

4 GREEN SCENE





01 RESEARCH & BRAINSTORMING

60 mins

Quick Tip:

Consider making the research task competitive by dividing chapter members into small groups and rewarding the group that can identify the most findings in 30 minutes with a prize (eg. 1UP sticker)!

Useful Links:

[What is Landscape Architecture?](#)

[American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#)

[ASLA In-Depth Learning](#)

As urban environments continue to grow, the availability of green spaces and outdoor enjoyment needs to be considered for healthy cities and our enjoyment.

Landscape architecture involves the strategic design of outdoor environments to optimize both functionality and aesthetics. This discipline uses natural elements with constructed features to cultivate spaces that enhance the human experience while promoting ecological biodiversity.

Explore the Field of Landscape Architecture

- Begin by researching and understanding what makes an outdoor urban space enjoyable. Then go into depth and learn the key principles and practices for designing these spaces.
- Research principles of landscape architecture that make urban spaces more enjoyable, and what/who they benefit.
- Think about a place you've visited that uses landscape design principles, and study how these spaces make you feel (i.e., how they benefit your mental/physical well-being).
- Think about your school and how much time you spend outside of the building during school hours; conclude why that may be. Hint: think about your access to green space, and how green spaces impact your sense of community.

Record your findings in a Google doc. It can be in point form.



02 SCHOOL SITE PLAN

120 mins

A site plan is an attempt to convey information about a site project, acting as a map for a development project, allowing the viewer to have a visual understanding of a site and its potential. The site plan should include building footprints, landscaping and paving features in a single depiction.

By illustrating how green spaces and human activity intersect, it can be revealed how your school can become more welcoming and more conducive to a learning environment.

How to Create a Site Plan

- Visit Google Maps and switch to the Aerial view to get a better understanding of your school's layout.
- Determine how you will create your site plan. You may choose to sketch by hand or using SketchUp or any other software of your liking.
- First, create a site plan for your school as it currently exists. Then, make a copy with elements of landscape design incorporated.
- Ensure that you include features such as parking lots and pavement, and add colour to create a distinction between features such as trees.

The following page has a set of prompts to follow in order to create successful site plans.

Below are examples of site plans from previous 1UP Design Competitions:

- [St. James Town Community Co-op](#)
- [Wychwood Barns Park Redesign](#)



02 SCHOOL SITE PLAN (CONTINUED)

The following prompts are provided to you to help you with the creation of your site plans.

Observations

- What are the existing features of the school grounds? (e.g., buildings, pathways, green spaces)
- How do these features currently function? Are there any areas that seem underutilized or in need of improvement?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the current layout?

Goals

- What goals would you like to achieve in redesigning your school grounds? (e.g., promoting sustainability, improving functionality)
- What elements can you incorporate to achieve these goals? Pick 2-3 elements that need to be prioritized.

Incorporating Design Principles

- How can principles of landscape architecture, such as balance, unity, and rhythm, be applied to the redesign?
- What new design elements could be introduced to enhance the overall look and feel of the school grounds? (e.g., outdoor seating areas, native plant gardens, water features)
- How can the redesign improve accessibility and circulation throughout the site?

Community Engagement & Use

- How can the redesigned school grounds better serve the needs of students and teachers?
- Are there opportunities to create spaces for outdoor learning, recreation, or social interaction?
- Are there opportunities for students to be involved in the implementation or maintenance process?



03 SUBMISSION

Submit your improved school site plan by April 30th for a chance to win some awesome prizes!

Share Your School's Site Plan

- How to be eligible to win prizes:
 - Post on your chapter's Instagram account:
Share a short video or photo(s) showcasing your site plan, including major takeaways and what elements you learned to make a school environment that is conducive to meeting your goals.
 - Be sure to tag [@urbanmindsTO](#) and [@1uptoronto](#) in your post to be eligible to win awesome prizes.

Winner Selection

Urban Minds' Program Coordinators will review all submissions and select a winning chapter based on the following criteria:

- Clarity of information
- Quality of site plan
- Professionalism of presentation

* Don't forget to join the [1UP Connect Webinars](#) for deeper insights into this topic and valuable tips on enhancing your Activity Sheet submissions!