

RAIN READY HAMILTON

Funded by: City of Hamilton

Site Design Guide

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Hamilton



How to use

Use this document as a guide to draw your site plans for your Rain Ready Hamilton application. If you are working with a contractor, they should be able to provide you with site plans. This guide outlines the minimum required details for a complete design and highlights the key information required for the Rain Ready team to review and assess your project.

Use this document as a reference but feel free to change colours, shapes, etc. as you see fit.

What you'll need:

- Pencil
- 2 Markers (Sharpie, fine tip)
 - 1 black for final lines
 - Another colour to distinguish key site features
- Ruler
- Optional: Additional markers to further distinguish features on the plan
 - Ex. Green for vegetation, blue for path of water, etc

Step 1. Setting up your plan

Download our Site Plan page to draw your design. This can be found on our program page under [supporting documents](#).

You may use regular paper to draw your plan but grid paper is strongly recommended. Your diagram must be drawn to scale with accurate measurements.

- 1.** Add Name & Address that is being used for application.
- 2.** Note important features that should be included in your design (ex. downspouts, barriers, utility lines, etc)
- 3.** Determine your scale. (ex. 1 square = 1 foot squared)
- 4.** Write your scale under “Notes/Calculations:”
- 5.** List the size of your feature under notes as well. (Note: At minimum, your feature should be 20% of the size provided from the catchment calculation in the application.)

Add any additional notes about your property.

- Any large roots you need to avoid?
- Fire hydrant on the property?

Step 2. Select and indicate your drawing scale

You are welcome to provide as much information in your site plans as you see fit. To start, choose how you will show your design by selecting an appropriate scale. For example:

