Site Assessment Activity

60 minutes

Learning Objective(s): Participants will...

- Apply basic site assessment criteria to a familiar landscape.

Supplies:
Handouts:

- Monocots and Dicots graphic

Materials:

- Paper, pencil and clipboard.
- Optional: Camera

Instructions:
First, locate a plot of land to work with. You might use your backyard, a schoolyard, or if you live in a city, a nearby park will work well for this. Ideally, it is a place familiar to you. Walk through the site assessment checklist to learn more about the site. Make notes, draw a basic sketch or take photos to represent each bullet.
Site Assessment Checklist

Name of Property:

☐ USDA Hardiness Zone: 
  - Last Spring Frost:
  - Last Fall Frost:

☐ Aspect, Include North Arrow
  - North
  - South
  - East
  - West

☐ Sunlight
  - Full sun (6 hours or more)
  - Partial sun
  - Shade

☐ Slopes
  - Steep
  - Moderate
  - Gradual or flat

☐ Microclimate factors:
  - Reflected heat
  - Frost pocket

☐ Soil texture
  - Clayey
  - Loamy
  - Sandy
  - Silty

☐ Wind:
  - Windy site
  - Windy in isolated sections
  - Calm site

☐ Soil compaction
  - Compacted
  - Partially compacted
  - No compaction

☐ Obstructions
  - Below ground (e.g. utilities or irrigation system)
  - Above ground (e.g. overhead wires)

☐ Soil drainage characteristics
  - Wet
  - Well-drained
  - Dry

☐ Wildlife interference
  - Serious and obvious concerns
  - Marginal concerns
  - Not a problem

☐ Unusual conditions:
  - Soil pH:
  - Existing Plants:

Notes: