Willows Lodge
Sustainable Lawn Protocol
2000-2010
Green Gardening Program
Seattle University
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Presenter: EagleSong
Director of Natural Beauty

Lawn Rests the Eye
- Counterpoint to beds &
treescape
- Backdrop for event photos
- Expected, comfortable,
emotional attachment

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
**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 hard spot”

Opportunities
- Reduce lawn footprint in renovations
- Education: open dialogue for change
- Monitor & adjust & adjust & adjust
Lawn
Changing Perspectives for the future