1 square = 1 ft² OR 1 cm = 1 ft

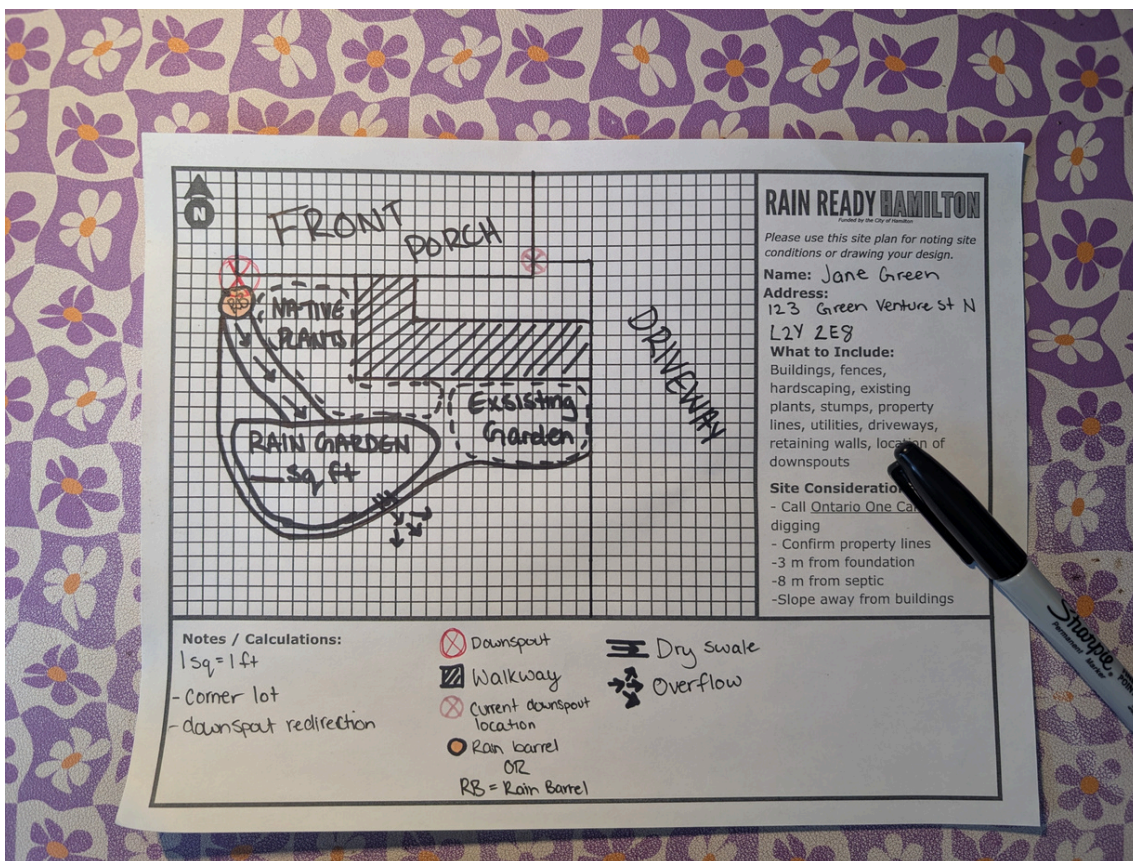
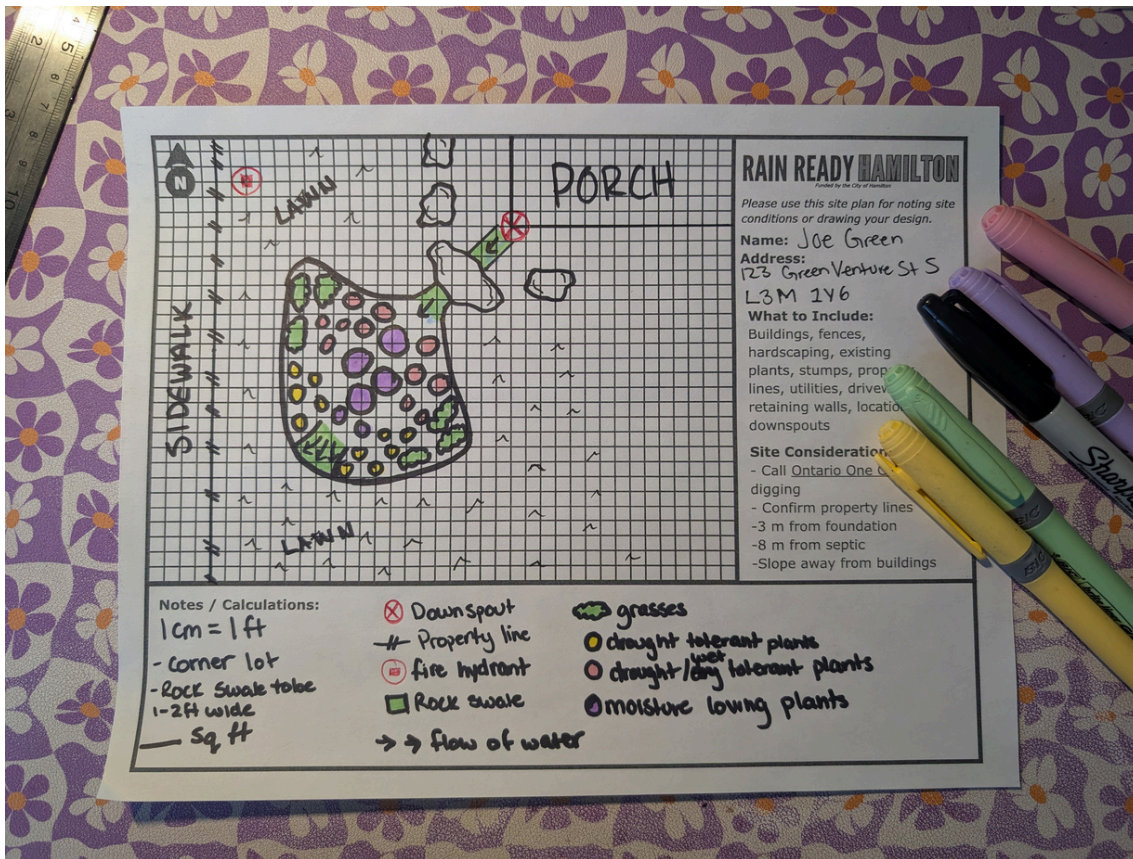
For larger projects that involve a bigger site plan, consider making your scale smaller. For example:

1 square = 2 ft² OR 1 cm = 1 m

Clearly note the scale on the plan to help the team can understand feature sizes.

