

Written assessment question ideas:

1. Your Virginia Master Naturalist chapter has been asked to adopt a small, urban park in your community. The town would like you to restore some of the ecosystem functions of the park while maintaining its potential for a variety of recreation. Right now, the park is an open area with turf grass and a few ash trees. A small creek runs along one side of the property. The nearby surrounding area is urbanized, with a large percentage of the land in roads and buildings.
 - a. Given the rough description of the area, what ecological issues might you expect to see at the site? Think about the soils, water, flora, and fauna.
 - b. Name at least three things that could be done to improve the ecosystem functions of the site.
2. What ecosystem services do urban forests provide to communities? Describe as many as you can.
3. Describe three impacts that increasing impermeable surfaces has on streams.

Practical assessment activity ideas:

1. Identify common invasive plants found in urban areas (e.g., English ivy, Ailanthus.)
2. Visit a developed site and identify possible improvements that could be made to improve ecosystem functions of the soils, water, flora, and fauna at the site.
3. Give a 2 minute informal talk about the importance of urban forests in your community.
4. Identify one approved project in the chapter that relates to Urban and Developed Systems **or** propose an idea for a new project on this topic.

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