

RESILIENT YARD WORKSHOP - PARTICIPANT HOMEWORK

Step One: Create Base Map

A base map shows the overall layout of your yard and any elements in the immediate context that may impact your property (e.g. adjacent trees, neighbors' houses, garages, or downspouts).

On a piece of paper draw and label your property line and all elements within your yard. You may do this by freehand or draw over an aerial image (see examples below). Aerial images are available from Bing, Google, or your online County GIS property information service. Within Hennepin County check out: [//gis.hennepin.us/naturalresources/map/](https://gis.hennepin.us/naturalresources/map/)

Step Two: Add Hydrology

Hydrology shows where water is flowing to and from on your property. To show this, add arrows to your basemap showing the flow of water. You should also label your downspouts, low spots where water may be pooling, and the high points in your yard.

- Is water flowing onto your property from other sources? (e.g. neighboring downspouts, roadways, driveway, etc.)
- Are there any paths of concentrated flow during a storm event?
- Do you have a sump pump that outlets in your yard or street?

Additional Considerations:

Now that you have a clearer picture of your overall site and how water is moving on it, here are a few more important considerations as you move towards the design and installation of your resilient yard.

- Are there areas of your yard serving a particular function that shouldn't be altered? (e.g. lounging/gathering space, dining space, active play space, foot traffic, planting bed, vegetable garden, etc.)
- Are there any areas of full sun and/or full shade in your yard? Where are they located?
- Do you know what type of soil you have? (clay, sand, loam)
- Where do you think runoff can be intercepted and collected?
- If you're interested in a raingarden, how will water get there? (e.g. dry creek bed, underground pipe, overland flow, etc.)

Note: It can be helpful to use different colors for different features. (e.g. blue = hydrology, red = landscaping)

