JONATHAN PICKUP

VECTORWORKS LANDMARK
TUTORIAL MANUAL
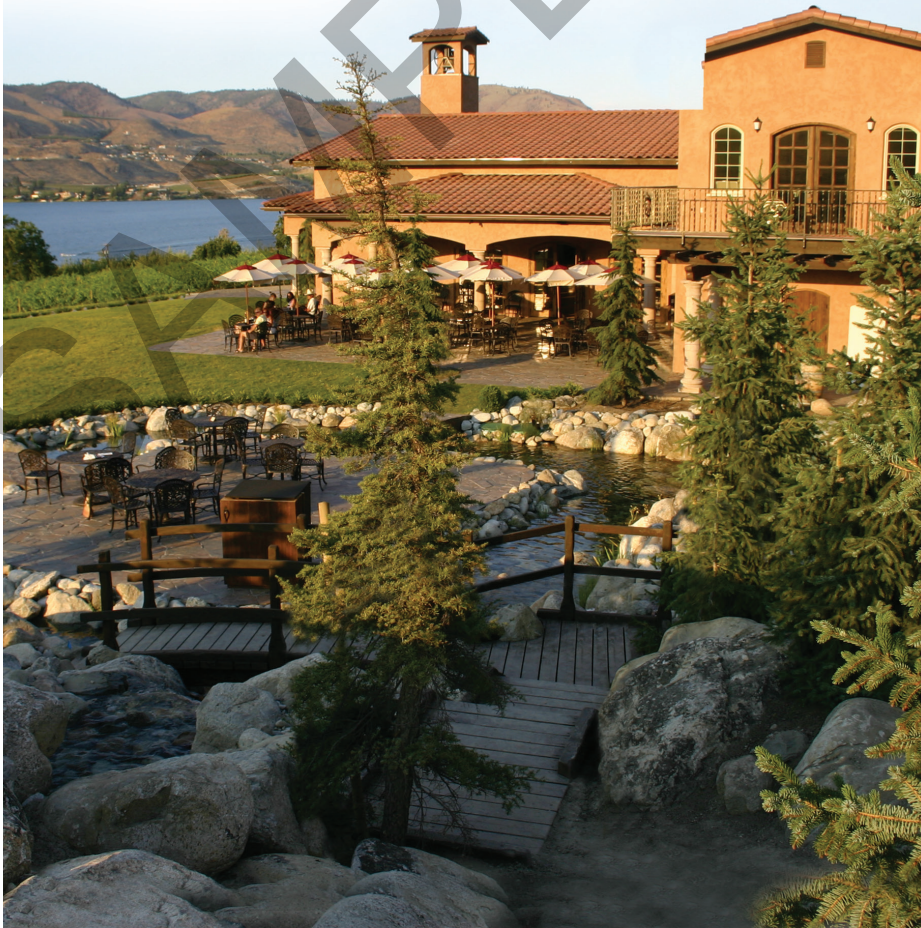
VECTORWORKS LANDMARK
TUTORIAL MANUAL

Jonathan Pickup | fifth edition

written with version 2015

Archoncad

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Project 1: Landscape Area Analysis

We can use one of the Landmark tools (Landscape Area) to analyze the landscape areas and to provide a budget price. This has a couple of advantages: it is quick, and you can make sure you are within the budget.

At the very early stage of a project, the client may not want to pay you for a lot of work they cannot afford. Creating a quick concept with a budget figure will let you know in a few minutes if the client can afford your design.

movie
movie001.mov

- Open the file **Project_1.sta** from the exercise folder. This file is a Vectorworks template file. It has some drawn information already on it, so all we have to do is add the areas we want to the plan.

- Go to the **Site Planning** tool set.
- Choose the **Landscape Area** tool.

- Go to the **Tool** bar.
- Click on the **Preferences…** button.

Click on the Preferences button.
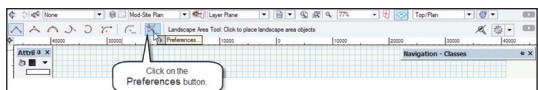
This opens the dialog box where you can add plants, choose the look of the area, and so on. Later on, we will look at this dialog box in detail.

