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? ________________________________