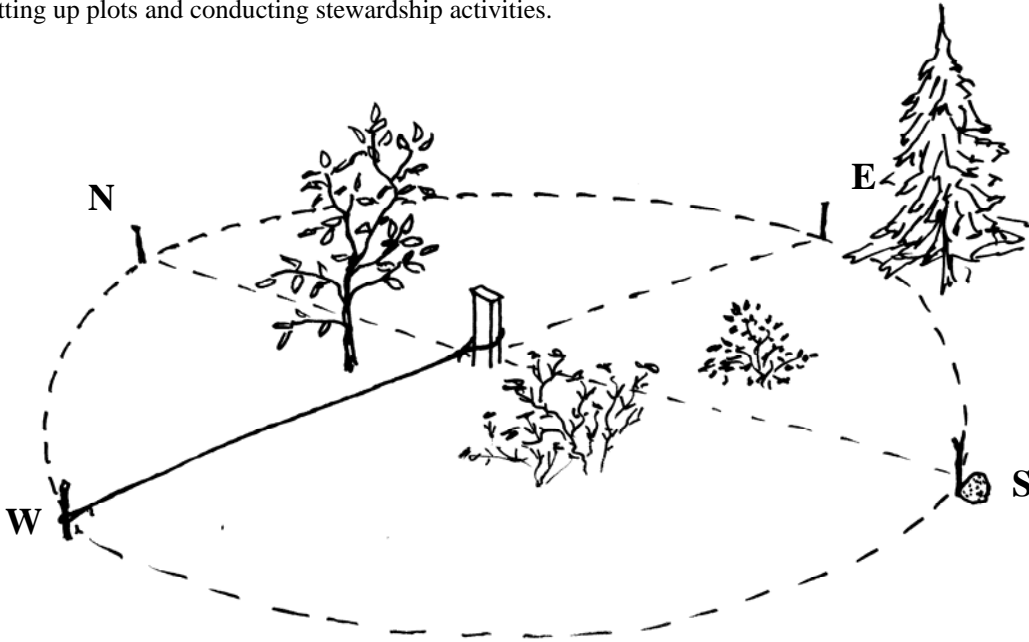
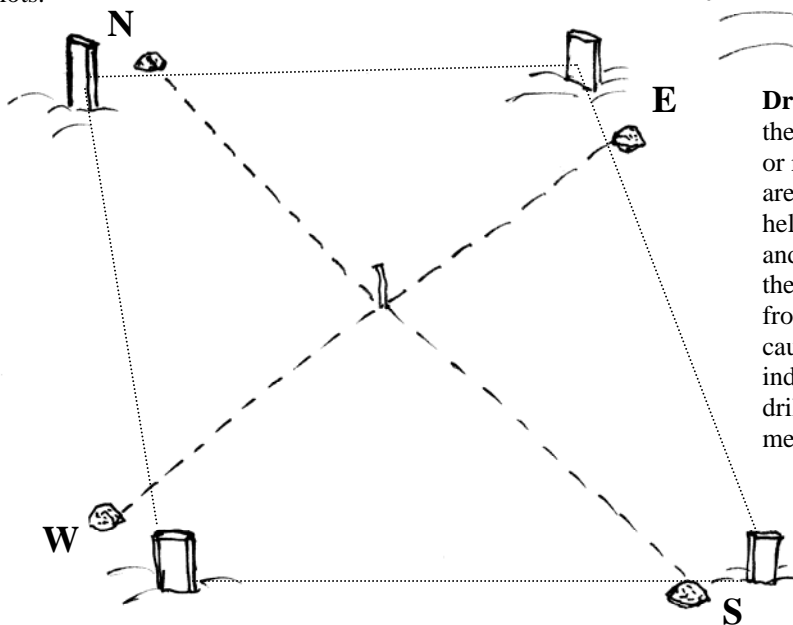


HOW-TO-DO ACTIVITY- FOUR DIRECTION PLOTS PLOT LAYOUT

Determine the location and size of plots in a habitat area. If you plan any planting or weeding activities in your plots you must work with the project stewardship group or parks department to determine the best location for your plots. If you plan to do monitoring or awareness activities only, it is usually fine to select your own plot areas, while informing the stewardship group of your activities. Please remind students of the ethics of restoration, and the importance of not damaging plants or wildlife habitat while setting up plots and conducting stewardship activities.



Circular plots are the easiest and most effective plots to layout for long-term plot studies. These plots can be located near each other or in different areas of a project, allowing study of different types of habitat. Place a single center stake in a chosen area and place the knotted loop of the desired length of twine (3', 4' or 6') over the stake. Locate the direction south and place a rock or small stake at the end of the twine. Repeat with the other cardinal points. This will identify the boundaries of your plots. Terms such as radius, diameter, circumference and area can be used while setting up these plots.



Drive wooden stakes into the ground with a hammer or rock until only 2" or 3" are showing. This will help prevent their removal and loss. Mark clearly on the side of the stake (away from the sun which will cause fading) with a black indelible marker, or pre-drill a hole and attach a metal label.

Square or rectangular plots may be required for your project in order to steward an entire area, especially when stewardship activities involve new plantings and non-native plant management (the stewardship community group or parks can best advise you on this). Use stakes to mark corners and label with plot numbers. To layout the four directions for the *Four Directions Plot* activity locate the center of the plot by stretching twine between the corner posts, the intersection being center and marking with a small stick or rock. Layout the four directions and mark their location along the perimeter with a rock or small stick. Locating directions is important to assess the aspect of the plot for plant species selection and layout.