

Ecosystem Services Evaluation Rubric

CATEGORY	SUBCATEGORY	SCORECARD						Subcategory Score (tally to the bottom)
		1: Assign points for each subcategory based on scorecard ranking, highlight your selection. 2: Add together to assign total category score 3: Add together total category scores for total overall score						
		MATURE PLANT (4 points)	YOUNG PLANT (3 points)	SEEDLING (2 points)	SPROUT (1 point)	SEED (0 points)	Tell me more! *	
Plants	<i>I have many different kinds of plants in my yard.</i>	The yard has a wide variety of plant species, flowering throughout the growing season.	I have a good selection of plant species in my yard	I have a couple of different plant species in my yard.	Very few different plants are in the yard. ie a grass lawn	I have mostly gravel and rocks in my yard.	Why would I want different species?	
	<i>There are native plants in my yard.</i>	My yard is mostly native species	I have a good selection of native plant species in my yard	A few native plant species in the yard	No native plant species in the yard	I have mostly gravel and rocks in my yard.	What are native plants?	
	<i>My plants are different heights</i>	My yard has plants of all different heights	My yard has plants of a few different heights	My yard has a couple of plants that are different heights than others	My yard is mostly the same height	I have mostly gravel and rocks in my yard.	Why would I want different heights?	
	<i>The plants in my yard are drought tolerant</i>	All of the plants in my yard are drought tolerant and need very little water	Most of the plants in my yard are drought tolerant	A few of the plants in my yard are drought tolerant	None of the plants in my yard are drought tolerant.	I have mostly gravel and rocks in my yard.	What does drought tolerant mean?	
	<i>Most of my yard is not turfgrass</i>	My yard is covered with gardens or alternative lawn plants like clover, thyme or another low-water option	My yard of a mix of gardens and grass lawn	I have replaced some areas of grass with garden.	Most of my yard is turfgrass	I have mostly gravel and rocks in my yard.	Where can I start to reduce turfgrass in my yard?	
	<i>The lawn area has a mix of species</i>	The areas of grass have clover or other species mixed in	Some of the lawn areas have other species mixed in	There are a few other plants within my grass lawn, but they are not widespread.	My lawn is all one type of grass	I have mostly gravel and rocks in my yard.	What's the problem with having one species of turfgrass anyway?	
	Total Category Score (tally across)							0
Shade/ Cooling	<i>Part of my yard provides shade for people, pets and wildlife.</i>	There are many shady areas in my yard all day long.	There are a few shady spots most of the day in my yard	There is shade part of the day in my yard	There is very little shade from in my yard	There is no shade in my yard.	Why do I need shade in the yard?	
	<i>Some of my yard shades by house, to help cool it in the summer.</i>	My house is cooled by shade from a tree or vine during the hottest part of the day	My house is partly shaded during the day by plants or trees.	My house is partly shaded in the morning by plants	There is very little plant shade on my house	There is no shade in my yard.	How could I improve the shade on my house?	
	Total Category Score							0

Compost	<i>I use a composter for yard waste.</i>	I compost all of my yard waste at home or at a city location, and I use compost in my garden.	I compost yard waste at home or in the city locations and use a little bit in my garden	I compost my yard waste at home or in the city locations, but I don't use it in my garden	I compost some of my yard waste, but I don't use it in my yard	I don't compost my yard waste.	Why compost?	
	<i>I compost kitchen scraps.</i>	I compost all of my kitchen waste and it makes great soil for the yard!	I compost most of my kitchen waste and use it in my yards	I compost my kitchen waste on occasion and I used some of it on the yards	I compost a tiny bit of my kitchen scraps, but I don't use the compost in the yards	I don't compost my kitchen scraps.	How can I compost my kitchen waste?	
	Total Category Score							0
Birds	<i>I see or hear birds in the yard</i>	I see and hear birds in my yard everyday!	I see and hear birds in the yard on some days.	I occasionally see and hear birds in the yard	I almost never see or hear birds in the yard		How do I attract birds?	
	<i>I see caterpillars in my yard (food for young birds)</i>	I have seen lots of caterpillars and other insects in my yard!	I see caterpillars on a few plants fairly often	I have seen caterpillars on occasion in the yard	I almost never see caterpillars in the yard		Why do I want caterpillars?	
	<i>I have a bird house in my yard or an old tree with a hole for nesting in it</i>	I have bird houses in my yard and they are regularly used!	I have a bird house or nesting tree and I have seen it used once	I have bird houses but they are not used, they might be the wrong size.	I don't have any bird house		How do I know what birdhouse to have?	
	<i>I have a bee-friendly birdbath in my yard</i>	I keep my birdbath clean and full regularly, with a shallow spot for bees and other insects to drink from	I have a birdbath in the yard that I keep full most of the time.	I have a birdbath in the yard, but I often see drowned bees in it. I haven't clean it in a while.	I have a birdbath, but I often forget to fill it or clean it.		Tell me more!	
	Total Category Score							0
Reptiles/ amphibians	<i>I have seen snakes, frogs or toads in the yard (Or I would welcome them)</i>	I have seen snakes/frogs/toads in the yard and I love it!	I have seen a snake/frog/toad once in the yard	I have never seen snakes, frogs or toads in my yard but I would welcome them	I have never seen snakes/frogs/toads in my yard and I might be ok with them.	I am not ok with snakes/frogs/toads in my yard.	Why should I welcome snakes, frogs and toads?	
	<i>I have a small pile of rocks or wood in yard for snakes, frogs and toads to hide in.</i>	I have left some rocks and wood in a shady spot to be used as a home for any snake/frog/toad visitors	I have a pile of wood in the yard, but I isn't in a shady spot	I have a few pieces of wood/rocks in the yard	There are some piles of old wood/rocks, but I will be moving them soon to clean up.	There is no shelter available for snakes/frogs/toads.	How do I make snakes, frog/toad habitat?	
	Total Category Score							0

