

Underwood Conservation District

Enhancing natural resources and stewardship in Skamania County and western Klickitat County

Welcome!



**Conservation in
Your Own
Backyard:
for urban and
rural
homeowners**

Visit www.ucdwa.org
to:

- Register for more winter workshops
- View a workshop you missed (including last year's!)
- Purchase from our Native Plant Sale
- Find details about TreeFest and day-of sale on Saturday, March 19, 2022
- Sign up for our e-newsletter

Underwood Conservation District's WINTER WORKSHOP SERIES

December 2021 - March 2022

Conservation in Your Own Backyard

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH
6-8PM

The Benefits of Beaver

co-presented with Mid-
Columbia Fisheries
Enhancement Group

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20
6-8PM

Carbon Market Access for Small Forest Landowners

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH
6-8PM

Farmland Succession Planning

MID-MARCH
*DATE TBC FOR MORE DETAILS

All workshops are offered virtually via Zoom and require registration. Please visit the UCD website for more information and to register.

www.ucdwa.org

Underwood Conservation District | 509.493.1936

For Tonight's Zoom...



Please remain
muted
throughout the
presentation.



Please **raise your
hand** to speak
and we will call
on you.



Question?
Audio/visual
problems? Use the
Chat box.



If you are having
trouble with
computer audio,
you can also dial
in using your
telephone.

...Thank You!

Tonight's Program

6:00 pm: Welcome and Announcements – Tova Tillinghast, District Manager

6:15: Sketch Your Own Yard (*grab a pencil and paper!*) – All

6:20: Overview of Natural Resource Concerns and Solutions

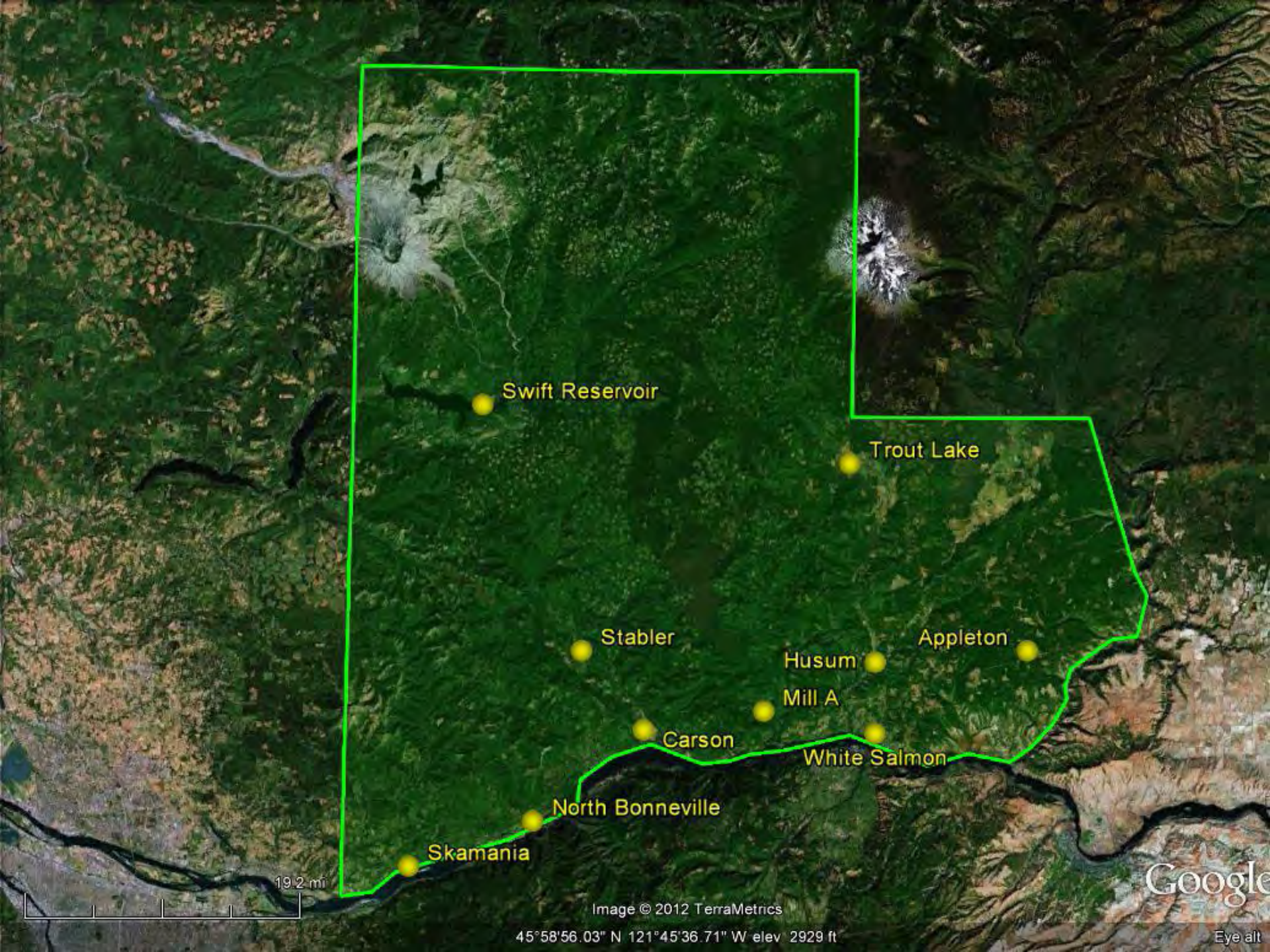
6:40: Yard By Yard Program Introduction – Dan Richardson, UCD

6:55: Wildlife Interactions - Attracting vs Avoiding Conflict – Todd Jacobsen, WDFW

7:25: Local Experience, Challenges and Successes with Yard By Yard – Kris Schaedel

7:40: Yard Sketches, Sharing, Q&A and Discussion – All

8:00 pm: End



Swift Reservoir

Trout Lake

Stabler

Husum

Appleton

Mill A

Carson

White Salmon

North Bonneville

Skamania

19.2 mi

Image © 2012 TerraMetrics

45°58'56.03" N 121°45'36.71" W elev 2929 ft

Google

Eye alt

Who is UCD?

Underwood Conservation District (UCD) serves as:
a convener for the public, landowners and other stakeholders,
a clearinghouse of information, and
a source of project support.

We are: Locally-led

Non-regulatory

Neutral

Our Mission: to engage landowners and land users throughout Skamania and west Klickitat Counties in the voluntary conservation, enhancement, stewardship, and sustainable use of natural resources.



