

Your Backyard: Unplugged

How a landscape architect can encourage your family outdoors



Hoffman Landscapes has been a leader in property maintenance, landscape architecture, and outdoor construction for more than thirty years! Starting out as a fresh-faced college intern, Landscape Architect Brian Cossari has been a member of the Hoffman team since 1995 and is now a proud family man. We chatted with him about how his role as a husband and father comes into play when approaching a new project, how he entices families off the couch, and what sets Hoffman apart from the competition!

What is the first thing you do when you meet a new client? Before starting a new project, I like to sit down and chat with the homeowners. The more I can learn in that first meeting, the better! Do they have kids, pets, are they new to the area, what are their hobbies? All these clues help me formulate a vision in my mind as to how they can utilize their outdoor spaces.

What have you found to be the biggest trend in your field recently? More than ever before, I'm hearing people looking for an excuse to unplug! We're so overloaded with technology,

from the moment we wake up in the mornings until we're scrolling on our phones in bed at night! I'm finding more and more clients asking to create spaces that will encourage their families to GET UP, and GET OUTSIDE!

How do you offer a solution to those clients? With Hoffman's Landscape Architecture and Outdoor Construction department, we are able to create

areas for both active and passive recreation, as well as for relaxing and outdoor living! Active recreation may include a swimming pool, sports court, putting green, or treehouse and zipline.



Passive recreation might look like a landscaped hiking trail through your property, a manicured hill for sledding slopes, or even a dog walk for your furry friend. And of course, relaxation and outdoor living - which might look like a firepit for roasting marshmallows, or an outdoor kitchen for entertaining friends, or even an outdoor living room to enjoy the big game in style.

Sounds like a topic you relate to on a personal level? Oh yes! I have two young boys and it's so important to us that we allow them to have a real childhood! Kids should be outside playing

in the yard, running around, getting dirty with their friends. Instead, they spend the most beautiful days stuck in the house in front of a screen. My goal is to create an environment so distracting that they'll step away from the screens for a bit!

Why should a potential client choose Hoffman for a project like this?

With us, we're not only going to design the perfect

space, we're also going to build it and maintain it for years to come!

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