

Design for Positive Change— Best Practices for Your Garden and Neighborhood

Deb Guenther, FASLA

SITES v2.0

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Context

- Protect floodplains
- Conserve aquatic systems
- Conserve habitat
- Redevelop degraded areas
- Locate projects within existing developed areas

Pre-Design

- Use a holistic approach
- Conduct pre-design assessment
- Designate Vegetation and Soil Protection Zones

Water

- Manage precipitation on site
- Reduce water for landscape irrigation
- Reduce outdoor water use
- Restore aquatic systems

Soil + Vegetation

- Create a soil management plan
- Control and manage invasive plants
- Use appropriate plants
- Conserve healthy soils and appropriate vegetation
- Conserve special status vegetation
- Conserve and use native plants
- Conserve and restore native plant communities
- Optimize biomass
- Reduce urban heat island effect
- Use vegetation to minimize energy use
- Reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire

Materials Selection

- Eliminate the use of wood from threatened tree species
- Maintain on-site structures and paving
- Design for adaptability and disassembly

- Use salvaged materials and plants
- Use recycled content materials
- Use regional materials
- Support responsible extraction of raw materials
- Support transparency and safer chemistry
- Support sustainability in materials manufacturing
- Support sustainability in plant production

Human Health and Well-Being

- Protect, maintain cultural/historic places
- Support mental restoration, physical activity, social connection
- Provide on-site food production
- Reduce light pollution
- Support local economy

Construction

- Communicate and verify sustainable construction practices
- Control and retain construction pollutants
- Restore soils disturbed during construction
- Restore soils disturbed by previous development
- Divert reusable vegetation, rocks and soil from disposal

Maintenance

- Plan for sustainable site maintenance
- Recycle organic matter
- Minimize pesticide and fertilizer use
- Reduce outdoor energy consumption
- Use renewable sources for landscape electricity
- Protect air quality during maintenance

Education and Performance Monitoring

- Promote sustainability awareness and education
- Develop and communicate a case study
- Plan to monitor and report site performance

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