- Type in a **Name** for the landscape area.
- Click on the **Tag Display** pop-up menu.
- Choose **On**. This will show the name of each landscape area as we add it.
- Click on the **OK** button.

- Zoom in to make it easier to see the plan. You can use the scroll wheel on the mouse, or you can use the Zoom tool on the **Basic** tool palette.
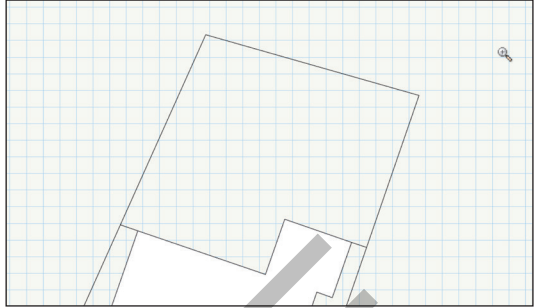
- Move to the top-left corner of the site.
- Click once to start the landscape area.
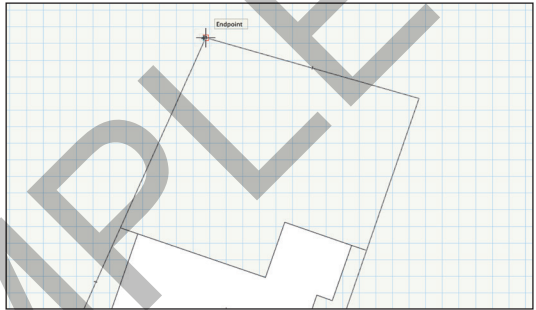
- Move the cursor down the left-hand boundary, near the house.
- Click once.
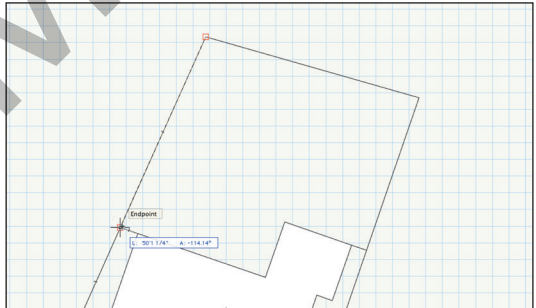
- Move the cursor across the face of the house, just a small amount.
- Click once.
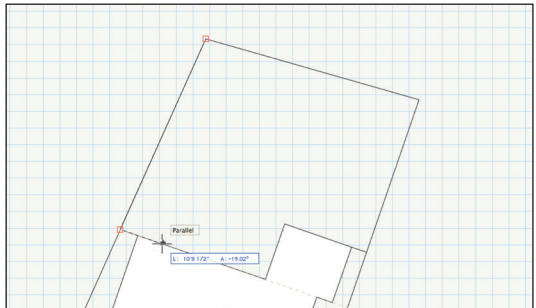
- Move the cursor up to the boundary.
- Click once.
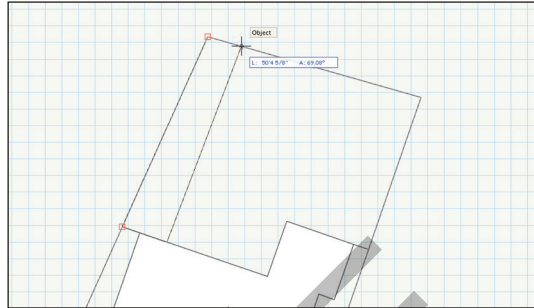
- Move the cursor back to the start point.
- Click once.

The landscape area has been created. Because of the choices we made on the Landscape Area Preferences, we have the name of the landscape area, and we also have the actual plan area shown.

The **Object Info palette** now
displays the information about the
Landscape Area.

