

Timeline for Tranquility Park

Build your deck first, keeping in mind where and how wide your path will be to your pond. The pond, stream, and waterfall really have to be built next and all three need to be done together. This will be a very messy, labor-intensive job, so put them in now. Plus, you can start enjoying your water features right away. Use the excavated dirt for your beds. Have the pond contractor put the dirt where you want it, so you don't have to move it later! For future reference, take extensive measurements and photos of where all your electrical, plumbing and drain lines are located.

Next, put in all your pavers for your paths and patio. (You could wait until later for the long path to the gazebo.) Installing pavers correctly requires digging out 8 inches of soil to be replaced with gravel and sand as a base for the pavers. Use this soil to build raised beds next to the path and patio. Mix in a generous helping of compost. Add 3 inches of mulch on top. If you end up with more dirt than you need, consider raising the ground where you are going to put the gazebo. It will really add to the look of your gazebo. By the way, when you do build the long path to the gazebo, put a couple of large pipes under it. If you ever install a sprinkler system, you won't have to dig your path up!

Fun weekend projects would be building your bridge over your stream or assembling your greenhouse, pond, swing, entry arbor, or gazebo from a kit. Even if you are going to hold off on building your gazebo, prepare a firm, level site for it now. Then you can build and plant the beds around it.

Once your water features, paths, and patio are in and you have nice, full, raised and compost-amended beds, start planting! You can also install a sprinkler system, if desired. Sod or seed your yard anytime now.

We always recommend planting your trees first. You have several pines and hardwoods to plant. Getting the trees in will give your garden a nice look right away. Continue planting decorative trees, shrubs, evergreens, ground covers, perennials, annuals, and bulbs.

