

# Schoolyard Habitat Site Assessment Questionnaire

Please review the following questionnaire before your initial site visit. The SGN Schoolyard Habitat Program Manager will use these questions to help you assess your space and envision the possibilities for design.

## Getting to know your garden site:

### Space

1. How much space? *Make a rough sketch of the size and length of your site, with an estimation of total square footage.*
2. Notice slopes and flat areas. These may be significant for planning access, sitting areas, terraces, or drainage.

### Networks

3. Are there existing pathways, sitting areas, etc.? What are the access points (doors, gates, etc.)? Are there any inaccessible areas?
4. What is the desired flow through? (this may be different than existing pathways)

### Water

5. What water availability is there at your site?
6. Hose bib location(s) for the Schoolyard Habitat? ( $\frac{3}{4}$ " stub for drip irrigation tie-in) *\*mark with a star on your map.* Can this water be controlled independently from the rest of the school landscaping?
7. Is there an existing rainwater catchment?
8. Is there an existing rain garden, pond, or wetland area?

### Sunlight/Temperature

9. How much light does the site receive? Take note of the sunnier and shadier areas.
10. What have you observed of this site throughout the day, and seasons (how does the light change)?
11. How hot does it get in the Summer?

### Vegetation

12. Take note of the existing plants and trees already on site (this can be general). These plants can tell you what the land has been used for previously, and perhaps what the soil is like.
13. Are there any plants that should be protected, or need to be removed?



## Getting to know your goals:

**1. Please briefly share why you are interested in creating a Schoolyard Habitat project at your school.**

**2. What are your habitat goals? (Check all that apply)**

- Hedgerow around our current garden
- A large planting area with a path for students
- Pollinator meadow
- Water pond/wetland area
- Rain garden that utilizes stormwater runoff
- Host plants for monarch butterflies
- Bird houses/nesting boxes
- Mason bee boxes
- Lizard rock castles
- Shade from trees
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Do you have any specific desires for plants?** Plants will primarily be native to Northern California, drought resilient, and chosen specifically to thrive in your garden conditions.

**4. How would you like students to engage with this habitat space? What activities would you like it to support?**

- Sensory immersion (smell, taste, touch, hear, see)
- Observing insects and/or birds
- Craft & cut flowers
- Edible fruit
- Ethnobotanical garden for learning traditional crafts and human-plant relationships
- Stewardship projects
- Fiber & dye plants
- Meeting Circle/Space to hold classroom lessons
- Play
- Quiet/Reflective/Reading Space

**5. Would you like to include any supportive garden infrastructure (eg. benches, trellis/archway, stump circle, weaved willow wall, picnic tables, mosaic/artwork, shaded or covered pavilion)?**

**6. Would you like to include any educational signage or information? (eg. signage about habitat gardens, native plant signage, laminated cards with information about native pollinators, birds, insects, etc.)? What other things do you think could support this immersive learning space? (eg. children's binoculars can be used to look at birds and also turned backwards to magnify insects)**

**7. What are the available skills, knowledge, capabilities and capacity your school team has to accomplish your goals?**

**8. Do you have a desired timeline for this project?**

**9. Any other information to share?**