- Go to the **Object Info palette**.
- Change the **Name** of the area
  to **Trees**. This could be an area
  of tree planting.
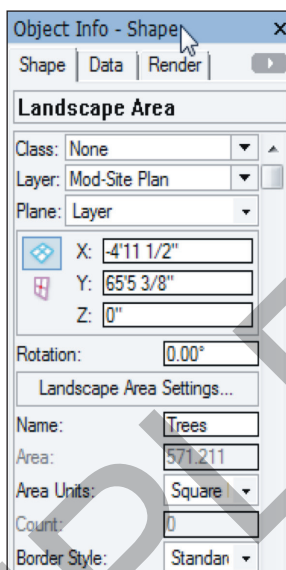
- Scroll down the Object Info
  palette to the **Unit Price** field.
- Enter a budget price for the
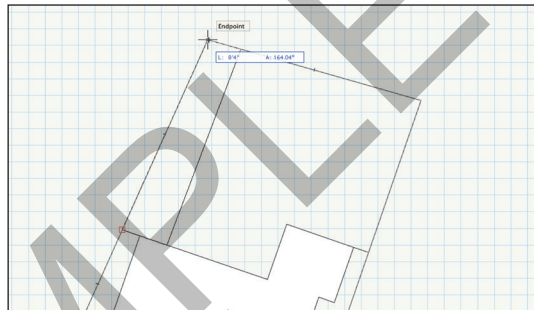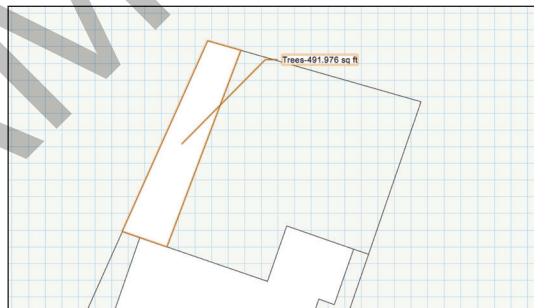 planting, based on your area
  settings. If you are using metric,
  enter your price per square
  meter. If you are using imperial,
  enter your price per square foot.

This is a very rough way of working,
but it will give us a very quick price.

The location of the area tag
(the name and area) will get in the
way of the other landscape areas
we want to create, but we can
relocate the tag.
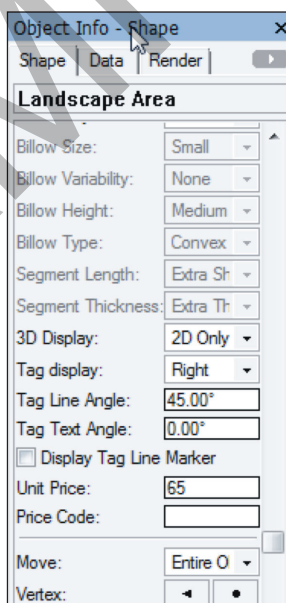
- Go to the **Basic** tool palette.
- Choose the **Selection** tool.
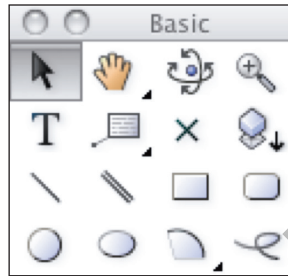
- Go to the **Tool** bar.
- Ensure that the **second** mode is active. This will allow us to relocate the Landscape area tag.
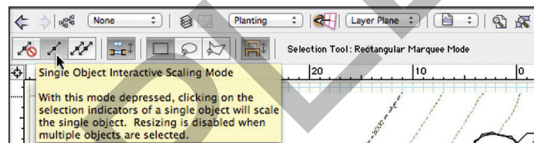
- Move the cursor to the blue handle at the top left of the tag.
- The cursor should change to a double-headed arrow (the interactive rescale cursor).
- Click once.
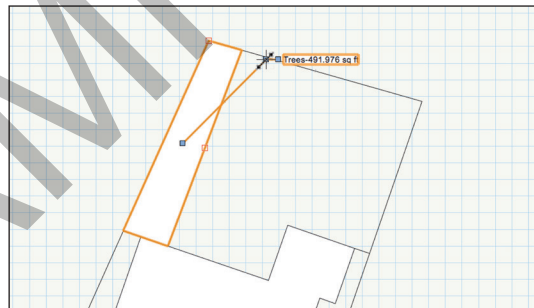
- Move the cursor to a new location.
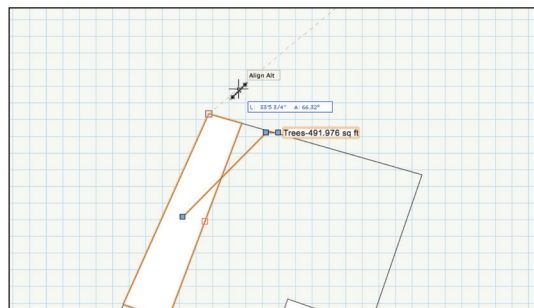
- Click once.

