



# A Few Ideas for Using Vacant Land

By Chelsea Hoffman, eHow Contributor

*Whether it's a small lot in a big city or a large spread of open range, vacant land can be useful in multiple ways. The possibilities are endless. Brainstorming and research is necessary, to inform yourself of your options.*

## Recreation

Every large piece of land is just a tennis court, soccer field, or playground waiting to happen. It can be an excuse for you and your children to get outside and get active. You can even contact your local Chamber of Commerce and inquire about converting your vacant land into a community park or other recreational facility. From there you should also contact your local Planning and Zoning Commission to find out whether the vacant land in question is suitable for such a project. If the lot is large enough, and not directly in the limits of the city, you could convert it into an outdoor production park, complete with a stage for local concerts. This can provide a recreational place for youth and others, as well as bring a little money into your pockets.

## For a Garden... and for a Cause

If you can plant a fine vegetable garden in a 15 foot by 15 foot block of land, imagine what you can do with a half-acre or more! Perhaps you can turn your vacant lot of land into a community garden that will help feed people in your area. It doesn't matter whether the land is only an acre, or if it's more than 40, because many cities and townships will welcome the environmentally friendly, and humanitarian gesture of planting a community food source. Nonprofit projects like this usually come with tax exemptions and write offs, especially if the produce is given away for free to needy families and individuals.

## Landscaping

Keep the land for yourself, and create your own personal heaven. Many people that lead busy lifestyles sometimes need a place to escape to that isn't their house or apartment, that usually contains family members or room mates. A great idea for a project is to have the land completely fenced with a security fence. For an idealistic style opt for a tall cobblestone wall, with a gate. Within the walls of the property, landscape as you see fit with lush grassy land, koi ponds and a Gazebo in the center of the property. Surround the gazebo with rose bushes and climbing Ivy. This will create a calm and serene feeling when you escape from the busy life of work and business.