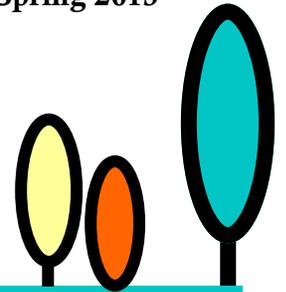




# Lifestyle Creations'

Landscape & Waterscape  
Newsletter



Ph: 952-988-0191

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www.LifestyleCreationsInc.com

## A Little H2O Can Save A Lot Of Green

Watering your plants is like contributing to your 401K.  
If you want it to grow you need to contribute....



**What your plants need from you** after a dry summer, fall and winter is some moisture. Possibly we will have a "normal" spring, in which case the plants will emerge out of dormancy with adequate water to start their growing process. If not, all your plants, both old and new, big and small, will need a little help.

Before the ground froze here in the Twin Cities there was very little moisture to be found, even down as far as 36". The plants had a hard summer and fall with below normal rainfalls and plenty of heat. They went into winter already stressed. The snow won't do much to replenish that, as it all melts and runs off into the waterways. We need some good day-long soaking rains once the frost is out of the ground. Otherwise, drag out the hoses and get ready to help mother nature out.

(Watering cont. on page 3 )

## **A Penny For Your \$ Thoughts \$**

### **“Referral Program”**

It's as simple as **A,B,C.....**

- A.** Do you know someone wanting Landscape work ?
- B.** If so, give them our contact information.
- C.** You receive a thank you gift.....

**For** every Landscape referral that you send us, and we meet with, we'll send YOU a thank you gift.

**For** every referral we sign up for a qualifying project we'll send YOU a dinner coupon for a local restaurant.

**That's better than “A Penny For Your Thoughts”.**

### **When you need a hard surface but you also require permeability...**



# Sustainable Landscapes and RAINWATER COLLECTION SYSTEMS

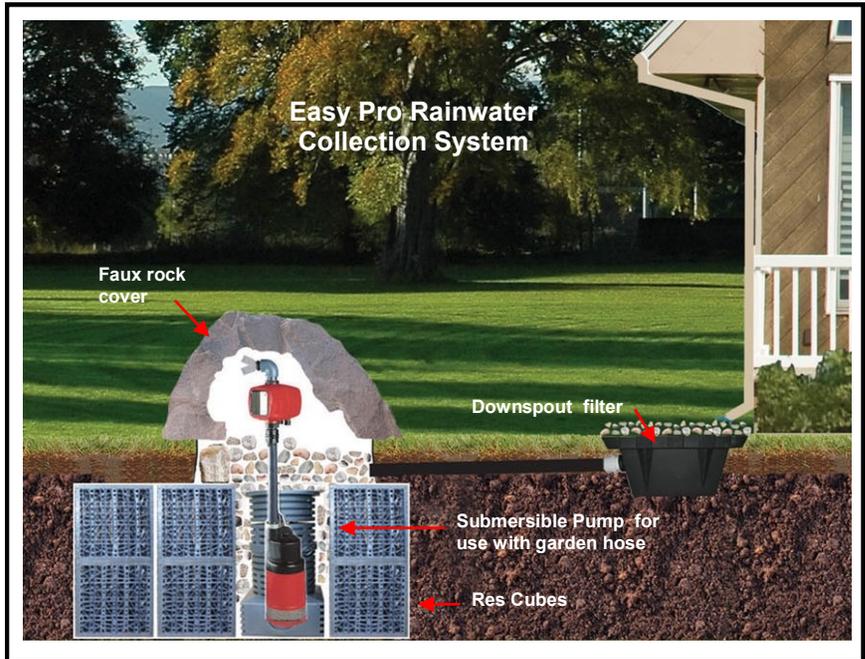
In recent years urban areas have had to deal with stormwater runoff issues arising from increased development, thus increased impermeable surfaces. Some homeowners are now required to "contain" the stormwater that falls onto their property and some homeowners just want to be "green".