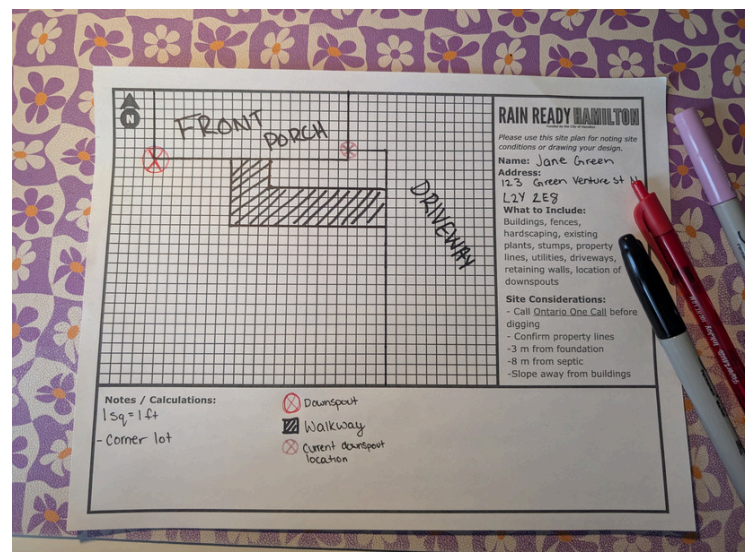
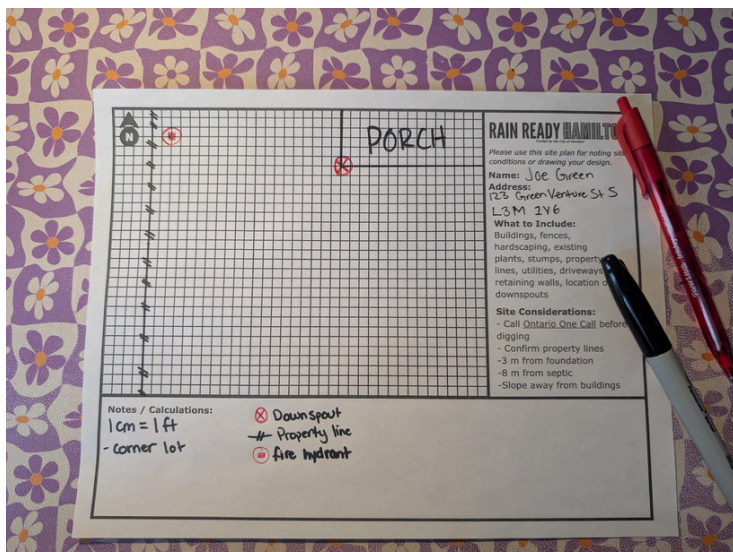
Take a look at the examples on the next page. If your project involves both front yard and backyard projects, consider submitting separate site plan files.