The tag will be relocated. If this location is not satisfactory, relocate the tag.
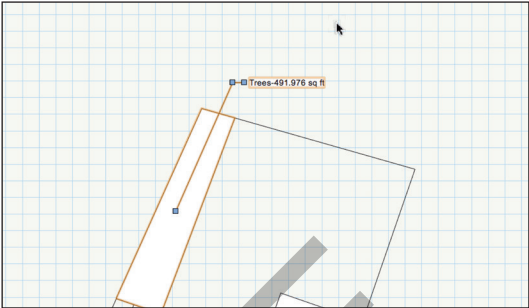
- Move the cursor to the blue handle at the end of the tag.
- The cursor should change to a double-headed arrow.
- Click once.
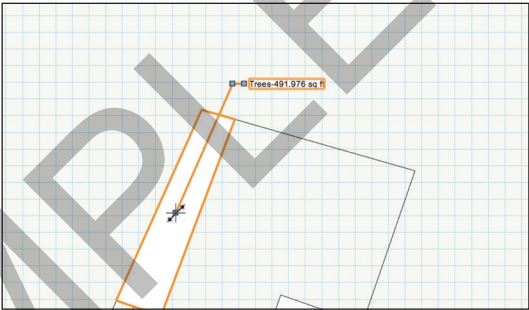
- Move the cursor to a new location.
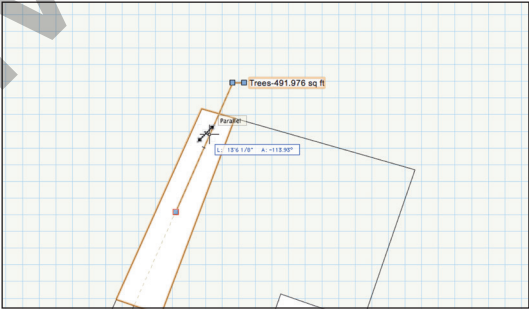
- Click once.

The tag will be relocated.
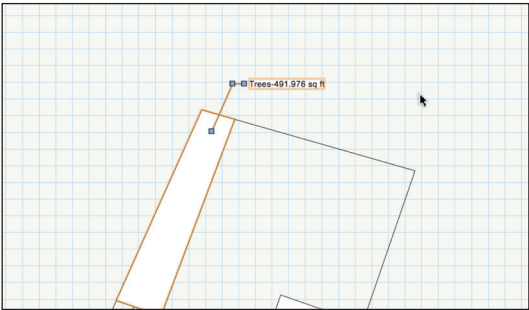
- Go to the **Site Planning** tool set.
- Choose the **Landscape Area** tool.

