



BUILDING DEPARTMENT INFORMATIONAL HANDOUT #15

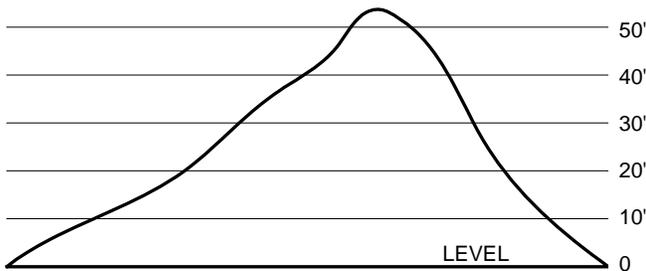
CONTOUR MAPS

Understanding the use of contour (topographic) maps can add substantially to the information available for analyzing a site or area for land use suitability or practical density development.

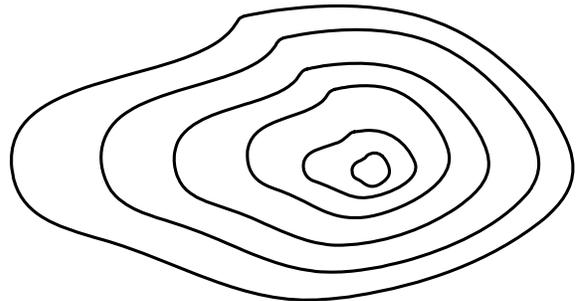
A contour is a line representing a string of points having equal elevation above a specified point - usually sea level.

Two items of information can be determined visually - elevations of particular spots, and relative steepness of adjacent areas (closer lines mean steeper land). By using simple arithmetic, exact steepness can be found and areas within a given range (0% - 10%, 10% - 20%, 30%, etc.) can then be outlined. These areas can be measured and expressed in acres or percent of the total area consideration,

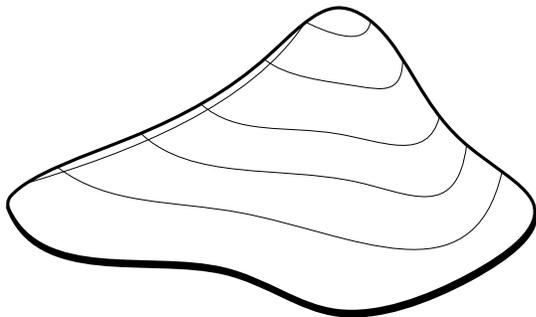
CONTOUR LINES



HORIZONTAL VIEW



VERTICAL VIEW



OBLIQUE VIEW

