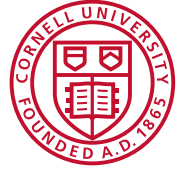


Cornell Cooperative Extension

Cornell Garden-Based Learning



Site Assessment and Ecosystem Services Activity

Time: 40 minutes

Learning Objectives:

- Practice applying criteria for basic site assessment.
- Identify ecosystem services in the landscape.

Supplies:

- Clipboards, graph paper, pencils, participant handouts

Directions:

- Divide into pairs or groups of three.
- Select a section of a nearby landscape or garden to work in. Aim for a smaller space that has some diversity of features.
- Create a basic sketch or take notes of the area. Use the site assessment checklist as a guide to fill in what you know about the site.
- Discuss the ecosystem services you observe in the area of focus.

Notes:

Site Assessment Checklist

Make notes regarding each bullet point on your sketch/map

Describe the landscape of focus:

- ☐ Size of space
- ☐ Compass directions
- ☐ USDA Hardiness Zone:
 - Last Spring Frost:
 - Last Fall Frost:
- ☐ Obstructions and other human structures
 - Below ground (e.g. utilities or irrigation system)
 - Above ground (e.g. overhead wires)
- ☐ Sunlight levels and patterns throughout the day
 - Full sun
 - Partial sun
 - Shade
- ☐ Wind amount and direction
 - Windy site
 - Windy in isolated sections
 - Calm site
- ☐ Soil Compaction
 - Compacted
 - Partially compacted
 - No compaction
- ☐ Soil drainage characteristics and patterns
 - Wet
 - Well-drained
 - Dry
- ☐ Soil texture
 - Clayey
 - Loamy
 - Sandy
 - Silty
- ☐ Soil pH: _____
- ☐ Slopes
 - Steep
 - Moderate
 - Gradual or flat
- ☐ Wildlife interference
 - Serious and obvious concerns
 - Marginal concerns
 - Not a problem