Sustainable is Attainable

Seattle Green Gardening Program October 16, 2012

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Cultivating Life From the Ground Up

3 Guiding Principles For Sustainability

- Nature Functions in Wholes: when one thing changes everything changes
- Every Site Is Different: an action taken one place may have different effects in another place
- Time Is More Important Than Numbers: once inputs are in place, wholes begin turning & "eco-logic" kicks in then inputs decrease substantially

IPM

- Create a vital ecosystem cultural management
- Tend the living system (culture)
- Care for earth, air, water and energy flow (slow & fast fires of life)
- Then, if pests show up...
 - Mechanical intervention
 - Biorational/conventional (chemical) intervention
 - Biological intervention who eats whom?

6 Steps of Healing 0-3 Do No Harm

- Step 0: Do nothing: vital invisible step
- Step 1: Collect information: low tech diagnosis, books, ask colleagues
- Step 2: Engage the energy: check in with the plants, site, irrational sources
- Step 3: Nourish & Tonify: right plant, right place, appropriate natural food & water for plant

Steps 4-6 Will Cause Harm

Determine Aesthetic & Economic Thresholds

- Step 4: Stimulate/Sedate: chemical fertilizers...dose, frequency & duration determine dependency & overuse leads to a disruption of "ecologic"
- Step 5: Use Drugs: chemical intervention, may cause as much harm as good
- Break & Enter: fear inspiring language, radical action, chemicals with skull & cross bones symbol; side effects, including death, are inevitable

Action Planning

- Define what is being managed
- Define what is wanted now & in the future 5, 10, 50 years
- Watch out for bare ground (healthy eco system is always covered or Mother Nature doesn't do naked)
- Test Decisions for social, environmental, financial soundness now & in the long term
- Monitor & Adjust
 - Assume everything you decide is WRONG!

Maximize tool use

- 1. Money/labor
- 2. Human creativity
- 3. Community dynamics
 - 4. Living organisms
 - 5. Technology
 - 6. Rest





