



Sustainable Landscape Design

Session 2: Site Inventory and Assessment



BE BOLD. Shape the Future.[®]
College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences
Extension Master Gardener

LOS ALAMOS
Department of Public Utilities
Conservation



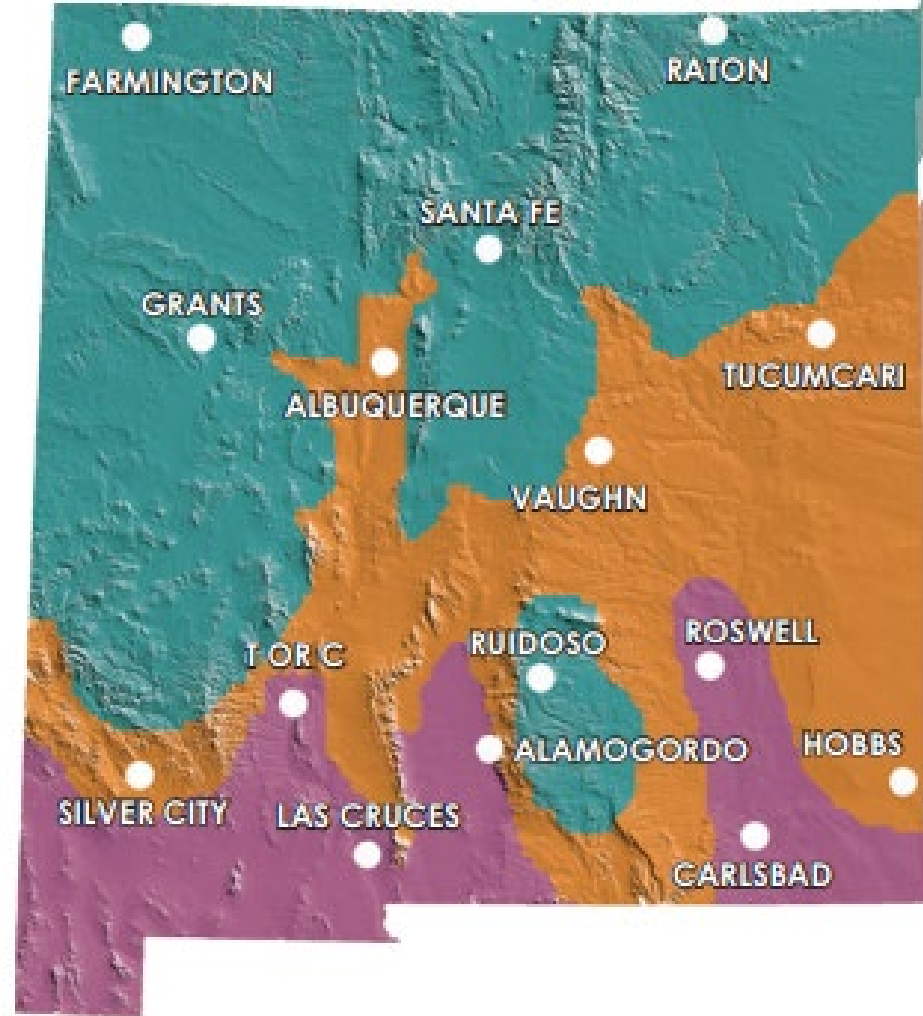


New Mexico Climate Areas

**Climate Area 1:
North/Mountain**

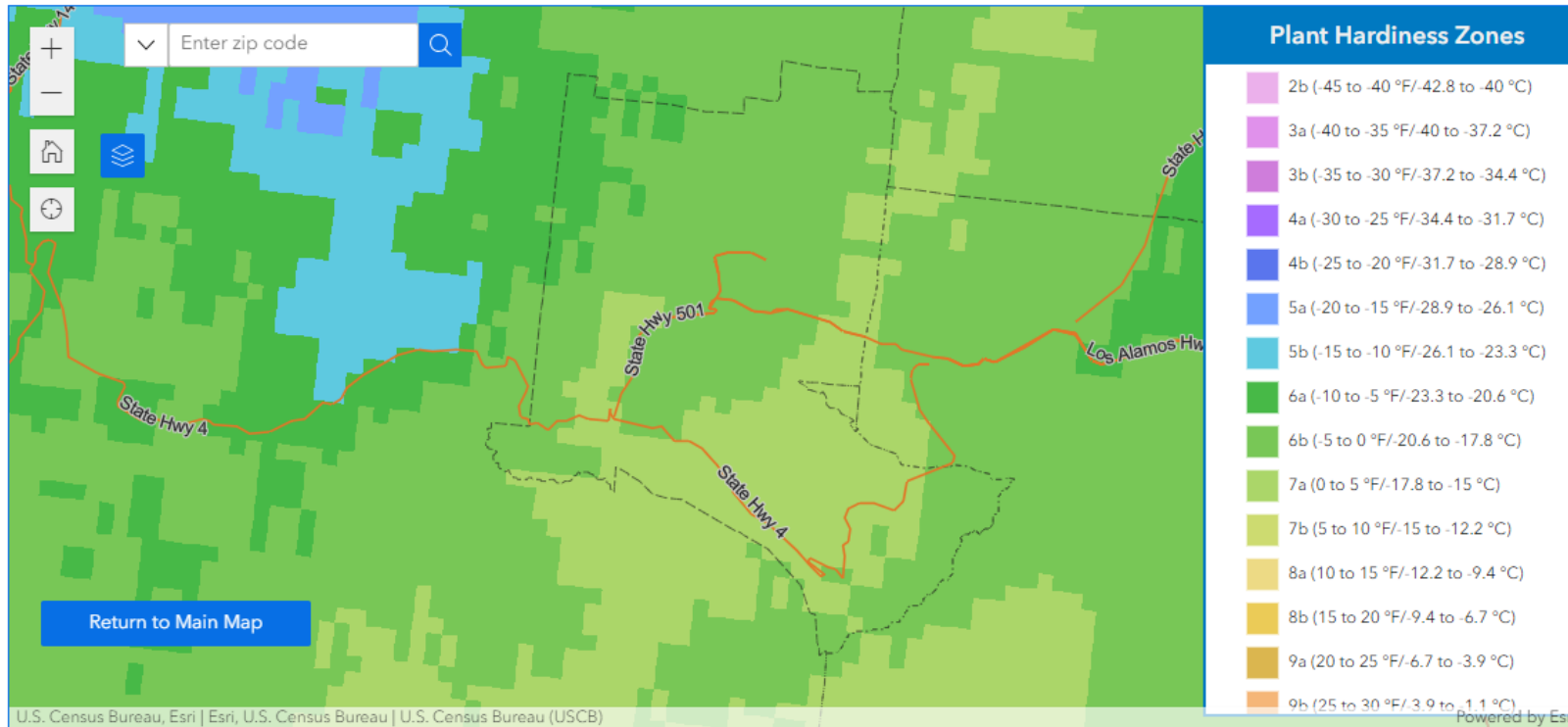
**Climate Area 2:
Central**

**Climate Area 3:
South**





USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map





- USDA Hardiness Zones for Los Alamos County –

6b (-5 to 0° F/ -20.6 to -17.8°C) to

7a (0 to 5° F / -17.8 to -15° C)





But ...

To create our “dreamscape,” need to know more than the USDA Hardiness Zone and Climate Area.

Need to understand the microclimates operating on your property.

How?