Whatever your reason for dealing with stormwater runoff, there is a system that will work for you. Whether you only desire to catch enough rain to fill a rain barrel or you'd like to collect everything that comes off your roof, you can find a system that will fit your needs.

These systems can be simple DIY projects, such as a garbage can under the downspout. Or they can be quite elaborate, comprised of buried drain tiles that empty into a buried reservoir which is tied into a garden pond or waterfall. No matter the size, it all helps to conserve water that would otherwise end up in the storm sewers.

This collected water can be used to water your vegetable & flower gardens, your lawn & trees, even wash your car. If it's tied into a water feature, it means that you will not have to use city water to replenish the water lost to natural evaporation. This all helps in creating a sustainable landscape.

In the diagram above the collection system is buried underground and a high pressure submersible pump is used to distribute the water where it is needed. This pump can be left exposed for easy access or hidden by plants or even under a faux rock. A 500 gallon DIY kits starts at around \$2500 for everything shown in the picture except the faux rock. Start planning now to conserve your rainwater this coming season. Find a rain barrel, dig a rain garden, install a collection system. Do something that will reduce your stormwater runoff as well as your monthly water bill.



## **- PAVER SEALER -** **BRING OUT THE COLOR**

For those wishing their paver walkway, patio or driveway had the bold colors that show up after a rain, a paver sealer may be just the answer for you.

Lifestyle Creations has found a company to work with that has a product called a Hydro-Poly Paver Sealer that lasts longer than most Sealers on the market. Unlike other sealers, this sealer has a two year warranty and under many conditions will last up to 5 years before needing any re-coating.

The sealer can also be installed with an anti-slip additive for those looking for a little more safety, and can be applied as a matte finish all the way to a high gloss.

For as little as \$1.25 a square foot (cleaning and two coats) you can show off the bold colors in your pavers. Contact us today for more information or to set up an appointment.



## **SPRING CLEANOUTS**

### **Sign Up For Your Spring Pond Cleanout Online...**

You now have another option for signing up for your spring pond cleanout. All you need do is go to our website at

**[www.LifestyleCreationsInc.com](http://www.LifestyleCreationsInc.com)**

Go to the **Resource Page**. Under the heading of **Current Information** you will see a line called **"Spring Pond Cleanout Request Form (online)"**. Simply click and fill in all areas requested. If you have any special requests you can add them at the bottom. Press send and your done.

As always, we still accept Spring Cleanout Requests by regular mail and fax.

**See Cleanout Form on page 6**



### (Watering cont. from page 1)

Contrary to popular belief, a little water every day IS NOT better than long infrequent watering. Longer watering, whether by sprinkler or hose, allows water to actually percolate into the soil and go below the roots. As the soil dries, from the surface down, the roots "chase" the moisture deeper into the ground. This gives the plant a stronger root system that is also less susceptible to heat stress should your city call for a water ban.

So once the hose is out, use it correctly. The most efficient way to get water to your small shrubs and perennials is to soak them rather than using a sprinkler. But if you have mass plantings or large planting beds a sprinkler will be less work for you. Just remember if you are using a sprinkler, do not to water between 9am and 5pm. Too much water will be lost to evaporation (up to 75% on hot windy days)—costing you money, not to mention wasting water. Also, many cities have watering bans during those hours. So check with your city for specific regulations.

If using the soaking method, set the hose about 6-12 inches from the main "trunk" of the plant and let the hose trickle. A hose laid at the base of a plant and allowed to trickle into the soil prevents runoff and allows more water to reach the roots. Soak the plant for 20-60 minutes depending on the size of the plant. For shade trees you will want to set the hose out at the drip-line of the tree, for that is where the hair roots are located, which absorb moisture & nutrients. Leave it in one area for a while and then move it around the perimeter of the drip-line. You can also use a root feeder to get water into the subsoil but it takes some extra time and effort.

If you prefer to use a sprinkler, you will need several hours of it running to do any good and it should be done in the early morning or early evening. This is an easier method for ground covers and mass plantings as well as lawns. Water long enough to get the equivalent of 1" of rain.