District Programs

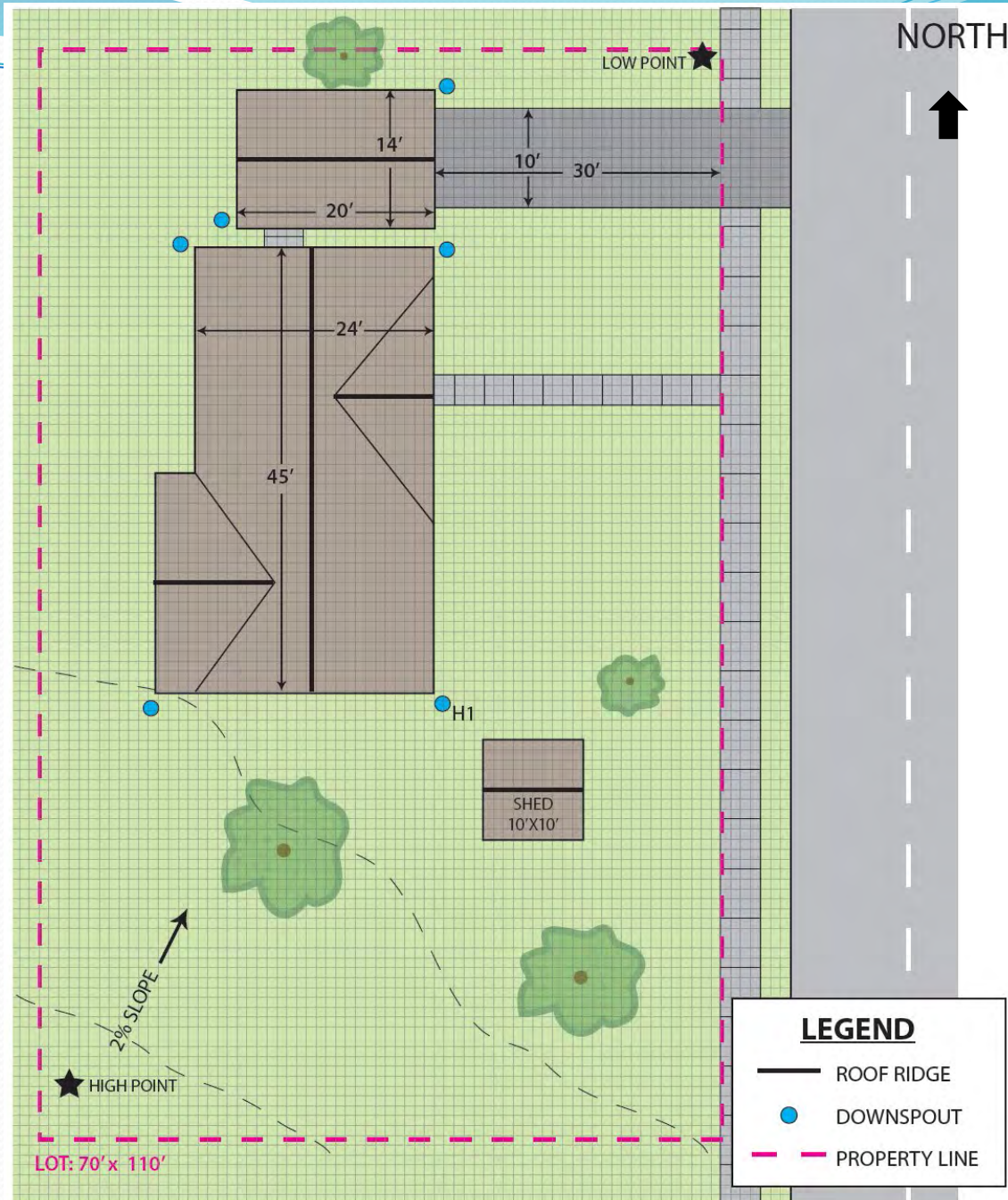


- Educational Workshops, Seminars and Field Trips
- On-Site Technical Assistance, Conservation Planning, Project Development and Cost-Share to:
 - Small Farms
 - Livestock Owners
 - Family Forests
 - Streamside landowners
- Native Plant Sale and Annual TreeFest
- Invasive Weed Management
- Integrated Beneficial Insect/Pollinator Habitat
- Fish Habitat Restoration
- Fish Passage Inventories and Correction
- Irrigation Fish Screen Installation
- Water Quality and Flow Monitoring
- Livestock Best Management Practices
- Oak Woodland and Forest Management
- Firewise

Sketch Your Property

Start with the basics:

- ✓ Lot shape
- ✓ Major structures
- ✓ North arrow
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Impervious surfaces
- ✓ Slope
- ✓ Trees and desirable vegetation



What is backyard conservation?



Managing your landscape involves soil, water, plants and habitat, even on a small scale.

- ✓ Plant native vegetation
- ✓ Conserve water
- ✓ Prevent water pollution
- ✓ Protect Soil
- ✓ Enhance pollinator and wildlife habitat



Why? The big picture

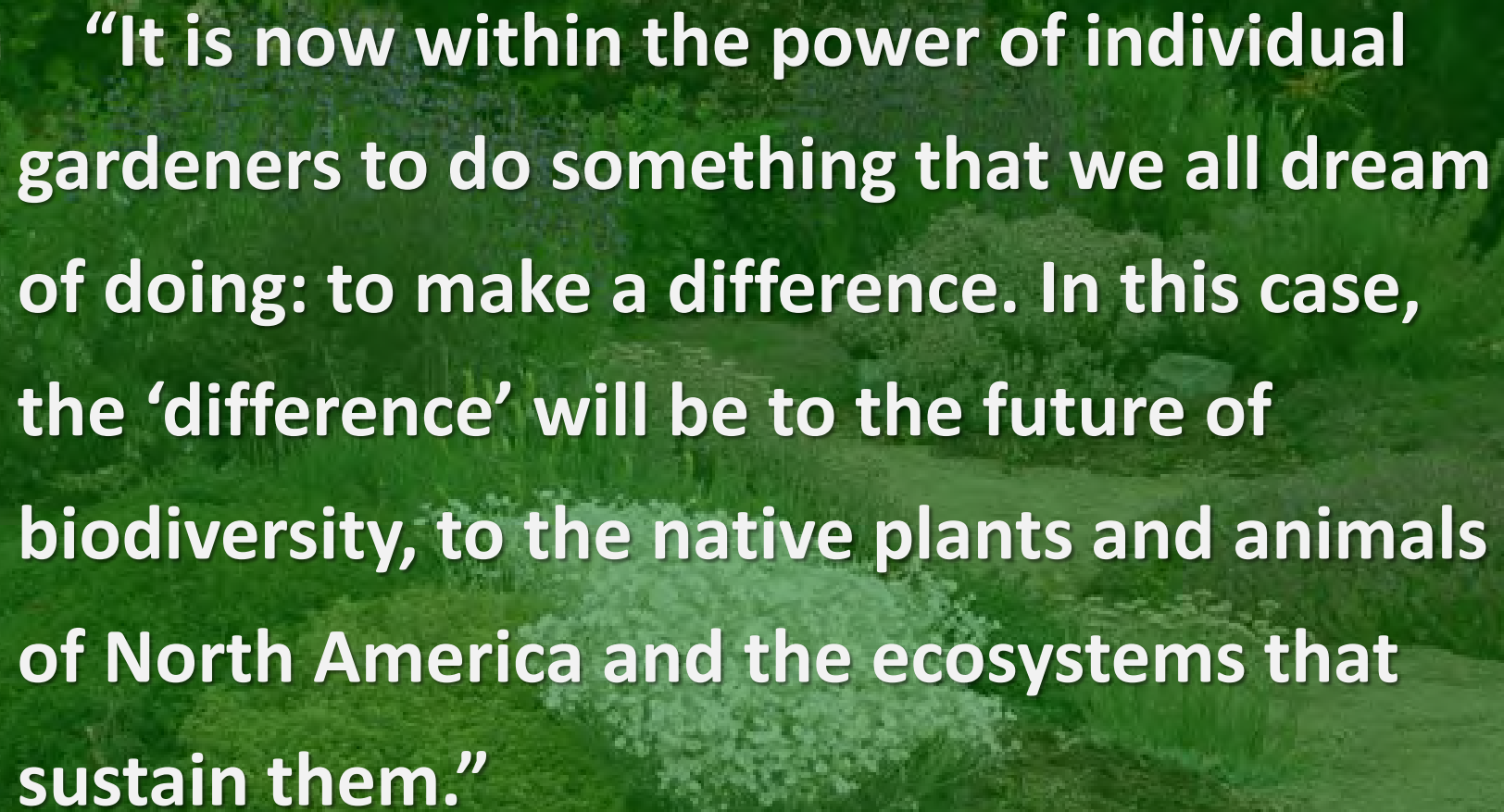
- Loss of habitat in U.S. since the Pilgrims: < 5% undisturbed space left.
- Chopped into habitat “islands.”
- Converted several times area of New Jersey to lawns, landscaping.
- Species-Area relationship: smaller the habitat, fewer the species.
- Native U.S. species are being crowded to extinction.

