SULIS: Sustainable Urban Landscape Information Series
Site Evaluation Form

**BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES** (walls, walks, fences, decks, patios, etc.)

Can structures be relocated to improve the site? __________________________________________

Do structures have poor access? ______________________________________________________

Can plantings be used to protect or shade structures? ______________________________________

Are structures proportional to the lot size? ________________________________________________

What type of construction material will best blend with existing structures? ______________________

Can retaining walls be used to reduce slopes? ______________________________________________

Are there structural areas or utilities that require screening? _________________________________

Are paved areas needed to make areas more functional? _____________________________________

Can steps or ramps be used to give better access to any areas? ______________________________

Is additional storage space needed? ______________________________________________________

Other? _____________________________________________________________________________

**TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** (slopes, waterbodies, woods, etc.)

Are there water features on the lot? ______________________________________________________

Are there steep slopes that need to be reduced? ____________________________________________

Are there rocky areas that will affect plantings? ____________________________________________

Are there rock features that you would like to incorporate into the design? ______________________

Are there areas that need to be raised or filled? ____________________________________________

Are there erosion prone areas? __________________________________________________________

Are adjacent lots at the same level? ______________________________________________________

Other? _____________________________________________________________________________

**DRAINAGE**

Is there adequate drainage away from structures? __________________________________________

Does drainage flow onto neighboring properties? ____________________________________________

Do neighboring properties drain onto the lot? ______________________________________________
Are there low spots that can be filled to improve drainage? ______________________________
Are there erosion areas that can be eliminated with better drainage? ___________________________
Is there standing water? __________________________________________________________________

SOIL PROPERTIES
Is additional topsoil needed? __________________________________________________________________
Does the pH of the soil need to be altered? ________________________________________________
Does the soil drain fast or slow? __________________________________________________________________
Can drainage be improved with soil amendments? __________________________________________________________________
Is there adequate organic matter in the soil? _________________________________________________
Has a soil test been done on the site? __________________________________________________________________
Will fertilizer need to be added to help plantings? __________________________________________________________________

EXISTING & NEW VEGETATION
Is there existing vegetation on the lot and, if so, is it performing well? __________________________
Will trees or plantings need to be removed? __________________________________________________________________
Is there existing turf that can be improved? _________________________________________________
Does the existing turf need to be larger or smaller? __________________________________________________________________
Can the existing vegetation be incorporated into a new design? _______________________________
Can native plants and natural areas be incorporated into the design? __________________________
Are there areas where plants other than grass might be used as a ground cover? ______________

CLIMATE & MICROCLIMATES
Are plantings needed to shade structures? __________________________________________________________________
Are windbreaks needed to reduce wind? __________________________________________________________________
Are there heat sinks on the lot that will affect plant selection? __________________________________________________________________
Does the region get enough rain to provide adequate irrigation? ______________________________
What is the general climate in the area? __________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
Does the region get enough snow for winter protection? __________________________________________________________________
Is snow removal a problem on the property? __________________________________________________________________
Are there areas where snow piles or drifts? __________________________________________________________________
WALKS, PATHS, & DRIVES

Do walks and paths provide proper access to buildings and areas on the property? ________________
Can walks or paths be relocated to provide better access? ________________________________
Are walks, paths, and drives the proper width? ________________________________
Can any walks, paths or drives be widened to make them more functional? ________________
Can walks, paths, or drives be given more interest? ________________________________
Do walks, paths or drives have water or ice problems? ________________________________
Can additional areas be created to provide off street parking? ________________________________
Is lighting needed along any of the areas? ________________________________
Do walks and paths provide adequate access to all areas? ________________________________
Do traffic paths form across any of the turf areas? ________________________________

EXTENSIONAL LANDSCAPES

Are there views that need to be changed? ________________________________
Is a screen planting needed to block a poor view? ________________________________
Is a screen planting needed to reduce noise? ________________________________
Are there views that can be framed or added? ________________________________
Are public and service areas adequately screened? ________________________________