By watering your plants and lawn in this method you will encourage root growth into the soils, reduce heat stress and increase the survivability of the plant. Obviously soil conditions will determine your specific watering needs but in general, watering only once a week (except when talking about annuals and potted plants) is about all you need, and only when mother nature is not helping out.



## IS THERE A RETURN FOR YOUR MONEY WITH LANDSCAPING ?

I frequently get asked "WILL I GET MY MONEY BACK WHEN I SELL IF I DO *THIS* OR *THAT*?" The answer to that question is yes.....or no. It all depends on what you are going to do; how long are you going to live at your present house; does what you're doing add functional/useable "living space" to the property? Does it add value?

I guess "value" can be somewhat subjective. If it adds to your quality of life while you are living there then I would say it adds value. If you spend \$10,000 on a landscape project will it add \$10,000 to the overall value of your home? If done well, it may. Again, if you are adding something that most people would enjoy, it should "pay you back". If you spend \$10,000 on a landscape sculpture of an elephant, don't plan on everyone thinking that is a great asset.

If you will be living at your home for five or more years, then landscape for your lifestyle. Whether you will get the dollar amount out of that landscaping when you go to sell will depend on who buys your home. But your enjoyment of the space, plantings or water feature adds value to your life. Sometimes that can't be measured in dollars. Relaxing by my pond after a long day at work, watching the fish swim around and listening to the waterfalls...how do you put a dollar amount on that?

Some people look at a swimming pool as an asset while others view them as a liability. The same goes for landscaping. If you put thousands of dollars into an outdoor entertaining area, with a kitchen, water feature, fire pit and pergola it would probably be looked at as an asset to most buyers, because you have added a useable outdoor living space. Not so much the elephant sculpture.

If you are only landscaping to add value to your home so that you can sell it, then I would suggest that you work on creating curb appeal more than creating living spaces. If, from the street, your landscaping looks like it's been well maintained then it will transfer into people thinking the house was also well maintained (which is hopefully true). Replacing older shrubs, adding some small flower beds or even potted plants, gives your house a cared-for feeling. If the first thing the prospective buyer sees is brown evergreens and weeds in the planting beds, they might not even make it through the front door. Don't over-landscape to create curb appeal. What you might like does not necessarily mean the next owner will like it. Spending thousands on new planting beds and plants may only make the prospective buyer think they are paying for all that landscaping that they will now tear out, because they like grass. You get my point.

So, the only sure way to get a return on your landscape dollars is to plant a money tree, which when I last checked, the garden centers were all out of. Otherwise, consult your landscaper, have a short term and long term plan for your home, and be sure whatever landscaping you do, it provides value—either to your lifestyle and/or to future owners of your home.

# NEW OUTDOOR OPTIONS...

## TO SCALE WITH THE SMALLER BACKYARD

Even if you don't have a huge backyard, you can still have the relaxing components of those larger landscapes.

Lifestyle Creations is creating smaller features that will fit into any landscape, patio or courtyard. The new Lite Pillar and Water Feature that we displayed at the Home & Garden Show are available as a DIY kit or installed by us.

**LET US MAKE YOUR  
DREAM A REALITY.**



### **Light Pillar**

Buy as a kit for \$395 or have us install it for you for just \$575



### **Small Waterfalls**

Buy as a kit for \$850 or have us install it for you for just \$1,130.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **PARADE OF PONDS**

Enjoy this years pond tour  
July 27th & 28th from 9am-5pm.  
For more information and to  
purchase tickets go to

[www.mwqs.org](http://www.mwqs.org)

or call

**612-803-7663**



## **H2O Facts:**

When watering your plants and lawns this Spring and Summer, remember to water correctly! Do not water with a sprinkler between 9am & 5pm because as much as 75% of the water can evaporate before soaking into the soil. A hose laid at the base of a plant and allowed to trickle into the soil prevents runoff and allows more water to reach the roots. Lastly, it's better for lawns & plants, if when you water, you water for longer periods of time and less frequently. This allows water to actually percolate into the soil and go below the roots. As the soil dries, from the surface down, the roots "chase" the moisture deeper into the ground. This gives the plant a stronger root system that is also less susceptible to heat stress should your city call for a water ban. **Remember, there is only a finite amount of water on this planet - use it wisely.**