Site Design Examples



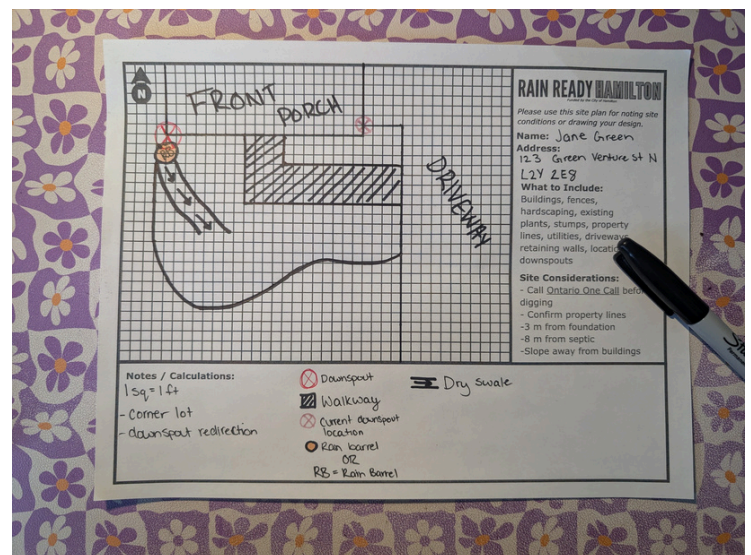
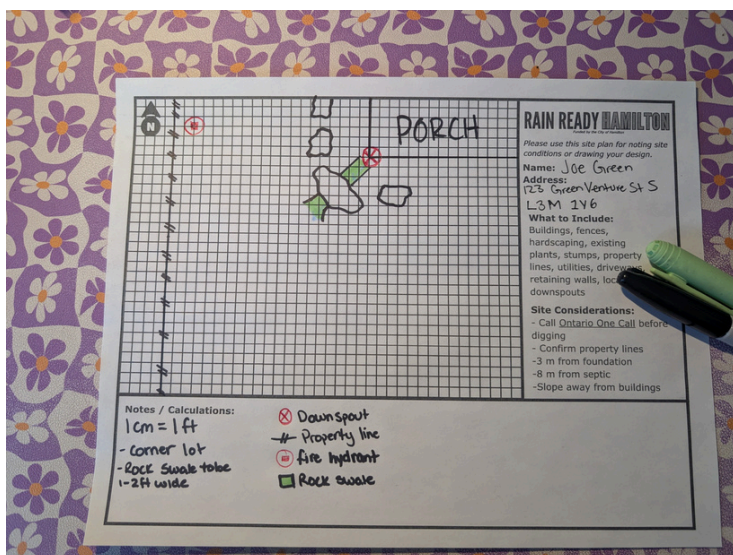
Step 3. Add pre-existing structures

1. Begin by drawing the house and downspout that will connect to your feature.
2. Include any site design constraints, such as fire hydrants, pathways, sidewalks, or fences.
3. Create a legend in the notes section to label these features. This keeps your plan clear, uncluttered, and easy to read.



Step 4. Start with the path of water

1. Begin by using arrows to determine the path that water will take to reach your feature.
2. Decide how you will move water to your feature. This can be done with an extended downspout, a french drain, a dry swale, or infiltration trench. In the example below, a rain barrel is used to harvest water with the overflow directed to a rain garden.
3. Add the water conveyance method(s) to your site plan and add the feature to your legend.



Step 5. LID feature size

Map it out!

Map out the location of your feature. Features such as rain gardens that hold water (excluding rain barrels) **must be 3m** from structures to avoid water damage.

Minimum LID feature size

Determine the minimum size your rain garden can be. This step can be determined 2 ways:

Online application

In the online application, you will receive a recommended feature size based on your catchment area. Use the size provided to draw your feature. Remember to use your scale determined at the beginning of your plan.

Calculating catchment area

To manually calculate your catchment area, use aerial view on Google Earth. Include the area of the roof driveway (if applicable) that will drain into your feature.



Catchment area is LxW of the area of your roof that will lead water to the downspout(s) entering your feature.

In this example, the area of A and B will need to be added together to determine the feature size.

Minimum LID feature size

Your rain garden should be between 20-50% (depending on soil type) of your catchment area with a ponding depth of roughly 3ft.

