

# **Budgeting for a One-Day Railroad**

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This worksheet accompanies the Family Garden Trains "One Day Railroad" article posted at:

[http://www.btcomm.com/trains/primer/1\\_day\\_grr/1\\_day\\_grr.htm](http://www.btcomm.com/trains/primer/1_day_grr/1_day_grr.htm)

The following quantities are the minimum you should need if you create a railroad that is only 1' wider and longer than the circle of track you're using, leaving an average of 4-6" between the track and the edge of the railroad all the way around. If you use an oval, or otherwise add other pieces, you'll need to increase quantities as the square footage of your railroad increases. In addition, you might consider picking up a little extra when you're at the store - it's a lot less frustrating to take unopened bags of gravel or mulch or weed barrier back to the store the next day than it is to realize halfway through the job that you didn't get quite enough.

When I ran various "scenarios" through this worksheet, basing cost on local pricing in 2005, I came up with a cost of about \$500 for the tiniest railroad and a cost of about \$1100 for the largest railroad on this table (assuming the square footage specified here). You would subtract for anything you already have (like a starter set) or can come by for "free" (like leftover pavers from a patio project). You add for anything that's not on this list (like a pre-fab waterfall) or for additional square footage. Please refer to the article for more detailed information.

Best of luck,

Paul D. Race

## Recommended Minimum Quantities for One-Day Railroad

Size	Tiny (25 sq. ft. minimum)	Small (36 sq. ft. minimum)	Larger (81 sq.ft. minimum)	Probable max size for One Day (121 sq. ft. minimum)	Your estimated need	Cost per item	Extended Cost
Starter Set	1	1	1	1			
Circle of Track	One 48" circle (comes with starter set)	One 60" (5') diameter circle of track	One 8' diameter circle of track	One 10' diameter circle of track			
Straight Pieces	As needed	As needed	As needed	As needed			
Structures (optional)	1-2 (optional)	2-3 (optional)	3-6 (optional)	4-8 (optional)			
Figures (optional)	3-6 (optional)	4-8 (optional)	6-12 (optional)	8-16 (optional)			
Mulch	At least 4 2-cubic-ft bags or 3 3-cubic-ft bags	At least 6 2-cubic-ft bags or 4 3-cubic-ft bags	At least 14 2-cubic-ft bags or 9 3-cubic-ft bags	At least 20 2-cubic-ft bags or 14 3-cubic-ft bags			
Crushed Gravel	At least 3 cubic feet (6 bags) if you plan to trench, 4 cubic feet (4 bags) if you don't	At least 3.5 cubic feet (7 bags) if you plan to trench, 2.5 cubic feet (5 bags) if you don't	At least 6 cubic feet (12 bags) if you plan to trench, 4 cubic feet (8 bags) if you don't	At least 8 cubic feet (16 bags) if you plan to trench, 6 cubic feet (12 bags) if you don't			
Border Material	At least 20 linear foot (i.e. 30 8-inch pavers)	At least 24 linear foot (i.e. 36 8-inch pavers)	At least 36 linear foot (i.e. 54 8-inch pavers)	At least 44 linear foot (i.e. 66 8-inch pavers)			
Weed Barrier	At least 1 roll	At least 1 roll	At least 1 roll	At least 2 rolls			
Little trees	3	4+	9+	13+			
Ground Covers	4	5+	10+	15+			
Low-voltage Lighting (optional)	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional			
Drip System (optional)	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional			
Total expected cost							