Bringing Nature Home, D. Tallamy, 2007



**“It’s astonishing how we decided that this green,
flat lawn is a beautiful thing, when really it’s a
sterile desert.”**

- Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Pennsylvania State apiarist



“It is now within the power of individual gardeners to do something that we all dream of doing: to make a difference. In this case, the ‘difference’ will be to the future of biodiversity, to the native plants and animals of North America and the ecosystems that sustain them.”

- Douglas Tallamy, chairman of the department of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, in Bringing Nature Home.

Why Native Plants?

- Adapted to our climate and soil conditions.
- Conserve water, as they need little or no irrigation once established.
- Hardy, and can usually handle seasonal stress and native pests and diseases.
- Very little maintenance needed, reducing pollution.
- Provide food and habitat for other native species (including birds, beneficial insects and other wildlife).



More Benefits of Native Plants

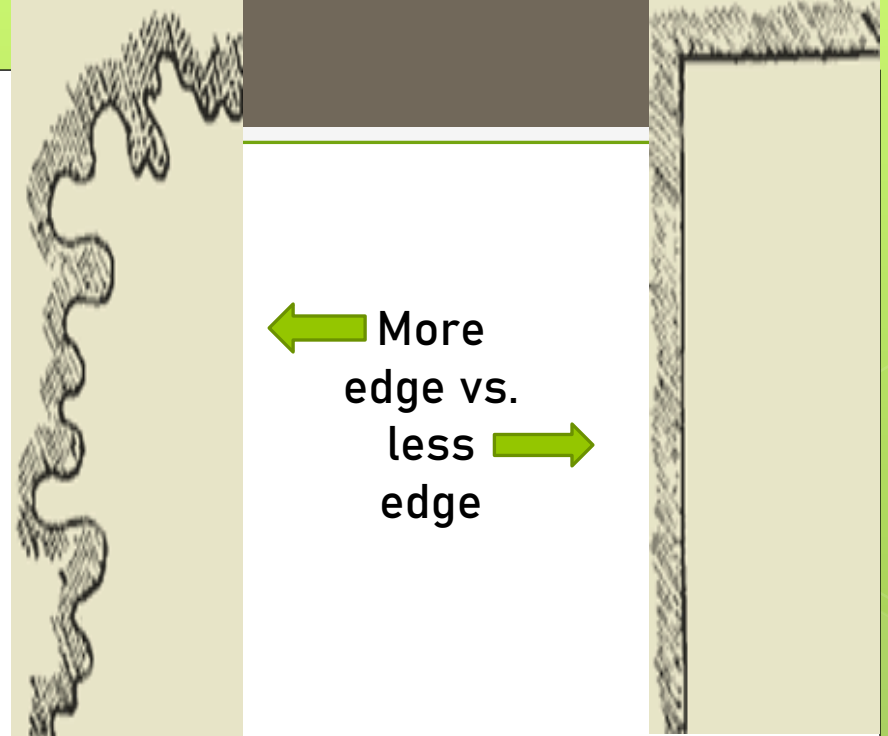
- Human use of berries, canes, fruit, flowers, etc.
- Living fences, screens or hedgerows
- Protect water quality
- Protect soil health
- Protect streambanks and reduce erosion
- Fire-resistant plants are “Firewise”
- Prevent noxious weed encroachment
- They’re beautiful!



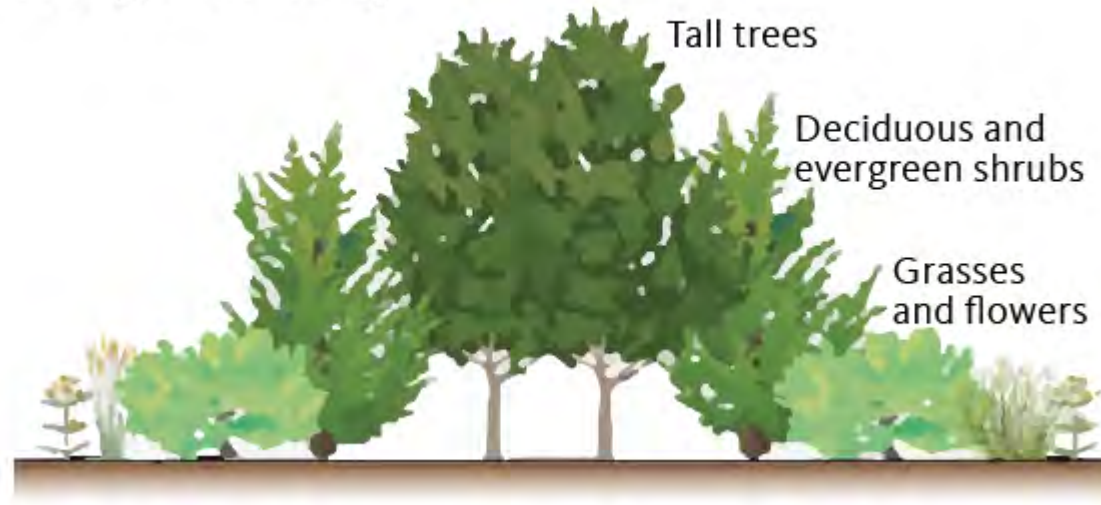
Plant Types

- Bunchgrasses and Sedges
- Flowers and Forbs
- Shrubs
- Trees

Depending on your site constraints, complexity is better: a variety of growth habits, multiple canopy layers and irregular edges



Hedgerow design



Kerry Wixted with graphics from Tracey Saxby, IAN Image Library, courtesy of the Integration and Application Network, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

POLLINATOR HEDGEROW, 100 X 40 FT

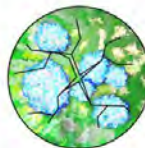

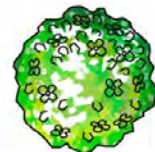













Designed by Donna Schmitz, Resource Conservationist. Drawn by Signe Danler, Surrounds Landscape Design.



CHOCKECHERRY



KEY TO PLANTS

	BLUE ELDERBERRY		DOUGLAS SPIREA		MOCK ORANGE		OREGON GRAPE		SERVICEBERRY
	CANADA GOLDENROD		EVERGREEN HUCKLEBERRY		NOOTKA ROSE		PACIFIC NINEBARK		SNOWBERRY
	COYOTE BRUSH		POLLINATOR BLEND Self-heal, Oregon sunshine, Cinquefoil, meadow checkermallow, spike primrose, popcorn flower...see website for full list.		OCEANSPRAY		RED FLOWERING CURRANT		VINE MAPLE
	DOUGLAS ASTER								

graphics courtesy of Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, Corvallis, OR

More on plants later....

Other Goals of Backyard Conservation?

- Reduce the nuisance of unwanted water and mud in areas of the landscape.
- Reduce soil erosion and keep soil healthy.
- Don't just send a water problem downstream or downhill.
- Utilize water where it's most needed.



BEFORE



AFTER

Where does rain fall on your property?

Permeable Surfaces:

Such as forests, gardens and wetlands allow water to filter into the ground slowly.