Site Inventory and Assessment

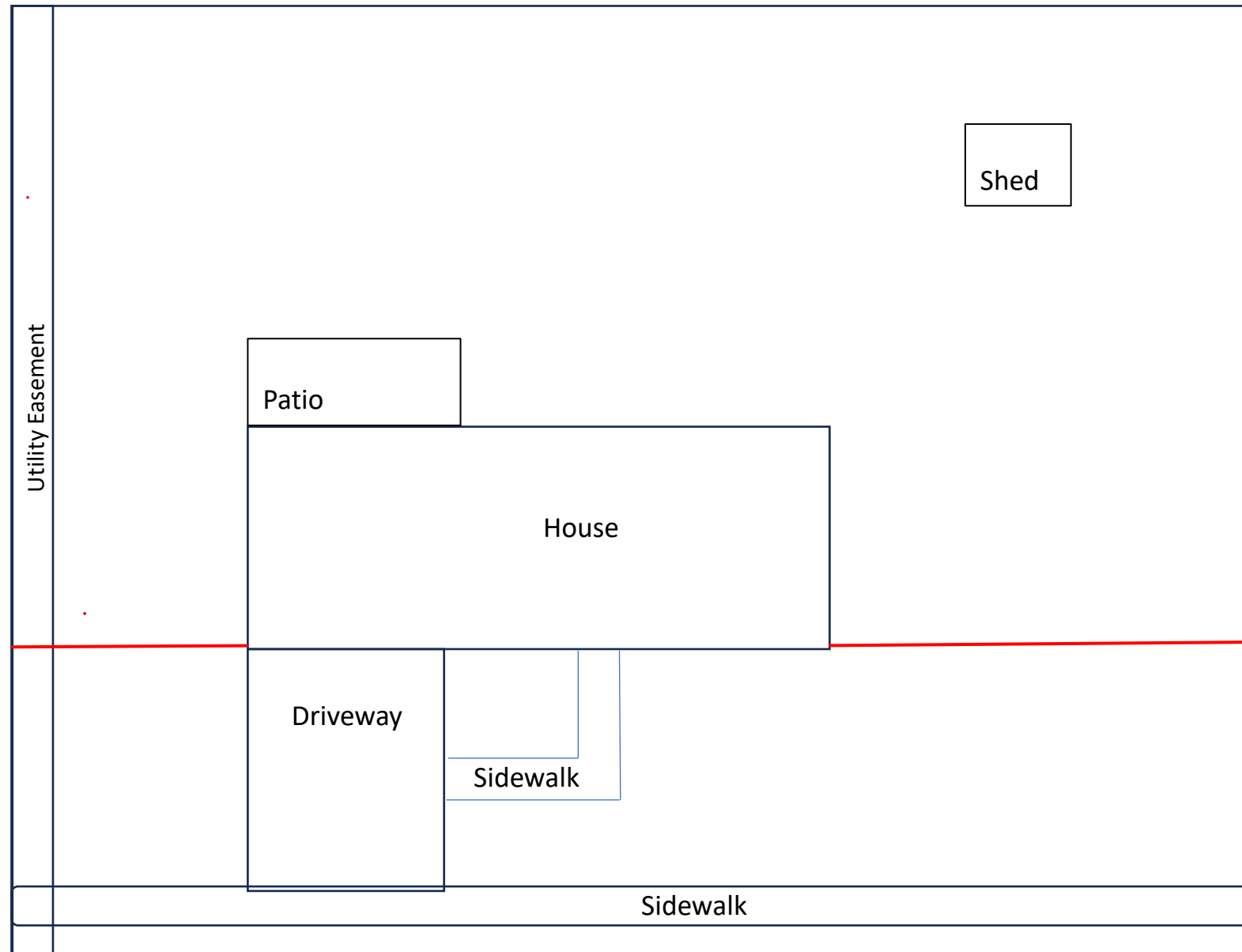
- Includes all existing environmental conditions, buildings and other infrastructure; what you like/don't like; what to save/change/remove.
- Evaluates current conditions to determine resources, actions, constraints, opportunities that should be considered.
- The better you know your site, the better your design decisions will be.
- Helps you determine the growing conditions on your property and what is needed to sustain a healthy landscape.
- Useful if you've just moved to a new location, but also helpful if you want to make changes to your current yard



Step 1: Create Basemap including:

