Directions

Different species of plants and trees have evolved to grow best under different soil, light, and moisture conditions. The best way to pick native plants that will thrive in your garden is to identify ones that fit your site conditions. It is important that the plants also fulfill your project goals. The tables in this exercise will help you and your classmates select the best plants, trees, or shrubs for your Student Stormwater Action Project.

Use findings from previous investigations to complete the table below. Circle the conditions that fit your site. Include additional notes, such as whether the site gets morning or afternoon sunlight.

SITE CONDITIONS		NOTES
Hardiness Zone (Standard that determines which plants are most likely to thrive at a location, based on winter temperature.)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	
Soil What kind of soil does the site have?	Sand Loam Clay	
What is the pH?		
Light How much light does the site get?	○ Full Sun ◗ Part Shade ● Full Shade	
Moisture Is the site dry, moist, or wet, for most of the time?	Dry Moist Wet	

Summarize:

List the conditions for which your plants or trees must be suited (for example, Zone 7a, clay, pH 7.5, part shade, wet in the spring, dry in the fall).

In the following table, circle the characteristics you want your garden project to have. Your class decided upon some of these preferences earlier, but other characteristics relate specifically to plant selection. If you select many preferences, consider rating the choices in the notes section.

PREFERED PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS		NOTES
Maintenance Can your class support plants that need high maintenance, such as frequent watering or pruning?	Low Medium High	
Bloom Time When would you prefer for plants to flower?	March April - May May – June July August -September	
Wildlife Habitat Circle the wildlife you want to attract, if any.	Butterflies Insects Birds Small Mammals	
Edible Fruits & Nuts	Important Semi-important Not important	
Fall Color This could be colorful leaves or grasses or branches of shrubs.	Important Semi-important Not important	
Winter Color This could include grasses or evergreens.	Important Semi-important Not important	

Summarize:

Discuss which ones characteristics are most important; then list the characteristics in order of importance.