Reading a Landscape Plan
Communication
Types of Drawings

- Concept
- Plan View
- Details
- Section
- Perspective
Concept (Pretty Picture)
Basic Plan View
Details
Sectional Drawing

STREET / SIDEWALK SECTION STUDIES
Perspective Drawing
Type of Plan: Site Plan

- Scaled drawing that includes;
- Legal property lines
- Any easements in force
- Indications of marker pin positions
- Center lines of adjacent streets
- Compass direction
Site Plan
Types of Plans: Grading Plan

- Map of existing contours and proposed contour changes
- Indication of benchmark location and elevation
- Elevations of permanent features on the property
- Any alterations of existing grade
- Should be implemented prior to other installation tasks
Contour Lines

- Connect points of equal elevation
- Same interval (vertical change in elevation) throughout the design
- Never fork
- Close together = steep slope
- Widely spaced = gentle slope
- Not drawn through landscape features
- Existing topography = Broken lines
- Proposed changes = Solid lines
Types of Plans: Irrigation Plan

• Included as a part of contract if an irrigation system is to be installed or an existing system is to be preserved
• Quantities, specifications, and locations of the following should be included;
  • Sprinkler heads, pipes, valves
  • Electric wires for times & controls
  • Automatic and manual drains
  • Electronic and manual controls
• Includes installation & specification information
Simple Grading Plan
Irrigation Plan
Types of Plans: Landscape

- Scale drawing including all pertinent features of the site, both existing and proposed
- Blow-ups' of portions of the plan may be included for construction details or if the site is large
- Key is evaluation and communications of design concepts and location of features
- Scale is critical as costs are frequently estimated directly from designs for small scale sites
- May include plant materials or hardscape specifications as side bars or boxes, but more typically included as part of specifications manual
Components Of A Landscape Plan

• Few designs include all necessary information
• Symbols and styles are as varied as the designers
• Some designations have become fairly standard
• The following are concepts that are critical to landscape plan interpretation or can help to avoid costly errors
Orientation Features

• Compass orientation
• Plant selection
• Wind direction
• Lighting angles
• Street address
• Location verification
• Bench mark
• Location for survey purposes
• Elevation for drainage and grade changes
• Adjacent roads, buildings and property lines
Scale

• Without a scale the design is useless!
• Can be indicated symbolically or in equation form
• 1 in. = 10 ft. or 2.5 cm = 3.1 m
Location Of Utility Lines

- Major safety concern!
- Elevation above or below ground
- Impacts grade changes, irrigation lines and outdoor lighting
- Call the local utilities for verification!!!
Non-Plant Material Features To Be Installed

- Fences and Walls
- Decks and Patios
- Amenities
- Water Features
Simple Plan
Extensive Landscape Plan
Plant Materials List

- Common names
- Scientific names
- Size specifications (height)
- Special forms- tree, clump, FTG
- Number of each species and size class
Plant Table and Notes
Landscape Plan: Hand Drawing
Landscape Drawing: CAD Simple
Landscape Drawing: CAD
Landscape Plan: Blueprint