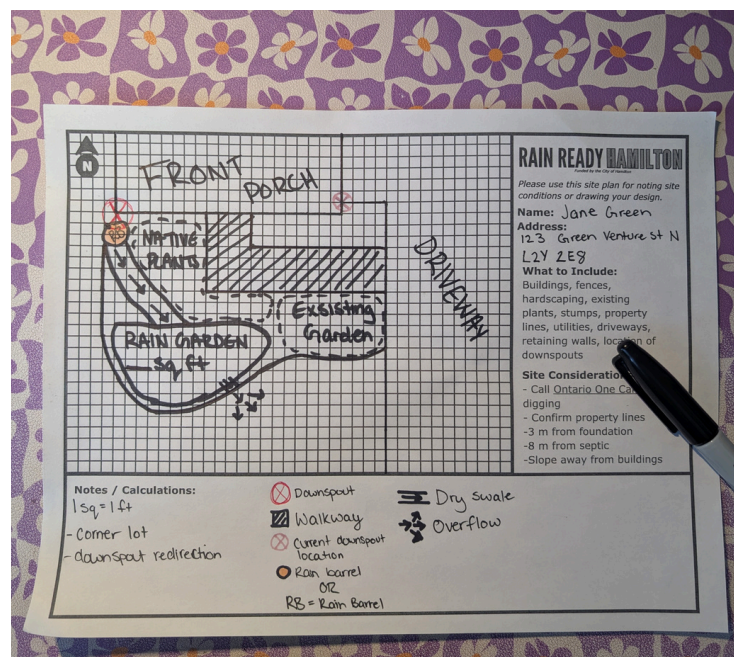
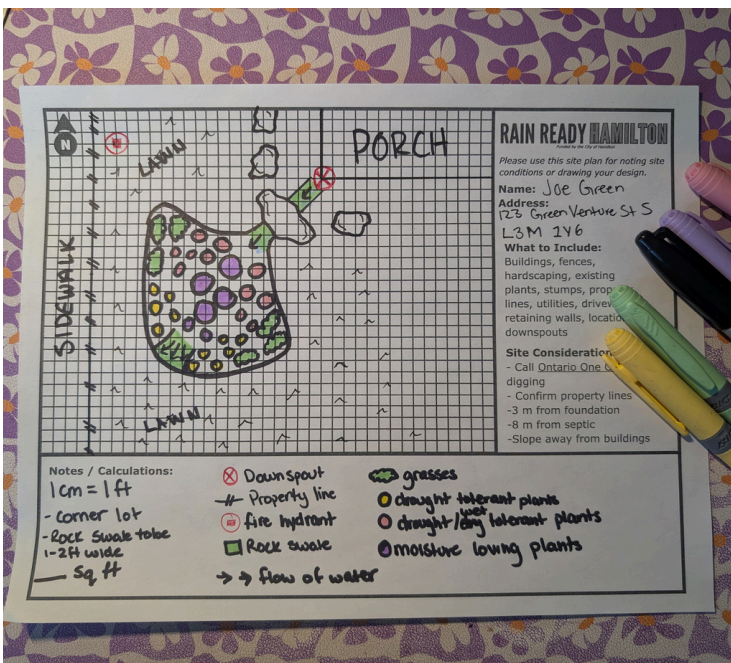
LID feature size depth

The deeper your ponding depth, the smaller your feature can be. **Suggestion:** 3ft ponding depth unless you are building a feature for a very large volume of precipitation.

To determine the LID feature size, use the catchment area size and multiply by 0.2 (20%) for loamy soils or 0.4 (40%) for clay.

4. Using the final number, build your feature using your scale. Add the size of your feature under the notes section as well.

5. Add any additional features to help outline your project. Feel free to add plant types, high point or low points, the overflow, any anything else you see fit.

