



## STEP 1

### DESIGN TIPS

# Ideas to spruce up your existing Natural Yard

## 1. Mow Strip

Add a mow strip if you have medium to tall plantings and/or if there is neighbouring property with lawn.

If there is a grass boulevard on the other side of the sidewalk, this also helps visually balance both sides of the walkway. A mow strip around a planting bed frames the space and provides a well-maintained look.

Low groundcover plants can achieve this same feel and won't require mowing.

## 2. Paths

Add a Path for easy access to areas of your yard. Paths can create a sense of mystery of 'what's around the bend', appealing to curiosity. Stepping stones, mulch or rock fines, or a narrow lawn route are options for paths. Using stepping stones rather than a solid walkway allows for more water infiltration.

## 3. Seating

Add a Seating Area if your front yard is underutilized. Due to how the sun moves through the day, there will be times where the front yard would provide a more comfortable space temperature-wise than the backyard. As a bonus, you now have a place to watch the wildlife that will be using your yard.

## 4. Fencing

Add an ornamental fence or garden wall to frame a space. Adding a strong linear feature such as a fence or garden wall, a clipped hedge or grouping of decorative boulders, provides a clear and tidy boundary for a natural planting bed. It also can help provide support for taller plantings. For height restrictions of fences, [click here](#).

## 5. Décor

Add decor to include a more personal touch in your yard. Statues, fountains, gazing balls, and sundials, adds a unique human element to a natural space. Features for wildlife, like bird baths, bird houses, bee & ladybug homes, are an element of decor and invite wildlife. Be careful not to make your yard too cluttered with accessories though - less is more!

## 6. Height

Expanding on the vertical dimension of your landscape creates more visual interest and can provide focal points within the garden. Simply add a trellis or obelisk, or for larger impact, an arbour or pergola. These features extend the built environment out into the landscape, acting as transition between home and plantings to balance the architecture of the space. An additional bonus of a vertical structure is providing winter interest.

