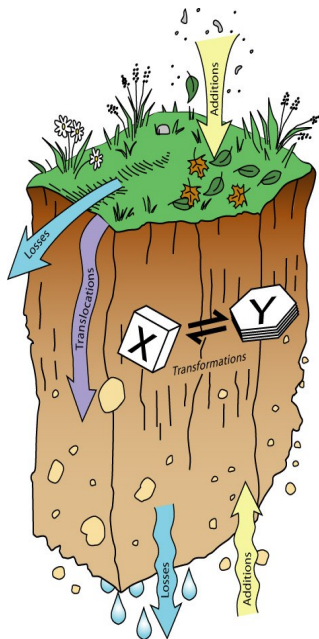


LESA

Land Evaluation and Site Assessment



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NRCS Natural Resources
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Land
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United States
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Agriculture

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Conservation
Service

Site Assessment (SA) Part of Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA)

Site Assessment (SA) part of Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) rates non-soil factors affecting a site's relative importance for agricultural use. The SA factors consist of three kinds:

SA-1: Non-soil characteristics -- factors measure non-soil site characteristics related to potential agricultural productivity or farming practices.

SA-2: Development pressures -- factors measure development or conversion pressures on a site.

SA-3: Historic, scenic, and environmental values -- factors measure other public values of a site, such as historic, cultural, scenic, or environmental values.

The local people on the SA committee need to select the specific factors reflecting the purpose for which the LESA system is to be used.

Examples of items needing to be considered while developing the SA for a jurisdiction are shown in the next slides. These are only examples since each jurisdiction needs to develop the SA items that are unique to meet the goals of its jurisdiction.

Site Assessment (SA) Part of Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA)

- SA-1: non-soil site characteristics related to agricultural production
- SA-2: development pressures in the area
- SA-3: historic, scenic, environmental values



SA-1: Non-Soil Site Characteristics Related to Agricultural Production

SA-1 Factors

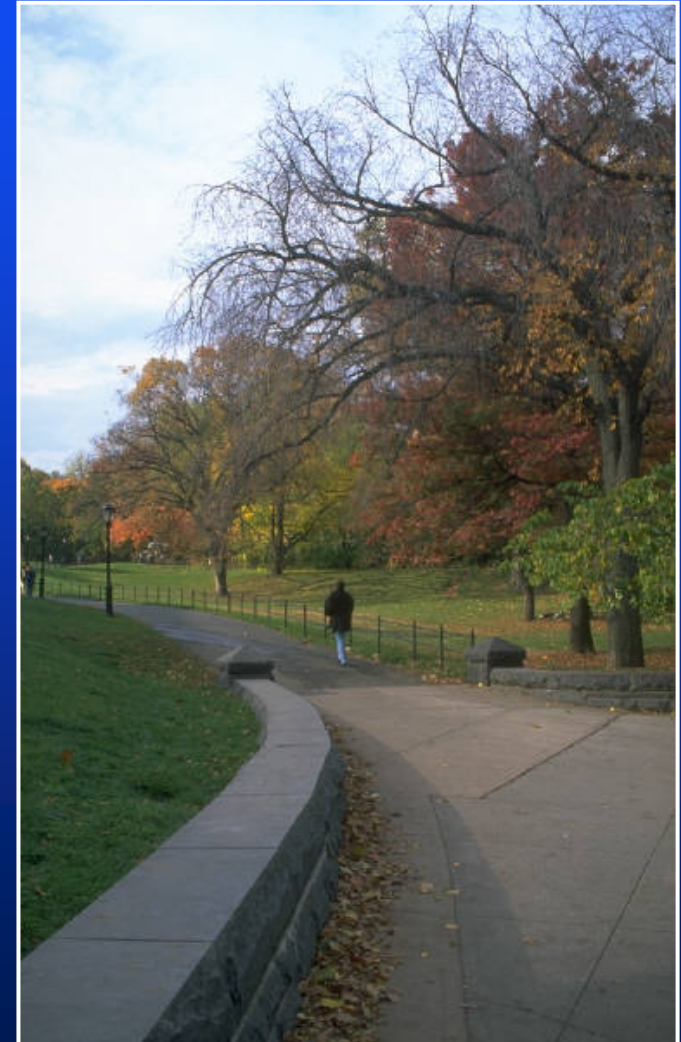
- Size of site
- Compatibility of adjacent uses
- Compatibility of surrounding uses (impact on farm practices)
- Percent of site in agricultural use
- Percent of site feasible to farm
- Level of on-farm investment
- Availability of agricultural support services
- Stewardship of site
- Environmental limitations on agricultural practices
- Availability and reliability of irrigation water



SA-2: Development Pressures in the Area

SA-2 Factors

- Land use policy designation
- Percent of surrounding land in urban or rural development use
- Distance to public sewer
- Distance to public water
- Distance to urban feeder highway
- Length of public road frontage
- Distance to urban center
- Proximity to protected farmland



SA-3: Historic, Scenic, Environmental Values

SA-3 Factors

- Educational value of site (e.g., for sustainable agriculture)
- Open space strategic value of site (e.g., urban greenbelt)
- Historic building or site
- Site of significant artifacts or relics
- Wetlands and riparian areas
- Scenic values and other rural amenities
- Wildlife habitat – Role in Habitat Fragmentation
- Environmentally sensitive areas
- Floodplains protection

