



Landscape Design Assistance Program

Prepare for Your Consultation: Draw a Base Map

Drawing a base map of your yard will help you and your landscape designer develop a new landscape design. A base map is an overhead view of your property on which you can sketch your design ideas.

Using graph paper, draw a base map of your yard. The base map can include the following:

- An outline of the front of your home, walkways, driveway, sidewalk, property lines, fences, and other structures, indicating their placement on the property.
- Property orientation (a north arrow) in order to identify sun/shade patterns on your property.
- Draw the base map so that $\frac{1}{4}$ inch on the base map represents 1 foot in the real yard. Using the graph paper, use 1 square for every 1 foot.

Tools Needed

- Graph Paper
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Straight edge ruler
- Tape measure

Steps

- Measure and draw the front or back of the home, depending on the location of your lawn conversion area (usually best toward the top of your paper).
- Measure and draw the left and right property lines.
- Measure and draw the sidewalk and driveway.
- Locate any other structures or items on the drawing.
- Make multiple copies of your base map so you can sketch ideas on it for your new landscape. Alternatively, you can use tracing paper on top of the base plan to sketch design ideas.

*Tip: if you are having trouble physically measuring the lawn conversion area, you can use [Google Maps](#) to determine measurements by right-clicking on the map and selecting “measure distance”. [Click here for instructions.](#)