Impervious Surfaces:

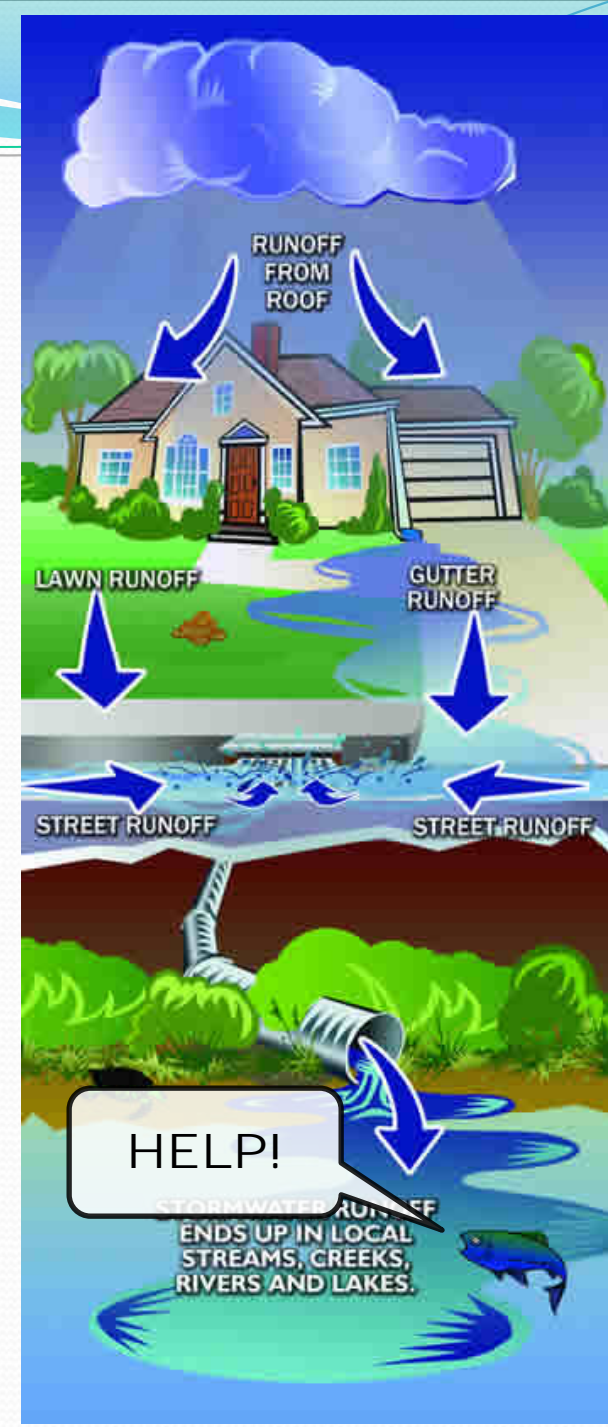
Prevent water from seeping into the ground. Water accumulates & runs off picking up pollutants along the way.

Precipitation - Where does it go?

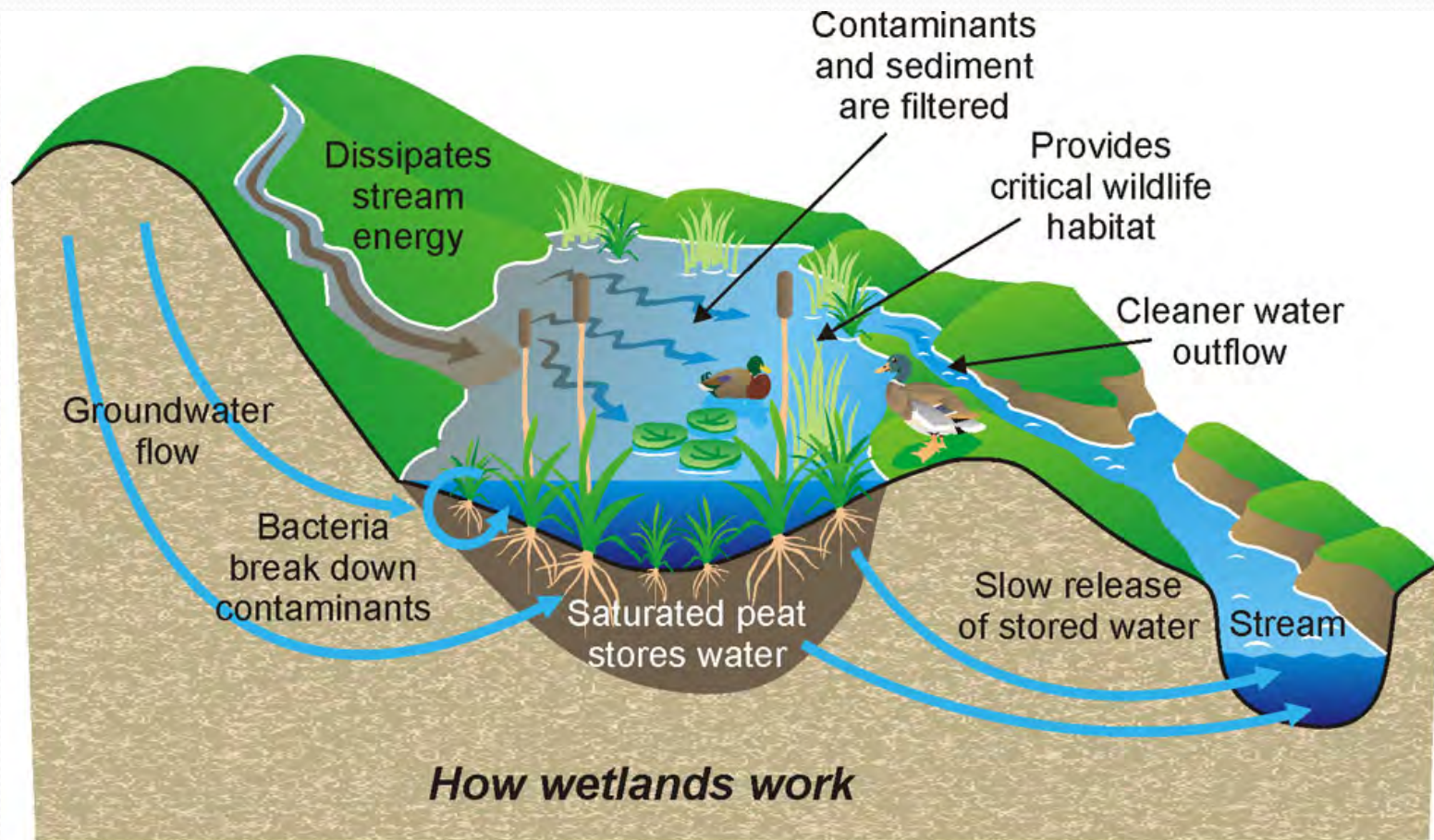
- Ditches
- Storm Drains
- Streams, Wetlands and Lakes



In urban settings **stormwater systems** channel this runoff *—with no treatment* - into local water bodies.



