

SILVIS

GROUP

LANDSCAPE SERVICES
POWERED BY
LANDOPT

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Early Summer



Come On In!

Entryways serve an important purpose in the landscape. Ideally, they invite visitors into the home. If your entryway is less than welcoming, however, here are some quick tips for improving its appeal:

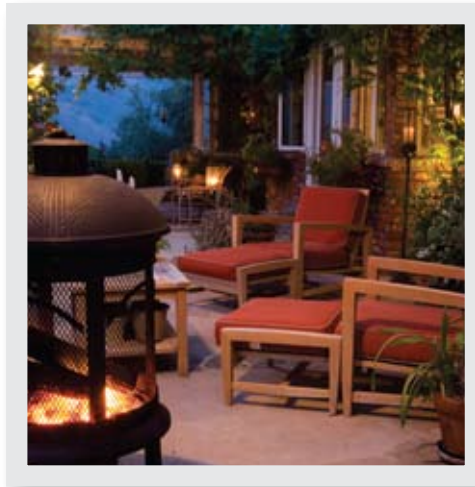
- Repaint or refinish the front door, and consider adding a new knocker, doorknob, lock, hinges and doorbell.
- Make sure your front porch is free of clutter, and repair any damage if necessary.
- Decorate your porch with container or hanging plants.
- Include planting beds on either side of your front entryway to draw visitors in and improve the view from the street.
- Finally, make sure your entryway is well-lit at night. Nothing turns visitors away faster than a dark home!



A well-designed entryway welcomes visitors into the home.

Get More Fresh Air This Summer

ESCAPE TO AN OUTDOOR ROOM



Fire pits make nighttime get-togethers much more enjoyable.

One of the biggest trends in landscaping is expanding the home's indoor living space with an outdoor room, and there are lots of ways to do this.

FIRST THINGS FIRST - PRIVACY

To ensure that your outdoor room offers ample privacy, you'll want to incorporate a screen around the perimeter. Combining a variety of trees, shrubs and perennials is an effective way to do this and will generally be more pleasing to the eye than traditional fencing materials. However, keep in mind that it may take several years for your screen to grow in fully depending on the plant species you choose.

NEXT, ADD THE IMPROVEMENTS

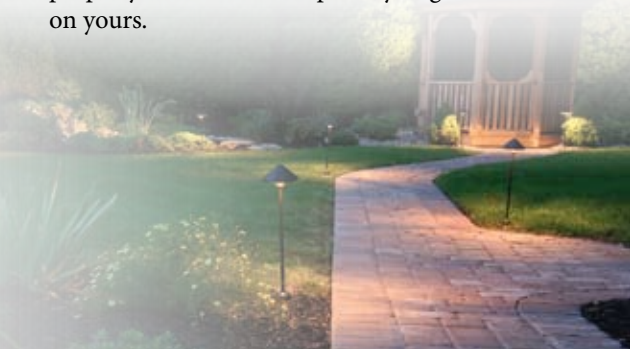
Depending on your needs and desires, there are all kinds of additions you can make to your outdoor room. Among the more popular:

- **Decks and patios** – You'll need plenty of room for deck chairs, and maybe even built-in benches for additional seating. Consider where your grill and any container plantings will be

situated too. Brick, stone or interlocking pavers are good materials to use for patios, and synthetic decks are becoming increasingly popular due to their ease of maintenance.

- **Spas or hot tubs** – These make any outdoor room enticing and come in various sizes depending on how many people you need to accommodate. Remember that regular maintenance will be necessary.
- **Awnings or arbors for shade** – Awnings can be fixed or retractable and will provide solid shade along with a convenient escape from any summer showers that may pop up. If you'd rather go with partial shade, a vine-covered arbor and trellis structure can filter the sun without blocking it out completely.
- **Water features** – From simple birdbaths and small ponds to gurgling fountains and cascading waterfalls, every outdoor room can benefit from the sights and sounds of a water feature.
- **Fire pits or chimineas** – These are perfect for nighttime entertaining, and can help to extend the use of your outdoor room into the colder months.
- **Lighting** – Low-voltage lighting fixtures are a must if you want to use your outdoor room at night. They can increase visibility while enhancing the room's nighttime visual appeal.

