

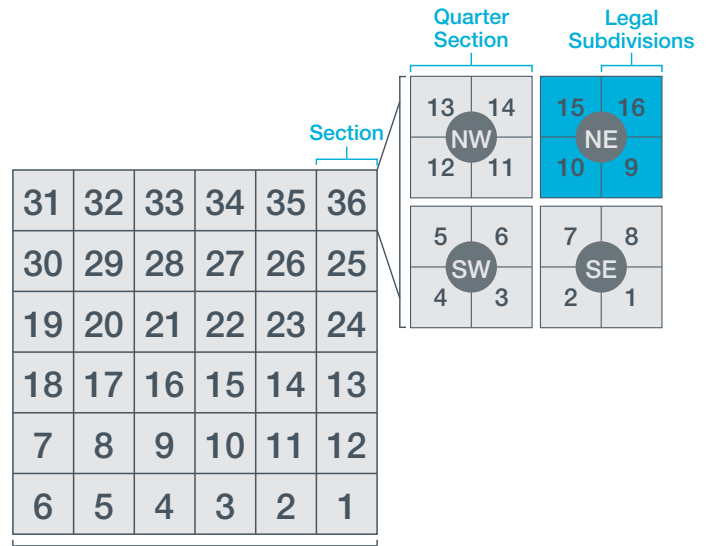
# Alberta Township Survey System

Any parcel of land in Alberta can be located by its legal land description. A legal land description can help recreational users communicate with leaseholders and landowners regarding land access.

Legal land descriptions are based on the Alberta Township Survey system. This system is a grid network that divides the province into equal-sized parcels of land. Legal land descriptions are marked on county maps, which are available from local municipalities.

The legal land description of the blue square highlighted in the diagram is:

**NE-36-87-18-W4**  
**(QS-Sec.-Twp.-Rge.-Mer.)**



## Legal land descriptions include:

- **Meridian (Mer.):** parcels of land are designated as being west of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, or 6<sup>th</sup> Meridians (110°, 114°, 118° west longitude, respectively).
- **Range (Rge.):** Land between meridians is divided into six-mile-wide columns called ranges. Ranges are numbered consecutively, running west to east between meridians. The range immediately west of each meridian is Range 1.
- **Township (Twp.):** Townships are six-mile-wide rows and are numbered consecutively from Township 1 at the Montana border to Township 126 at the Northwest Territories border. The term township also describes the six-by-six mile square formed by the intersection of ranges and townships.
- **Section (Sec.) and quarter section (QS):** Each township is divided into 36 sections, each section measuring one-by-one mile. Sections are often further divided into quarter sections, referring to their NE (northeast), NW (northwest), SE (southeast), SW (southwest) quadrants.
- **Legal subdivisions (LSD):** In some situations, such as when a river or road runs through a section or quarter section, a section may be divided into 16 legal subdivisions. A legal land description does not always include a legal subdivision.