Soil health	<i>I use bark mulch in my yard.</i> <i>"Leave some bare soil for the bees!"</i> 	I use mulch throughout my yard to help shade the soil and keep in moisture. Where there is shade from plants, I leave a little bare soil for the insects to use. I like to coexist!	I use mulch in most places throughout the yard where my soil is exposed.	I use mulch in a few spots in the yard.	I don't generally use mulch and much of my soil is bare and exposed to the sun and wind.	I don't use any mulch and all of the soil is bare and exposed to the sun and wind.	Why should I bother with mulch?	
	<i>I try not to till (turn over) the soil.</i>	I try to keep the soil in place to keep the microbes healthy	I generally try not to till the soil	I till the soil occasionally	I regularly till the soil in the spring	I turn over my soil all season to keep weeds away.	Doesn't my soil need to me turned over?	
	Total Category Score							0
Insects	<i>I see bugs in the yard.</i>	Many different kinds of bugs visit my yard	I have seen bugs fairly often in the yard.	I have seen bugs a few times in the yard	I hardly ever see bugs in my yard	I never see bugs in my yard.	I don't know yet	
	<i>I have bug "hotels" or houses in my yard</i>	I have a bug hotel in my yard that is the right size for native insects to use.	I have a bug hotel in the yard, but I don't know if it is the right size for our local bugs	I have a bug hotel in the yard, but I have never seen it be used	I don't know what a bug hotel is, but I am interested!	I don't want bugs near my house.	I don't know yet	
	Total Category Score							0
Invasive plants (noxious weeds)	<i>I keep noxious/invasive plants out of the yard. (i.e knapweed, knotweed, hawkweed)</i>	When I see invasive plants in my yard, I remove them as soon as I can!	I don't plant invasive plants and I try to weed them out if I find them, but I don't always catch them before they spread	I don't plant invasive plants and I would remove them, if I knew what they were	I try not to plant invasive plants, but I don't actively remove them from my yard	I have invasive plants like knotweed in my yard, but I don't do anything about them.	I don't know what plants are invasive yet	
	Total Category Score							0
Chemical use	<i>I try not to use chemicals in the yards.</i>	No chemical herbicides or pesticides are used in my yard	I only use chemicals on the rare occasion that I really need to	I occasionally use chemicals to control bugs/weeds in the yard	Chemical pest control is used in the yard	I use chemical frequently in my yard.	What's wrong with chemicals?	
	Total Category Score							0
Human use	<i>There are paths or places to sit and enjoy my yard.</i>	There are paths, stepping stones and benches to sit in my yard; to smell, feel and enjoy the plants.	People can wander in my yard on stepping stones and smell fragrant plants on the way.	People can wander down paths in my yard.	The yard is for looking at but people rarely use it.	I don't like people going in my yard.	Tell me more	
	<i>My neighbours can enjoy my yard when they walk by.</i>	My yard is visible to the public and contributes to a more beautiful neighbourhood	I have started to yard in the front of my house, where neighbours can see the plants.	I have a few plants visible to my neighbours.	My yard is mostly hidden from view in the backyard or behind a fence.	No one else can see my garden.	I don't know yet	
	Total Category Score							0
TOTAL OVERALL SCORE								0

*the "Tell me more" option will eventually link to advice to help improve ecosystem services, but at this point it is just there as a placeholder.