

Make Backyard Private Slice of the Outdoors

That's Where Fun Filled Summer Season of Recreation Can Start For the Entire Family

The dream of having a personal "slice of the great outdoors" has become a reality for millions of Americans. More and more families are learning that the great outdoors isn't limited to parks and lakes, forests and beaches. They are discovering the great outdoors right in their own backyards.

Transforming a backyard into an enjoyable slice of the great outdoors is relatively simple. A personal mini-park can be developed easily, quickly and inexpensively — and can provide the ticket to "get away from it all" without ever leaving home.

Versatility is the big "plus" for the entire family. The backyard complex can be a playground, a garden, a campsite, a swimming pool, and a perfect place to entertain.

Camp Out in Backyard
Properly equipped, the backyard provides the ideal spot to get the family ready for its annual vacation trip. Equipment can be assembled and tested before taking off for the mountains, the seashore, or the open road. And for the stay-at-home outdoor enthusiast, there's nothing more convenient than a campout just outside the backdoor of the home.

Any family with a backyard can develop outdoor facilities that will provide countless hours of diverse recreation. For the growing family, it can be a step-by-step development, making additions and changes over the years as the budget and time permit.

A look at the "spruced up" backyard shows a myriad of variations, starting with the

patio which is standard on most homes built within the past 15 years.

A coat of colorful rubberized paint can turn an otherwise dull concrete patio slab into an integral part of the home's color scheme and make the patio more attractive than ever before. Freshly-painted patio furniture, color coordinated of course, adds to the beauty of a weekend family project. Edging the patio with hardy shrubs and flowers is another means of adding to the outdoor atmosphere and providing desired privacy.

Patio equipment, greatly improved through modern technology over the past decade, will also go a long way toward making outdoor living more enjoyable. High on the list of "musts" for many families is the outdoor gas grill, which has gained popularity quickly since its introduction only a few years ago.

Can Be Regulated
The grill can be attached to the home's supply of natural gas or operated from a tank of bottled gas. For the family that wants to get out of doors as often as possible, the gas grill offers speed, heat that

lights which, in addition to providing a soft glow, have the additional advantage of attracting fewer flying insects than does conventional lighting.

For the family that enjoys fishing, your own mini-park is a good spot for a target that can be used to sharpen casting techniques. One suggestion: paint an old automobile tire a bright color and try casting to its center. To add competition to practice sessions, place markers on the ground and award points for accuracy at various distances.

The annual trip to the great outdoors will always be popular, of course, but a private backyard complex can make the great outdoors an all-year reality for everyone.



Elegance also has its place in the Great Outdoors, especially when the family has converted its backyard, where once "garden parties" were the thing, into a private area under the skies where dad and mom can help sis celebrate "Sweet Sixteen," as above. With gas-fueled grill and nostalgic lights the scene can change easily for the next occasion which might be a somewhat more informal cook-out.

Include good taste in your weekend.



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New Heaters Take Chill Out of Nights

Although the principle has been known for years, not until recently has infra-red heating figured prominently in providing instant comfort for outdoor living.

Railroads use infra-red to keep switches unfrozen, airplane hangars for making work areas comfortable with the doors wide open, and countless business establishments for heating entrance ways.

Now, taking a page from business and industry, homeowners are installing natural-gas infra-red heaters to keep the chill off patio areas — especially when temperatures begin to dip in the cool of a spring or autumn evening.

Utilizing radiant energy of specific wave lengths, infra-red heaters emit invisible rays which travel at the speed of light and can be aimed to strike only selected targets.

When installed on a patio, the device can be positioned so that its heat energy is absorbed by solid objects such as picnic tables, outdoor gas grills, poolside — and, of course, the people on the scene.

None of the heat energy is dissipated in the air.

In recent mid-winter at a Wisconsin camping area, infra-red heaters using liquid propane gas (LP) made it possible to move about the campsite without heavy jackets or gloves — even in temperatures which dropped below freezing.

Infra-red heaters on backyard patios can maintain moderate temperatures for cookouts through most of the year. Many families have discovered that even winter weather need not be a deterrent to family cookouts when the space-age space heater is in use. Natural gas can be supplied by having service extended from the house.

New portable models, operating on bottled LP gas, are being produced for hunting, fishing and camping sites. These smaller, lightweight heaters are rapidly winning favor with sportsmen, many of whom perhaps first became acquainted with infra-red's capabilities while relaxing outdoors at home with the family.

LANGUAGE LESSON

If your travels take you to French Canada or Mexico this summer, Champion Spark Plug Company offers a few automotive phrases that may come in handy.

Spark plugs are "bougie" in French and "bujias" in Spanish. Gasoline is "essence" and "gasolina," tires are "pneu" and "pneumatico," brakes are "fren" and "freno," respectively in French and Spanish.

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