

Unit: Native Plant Communities

Activity: Plant Community Design- Plant List Pre activity: Plant Community Poster

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Activity Length: 1-2 hours

Prep time:

Review materials-

Guiding Questions: How does knowing the existing plants, and therefore the plant community help us to determine the plants we will need to plant in our restoration?

Brief Description of Activity: Students will use the 'Plant community' posters they created to create a potential plant list for inclusion in restoring the site (real or imaginary). This list is the basis for a designer to create a planting plan.

Materials: Plant community/Ecosystem posters, Plant community lists (in student binders)

Teacher Provided: Writing/chalkboard

Activity:

- **Create a 'suggested plant list'** for each plant community type by having students look at their posters and list the plants they would like to add to the 'restoration' design.
- **Compare this list** with the plant community lists to see if there might be other plants to add. Add other plants that experts or further research might suggest.
- **What are other considerations** besides plant communities that a designer will need to consider before deciding to include or not include plants from this list? (sun/shade requirements, soil requirements, hydrology and other specific habitat needs, target wildlife species, successional stage of plant community, availability/costs of plant materials, appropriateness of plant materials for a schoolyard or park setting.
- **Create a final 'suggested plant list'** for your restoration site.