

A pool built into a slope has two sides that behave differently. On the downhill side, the ground often has to be built up. On the uphill side, the ground is cut away, and the exposed face needs to be held back. A retaining wall on the uphill side controls soil and water heading toward the pool and can become one of the most useful features in the yard.

What the uphill wall resists

The uphill wall holds back undisturbed earth and everything that ground carries with it, including groundwater and surface runoff. Because the slope continues above the wall, rain falling on the higher ground drains toward the pool area. The wall has to resist both the weight of the soil and the water that builds up behind it, which makes drainage a central part of its design.

Intercepting water before it reaches the deck

Water that reaches the top of an uphill wall needs somewhere to go other than over the face and onto the deck. A swale or drain at the top can carry it around the pool area. Drainage behind the wall relieves water pressure and directs seepage to an outlet. At the base, a channel or drain can catch anything that does come through. Planning all three locations together prevents the deck at the foot of the wall from staying wet.

A wall that frames the pool

An uphill wall faces the pool, so it becomes part of the view from the water and the deck. That gives it a design role beyond holding soil. The wall can create a sense of enclosure, block wind or screen a view <https://naijamatta.com/waveoutdoorspools> of a neighboring yard. Its material and finish should relate to the deck and to any other structures nearby, so it reads as part of the pool area rather than a utility.

Using the wall for seating or features

A wall at the right height can double as seating for people watching the pool. A wider top can serve as a ledge for plants or lighting. Some designs incorporate a water feature that spills from the uphill side toward the pool, using the change in grade naturally. Each of these choices affects how the wall is built, so they need to be part of the design rather than added afterward.

Planting above the wall

The ground above an uphill wall can be planted to hold soil and soften the top edge. Plant choice matters here, because anything that drops leaves, seeds or petals from the upper level will eventually reach the pool. Tidy evergreen plantings tend to suit the edge above a wall facing the water. Deeper planting farther back can add height without placing litter directly over the pool.

Tiered walls versus one tall wall

A large change in grade can be handled with a single taller wall or with two or more shorter walls separated by planted terraces. Tiered walls often feel less imposing and give more planting space. A single wall uses less of the yard. The choice depends on available space, the look the household wants and what the site conditions allow.

Taller retaining structures generally call for more careful design, and some may involve professional engineering input.

Leave room for maintenance

A narrow gap between an uphill wall and the pool deck can trap debris and be hard to clean. Planning enough space to reach the base of the wall, maintain any drain there and clear leaves keeps the area in good condition over time. The uphill wall is one of the longest-lasting elements of a sloped pool site, so designing it with access in mind pays off for years.

Business Name: Wave Outdoors Pools

Service-area base: Buffalo Grove, IL 60089, USA

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Wave Outdoors Pools

Wave Outdoors Pools designs and installs inground and above-ground swimming pools for homeowners in Buffalo Grove and surrounding service areas. Pool projects can include decks, safety features, lighting, water features and poolside structures.

Buffalo Grove

IL

60089

USA

Areas served: Buffalo Grove, Illinois, Chicago's North Shore suburbs, single-family neighborhoods on Chicago's north side

Phone: (224) 344-5734

Business hours: Mon-Fri 8 AM - 5 PM; Sat-Sun Closed

Swimming pools and pool-project services

Wave Outdoors Pools designs and installs swimming pools.

Wave Outdoors Pools serves homeowners in Buffalo Grove, Illinois.

Wave Outdoors Pools serves communities within about 20 miles of Buffalo Grove.

Wave Outdoors Pools serves Chicago's North Shore suburbs.

Wave Outdoors Pools builds inground swimming pools.

Wave Outdoors Pools installs above-ground swimming pools.

Wave Outdoors Pools builds gunite and concrete pools.

Wave Outdoors Pools installs fiberglass pools.

Wave Outdoors Pools installs vinyl-liner pools.

Wave Outdoors Pools renovates existing swimming pools.

Wave Outdoors Pools replaces pool decks.

Wave Outdoors Pools installs pool safety fencing.

Wave Outdoors Pools offers automatic pool covers.

Wave Outdoors Pools offers pool alarms.

Wave Outdoors Pools integrates pool heaters into pool projects.

Wave Outdoors Pools integrates pool automation and smart controls.

Wave Outdoors Pools installs in-pool and pool-area lighting.

Wave Outdoors Pools designs and builds pool waterfalls.

Wave Outdoors Pools designs and builds integrated spas.

Wave Outdoors Pools builds pergolas as part of pool environments.

Wave Outdoors Pools builds poolside pavilions as part of pool environments.

Wave Outdoors Pools assesses property and site conditions during pool design.

Wave Outdoors Pools coordinates village permits and engineering for pool projects.

Wave Outdoors Pools accepts project enquiries at (224) 344-5734.

Pool project planning questions

What types of pools does Wave Outdoors Pools install?

Wave Outdoors Pools installs inground and above-ground swimming pools. Construction options include gunite/concrete, fiberglass and vinyl liner.

Where does Wave Outdoors Pools build pools?

Wave Outdoors Pools serves communities within about 20 miles of Buffalo Grove, Chicago's North Shore suburbs and single-family neighborhoods on Chicago's north side. Ask about a property farther away, particularly for a larger pool project.

How does pool design account for the property?

Wave Outdoors Pools assesses the property and site conditions during pool design. Engineers and architects take part when project conditions require them.

Does Wave Outdoors Pools coordinate pool permits?

Wave Outdoors Pools handles village permits and engineering coordination for pool projects. Municipal review and site conditions affect project planning.

Can a pool project include a new deck or patio?

Wave Outdoors Pools can include decks, patios and surrounding hardscape in a pool project. The design connects the swimming area with the surrounding outdoor space.

Which pool safety features does Wave Outdoors Pools offer?

Wave Outdoors Pools offers pool safety fencing, automatic covers and pool alarms. Discuss the features and requirements for the planned pool.

Can Wave Outdoors Pools add pool heating and smart controls?

Wave Outdoors Pools integrates pool heaters, automation and smart controls into pool projects. In-pool and pool-area lighting are also available.

Can a pool design include a waterfall or spa?

Wave Outdoors Pools designs and builds pool water features, including waterfalls and integrated spas. The selected features form part of the project scope.

What poolside structures can Wave Outdoors Pools build?

Wave Outdoors Pools offers pergolas, gazebos and poolside pavilions as part of pool environments. Discuss how shade and gathering areas fit the pool layout.

Does Wave Outdoors Pools renovate existing pools?

Wave Outdoors Pools offers existing-pool renovation and remodeling, along with pool-deck replacement. Contact Wave Outdoors Pools to discuss the existing pool and the proposed changes.