Land Due Diligence Checklist

Title & Legal Review

Action Item & Details	Check
Conduct a comprehensive title search with a title company.	
Secure title insurance and review any exceptions.	
Examine public records for liens, easements, covenants, conditions, and restrictions.	

Ownership & Tax Status

Action Item & Details	Check	
Confirm current property taxes are paid and identify any outstanding tax liens.		

Access & Boundaries

Action Item & Details	Check
Verify deeded right-of-way or easement for legal road access.	
Inspect physical access routes and note any seasonal restrictions.	

Obtain a boundary or topographic survey and cross-check against mapping data.	
Review the site plan for encroachments by neighboring or on-site structures.	

Zoning & Land-Use Compliance

Action Item & Details	Check
Check permitted uses, overlay districts, and any zoning variances.	
Consult with the zoning department about special-use permits or rezoning options.	
Verify front, side, and rear setback requirements against the site plan.	
Identify any homeowners' association covenants or restrictions.	
Determine flood-plain or flood-way status via official maps.	
Note applicable school district boundaries if relevant.	

Environmental & Site Conditions

Action Item & Details	Check
Locate existing septic system and review maintenance records.	

Schedule and review percolation (perc) test results.	
Obtain geotechnical or soil-type reports for development suitability.	
Engage environmental consultants to assess habitat restrictions or contamination risks.	

Survey & Physical Assessment

Action Item & Details	Check
Confirm all site features, topography, and easements against the site plan.	
Cross-check boundaries and land features with GIS or other mapping tools.	
Inspect the condition of any on-site buildings or improvements.	

Utilities & Infrastructure

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Action Item & Details	Check
Confirm availability or feasibility of extending municipal water and sewer services.	
Verify proximity of power, gas, and communications lines.	
Review drainage patterns and stormwater permitting requirements.	

Financial & Cost Analysis

Action Item & Details	Check
Estimate hard and soft costs for site improvements.	
Review seller's financial statements if purchasing from a business entity.	
Include remediation, permitting, and infrastructure build-out in your budget.	

Development Potential & Planning

Action Item & Details	Check
Assess long-term land-use plans and master-plan maps.	
Identify raw-land infrastructure needs for development.	
Investigate commercial or mixed-use potential.	

Professional Advisors

Action Item & Details	Check
Engage a real estate agent experienced in vacant land or rural property.	
Retain a real estate attorney for contract review and closing documents.	

Hire a civil engineer for grading, drainage, and structural assessments.	
Obtain preliminary cost estimates from a general contractor.	
Use environmental consultants for site assessments and permitting.	

Buyer-Risk & Process Guidance

Action Item & Details	Check
Follow a step-by-step due diligence process to cover all checklist items.	
Acknowledge buyer-beware principles and conduct thorough inspections.	

Target Audience Considerations

Action Item & Details	Check
Confirm specific requirements when buying vacant land.	
Check additional considerations for rural or recreational parcels.	
Assess ROI metrics and investment criteria for land investors.	

Community & Market Context

Action Item & Details	Check
Review adjacent land uses and compatibility.	
Research nearby amenities, schools, and infrastructure for context.	
Gather comparables and trend data to inform market analysis.	

Disclaimer - This content is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal or financial advice. As always, be sure to consult with a professional before making any major investment decisions.