

Understanding Your Landscape



Fast Growing Trees

After reading “Understanding Your Landscape,” print this worksheet out and use it as a guide as you walk through your project area and start to plan your landscape.

By the end of this worksheet, you’ll have:

- ✓ A clearly defined project area
- ✓ An understanding of the project area’s layout
- ✓ Knowledge of any limitations on what can and can’t be done
- ✓ A list of possible hazards, zones to fix and zones to highlight
- ✓ An approximate timeline of your project

Initial Walk-Through Checklist

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take “before” photos | <input type="checkbox"/> Locate and assess the condition and style of hardscape features like benches, walkways, patios or fences | <input type="checkbox"/> What wildlife is in the area? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Describe your project area | <input type="checkbox"/> Do you need a noise or wind barrier? | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice the topography of the area, including slopes, ditches, soggy areas and high points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Which plants are doing well? | <input type="checkbox"/> Locate and assess the condition and style of any nearby structures, like a house or shed | <input type="checkbox"/> Where does water drain after heavy rain? Is there any erosion? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Which plants are struggling? | <input type="checkbox"/> What is the space used for now, and does that match its intended use? | <input type="checkbox"/> What is the accessibility of the area, and what changes do you need to make? (Ex., can you fit a lawnmower under a tree?) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Locate any plants that are of particular significance or value | <input type="checkbox"/> Locate any desirable viewpoints or dedicated entrances | <input type="checkbox"/> What level of upkeep is currently required? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> What kinds of soil are in the area? | <input type="checkbox"/> Identify anything in the surrounding area that needs to be accounted for, like a neighbor’s fence | <input type="checkbox"/> Locate your spigot or hose hook-up and determine if you will need additional irrigation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> What type of sunlight does the area receive? | | |

Doing Your Homework

List any limitations for this project (example: HOA requirements, property lines):

List any utilities that are in the project area:

Notes

Use this space to make lists and write down notes as you analyze your yard:

Keep	Remove	Repair	Add

Quick Reference

List key information here for easy reference:

Soil Type	Sun	Desired Maintenance Level	Budget	Timeline	Required Help or Contractors Needed