Sustainable is Attainable

Seattle Green Gardening Program
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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 “eco-logic”

- **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
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
City of Woodinville
2007 Sammamish River
‘ReLeaf’
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MJR Development
Sammamish Valley Alliance
WA Native Plant Society
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
- www.susunweed.com  6-Steps of Healing
- www.ipm.ucdavis.edu  Integrated Pest Management
- www.willowslodge.com