

Outdoor Living - Planning and Construction Guide

Before planning or constructing outdoor living areas for your home, look at a copy of "Outdoor Living — Planning and Construction Guide," a new book available at your nearest extension office. The planning information in the book can be used to design and locate your facilities to take advantage of the terrain, the climate and your personal preferences. The construction details and explanations can then be used as guidelines or exact dimensions for many of the items included in your plan.

The outdoor living area of a home should be as carefully planned as the house itself and, if possible, should be done at the same time. All of the facilities, and their uses, should be considered in relation to each other and to a comprehensive design before any construction begins.

There are many outdoor living areas that can be included in a plan such as:

- Play areas — type and size of play equipment and its locations.
- Game areas that require a specified space; also each game area location.
- Rest areas that will be available to play participants.
- Entering space designed for adults.
- Paths and traffic routes between play and entertaining areas and the house or parking areas.
- Storage areas that can protect and keep tools, toys and other items out of sight when not in use.
- Work and garden space — clothes lines, compost tank, flowers and gardens.

The new guidebook is available from the County Agent Office in your area for \$1, or order a copy from the Extension Agricultural Engineer, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

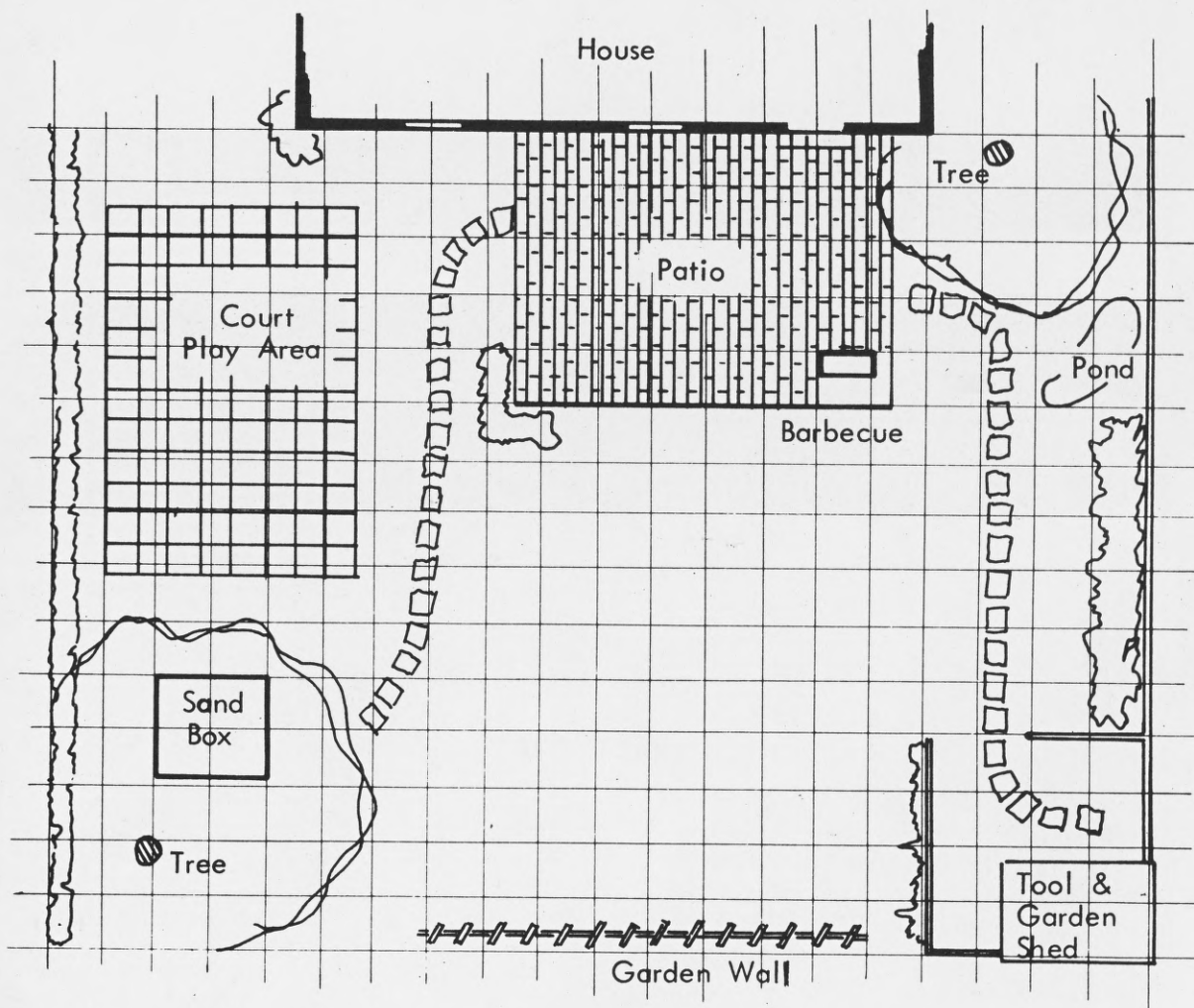


Figure 1. Make a preliminary drawing of your outdoor living area. Plan tentative locations of each living area, traffic routes and surfaces, and the plantings that will complement your home.