



# Southview Design

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2021 MNLA LANDSCAPE AWARD WINNER



This family of six needed to make the most of their Edina home's backyard space. Not much more than a sloping lawn and bare concrete patio, the clients envisioned their backyard becoming a center of outdoor activity. Their wish list was simple: create a large play space for the kids with ample room for sports, build a dining area large enough for a farm table, and craft a separate but adjacent space around a fire pit.

The biggest visual move was removing the hill and dropping the entire yard to the same level as the new patio. Tons of earth were removed to create a level canvas for the new lawn. Mortared limestone retaining walls hold back the remaining soil and lighten up the otherwise dark corner of the yard.

Then, the landscape firm established an appropriate size and scale for the patio. The space is large and open, so to prevent the area from becoming too large in scale, the patio was organized in a series of smaller subspaces.

Often, as is the case here, yards with different fencing styles present a challenge for homeowners seeking a cohesive look. Southview solved the problem with a row of evergreen hedges that will eventually obscure the neighbors' fences and create a unified appearance.

With relative privacy and a sense of order, balance, and repetition, the outdoor living and entertaining spaces now accommodate every sort of gathering.

PHOTOS: DREW GRAY PHOTOGRAPHY