- Move the cursor to the top-right corner of the first landscape area.
- Click once to start the next landscape area.
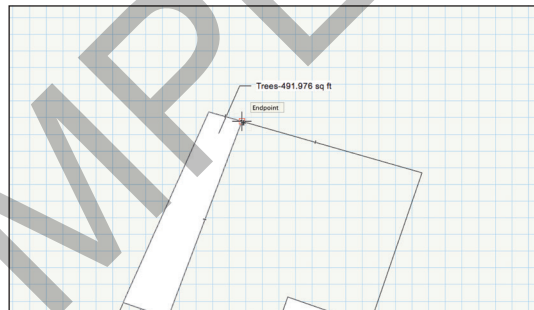
- Move the cursor across the boundary to the top-right corner.
- Click once.
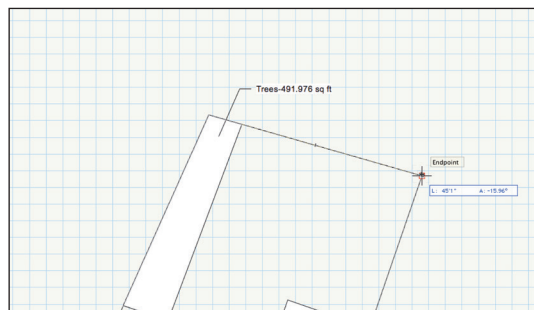
- Move the cursor down the boundary, near the house.
- Click once.
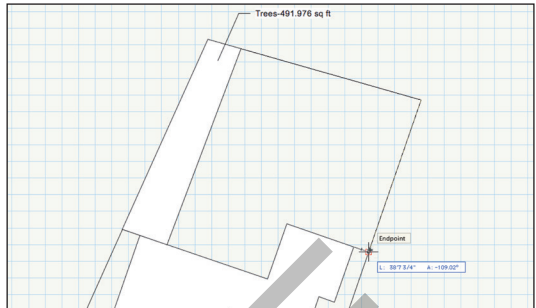
- Keep drawing your area until you get back to the start point.
- Click once.
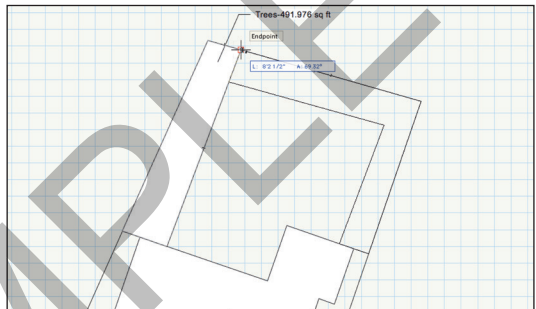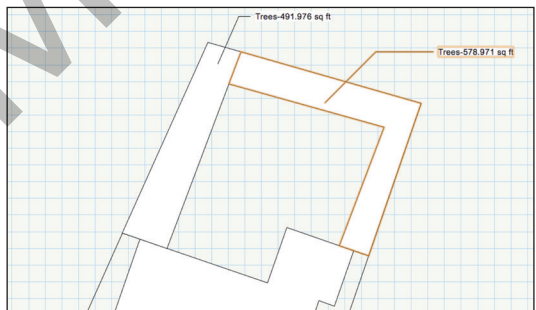
The landscape area has been created.

The Object Info palette now displays the information about the Landscape area.

- Go to the **Object Info** palette. Change the **Name** of the area to **Border Planting**. This could be an area of border shrubs or ground cover.
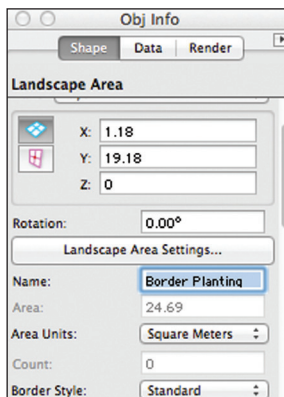
- Scroll down the Object Info palette.

- Enter a budget price for the planting, based on your area settings. If you are using metric, enter your price per square meter. If you are using imperial, enter your price per square foot.
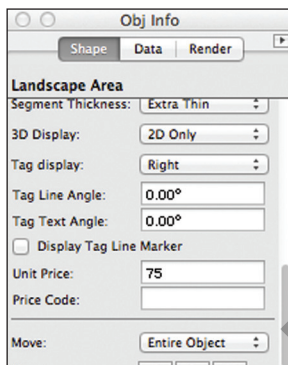
- Use the same technique to draw an area for the lawn.

- Enter the name for the lawn on the Object Info palette, and enter the budget price.

Don't forget that you can use the Attributes palette to change the look of the areas in order to make it easier for the client to understand.

movie004.mov
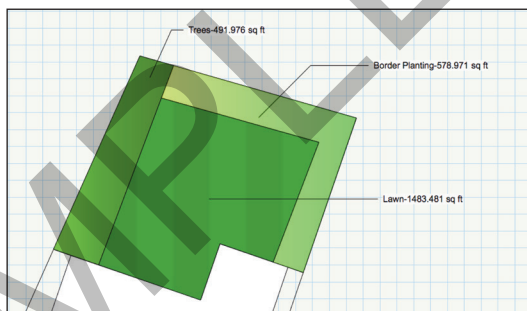
- Go to the **Menu** bar.