With a carefully designed and constructed outdoor room, you'll be making the most of your living space while increasing the overall value of your property. Call Silvis Group today to get started on yours.



Quick Tips for EARLY SUMMER

- To get more color and beauty from your annuals: Don't plant them too deeply (one of the biggest causes of poor plant performance); feed them every two weeks with a specially formulated liquid fertilizer; mulch your beds to conserve moisture and keep the roots cool; and finally, provide plenty of water.
- As temperatures rise and rainfall becomes scarce, remember that your trees, shrubs and other landscape plants need to be watered just as much as your lawn does.
- Always keep fertilizers and chemicals securely stored out of the reach of children.
- Watch out for any signs of insect activity. If leaves are discolored or look chewed, insects have most likely set up shop in your landscape and will need to be dealt with as soon as possible.



Silvis Group Integrated into LandOpt Partnership

LandOpt, the leader of on-demand business operating systems for the landscaping industry, is pleased to announce the integration of Silvis Group, Inc. into its nationwide network.

LandOpt is providing established business procedures for performing all business management functions, including sales and marketing, operations management, business management, human resources and professional development. The procedures will be supported with web-based software applications and business success coaching, managed by LandOpt professionals.

Jake Silvis, president of Silvis Group, acknowledged it was time for a higher standard for professionalism in the green industry. "We believe the high standards of LandOpt will lead to superior service for our customers in our region," Silvis said. "The business systems we're adopting will ensure our growth and stability."

Silvis Group is proceeding through a professional transformation, and the efficient business processes offered by LandOpt are positively impacting the Silvis Group service area in Westmoreland County. By implementing the proven business operating system of LandOpt, growth is inevitable, according to Tim Smith, CEO of LandOpt.

"The green industry is going through a business revolution," Smith said. "The methods we introduce place high standards and professionalism into the corporate structure. Our partners experience growth, higher profits and develop a professional workforce."

ABOUT SILVIS GROUP

Founded in 1991 by Jake Silvis, Silvis Group operates in the Greensburg and Westmoreland County areas. Silvis Group provides options of landscaping, landscape renovation, lawn installation, hardscaping, lawn maintenance and commercial snow management services. Strong investments are made in the company by offering continuous training and professionalism to the employees as well as focusing enthusiasm on community involvement. Silvis Group provides the vision and methods for realizing the outdoor space needs of their customers.

ABOUT LANDOPT

Founded in 2004, LandOpt empowers a select group of highly qualified, independently owned landscape contractors through a powerful, proprietary business operating system that significantly improves the profitability and growth of each contractor in the LandOpt network. The portfolio of integrated sales and marketing, human resources, operations and business management modules is based on proven processes and supported by best-in-class technology and professional training. The business operating system is designed specifically for leading landscape contractors nationwide. LandOpt is located in Pittsburgh, Pa. and can be reached at 412.567.4345 or www.landopt.com.



SilvisGroup.com

Watering Wisely

IT MIGHT BE TIME TO GO AUTOMATIC

If you don't have an automatic irrigation system installed on your property, now is a great time to have Silvis Group put one in. Water conservation is more important than ever, and these systems can save a lot when compared to traditional hoses and sprinklers.

Automatic irrigation systems are able to calculate how much, when and where watering is needed, so you can be sure that your lawn, trees and shrubs will always get the right amounts of water at the right times. Plus, extra features like rain shut-off devices, moisture sensors and automatic controllers help to avoid watering waste.

If you're getting tired of dragging the hose around, an automatic irrigation system is an excellent solution! Call Silvis Group today for more information.



Automatic systems conserve water while keeping your property well-irrigated.