



## Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

### *Next Generation Stewards*

#### Find the LAWS in Your Sit Spot

We can use the acronym LAWS to remember the four abiotic parts of any ecosystem: light, air, water, and soil. Each of these helps determine which organisms can thrive in an ecosystem. The first three videos in this *Next Generation Stewards* series covered light, air, and water; let's dig into soil now. More than 25% of known life on Earth lives in the soil! Soil provides nutrients, offers stability, and acts as habitat for organisms in the ecosystem. We can be stewards of soil by protecting it from erosion. For example, stay on the trail when you're at a park or on a hike. Now, let's try to find all four of the LAWS at our sit spots.

Watch the full video: [https://youtu.be/71o9w\\_KrFTM](https://youtu.be/71o9w_KrFTM). Revisit the first three videos in this series to refresh your knowledge about light, air, and water at [www.mtsgreenway.org/get-involved/education/virtual-education/next-generation-stewards](http://www.mtsgreenway.org/get-involved/education/virtual-education/next-generation-stewards).

#### Materials:

- Piece of paper or a sit spot journal and something to write/draw with
- Optional: cup to catch rainwater

For this sit spot, pay attention to the **light, air, water, and soil**:

- 1) See the [Sit Spot: Focus on the Sun](#) activity to set up your sit spot. Be sure to include the date, time, and weather at the top of your journal entries.
- 2) Can you find light, air, water and soil at your sit spot? What do you notice about them?
- 3) Questions to consider as you're making observations:
  - What do you notice about sources of **light**?
  - Where do you see plants growing? What is growing in sunny areas or shady areas, in wet areas or dry areas?
  - What do you notice about the **air and wind**?
  - Where do you notice **water**? E.g. puddles, lake, Puget Sound, rain, in the soil.
    - Optional: Put out a cup and check it every morning to see how much rain fell in the last 24 hours. And every time you check it, be sure to dump it out so you don't accidentally count the same rainwater twice.
  - What color is the **soil**? Do you notice any patterns between what the soil looks like and the organisms that you find living around your sit spot?

See an example on the next page.





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