



Plan your garden around the activities you want to have there.
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Organize your yard and garden: plan it

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On the "picture it" step, you visualized your ideal yard or garden, spent some time looking for ideas, and drew a sketch of your space. Now use your ideas and sketch to make a plan:

- **Identify the unique features of your space.** What are its identifying features? Do you want to emphasize or hide them? Consider slope, drainage, amount and direction of sunlight, existing trees, and any other features you won't be changing. Make note of the features of adjoining properties as well: what do you want to keep in your line of sight, and what do you want to camouflage? Often it's easier - and less expensive - to work around the unique features of your space unless they are annoying, hazardous, or cause damage to your home, like tree roots that grow through a patio or walkway or a bright streetlight that shines onto prime entertaining space.
- **Name the activities you want to happen there.** From plain-and-simple relaxation to planting and harvesting vegetables and herbs to entertaining family and friends, your yard or garden extends your home. Keeping the features of your space in mind, list the activities you want for your space as well as what changes you need to make them happen. For inspiration, visit [HGTV](http://HGTV.com).
- **Merge features and activities into your sketch.** Note on the diagram you've made of your yard or garden space the unique features you identified. Then, if you're planning to use your space for multiple purposes, indicate what parts of your space you hope to use for each. There will probably be overlap, but this step will help you visualize your plans and manage your own expectations about what is possible in your space. You may find that you don't have room for a vegetable garden, a children's play area, and a quiet relaxation spot, or that you need to use some creativity to fit them all in.

Now that you've blended your ideas together into a sketch and lists of wants and needs, you're ready to move to the next phase of your project: make it happen.

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