

BROCCOLO TREE AND LAWN CARE, INC.



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Photography by Acorn Studios*



Broccolo Tree and Lawn Care's goal is to get their clients outside by developing something enticing that brings them there. To achieve this, Broccolo is totally dedicated to delivering projects that are aesthetically-pleasing, functional, and environmentally sustainable.

Recently, a homeowner with a lakefront property asked if Broccolo Tree and Lawn Care could expand their patio and address the ongoing problem of lakefront erosion. Broccolo had constructed the original patio and was familiar with the site's needs.

The home was perched on a grassy hill which fell quickly away from the foundation. Instead of a typical deck, the homeowners wanted an easily accessible space close to the lake level. The original, spacious patio was constructed with locally-sourced materials. Broccolo made the patio accessible through the home's ground level.

For the patio expansion, Broccolo used local field stone to build an outdoor fireplace capable of roasting food. They also built an Old World pizza and bread oven and used an experienced mason so they could play with the art of the fireplace. Each piece was chiseled and mortared into place. The final look is reminiscent of an Old World style but with sculptural, puzzle piece elements.

The surrounding landscape has large black willows along the bank that are kept pruned to maintain the view. Erosion was a problem. Many homeowners used unsightly riprap stone (often used along highways to protect banks) as a solution.

Broccolo wanted soil stability without compromising the aesthetics. They worked closely with the Department of Environmental Conservation's "new standards and alternatives for erosion control" which advocates vegetation as the best solution. Using coir logs of natural woven material, Broccolo installed a retaining wall with a terrace-like functionality. Plants went directly into the logs for a cultivated garden that naturalizes the space while remediating soil erosion.

The overall look is welcoming, soft and a truly beautiful outdoor space that's made for living.