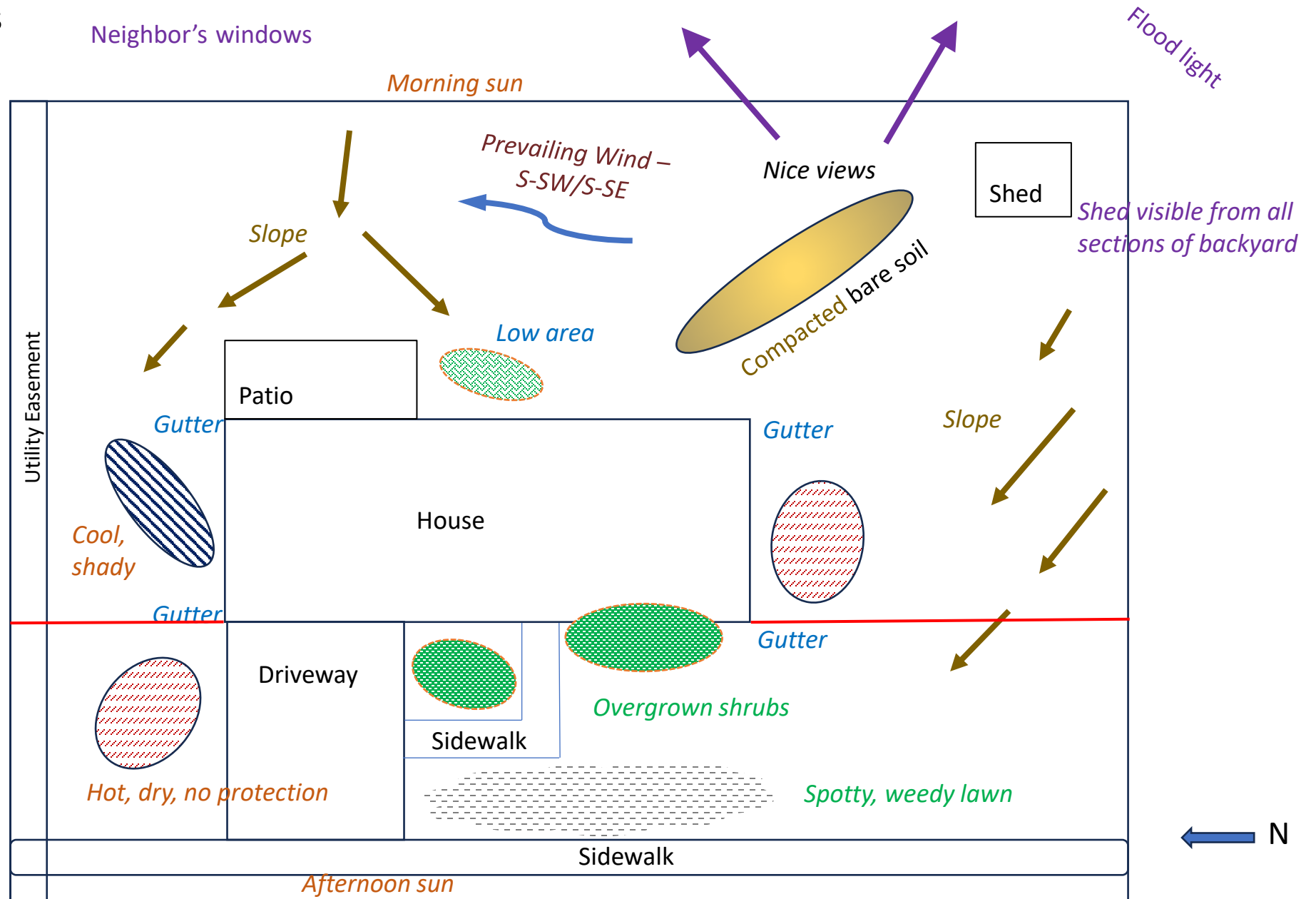
To get rough dimensions of your property: [ArcGIS - Los Alamos County Parcel Viewer Web Map](#)

- Buildings
- Paved surfaces – driveways, sidewalks, paths, patios ...
- Fences
- Utility lines/easements
- North arrow
- Scale (optional, but does make process easier – $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$ works well)