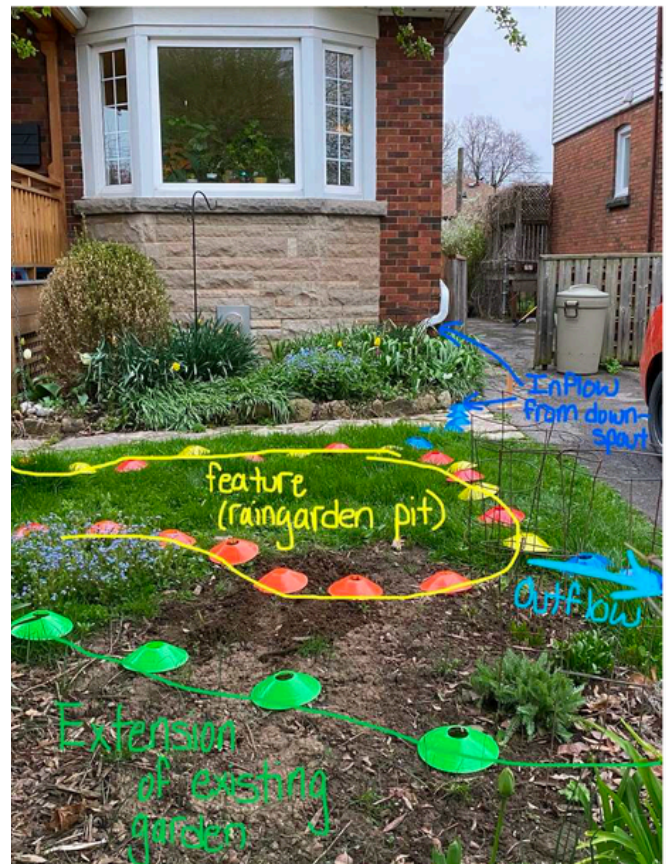
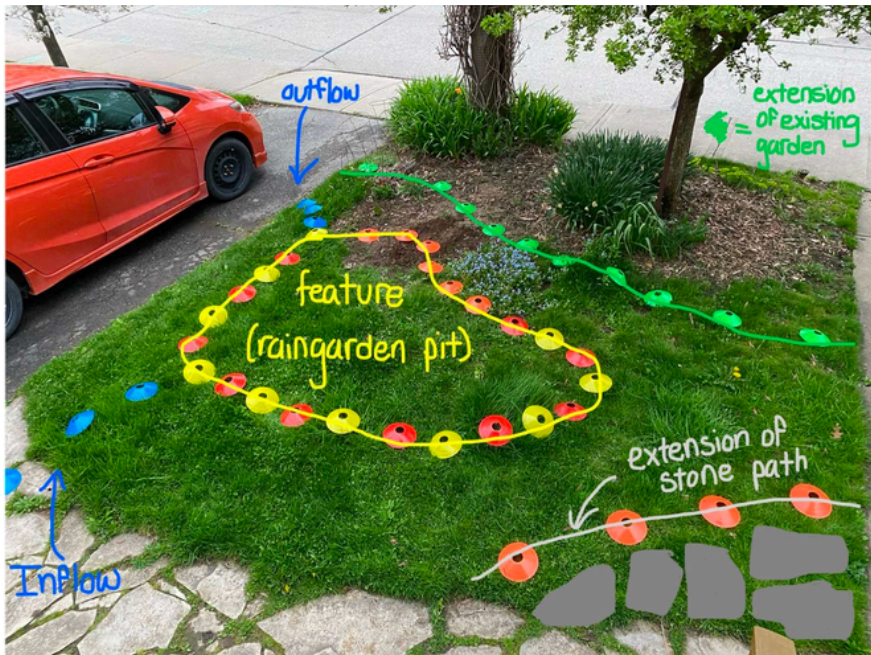


