

Landscape Lighting Pre-Plan Checklist

A simple plan beats expensive fixtures every time. Walk your yard with this list.

1. Walk the Property at Night

- ☐ Note the front-of-house focal points (door, columns, large tree, address).
- ☐ Identify trip hazards / dark walkways.
- ☐ Identify backyard living zones (patio, grill, pool, seating).
- ☐ Note neighbors — avoid lighting that spills into their windows.

2. Fixture Mix

- ☐ Path lights along walkways (every 8–10 ft, staggered).
- ☐ Uplights on trees and columns (warm, focused beam).
- ☐ Wash lights on the front facade for soft, broad illumination.
- ☐ Down/moon lights from trees for natural-feeling pools of light.
- ☐ Step lights on stairs and elevation changes.

Avoid the 'runway' look — fewer, well-placed fixtures beats lots of evenly spaced ones.

3. Color & Output

- ☐ Choose 2700K — warm, never cool/blue. Period.
- ☐ Use the lowest-output bulb that does the job. Bright ≠ better.
- ☐ Match all fixtures to one color temperature for a unified look.

4. Transformer & Wiring

- ☐ Pick a transformer location near GFCI outlet (covered, weather-protected).
- ☐ Size the transformer for total wattage + 20% headroom.
- ☐ Plan wire runs to keep voltage drop under ~10%.
- ☐ Use direct-burial cable rated for landscape use (not extension cord wire).

- ☐ Bury wire 6 inches deep; protect with conduit under hardscape.

5. Controls

- ☐ Astronomic timer (sunset on / late off) — best baseline.
- ☐ Smart controller if you want phone control or scenes.
- ☐ Photocell as a backup if no smart system.

6. Questions to Ask

- ☐ Will you do a night demo before final install?
- ☐ Are fixtures brass/copper (lifetime) or aluminum (5–7 years on Long Island salt air)?
- ☐ What's the wiring + fixture warranty?
- ☐ Will the transformer have spare capacity for future additions?

Great landscape lighting is restraint. If your neighbors notice the fixtures before they notice the effect, it's overdone.

Want a second set of eyes?

Text photos of your panel or project to **516-361-4068** and Rob will give you a quick honest opinion — no pressure, no quote pitch.