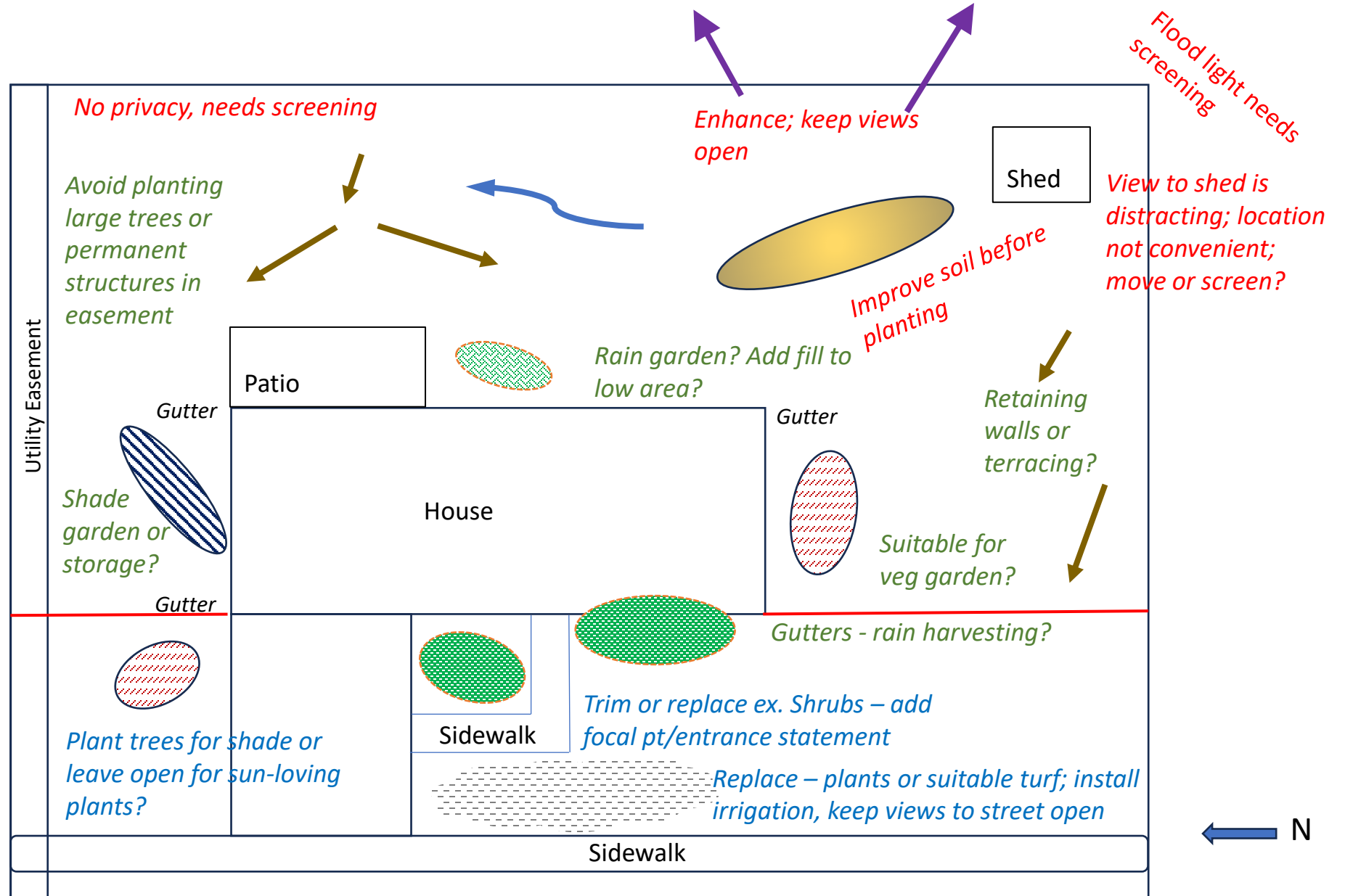
Step 2: Inventory Factors

- Soil (quality, composition – get it tested!)
- Orientation/exposure (hot/cool, moist/dry)
- Prevailing wind direction
- Slope
- Existing vegetation (where, what, condition)
- Water sources and flow (terrain, gutters, downspouts)
- Views and Privacy



Step 3: Assessment

- Actions needed to address inventory findings
- Opportunities/ Constraints
- What to save, change, or remove





Now what? The Wishlist ...


- Visualize your dream yard. How do you want to use it?
 - Grassy area for kids, pets?
 - Play area? For safety, place in shade with soft surfacing, within view of house...
 - Outdoor dining and entertaining? Hardscape (patio, paths ...)?
 - Vegetable garden? Flower beds?
 - Water features (pond, fountain, hot tub ...)?
 - Anything else?

- Curb appeal – entrance statement, welcoming, “game face”





Now what? The Wishlist ...

- Privacy
 - Fencing, trellises, dense plantings, green screens
 - Time and resources
 - Budget
 - How much time do you have/want to spend on it?
 - Are you hands on or hands off?
 - Appropriate level of maintenance
 - How will work get done? DIY, contractor, or combination
 - Phasing: short-term vs. long-term
- 



#2: Site Inventory and Assessment
Sept 28 · 6p
Mesa Public Library



#3: Landscape Design Basics
Oct 12 · 6p
Mesa Public Library



#4: Soil Preparation
Oct 19 · 6p
Mesa Public Library



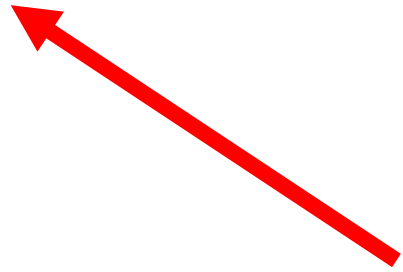
#5: Plant Selection
Oct 26 · 6p
White Rock Branch Library



#6: Irrigation
Nov 2 · 6p
White Rock Branch Library



#7: Maintenance
Nov 9 · 6p
White Rock Branch Library



What's Next



Resources



- [USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map](#)
- [ArcGIS - Los Alamos County Parcel Viewer Web Map](#)
(to help get rough dimensions of your property)
- [Site Inventory and Analysis for Water Wise Landscapes \(experienced\) - Water Conservation for Lawn and Landscape \(extension.org\)](#)



Thank you



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[Los Alamos Master Gardeners:
Contacts \(lamgonline.org\)](http://lamgonline.org)