

Garden Assessment

site consultation

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Knowing your goals, desires, dreams, and hopes is an important part of developing a plan. Think about each item listed below. Your ideas and notes will provide a good starting point for working together on your landscape plan.

PROPERTY INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

🌿 Water

What are the effects of water on your property?
How does water flow across your property?
Are there any soil erosion or drainage problems that require solutions?
Is there an existing irrigation system? What type is it and is it adequate?
Where are landscape water sources and hose bibs located? Are they adequate?

🌿 Property Boundaries

Are there any questions regarding the location of your property lines?
Do you have any existing measured plans, drawings, plot plans or a survey of your property?
Are there easements setback requirements?
Are the property boundaries marked?
Consider the views off the property. Do you want to preserve, enhance or screen them?
Consider the views from inside your home. Are there any specific views you want to emphasize or enhance?
Are there any covenants, codes, or restrictions for your property?

🌿 Utilities

Consider where each of the following are located and how they may impact a new landscape design:

Where is the dryer vent outlet?
Where is the furnace and air conditioning unit located?
Is there a septic tank or well located on the property?
Do you know where cables are buried?
Do overhead cables limit your choices for design development?
Where are the electric and water meters located?

🌿 Solar Aspect

Are you familiar with the location of the sun rising and setting throughout the year?
How will seasonal microclimates affect the design and planning of your landscape?

🌿 Soil

What is the condition of your soil?
What has been done to amend the quality of your soil in the last three years?

🌿 Plant Material

What is the type and quality of the existing plant material?
Are there any plants that need relocating or removing?
Does the current plant material exhibit proper pruning and growth structure?

 **Pest Management**

Do you currently have any problem with pests or animals (e.g. deer, rodents, fire ants)?

 **Elements and Features**

Consider each existing hardscape element and feature with respect to lifespan or durability, functionality, and aesthetics.

HOMEOWNER USE ANALYSIS

 **Functional Use Area**

Does your landscape setting meet your outdoor living space requirements?

Is your existing patio and/or deck adequate?

What type and size of outdoor cooking facilities do you need?

What kind of recreational areas do you need?

Are you considering any structural additions to your house?

 **Service Areas**

Consider your requirements for each of the following:

Trash Container Storage

Compost Bins

Dog Run/Fencing

Clothes Line

Greenhouse/Potting Shed

Storage or Out-buildings

 **Parking**

Is the current parking configuration adequate?

Do you need more, or overflow parking, for parties or special occasions?

 **Lighting**

Consider both the aesthetic and security lighting of your property.

Is the existing lighting adequate?

How will your needs change with the addition of new landscape features?

 **Circulation**

Consider the primary and secondary paths around your property.

Do all of the walks and paths function and relate to one another?

Do you need more paths, fewer paths? Is pathway material in good condition?

 **Specialty or Theme Gardens**

Do you want to add or renovate a specific kind of garden into your landscape setting?

Vegetable Garden

Rose Garden

Cut Flower Garden

Herb Garden

Other

 **Features or Accessories**

Are you considering adding any of the following to your garden or landscape setting?

- Arbor/Trellis/Pergola
- Birdbath
- Children's Play Area
- Decorative or Screen Fencing
- Entrance Gate
- Potting Shed
- Gazebo
- Lawn Games
- New or Resurfaced Driveway
- Out-Building Storage

- Waterfall or Pond, natural/ formal
- Tennis Court
- Swimming Pool
- Patio/Deck
- Stone Feature/Boulders
- Security or Decorative Lighting
- Sculpture or Statuary
- Retaining Walls
- Recreational Vehicle Storage

PLANT MATERIAL / PLANT AESTHETICS

 **List plants you like or dislike**

	Like	Dislike
Trees	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Shrubs	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Groundcovers	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Annuals	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Perennials	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Native Material	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Others	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

GARDEN CONCEPT OR STYLE

 **Do you have an idea about the overall look or feeling you want to achieve?**

Formal Estate
Quiet Reflection/Sanctuary/Meditative
Country Cottage
Natural Woodland
Other

 **Photo File**

Please collect photographs from magazines and books that appeal to you. They will serve as a basis for discussion and will help to communicate your desires.

OTHER QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

How much time do you spend maintaining your garden or landscape each week?
Do you currently have, or are you interested in retaining, a landscape maintenance company?
How interested are you in gardening?
What is your experience and knowledge level?
How much of your new design plan are you interested in completing yourself?
What is your budget for new elements and features?
What is your budget for new plant material?
How soon do you want to implement all aspects of the design plan?