



STEP 1

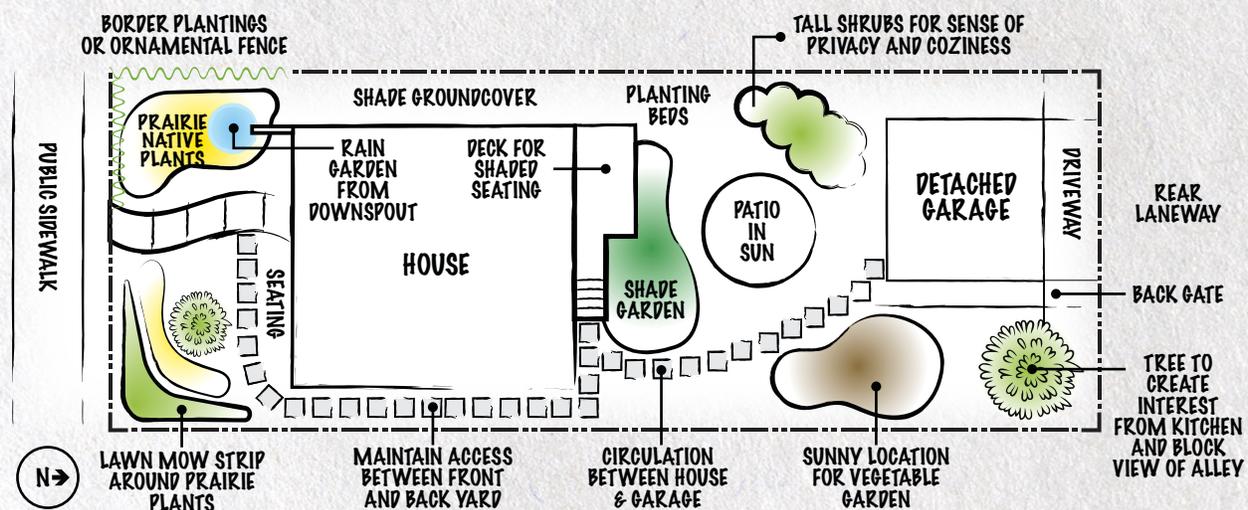
DESIGN TIPS

Plan Your Design

It is time to begin thinking of design!

Without an overall vision, the result is often a piece-work yard lacking flow and consistency.

Start with a "bubble" diagram or design concept before deciding specific dimensions of landscape features.



Try a few different arrangements before settling on what feels the best for you! Use trace paper over your original plan so that you do not have to redraw the base plan each time. Once you have finalized your landscape concept, specific dimensions and materials can be selected.

First start with accessory buildings, such as garages and sheds and then continue with the **hardscape**: your [driveway](#), [decks](#), patios, walkways, [fences](#), pergolas, playsets.

Next, do the living part of the landscape, the **softscape**. Determine how much lawn and the configuration you'd like (or whether you want it at all). Decide on the shape(s) and size(s) of your planting beds. Plant from largest to smallest; place your trees first, then shrubs, followed by perennials (flowers and grasses) and finally groundcover plants.

A good way to visualize this is to use a garden hose or thick rope, field marking chalk or spray paint to lay out the different areas. It is helpful to copy the plan onto the ground and walk around your space to see how it feels and if you've given yourself enough space.

It is important to note that every site is individual and there is not a precise recipe to apply to all spaces. Additionally, beauty and feelings are subjective, however, there are general design considerations to assist everyone in creating a beautiful yard.