Wetlands.... nature's stormwater management system



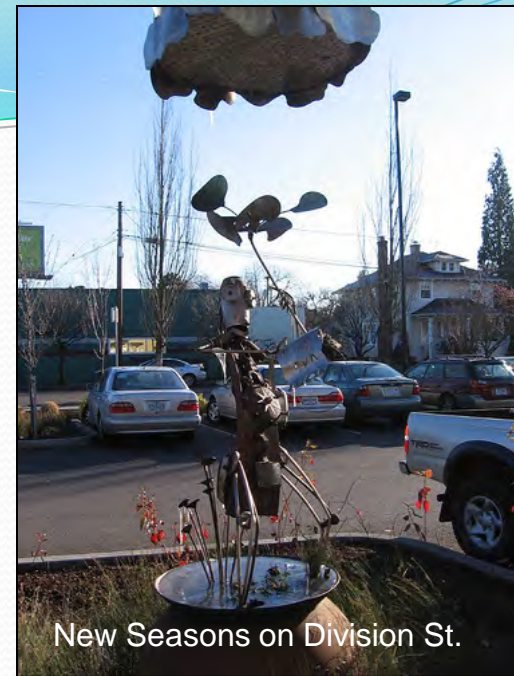
Stormwater Management and Green Infrastructure Techniques



Gutters & Downspouts



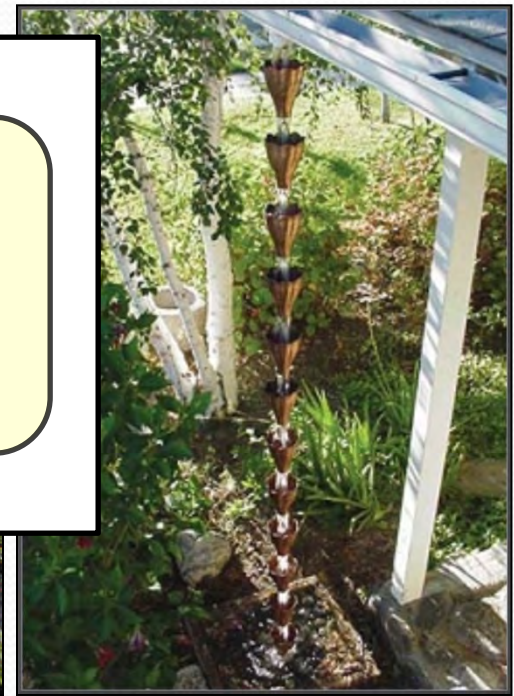
Gutters and downspouts allow you to direct clean roof water where you want it.



New Seasons on Division St.



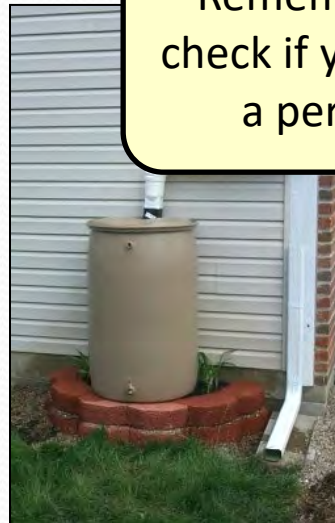
Remember that garages, barns, and other outbuildings need gutters too!



Mt. Tabor Middle School, Portland

Rain Barrels & Rainwater Harvest

Store your roof water for later use!



Remember to check if you need a permit!

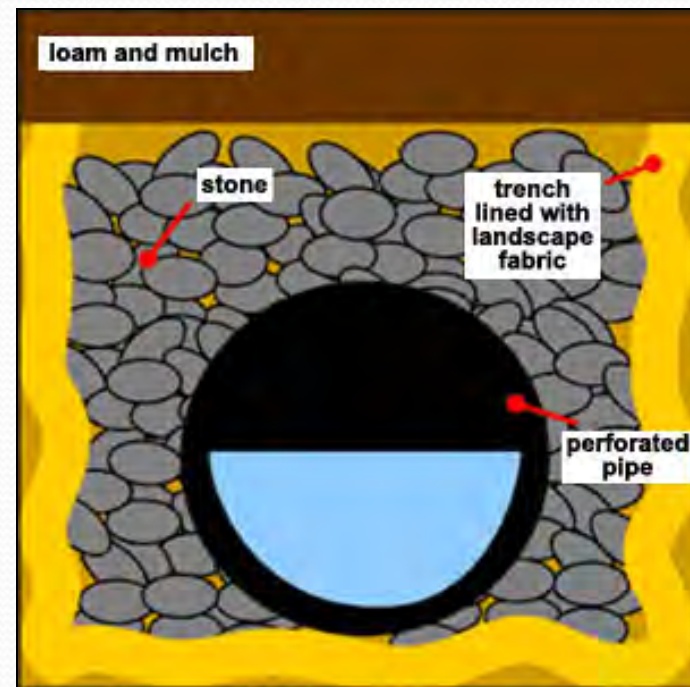


French Drains

A ditch filled with gravel, rock and/or perforated pipe used to capture and redirect surface water.



Remember to check if you need a permit!



And be a good neighbor!



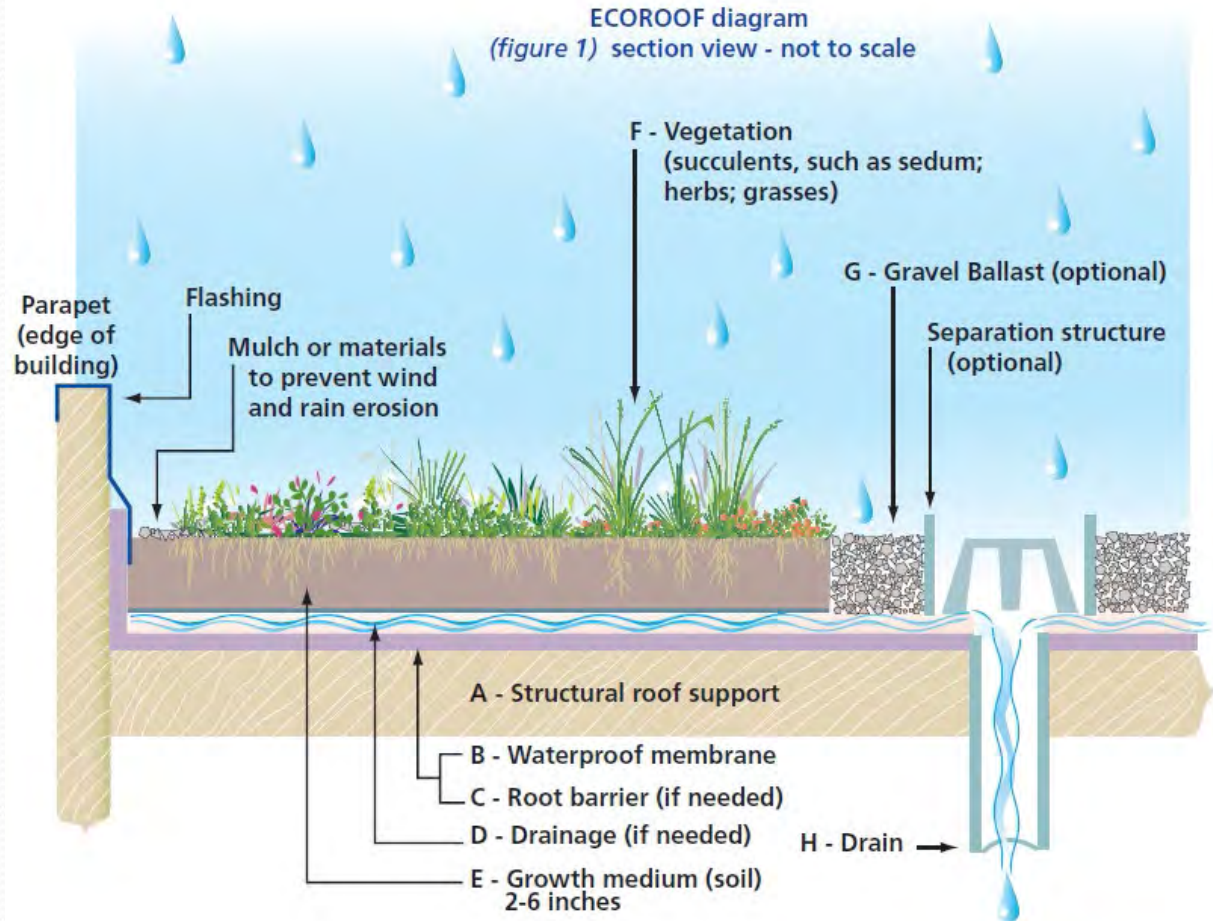
Pervious Pavers



Pervious pavers allow water to infiltrate the soil below.

