Designing the landscape plays a significant role in how communities are developed. Considering how people interact with the landscape is a significant aspect to how to successfully design the landscape.

Understanding the spatial context of a site and how you can implement various design elements help form how people make use of the space.

The first part of this activity will allow you to get outside and observe the surrounding landscape and consider elements that you may have not thought about before.

The second activity will allow you to get creative and exercise your critical thinking skills. You will create your own site plan/design using the base plan that is provided.

Materials

- Question sheet
- Pencil or pen
- Base plan
- Graphic convention sheet (optional)
- Pencil crayons, pens, markers, etc.
- Ruler, scissors, glue, eraser and paper

Instructions

1. Choose a site that you would like to visit (your backyard, a local park, streetscape, forested area, etc.) and get outside!

2. Observe the landscape based on your senses. What do you see? Smell? Hear? Feel?

3. Record your observations and answer the questions on the worksheet. Reflect on what this exercise did to get you to think about the surrounding landscape that you may have not considered before.

4. Return home and print out the base plan and graphic convention sheet and prepare your materials for this part of the activity

5. Start considering what kind of design features you want included (feel free to make a brainstorming list)

6. Start drawing out various design elements that you want to incorporate into your plan, and how it will flow together (seating, water features, vegetation, pathways, etc.)

7. Have fun colouring and drawing! You can also add call outs on your plan to clearly communication what your design is.

Share your Landscape!

Take pictures while you explore the landscape and of your finished site plan. Email your pictures/scanned design to oac.assistant@uoguelph.ca so that we can make a collage of everyone’s landscape design!

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Worksheet

Observe your surrounding environment and answer the questions below:

What landscape did you choose to observe?

What do you see? Any wildlife? Trees, vegetation? Built structures?

What do you hear?

What do you smell?

What is the weather like? What kind of clothing do you need to be wearing to be comfortable?

What kind of materials do you notice? Any wood, metal, concrete, stone, brick, etc.?
Site Plan Design: Base Plan

EXISTING TREE

SCALE 1:200
LOOKING AT LANDSCAPES

Site Plan Design: Base Plan Sample
Site Plan Design: Graphic Conventions

Feel free to use the below graphic conventions to help start your design! You are more than welcome to hand draw everything on your own as well if you’d like.