

Landscape Design - Tools for Success

Site Inventory and Planning Worksheet

1. Site Analysis - Inventory of existing

Start with a plot plan and locate the following on the drawing:

- Structures and outbuildings
- Patios, decks and driveways and paths
- Neighboring buildings and trees that effect your yard
- Views to protect or screen
- Existing plants you wish to keep
- Topography: slope and drainage
- Access to the site for equipment
- Access to water for the landscape plants
- Existing irrigation and utilities

2. Environmental Conditions - Location, Location, Location!

Connect the site with the surroundings - what is the habitat that lingers nearby?

- Identify Micro climates: protected sites created by structures or other natural features and conditions
- Damp spots and drainage areas
- Dry and hot spots
- Wind patterns and snow accumulation patterns
- Sun and shade - orientation

- Soil composition - consider a soil test <http://www.soiltestinglab.colostate.edu/>

3. Function - Goals for the Site

Think about what you need for your family and how you would like your landscape to function, make a list.

- Budget, timeline and phasing for your project
- Circulation - movement through the garden and access to spaces
- Children - do you need a play area?
- Pets - do you need a dog run?
- Fencing
- How much turf do you want? - minimize when possible
- Outdoor dining - do you need additional space?
- Maintenance - how much time do you want to devote to maintenance?
- Entertaining areas for large gathering or intimate seating
- “Visual preferences - Style: Naturalistic, Informal, Formal, Modern, Asian, Open, Secluded, Focal points. Collect photos of landscapes you like from magazines.
- Shade / Sun preferences - proper design can save on energy bills
- Utility areas - Trash, compost, storage - out of site
- HOA covenants, zoning and codes you must comply to
- Material preferences - use local materials when possible, visit local rock yards to view options
- Specialty gardens: Veggie Garden, Rock Garden, Cut Flower Garden, Rose Garden, Butterfly Garden, Bird habitat

4. Plant Selection

The right plant in the right place for the right purpose.

- Choose plants adaptable for location and environment. Select based on goals for the design.
- Consider the form and mature size of plant
- Consider seasonal interest it can provide ie: flowers, berries, seeds, fall color, bark, and texture of foliage
- What plants do you like or dislike?
- Favorite colors?
- Are their allergies?
- Are deer and rabbits a problem?
- Collect photos of plants you like.

I am available to consult with you on an hourly basis about any aspect of designing your yard. I hope this information helps you to get started on your project,

Anne

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