- Choose **Tools > Reports > Create Report...**
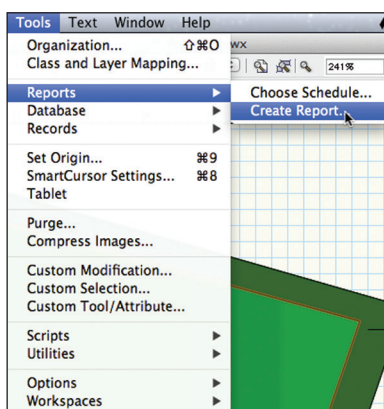
This dialog box opens. We use this to set up the options for the report.
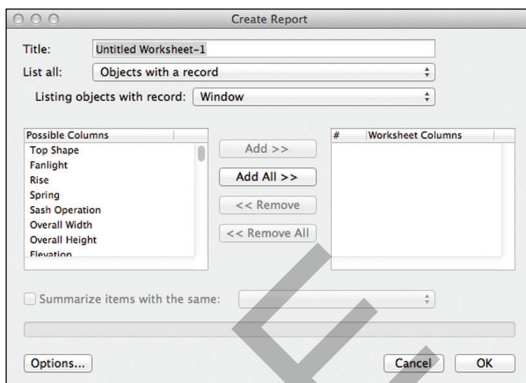
- Type in the name of the report at the top of the dialog box, where it says **Title**.
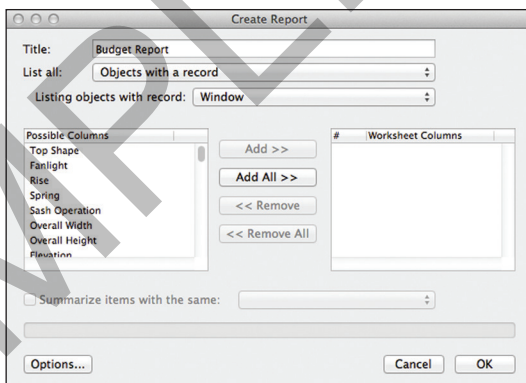
- Click on the pop-up menu, **Listing objects with record**.
- Choose **Landscape Area**.
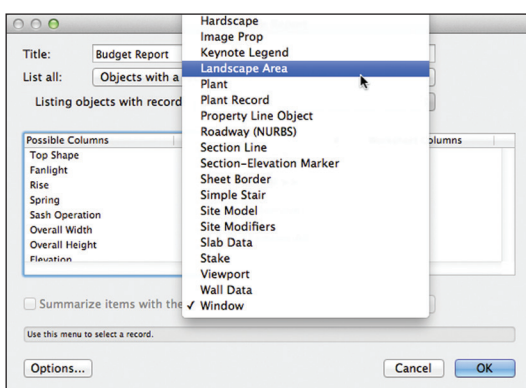
- Scroll down the left side to find the field called **Name**.

- Click on **Name**.

- Click on the **Add >>** button. This will add the Name field to our report. The order in which you add the fields is important, as it defines the order of the budget report.
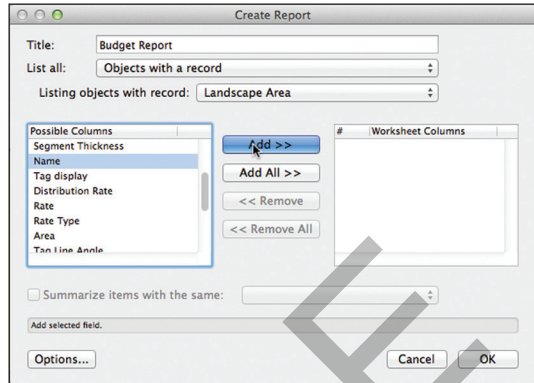
- Scroll down the left side to find the field called **Area**.

- Click on **Area**.

