

Willows Lodge
Sustainable Lawn Protocol
2000-2010

Green Gardening Program
Seattle University
November 15, 2010
Presenter: EagleSong
Director of Natural Beauty

Willows Lodge

- ✦ 82 room boutique hotel
- ✦ Business and transient venue
- ✦ Large wedding venue
- ✦ 5 acre sustainably managed grounds
- ✦ Ground floor rooms have patios w/ gardens
- ✦ 11,000 sf lawn
- ✦ 5 Star EnviroStar business

Lawn Rests the Eye

- ✦ Counterpoint to beds & treescape
- ✦ Backdrop for event photos
- ✦ Expected, comfortable, emotional attachment





Food & Water

- ✦ Conventional chemical
- ✦ Weed & Feed
- ✦ Compost tea spray
- ✦ Moved to organic pelletized
- ✦ Reduced annual feeds from 5 to 2
- ✦ Conventional rotors
- ✦ Variable arc rotors
- ✦ Spray heads
- ✦ Cycling run times deepens root zone
- ✦ Reduced water use



Mow & Blow

- ✦ Using modified Seattle sustainable lawn maintenance protocol
- ✦ Mow 1x per week
- ✦ Honda grass cycling mower (EnviroStar sustainable tool choice) 10 mulching options
- ✦ Reduced nutrient input by cycling clippings
- ✦ All clippings caught are composted in passive bin system for return to beds reducing fertilizer costs overall
- ✦ Less than \$300. per year on fertilizer & amendments down from \$2000. at change over to organic fertilizers

Changes: Seen & Unseen

- ✦ Easy to see above ground change
- ✦ What is happening in root zone?
- ✦ Rough mow zone

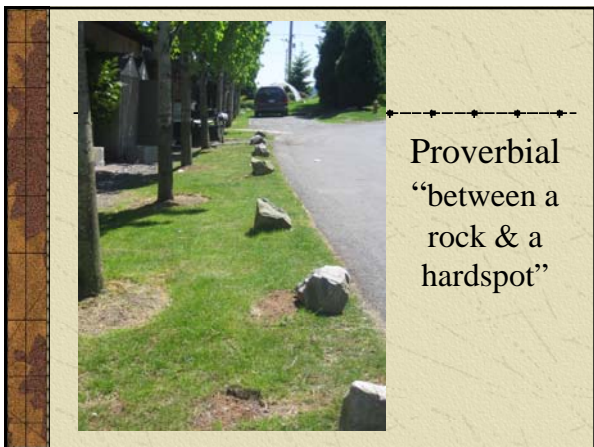




Challenges

- ✦ Soil Interfacing
- ✦ Aesthetic threshold: what is “pretty”?
- ✦ Weeds: Ranunculus, moss, clover, annual grasses
- ✦ Expected, comfortable, emotional attachment to lawn





Proverbial
“between a
rock & a
hardspot”

Opportunities

- ✦ Reduce lawn footprint in renovations
- ✦ Education: open dialogue for change
- ✦ Monitor & adjust & adjust & adjust

