

ROCKLAND P.L.U.S.
PLANNING LAND USE WITH STUDENTS

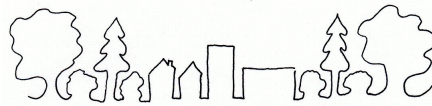
Site Assessment

**Note - the first section of this form (Questions 1-7) is to be completed during a field visit by the students, either independently in or small groups. Questions 8 & 9 are discussion items for small group work in class.*

Consider a section of your community to review for development/redevelopment. Visit the site in person or through using Google Earth. Use this form to help you carefully investigate the site you select. You are looking at the existing feel of the site (character), current use, linkages to the wider community, and development potential.

SITE ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS #1-7:

1. Identify the specific site in your community that you are investigating and draw a sketch map on the back of this sheet to highlight and location key features.
2. What specifically about the site encouraged you to select it?
3. List 5 descriptive words that you think best describe the appearance of your site.
4. What does this site have to offer for re-use in the community? Think back to the 'My Place' activity and consider uses for the different ages (10 yrs, 35 yrs, at 65 yrs)?
5. What challenges do you see in redeveloping this site? (for example financial issues, market competition, clean up costs, traffic issues...)
6. Thinking about the community features activity we did in class, how might this site be used to enhance your community?
7. In planning, building participation and support is an important part of the process. Think about different groups and members in your community that might care about what happens to this space (for example sports teams, senior citizen groups, affordable housing groups). We call these different people/groups 'stakeholders' in the planning process. Brainstorm a list with your class and consider if you could involve any of them or their members in the planning & development of your proposed site? (you can go to <http://www.planet-rockland.org/default.html>) to further explore groups in your community who you might work with).



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Team activity as a class project or assign teams etc.

CONNECTING TO COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS 8 & 9

This table asks you to think about your village/town, and consider its strengths and weaknesses. How can your site enhance what already exists? To complete this form use your own knowledge of your community and what you can find online using resources such as the County website - <https://rocklandgov.com/>

- 8. Considering your wider community (the village or town around the site), rate the following features under ***Strengths*** or ***Needs/Challenges*** using a score of 1 (mainly absent) to 5 (well represented). Support your number choice with a few words of explanation.

Community Feature	Strengths Rank 1 (low) to 5 (high) with comments	Comments on Needs/Challenges
<i>Community Character – Are History, & the Arts part of your community, Is there a diversity of people and backgrounds</i>		
<i>Housing/Affordability/Mix of Housing - Apts., condos, single family homes – options for singles, families and retired</i>		
<i>Transportation/Accessibility/Walkabilty public transportation, sidewalks, drivable roads, bikeways, crosswalks</i>		

Health & Wellness – <i>nutritional awareness, exercise opportunities, preventive treatment, clinics and hospitals close by</i>		
Social/Recreation – <i>variety of opportunities for various ages – young, teen, adult, senior?</i>		
Open Space – <i>undeveloped land ranging from natural habitat to parkland</i>		
Environmental Awareness - <i>do people pay attention to what goes into their streams? do they recycle? Are they energy conscious?</i>		
Green Development/Infrastructure – <i>storm water runoff collection, energy saving (solar or automatic light switch off) and habitat preserving</i>		
Access to Local Products – <i>Farmer’s Market, local production</i>		
Goods & Services (stores, shopping) – <i>walkable?</i>		
Education – <i>schools from pre-school to college</i>		
Safety – <i>street lighting, fire depts., police</i>		

Employment – <i>are there opportunities</i>		
Aging in Place – <i>places and transportation for seniors to live in the community</i>		

9. Based on your completed table above evaluate the overall needs of the community, what opportunities do you see to help your community improve? (Look for low ranking sections)

10. As a group brainstorm some possible plans for your site? Don't forget to consider how you might use and enhance any of these existing features: