



## **Northern Lights Shares Strategies to Prepare Outdoor Spaces for Summer with Landscape Lighting**

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As the summer season advances and homeowners increasingly utilize their yards and gardens for evening activities, Northern Lights is sharing strategies to prepare outdoor spaces for summer with landscape lighting. The guidance focuses on established practices that support safe navigation, visual interest, and comfortable use of patios and other gathering areas during the extended periods of outdoor living typical of the warmer months.

Illuminating pathways and walkways represents a primary step in this preparation. Summer often involves more movement around properties for social events, yard maintenance, or casual enjoyment after daylight hours diminish. Low-level fixtures placed along these routes can provide the necessary visibility to reduce trip hazards on paths, steps, or uneven ground. Industry guidance suggests spacing such lights roughly 6 to 8 feet apart and mounting them between 14 and 24 inches in height. This configuration promotes even light distribution while limiting glare that might otherwise affect the eyes' adjustment to darkness. The result is safer passage for residents and visitors alike throughout the property.

Another key element involves accenting prominent landscape features such as trees, shrubs, flower beds, or

water elements. In summer these features reach their fullest expression, and directed lighting can reveal their forms and textures once natural light recedes. Spotlights or uplights positioned to graze surfaces or canopy undersides at approximately 45-degree angles help generate depth and interest without overwhelming the scene. Careful moderation in intensity and placement avoids excessive brightness that could detract from the overall scene or impact adjacent properties. This technique allows the distinctive character of a landscape to remain apparent well into the evening.

Patio and deck spaces frequently serve as central hubs for summer entertaining and relaxation. Appropriate lighting in these zones helps establish functional conditions for meals, conversations, or quiet time outdoors. String lights suspended over pergolas or between trees, combined with portable or fixed lanterns and under-surface illumination near cooking or serving areas, create layered effects suitable for varying group sizes and activities. Attention to secure mounting and weather-appropriate materials ensures the setup withstands summer conditions. Such arrangements extend the usable hours of these spaces without relying solely on indoor spillover light.

Floodlighting contributes to overall property awareness and hazard identification in larger or peripheral areas. Driveways, side yards, and dark corners benefit from broader illumination that assists with vehicle maneuvering or general visibility after dark. LED flood fixtures offer wide coverage with lower energy demands compared to older technologies. Proper positioning and shielding direct light where intended and reduce spillover. This category of lighting addresses practical needs that become more noticeable when outdoor activities continue later into the night during summer.

The incorporation of smart lighting controls provides additional utility for seasonal use. Systems equipped with app-based management permit adjustments to intensity, color options, or programmed sequences from a mobile device. Users can align activation with actual sunset times that shift slightly through the season or establish recurring schedules matching typical household patterns. Preset configurations can be saved for quick selection depending on whether the evening calls for subtle background light or brighter settings for gatherings. These capabilities also facilitate energy-conscious operation by limiting runtime to periods of actual need.

"Landscape lighting addresses both the practical requirements of safety and the desire to continue enjoying outdoor spaces after sunset during summer," said a spokesperson for Northern Lights. "When pathways are clearly marked, key features are subtly revealed, and gathering areas are comfortably lit, the property supports a wider range of activities without compromising security or convenience."

The spokesperson further noted, "Smart features add adaptability, allowing lighting to respond to how the space is being used on any given evening while maintaining efficient performance over the long term."

Effective landscape lighting design generally follows principles of layering different light types to achieve balanced results. Combining pathway and ambient sources with accent and security elements prevents dark pockets or overly bright spots. Fixture selection that harmonizes with the home's architectural style and the existing plantings contributes to a cohesive appearance. LED technology, with its extended service life often rated at tens of thousands of hours, supports lower maintenance demands. For installations involving new electrical runs, integrated controls, or intricate layouts, consultation with professionals familiar with outdoor lighting standards helps ensure the work meets applicable codes and delivers the intended performance.

These recommendations reflect considerations relevant to the current season, when outdoor spaces see heightened use. Northern Lights applies its background in permanent LED lighting installations to inform such guidance, prioritizing approaches that align with safety requirements and long-term reliability.

Northern Lights specializes in permanent outdoor LED lighting solutions for homes. Services encompass landscape lighting for gardens and pathways, smart soffit lighting that complements building architecture and safety, and string and patio lighting for customizable ambiance. The company emphasizes professional installation practices, adherence to CSA safety certification for its systems, and control interfaces that support scheduling and scene customization. This combination aims to provide dependable illumination that enhances residential outdoor environments throughout the year.

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## Northern Lights

*Northern Lights is an Appleton, WI based exterior lighting company specializing in smart, permanent outdoor lighting. We design elegant solutions that enhance beauty, safety, and functionality, bringing homes and businesses to life after dark year round.*

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