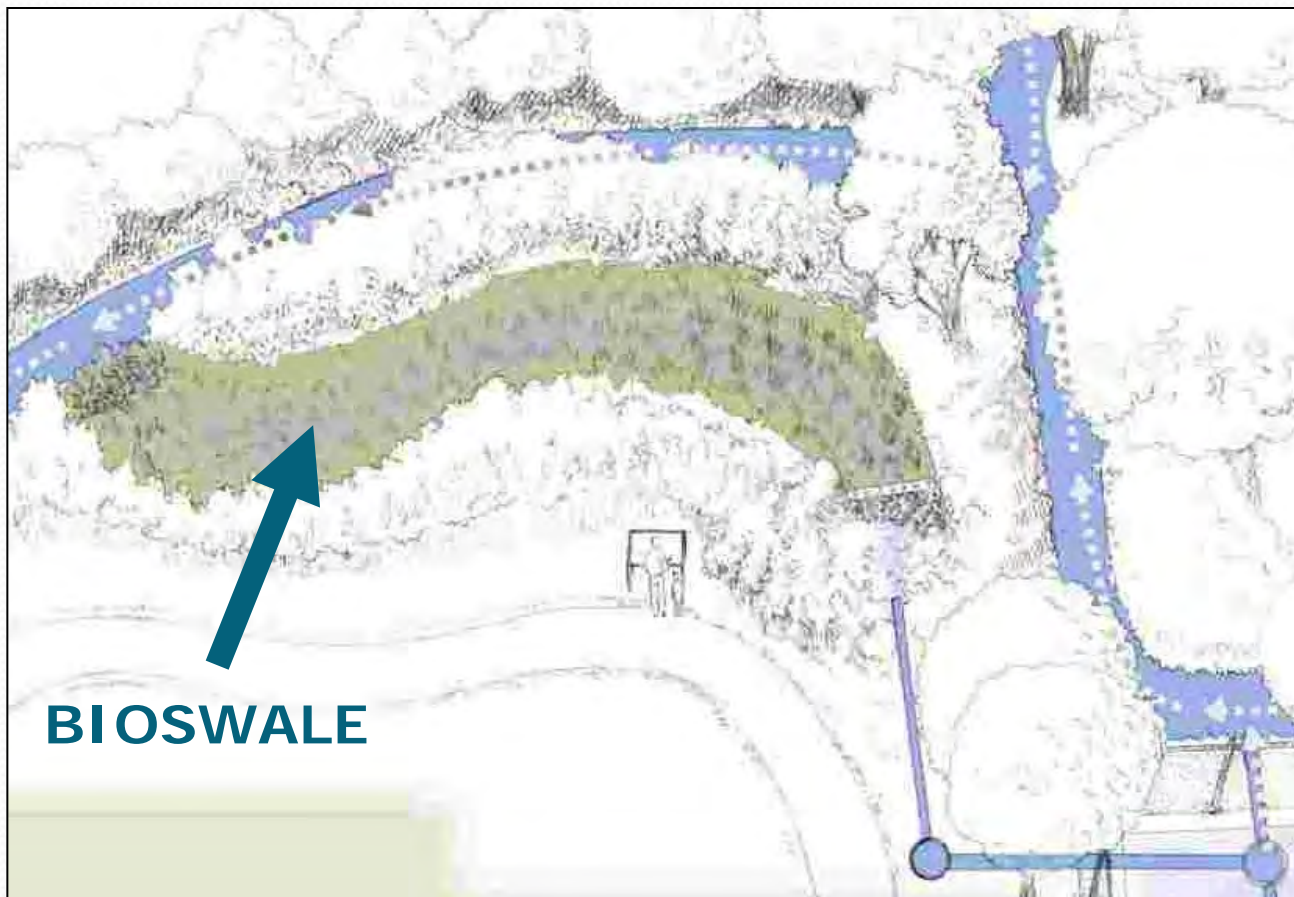


Eco-roofs



Bioswales & Rain Gardens

Landscaping features designed to collect stormwater runoff and give it time to be naturally filtered by plants and soil.



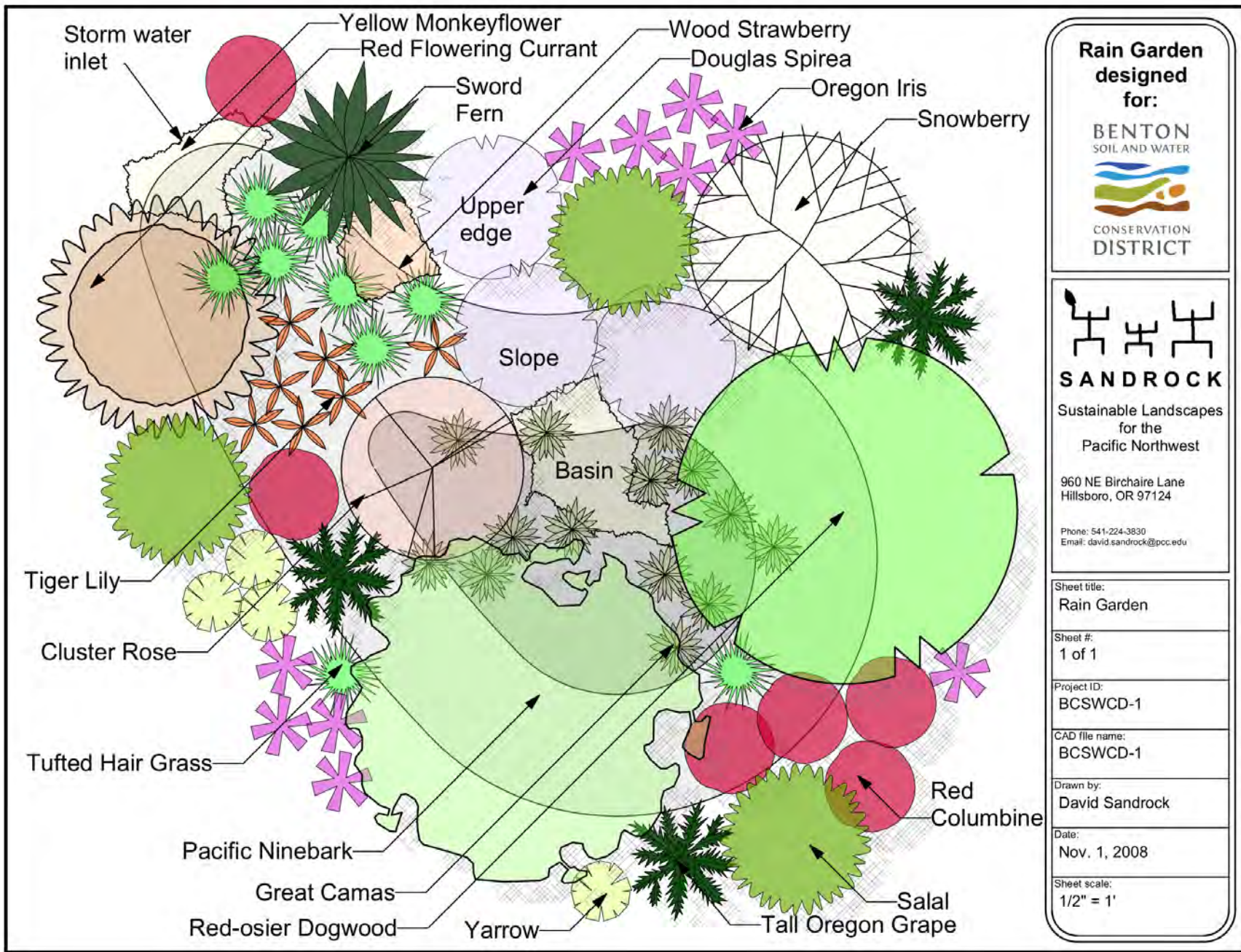
What's the difference?