Site plan examples

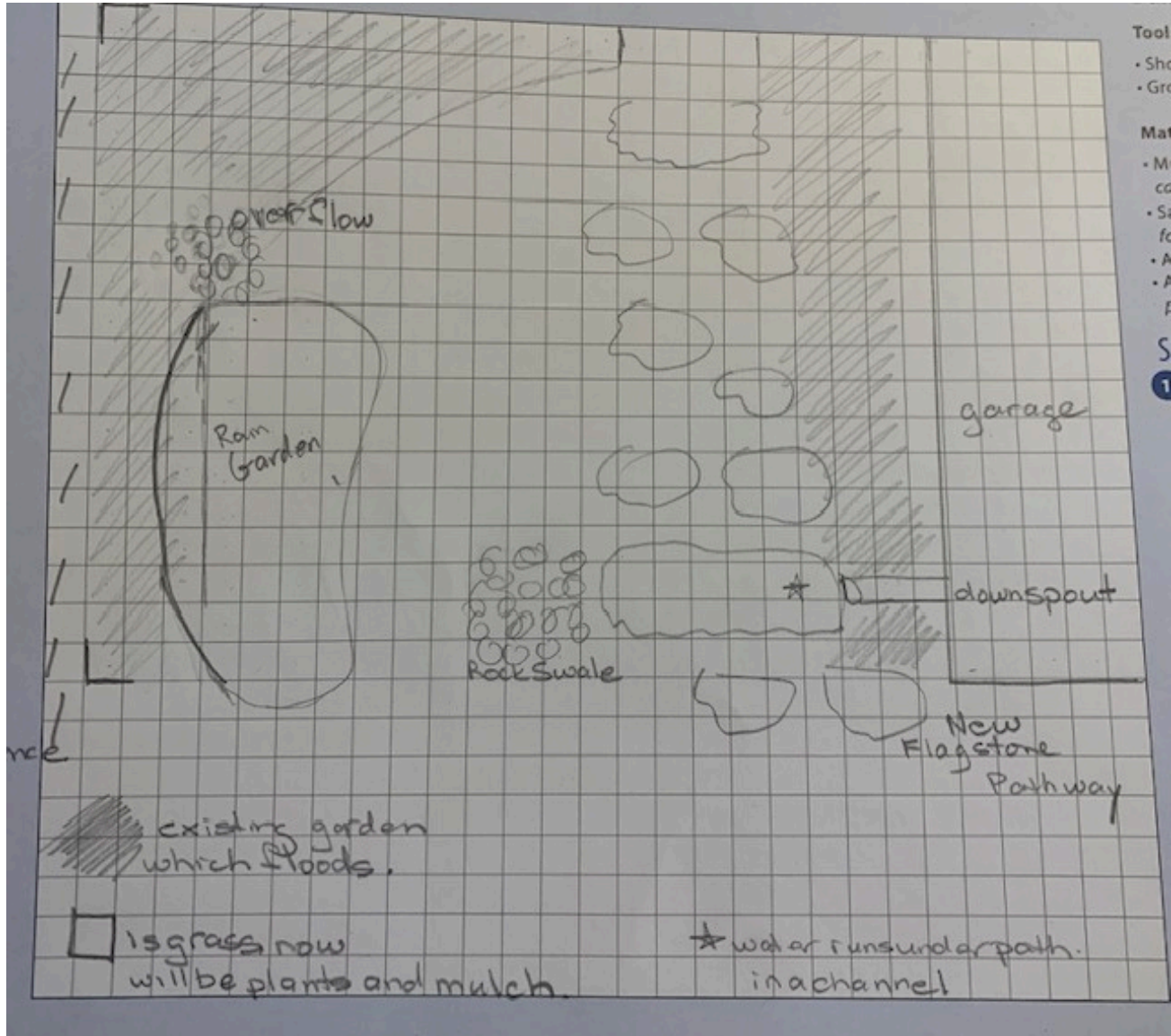
Choose your preferred site plan to submit:

- Site design worksheet
- Lined paper, grid paper
- Digital design files (such as AutoCAD or Vectorworks)
- Other examples below