## **SPRING POND START-UP**

**Please refer to your owners manual for more detailed information. Briefly, here is what needs to be done once the snow and ice are off your pond:**

With smaller ponds and pondless systems, a full pond cleanout is many times recommended so as to remove all leaf debris that has collected over the winter months. If you don't live around many trees, you may not have to do this. If there is minimal organic debris in the pond you might simply use **Microbe-Lift Spring Cleaner** and/or a sludge reducing bacteria to enhance the breakdown of this material.

1) A full cleanout is accomplished by removing potted plants and fish and pumping out the old water. It's best to pump some of the pond water into your fish holding tank and then drain your pond down to about 6" deep. This will make it much easier to catch your fish. If you can't seem to find your fish, they may be hiding under the leaf debris on the ponds bottom, or behind some of the rocks (you might need to flush them out of the rocks with a garden hose). Once your fish are out & and the water is drained, remove all leaf debris etc. and hose down all the rock surfaces. You can power wash if necessary. Though this may remove some of the moss from the rocks, don't worry, more will grow on the stones this season to give your pond it's "natural" look. Pump out this dirty water using your pond pump or a sewage-type pump. *(If you use your pond pump you will want to make a temporary hardware-cloth screen to prevent any rocks or large debris from being sucked into the impellers.)* Hand pick as much leaf debris, twigs, etc. that you can. Next, add a good dechlorinator and start refilling the pond.

2) If you have a bog you should clean it out every 3-5 years depending on how much debris accumulates. Simply install your trash pump into the "cleanout" vault of your basin and pump out the water. Wash down the bog with a hose as you continue pumping out the dirty water. Once the water coming out is clean, you can refill the bog, being sure to add some dechlorinator.

3) If your plants spent the winter in the bottom of the pond, you can place them back where you would like them to be for this season. Do not place *new plants* in the water too early in the season, especially if they are tropicals. Wait for the water to warm up a bit: 75 degrees is the ideal temperature for tropicals and 60 degrees is good for hardy plants.

4) While the pond is filling, install your pump, filters and debris net into your skimmer box or pondless vault. Place the Biofalls filters and lava rock (or bio-ribbon) back in the Biofalls. Be sure to rinse the filters and lava rock off before installing, especially if this wasn't completed last Fall. **(Filters should be replaced about every 2-3 years or whenever they show signs of breaking down or tearing.)**

5) If your fish spent the winter in the pond, they should be put in a bucket *(filled with original pond water)* while the pond is being drained and cleaned. Don't try to catch the fish until the water has drained down to a 6" depth. Once you start refilling the pond, set the bucket containing the fish into the dechlorinated pond and let the fish get acclimated to the new water temperature for about 30-45 minutes before "introducing" them back into the pond. *( If you have smaller fish that hide behind the stones and you cannot catch them, you might want to try draining your pond down only half-way. Clean the debris out and refill. You won't get the pond quite as clean, but your fish will have a better chance of surviving).* **NOTE: you will need to immediately put dechlorinator in your pond to remove the chlorine in the newly added water (unless you use well water). Follow instructions that come with the product. If you fail to do this the chlorine will burn the fish's gills and possibly lead to death.....not yours, but the fish's.**

6) Once the pond is filled, you can start the pump & begin adding the bacterial enzymes per product instructions. These are the bacteria that "eat" the nutrients, keeping your water clear. Bacteria does poorly in cold water, so you might get a brief algae bloom in early spring, especially if your pond is located in a sunny location. Once the water warms up, with regular bacteria applications, your water will become clear in short order. You still may wish to use **Microbe-Lift Spring Cleaner** to more quickly break down any organic matter that you were not able to remove. Should this organic matter stay in the pond it might increase the chances of an algae bloom or the growth of string algae. REMEMBER: The best way to keep your algae in check is to have 40%-60% of your pond surface covered with plant material. Plants remove nutrients from the water, reducing the amount of "food" available to the algae. It takes several weeks for plants to actively start growing, so early on you might still see some algae growth. But as the plants begin to thrive they will pull nutrients out of the water and help reduce the algae.