Bioswales are not vegetated on the bottom & tend to be deeper basins filled with soil & rock.

Bioswales & Rain Gardens



Rain gardens tend to be shallow and completely vegetated.

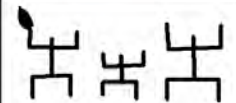


**Rain Garden
designed
for:**

BENTON
SOIL AND WATER



CONSERVATION
DISTRICT



SANDROCK

Sustainable Landscapes
for the
Pacific Northwest

960 NE Birchaire Lane
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Phone: 541-224-3830
Email: david.sandrock@pcc.edu

Sheet title:

Rain Garden

Sheet #:

1 of 1

Project ID:

BCSWCD-1

CAD file name:

BCSWCD-1

Drawn by:

David Sandrock

Date:

Nov. 1, 2008

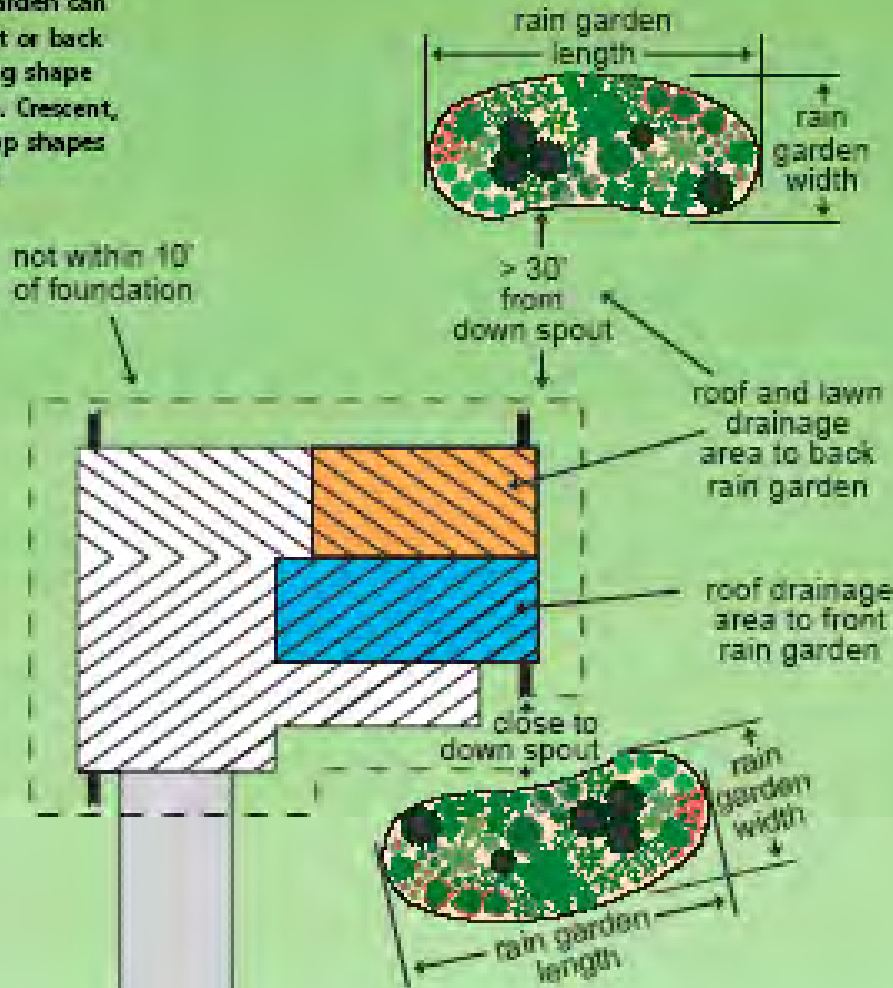
Sheet scale:

1/2" = 1'



Bioswales & Rain Gardens

Figure 1 A rain garden can be built in the front or back yard. Pick a pleasing shape for the rain garden. Crescent, kidney, and teardrop shapes seem to work well.



Choosing a location:

- ◆ Check soil type and topography
- ◆ Not within 10 feet of a foundation
- ◆ Be mindful of existing structures
- ◆ Avoid locations with standing water

How do I build one?



Google search: "rain garden handbook Washington"

Streamside Plant Communities

- Ferns (var. spp.)
- Willows (var. spp.), Red-osier dogwood, Pacific ninebark
- Western Red Cedar

Douglas Spirea

Spiraea douglasii

5' x 5'

Our native spirea prefers
moist soils and sun





Red Osier Dogwood

Cornus sericea

To 15' tall

Prefers moist, well-drained
soil and partial shade



Serviceberry
Amelanchier alnifolia

10' tall
Prefers sun or partial shade
drought tolerant



Native Plants are versatile!



Mock Orange

Philadelphus virginialis

5-10' tall

Prefers well-drained soils



Pacific Ninebark

Physocarpus capitatus

15' tall

Prefers moist soils and sun

Upland Plant Communities

- Oregon grape, salal
- Currants, Wild roses, Vine Maple, Serviceberry, Blue Elderberry
- Oregon White Oak, Douglas fir, Ponderosa Pine, Big Leaf Maple

Red Flowering Currant

Ribes sanguineum

12' tall

Grows well in a wide variety of sites





Golden Currant

Ribes aureum

12' tall

Shade and drought tolerant



Tall Oregon Grape

Mahonia aquifolium

Drought tolerant and deer
resistant



Vine Maple

Acer circinatum

Small, multi-stemmed tree to
25'

Has better fall color in drier,
shadier sites

Indian Plum

Oemleria cerasiformis

10' tall, early spring blooms
Prefers shade



Plant for Success... But How?

- Right Plant, Right Place.
- Plant in the Fall or early Spring, as soon as the ground is workable.
- Mulch your plants and other bare ground (with grass clippings, wood chips, newspaper, etc.)
- Irrigate until plants are established (1-2 years).

Plant for Success...



Source: DNR Webster Forest Nursery

Dan Richardson – Yard By Yard



a backyard habitat program from
Underwood Conservation District
www.ucdwa.org/yard-by-yard



Conservation

Yard By Yard

Backyard habitat - plus

Plus what? people

For everyone

Customizable + self-paced



What's the big idea?

Nature is home – “nature” is not “out there”.

Land ethic – [*Aldo Leopold*]: what supports integrity of the living community around us is a good thing.

Backyard biodiversity – [*Douglas Tallamy*]: opportunity and need to rebuild habitats, starting at the homes/land we control.

Label vs. Place: I am here, we are here. ... Neighborliness

START HERE

[www.ucdwa.org/
yard-by-yard](http://www.ucdwa.org/yard-by-yard)



Frank Cone via Pexels.com ... and: Insta' @Frankconephotos

The Yard By Yard Process

1. Read Read through the Q&A and the references.

2. Checklist Download the checklist. It's your guidance.

3. Plan & Act

Map or sketch your property, and ideas.