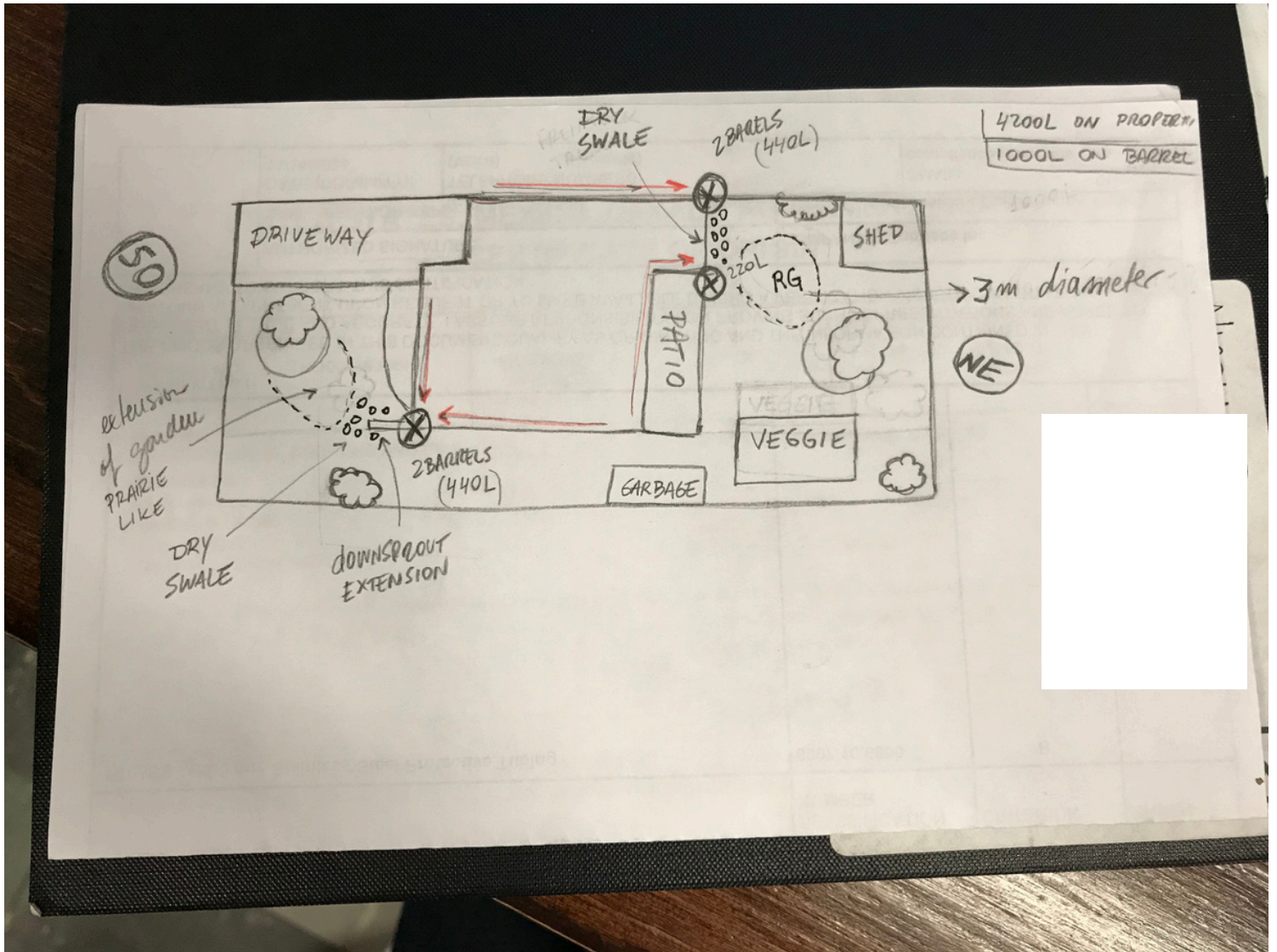
Site Plan Example 1



Site Plan Example 2



Site Plan Example 3



Example 3.