Nutrient Cycle









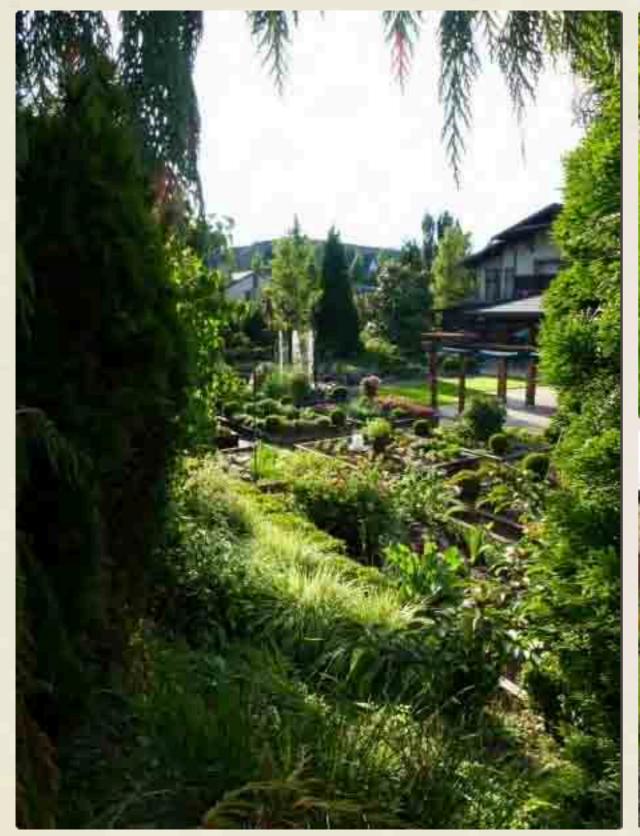














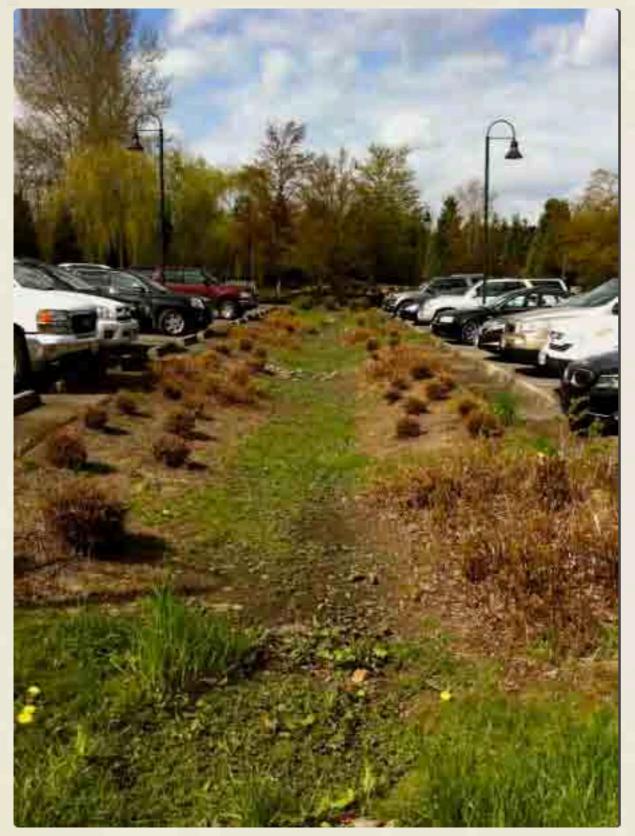


Water Cycle

























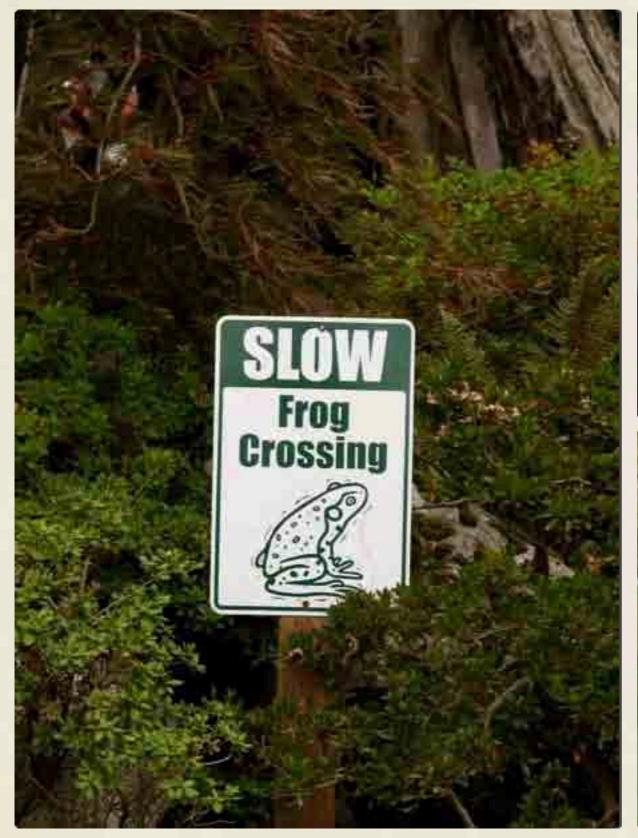
Pest Management

What is a pest?















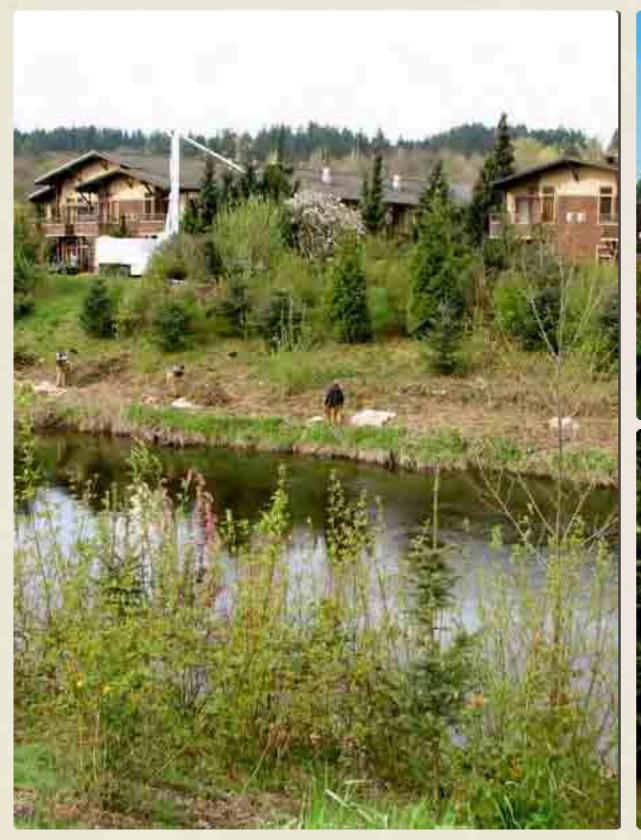




Vertical integration Community dynamics

Succession = Success

- climax forest
- large trees
- small trees
- shrubs
- herbs
- ground covers
- vines.....
- work toward an integrated eco-system using all 7 layers
- each layer provides habitat for diverse species
- diversity increases stability
- healthy systems gain natural energy over time







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Black Swan Coffee
21 Acres





Decision Making

Test Questions

- Cause & effect
- Sustainability
- Weak Link
 - Social
 - Biological
 - Financial
 - Marginal Reaction
 - Energy/money, source & use
 - Society & culture

Monitor & adjust Tracking

- Everything we decide is WRONG!
- What?
- Keep simple, useful notes for tracking data
- Watch for patterns in the wholes
- Then look at details

Important things to remember

- Break all the Rules...
- Problems provide opportunities to create beauty
- Everything is in motion...join the dance
- Everything has a song...listen & begin to hear
- Really...we aren't in control...so let us hasten slowly forward
- Health is seeing wholeness in everything, it starts on the ground



Thank-you May the Force be With Us

Resources

- www.savoryinstitute.com Holistic Management
- <u>www.susunweed.com</u> 6-Steps of Healing
- <u>www.ipm.ucdavis.edu</u> Integrated Pest Management
- www.willowslodge.com