**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