



sustainable outdoor living

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Presentation Outline – Sustainable landscaping: Beauty today and...green tomorrow

What is sustainable landscaping?

Five Elements of a Functioning Ecosystem – Goals & strategies for sustainability

Soil

- Current trends
- **Strategy – Protect/enhance your soil**
 - *Avoid disturbing/damaging good soils & desirable vegetation*
 - *Foster soil health before, during & after construction*
- **Strategy – Avoid use of harmful materials**
 - *Avoid the use of harmful materials; if necessary use responsibly*

Water - Your sustainable water system

- Current trends
- **Strategy – Value all water onsite (A zero-runoff landscape...me, really?)**
 - *Eliminate reduce/supplemental water use in the landscape – Being a good water manager*
 - *Water Wisely – Some General Tips*
 - *Manage stormwater onsite*
 - *Address runoff volume*
 - *Maintain/enhance on & off site receiving water bodies*

Plants

- Current trends
- **Strategy – Design & maintain plantings to maximize function**
 - *Conserve or restore desirable vegetation*
 - *Select appropriate vegetation and locate properly onsite - The right plant for the location*
 - *Adversarial horticulture – Dell*
- **Strategy – Plan for less waste**
 - *Design to minimize short & long-term maintenance needs*

Materials

- **Strategy - Reduce, reuse, recycle & renewables**
 - *Use sustainable materials*
 - *Consider the life cycle*
 - *Use long-lasting, durable & low maintenance materials*
 - *Multi-purpose materials/gardens – Stacking functions*

- Reduce - Optimizing the in's & outs
- Reuse - Use what's available onsite first!
 - *If nothing else, there's always soil to use for earthen walls, benches, etc.*
 - *'Urbanite' – A brand new mineral (broken concrete)*
- Recycle – Salvaged & reclaimed materials
 - *Junkscaping*
 - *Heritage materials – can be reused over and over again as circumstances change (i.e. bricks, stones, paving blocks, segmental retaining walls, etc.)*
- Use renewable, local & safe products
 - *Renewable – Material from earth that continually produces (come from living sources like wood, bamboo, straw, animal manures, organic fert, etc.)*
- Reduce energy consumption
 - *Use materials with low embodied energy*
 - *Use materials & equipment with low operational energy*
 - *Use materials & products powered by renewable energy*
 - *Reduce urban heat island effect*

Human well-being

- Current trends
- **Strategy – Design spaces for a healthy mind & body**
 - *Provide opportunities to interact with nature*
 - *Provide spaces for exercise & active/passive recreation*
 - *Support on-site food production & educate site users*
 - *Edible/veggie – Individual garden or interplanted with landscape plants*
- **Strategy – Design spaces for social interaction**
 - *Promote positive social dynamics through design*
 - *Design spaces to meet all needs*

Sustainable Landscape Design & the Design Process

- Planning model – Bubble diagram

Landscape care (maintenance) – Series of small steady tweaks, not blitzes of hyperactivity

- Good task/bad task - List gardening work you love in one column & work you hate in another, eliminate those tasks you hate
- Mowing – Keep blades sharp, mow to 3" high (when needed), mow before a rain, shred grass & leave in place, etc.
- Weeds, bugs & pests
 - Non-toxic herbicides & pesticides
 - Sheet mulching – Cover soil w/ recycled cardboard, wet it & cover w 4" of mulch
- Adaptive management – Circular design process (assess, revise, adjust)
- Tools & Safety