

Property Evaluation and Goal Setting

The first steps to effectively manage your property are to assess the resources available on your property and set goals for what you would like to achieve. If you know more about your property, you can understand more of the limitations that affect what you can do. Clearly defined goals for your property will help you develop a plan to achieve your goals without wasting time, money and effort.

Create an Inventory of Resources

The characteristics of your property affect what you can achieve with the land. The first step in any land use plan is to identify the existing assets of a property. When you understand the physical holdings and their limitations, you can set and implement reasonable goals that are appropriate for your needs and your property. Conducting an inventory will also clarify what you do not know and give you a chance to find out any missing information.

✓ Buildings

The area that includes a house, other associated buildings and the immediate surrounding area is called the home site. It is the lived-on part of a property. For smaller acreages, the home site might make up the entire property, while for larger acreages, the home site may be only a portion of the entire property. Associated buildings include the garage, barns, stables and sheds.

Photographs are an effective way to document your property and any changes you make. Select photo sites from which to take pictures and date the pictures to create a record of your progress.

✓ Developed Area

Driveways, sidewalks, paths, roads, trails and other impermeable surfaces are considered developed areas. Facilities also include fences and property boundaries, water wells or water lines, septic systems or sewer lines, gas or oil lines, power lines, cable lines and telephone lines.

✓ Landscaped area

Landscaped areas include any lawn, garden, flower beds, fields, corrals, pastures and treed areas if they are part of the maintained landscape.

✓ Open or surface water

Lakes, ponds, streams, creeks, ravines, rivers, shoreline areas, riparian areas, and wetlands are included as open or surface water.

✓ Wildlife habitat

Wildlife habitat includes natural, wooded or open area that is uncultivated. It may also include wetlands or endangered species habitat.

Property Inventory: Buildings and Facilities

What buildings do you have on your property?

Building	Yes	No	Location	Footprint
House	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Garage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Barn	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Stable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Shed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Other <i>(please specify)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		

What facilities do you have on your property?

Facilities	Yes	No	Location	Dimensions
Garden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Lawn	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Corral	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Fence 1 <i>(specify type)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Fence 2 <i>(specify type)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Driveway	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Trails or Paths	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Other <i>(please specify)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		

What utilities do you have on your property?

Utility	Yes	No	Location	Description
Well #1 Purpose:				<input type="radio"/> Used <input type="radio"/> Unused Recommended pumping rate:
Well #2 Purpose:				<input type="radio"/> Used <input type="radio"/> Unused Recommended pumping rate:
Water Lines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/> Household <input type="radio"/> Irrigation <input type="radio"/> Other
Septic System	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		Size: _____ Depth: _____
Sewer Lines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		Size: _____ Depth: _____
Power Lines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/> Above ground <input type="radio"/> Below ground
Phone Lines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/> Above ground <input type="radio"/> Below ground
Cable Lines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/> Above ground <input type="radio"/> Below ground
Gas Pipeline	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/> Above ground <input type="radio"/> Below ground
Oil Pipeline	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/> Above ground <input type="radio"/> Below ground

Property Assets

			Condition		
	Yes	No	Good	Fair	Poor
Do you have existing trees or areas of natural vegetation?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Pastures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Wetlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Ephemeral Streams or Creeks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Artificial Ponds or Dugouts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			

Are you having problems with any of the assets listed above? Write them below.

Property Problems

Weedy areas Yes No

Name of weed (if known)	Description	Area affected (m ²)	Severity (limited, intermediate, extensive)

Wildfire threats within 15 m of your house or outbuildings:

	Yes	No	Any other problems?
Trees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Tall Shrubs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Dry Groundcover	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Firewood Piles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Do your attic vents have screens?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
What material is your roof made from?			

Create a Property Map

A property map is a visual representation of your property that lays out dimensions and locations of various features. It allows you to create an image of your property, and can help you visualize the state of the property and what you want to achieve. It is easier to set goals and develop a management plan if you know what you have on your property and where things are located relative to other features.

✓ Items to include on the property map

Use the information from the property evaluation to create your property map. Include topographic features such as ravines, slopes, bluffs, and other areas where elevation changes occur. Use topographical information to help you understand water flow, erosion, and sediment movement, all of which can affect the quality of drinking water. Also include features on neighbouring properties that may affect your acreage such as drainage ditches, points of access, septic fields or livestock areas. Also include property boundaries and any setbacks or reserve areas.

Sample Property Map

Sketch an outline of your property including all buildings and facilities. Indicate locations of neighbouring buildings and facilities close to your property.