- Click on the **Add >>** button. This will add the Area field to our report.
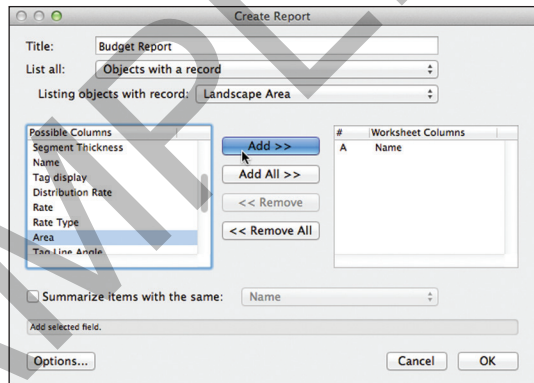
- Scroll down the left side to find the field called **Unit Price**.

- Click on **Unit Price**.

- Click on the **Add >>** button.
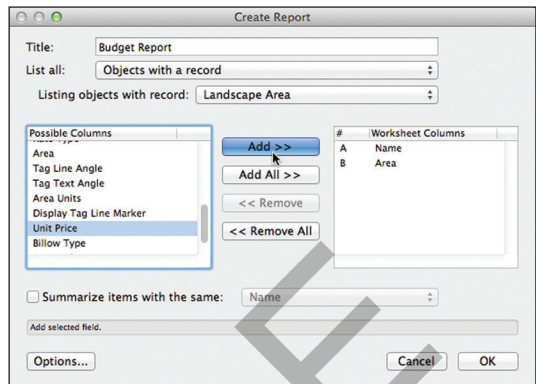
- Click on the **OK** button.

Vectorworks will search the file, looking for all your landscape areas. For each area you will see the name, area, and unit price. The report will be a worksheet (the Vectorworks version of a spreadsheet).

Your report opens in a new window.

- Click on cell **D2**.
- Type in an equals sign (**=**).
- Click on cell **B2**.

- Type in a times sign (*****).
- Click on cell **C2**.

- Click on the green tick to complete this formula.

Vectorworks calculates the cost of each area based on the areas you drew and the unit price of each area.
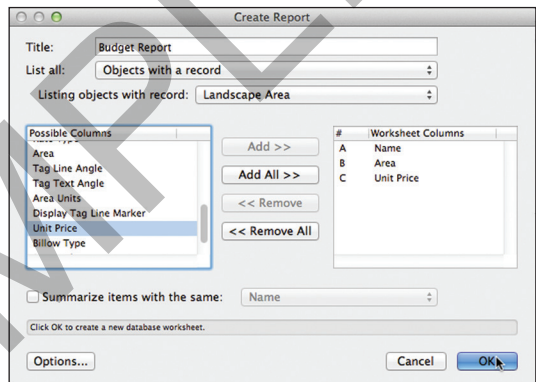
The total price is shown in cell D2. If this is more than your client wants to spend, you will have to adjust your design by changing the areas or the prices.

There is a lot more we could do with this worksheet, but as this is the first exercise, I wanted to keep it simple.

For example, the worksheet could be added to the drawing, and the unit prices could be amended directly on the worksheet to get the project within budget.

Jonathan Pickup | fifth edition

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written with version 2015

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jonathan Pickup is an architect trained in New Zealand and in the
United Kingdom with more than 25 years of experience. He received his Bachelor of Architecture
(BArch) degree from the University of Auckland in New Zealand. He later spent more than eight years
in England where he learned to use several CAD packages, including MiniCad, and began teaching this
forerunner of Vectorworks. Upon returning to New Zealand in 1997, he established archoncad,
a Vectorworks training and consulting company. He has written several Vectorworks training manuals
for architects, landscape architects, educators, and design students. Jonathan also organizes the
New Zealand Vectorworks User Group and provides its main direction.

VECTORWORKS LANDMARK

Based on his successful Vectorworks Landmark course taught in New Zealand and online, Jonathan
Pickup's training guide provides Landmark basics and gently leads the new user through the completion
of complex landscape plans. This tutorial offers advanced users guidance regarding the new features in
Vectorworks 2015 as well as instruction on fundamental Landmark concepts. The topics discussed apply
to both residential and commercial projects.

The manual uses a series of exercises to reenforce the learning of Vectorworks Landmark program
features and workflow capabilities, starting with a very simple exercise on landscape budgeting. Content
and exercises build in complexity, and by the end of the manual the user will be able to

- use the plant database.
- create custom plants.
- edit the plant graphics.
- import drawings from consultants.
- create planting plans.
- send the drawings back to a consultant.