**For those who would like us do your Spring Cleanout, please fill out the form on the following page and fax, mail or email it to our office. Or you can fill out an online form at our website.**

**[www.LifestyleCreationsInc.com](http://www.LifestyleCreationsInc.com)**



5123 Westmill Road  
 Minnetonka, MN 55345  
 Ph: 952-988-0191

# SPRING CLEANOUT REQUEST FORM

To facilitate your request, you **must** mail, email, or fax us your completed cleanout form, or sign up online at our web site.

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

FAX: 952-935-0126

Bill@LifestyleCreationsInc.com

[name] \_\_\_\_\_ [home phone] \_\_\_\_\_ [work/cell phone] \_\_\_\_\_

[street address] \_\_\_\_\_ [city & zip code] \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DO YOU HAVE FISH IN THE POND?** \_\_\_\_\_ **APPROX. NO.** \_\_\_\_\_ **AND SIZES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Lifestyle Creations is not liable for fish survivability. Every effort will be made to safely catch and release your fish.)*

**NOTES:** 1) The cost for a pond cleanout will vary according to amount of debris in pond as well as size of pond. Charges are \$68/man hour plus a \$80 service charge. **Specific Date/Time Requests may incur additional \$25 charge.**  
 2) FOR LARGER PONDS, IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN AUTOMATIC FILL VALVE, WE **MAY** LEAVE YOUR HOSE RUNNING AT A SLOW TRICKLE. PLEASE FINISH FILLING UP YOUR POND TO THE DESIRED LEVEL (*APPROX. 1" BELOW TOP OF SKIMMER OPENING*) AND THEN PLUG IN YOUR PUMP TO YOUR POWER SOURCE.

## NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES OR SERVICES ?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>POWER WASH POND STONE</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li>• Microbe-Lift PL Bacteria                    <input type="checkbox"/> 32 oz.</li> <li>• Microbe-Lift PL Bacteria                    <input type="checkbox"/> 1 gal.</li> <li>• Microbe-Lift Spring Cleaner                <input type="checkbox"/> 1#</li> <li>• Sludge Removing Bacteria                    <input type="checkbox"/> 24 pak</li> <li>• Barley Extract                                    <input type="checkbox"/> 32 oz.</li> <li>• Barley Extract                                    <input type="checkbox"/> 64 oz.</li> <li>• S.A.B. (string algae reducer)                <input type="checkbox"/> 2#</li> <li>• S.A.B. (string algae reducer)                <input type="checkbox"/> 7#</li> <li>• Algaway 5.4 (fish safe algaecide)           <input type="checkbox"/> 32 oz.</li> <li>• Algaway 5.4 (fish safe algaecide)           <input type="checkbox"/> 1 gal.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxy-Pond (granular fish safe algaecide)    <input type="checkbox"/> 2#</li> <li>• Oxy-Pond (granular fish safe algaecide)    <input type="checkbox"/> 8#</li> <li>• Biofalls Filter Mats                            <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li>• Skimmer Filter                                    <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li>• Skimmer Debris Net                            <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li>• Easy Clean Filter Media                        <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/>               (Replaces lava rocks in Bio falls)</li> <li>• Pond Light Bulb Replace.                    <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li>• Pond Light Lens Replace.                    <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li>• Low-water pump shut-off                      <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li>• <b>Other Products:</b></li> </ul> |
|--|---|

*Please check one of the following:*

- \_\_\_ 1) Repair and/or replace filters, bulbs etc. as deemed necessary.
- \_\_\_ 2) Please make note of what needs replacement or repair. I will take care of it myself.

**PLEASE HAVE WATER TO OUTSIDE SPIGOT TURNED ON**  
Failure to have water turned on may result in additional service charges.