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local, urban, food. 412-992-8640

## DIY Permaculture Designer's Guide

### Site Evaluation Checklist

Here is a short list of elements to consider when evaluating a site. Observation and feedback are crucial to any permaculture design.

#### Background

- x History of Land
- x Local Ordinances
  - o pesticide use
  - o zoning
  - o construction
  - o yard waste disposal
- x Surrounding Neighborhood
  - o noise
  - o children / schools
  - o pets
  - o industry
- x Traffic
- x Utility Lines
  - o phone
  - o power
  - o sewer
  - o gas
- x Access to the site
- x Local Resources

#### Physical Attributes

- x Structures
- x Tall Trees
- x Topography
- x Water Flow
  - o rooftop catchments
  - o drain patterns
  - o creeks
  - o gullies

#### Local Biological Health

- x Native Species and their health
  - o fungal/bacterial infections
  - o wildlife attractors
  - o types of wildlife and insects
- x Intended Use
  - o weescapes
  - o beneficial attractors
  - o optimum fungal to bacterial ratios
- x Chemical Soil Analysis
- x Biological Soil Analysis
  - o biodiversity
  - o fungal to bacterial ratios

#### Local Climate

- x Sun exposure
- x Sun Angles
- x Rainfall
- x Average Temperatures
  - o city vs. rural
  - o temperature extremes
- x Wind Intensity and Direction
- x Microclimates
  - o cool/hot
  - o wet/dry
  - o sheltered/exposed
- x Thermal Masses
  - o placement
  - o color

### Resources:

Hemenway, Toby. *Gaia's Garden: A Guide to Home-Scale Permaculture*. 2nd ed. White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green, 2009. Print.

Mollison, Bill. *Permaculture: A Designer's Manual*. 2nd ed. Tasmania, Australia: Tagari Publications, 1988. Print.