

Restoration Horticulture

The way I see it...
By Zsafia Pasztor

Definition of Restoration Ecology:
'A field in the science of conservation that is concerned with the application of ecological principles to restoring degraded, derelict, or fragmented ecosystems. The primary goal of restoration ecology (also known as ecological restoration) is to return a community or ecosystem to a condition similar in ecological structure, function, or both, to that existing prior to site disturbance or degradation.'
Society for Ecological Restoration

I see this intimately connected to our **society** and our **personal lives**.



Restoration is just another kind of disturbance

- ▶ We weed
- ▶ We grub
- ▶ We clear
- ▶ We pile
- ▶ We dig
- ▶ We plant
- ▶ We mulch
- ▶ We weed
- ▶ We stake
- ▶ We weed....
...sometimes with machines and even chemicals

Restoration is a designed, planned, and desired change initiated by Humans and completed by Nature.



Functional Restoration

- » What point in History do we target?
- » What function is restored?
- » What can ensure flexibility?

The HUMAN Element

Earth has meaning to us because of us



Restoring ourselves from past to future from soil to sky



Healing the ancient wounds



The social restoration

Diversity; Patience and Acceptance;
Livable places; Quality of life;
Sustainable EVERYTHING

From competition to collaboration

- » These new, complex tasks require cooperation
- » Unhealthy competition falls to the side
- » The new PARADIGM: rediscovering health



Challenges Restoration Faces



Most daily issues concentrate around BUDGET

- » Weeds invade
- » Wildlife moves in
- » Lack of diversity soils to skies
- » Lack of available plants
- » Lack of maintenance
- » Funds run out and dry up
- » Vandals destroy the site
- » Misunderstanding of what it is
- » Lack of education for the public

Long term issues: a moving target

- » The urban challenge - space
- » Wildlife – what came?
- » Difficulty to establish plants
- » Lack of diversity
- » Lack of maintenance
- » Funds are a hit & miss
- » Home to homeless
- » Misunderstanding of what it is
- » Lack of education for the public

Ecological Restoration and Economical Recovery



We can make it profitable - we have to...

Non-profit & volunteer based

Profit companies have a difficult time competing
This is the new frontier for horticulture
Requires ongoing education

Not a choice or landscape feature



Urban answer: LID

Restoring hydrological and other functions
Engineered systems, not landscaping elements



LID is not for the lone rider: complex solutions requiring team-work

»» 




Compost soxx blown in by Applied Organics »»
Will be planted by Innovative Landscape Technologies

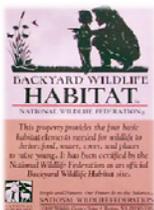



Rain garden »»
by Innovative Landscape Technologies



How much LID is LID?

- ▶ One LID feature may not qualify as an LID project
- ▶ LID is a large toolbox
- ▶ Restoration can go hand-in-hand with LID
- ▶ The unexpected twins: ER LID




Connecting the dots:

- ▶ Diversity of habitat;
- ▶ Diversity of vegetation;
- ▶ Diversity of site conditions;
- ▶ Diversity of human communities;
- ▶ Diversity of evolving LID technologies;

**ALL ASPECTS INTEGRATED
= RESTORATION HORTICULTURE**



Restoration takes time; we have little time...

We must hurry-up, yet not rush through it

Disturbed areas did become new habitats

- ▶ Sometimes restoration creates more complications than help
- ▶ Thorough site evaluations are priceless
- ▶ Changing world, climate, and regulations mean restoration and how it is implemented will have to be reevaluated from time to time
- ▶ Sometimes no action is the best action

IPM and Restoration

Site preparation
Site management

What is damaged without IPM?
What do we know – we know that we do not know (not by Rumsfeld)

How to restore thousands of years of natural cycle?
How to settle for what is possible?

Rebuild soils: from the small to the LARGE
Rebuild skies: weather relies on what is below as well as what is above

What happens when we are gone?



artwork by Douglas Blair - "Barefoot in the rain"