

Site Assessment Field Exercise

- 1) Describe the size, shape, slope and aspect of the site.
- 2) Sketch the boundaries of the site on a map. In addition:
 - a) Sketch the boundaries of any wetlands and obvious vegetation types.
 - b) Further augment the sketch to show topography and drainage. Assume that the current lake elevation is 21.5'; estimate the highest point. Note any steep slopes or depressions.
 - c) Delineate areas that are sunny, shaded, likely to stay wet, likely to dry out.
 - d) Indicate any big trees and/or snags. (Where) are there dens?
- 3) Characterize the neighborhood, including the location and distance to adjacent areas of natural vegetation.
- 4) Describe the hydrology of the site. Does the site contribute substantially to its own hydrology?
- 5) What kinds of soils exist at the site?
- 6) Describe any existing and/or potential erosion problems.
- 7) Inventory: a) native vegetation, b) invasives, c) vegetation in the neighborhood, d) wildlife.
- 8) Are there observed or potential herbivore populations?
- 9) What ecosystem is present?
- 10) What environmental functions are performed by the site (water quality, hydrology, climate, habitat, aesthetics, community focus)?
- 11) How did the site get into its current condition (what is its history)?
- 12) What level of effort will likely be required to a) restore the site, b) keep its development on the desired successional trajectory?
- 13) What are likely Functional Requirements in a restoration design project for the site?
 - a) What ecosystem types should be represented in the completed restoration project?
 - b) Have historical or current environmental functions been impaired?
- 14) Who are likely stakeholders associated with the site?
- 15) What constraints to restoration are likely to be present? (e.g. Consider the installers as stakeholders: What is site access like? Will the soil support vehicles? Where can material be stored?)

Outside assignments:

Come up with a map, image, GIS database, etc. for the site at a usable scale.

Make a short list of desirable plants appropriate for this site (5 trees, 5 shrubs, 5 herbaceous).

Confirm identification of main woody species and main invasives.

Do some research on the site history.