and clean. Can't get behind plants to clean leaves & debris which can harbor insects, mice & other pests. Also mold and damage can accumulate behind shrubs.

[www.perfectscapes.com](http://www.perfectscapes.com)

**After**



## Having problems visualizing your new landscape project?

One of the biggest problems some homeowners face with landscape design is trying to visualize the final project. Most people just keep their fingers crossed and hope it will turn out well. At Picture Perfect Landscape that is not good enough. The highly detailed pictures and walkthrough functions of our 3D design program will show you what your new project will look like when finished. We can add details like different furniture, trees, shade structures, etc. with a click of the mouse to help find solutions for your particular situation. We want to make it easy for you to see our ideas for your property and to fine tune them & make them your own **BEFORE** we start building. This service is usually offered during the slower **winter and early spring months** to allow us to concentrate on the time and details needed to create these drawn to scale computer 3D renderings. This way our clients are ready to go as soon as the weather warms up for planting and the nurseries have the best selection of specimens, shrubs, and trees to offer. If this is something you would be interested in, we can **schedule a free**

**consultation now over the phone first.** We can talk about your budget and ideas for your space and then setup a time to meet at your home if this is a project planned for this year. We will do a site evaluation and take the photos and fine tune any measurements to get you an accurate and realistic estimate. Contact our office today to discuss your spring landscape plans and get an estimate today!

**Lower maintenance designed landscapes mean you spend less money each year for yard work and also get to enjoy your time outdoors...**