

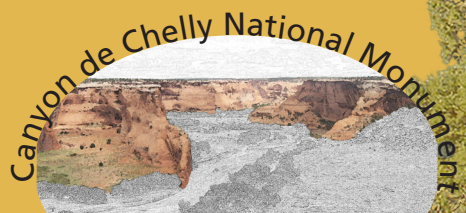


# LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS 101

Cultural landscapes are identified by two qualifiers: 1) **"significance"** in American history, and 2) **"integrity"** or authenticity to a specific time period. Places that are cultural landscapes convey their integrity through historic character. **Landscape characteristics are unique qualities used to evaluate and understand human influence and measure historic integrity.**

**THE**  
**UNIQUE**  
**CHARACTERISTICS**  
**OF**  
**AMERICAN**  
**CULTURAL**  
**LANDSCAPES**

The thirteen landscape characteristics illustrated here have the potential to exist in any place, though are not all necessarily found everywhere. When a landscape characteristic is present, it existed historically and is therefore a measure of authenticity.



**Natural Systems & Features**  
Material in nature that influenced historical development or use.

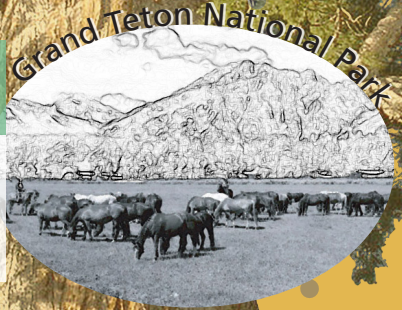


**Spatial Organization**  
The historical, three dimensional arrangement of physical forms.



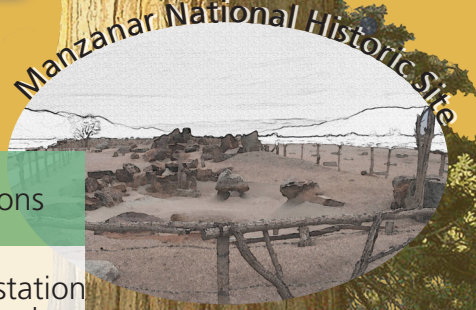
**Circulation**  
Historical systems for human movement.

**Land Use**  
Historical activities that influenced development and modification.



**Cluster Arrangements**  
Historical pattern of aggregation in forms.

## INTANGIBLE



**Cultural Traditions**  
Historical manifestation of collective cultural identity.



**Topography**  
Historical, human-created shape of the ground plane.

You'll notice the characteristics include intangible processes (above) and tangible patterns (below). These processes and patterns are interwoven into a complete system. Although we often separate these to develop understanding, preservation depends on the holistic management and sustainable practices.



**Buildings & Structures**  
Historical constructed forms and edifices.

## TANGIBLE



**Vegetation**  
Historical patterns of human-influenced plants, both native and introduced.



**Archeological Resources**  
Historical or pre-contact ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts.

**Constructed Water Features**  
Historical constructed forms to contain or convey water.



**Views & Vistas**  
Historical range of vision, both broad and discrete.



**Small-scale Features**  
Discrete, historical elements that provide detail and diversity.