Work at your own pace. No rush!

One thing at a time.

4. Report ... At least 5 practices, with at least 1 practice in at least 3 categories.

5. Certification! A site visit, a snazzy sign – a living program.



a backyard habitat program from
Underwood Conservation District

Yard by Yard

CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST



Please fill out all the required information. Check all the boxes that apply and submit this checklist with your video or photos (as described on the web page). Show us what you've done with the place!

Certification requires that you:

A) maintain a pesticide-free yard and

B) use 5 or more practices total, involving

C) at least 3 of the 4 categories (soil, water, food, habitat).

D) People who live out of town have an additional category (wildlife interaction) – see below.

Name:

Date:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

I maintain a pesticide-free yard. (This means no use of synthetic herbicide, pesticide, or pre-emergent applications.)

SOIL

Mulch applied around gardens, shrubs, trees to build organic soil matter and hold moisture (use compost, or else woodchips, leaves, straw, etc.; no synthetic or dyed products).

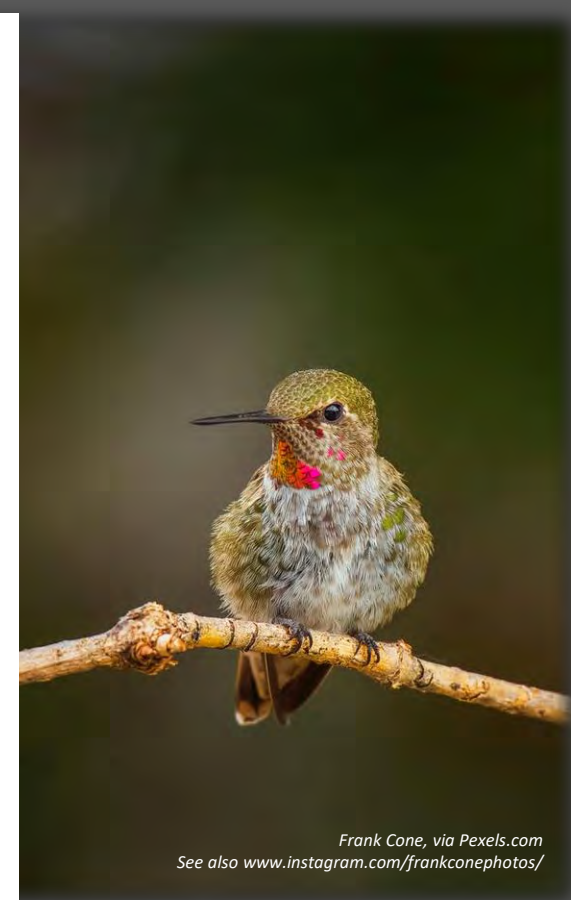
- <http://osu-wams-blogs-uploads.s3.amazonaws.com/blogs.dir/2080/files/2018/05/MG-Study-Group-Mulch-Paper-04-23-2018-Final.pdf>
- <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/documents/12281/gardeningwithmulch.pdf>
- http://sonomama.uconn.edu/Sonoma_Gardener_Articles/Mulch-a_Gardeners_Best_Friend/



Frank Cone via Pexels.com ...
and: Instagram
@Frankconephotos

HABITAT

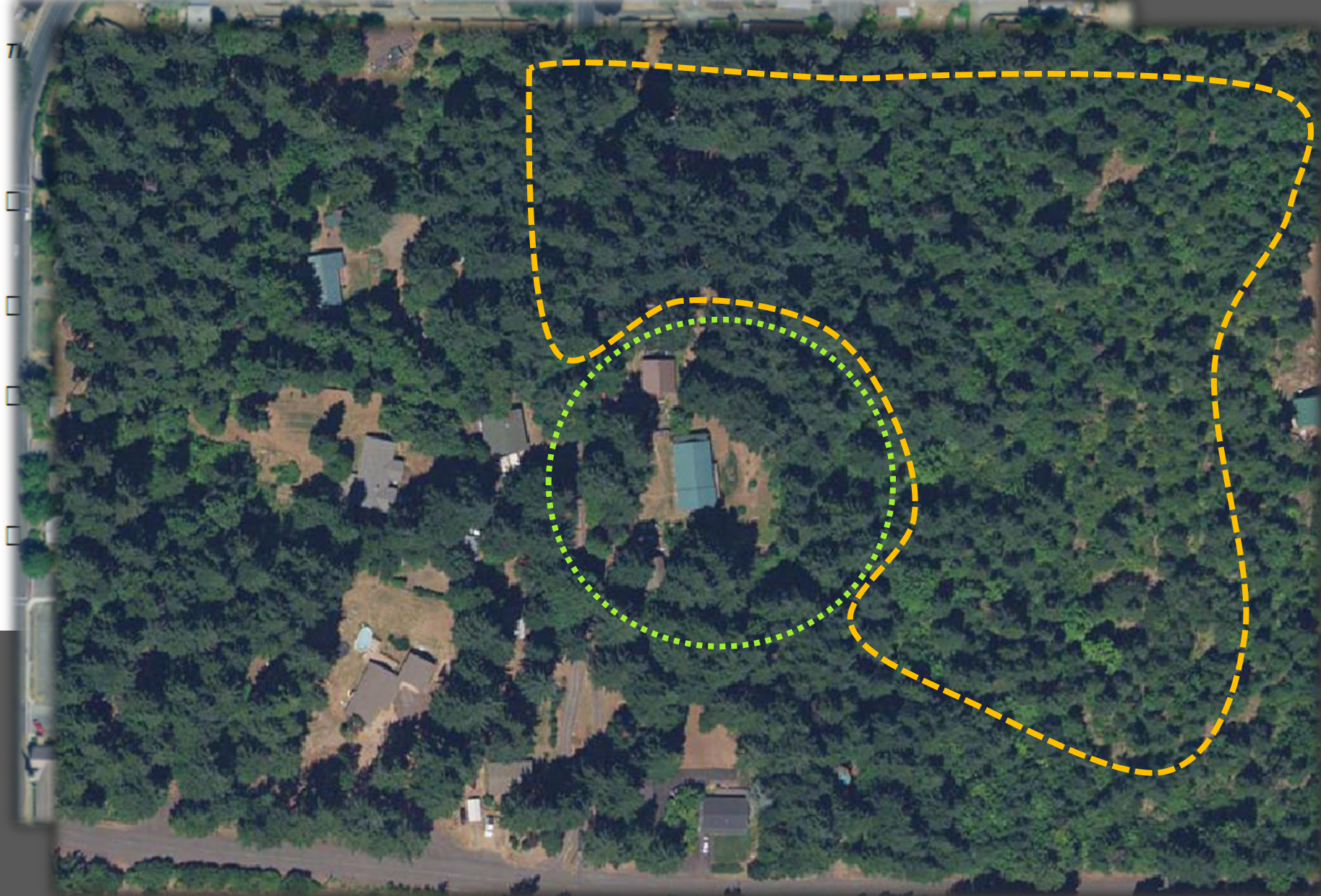
- At least three plant species native to the Pacific Northwest growing in the yard.
 - <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>
 - <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/documents/1/nativeplantreclist.pdf>
 - <https://www.bhg.com/gardening/design/nature-lovers/landscape-for-bees/>
- Three or more plant species (flower, herb, shrub) flowering in each season (spring, summer, fall).
 - <https://oregonflora.org/garden/index.php> (Note that this link is helpful for all native plant-related questions)
- Invasive species removed from area it's overrunning (e.g., a patch of blackberry, vinca, ivy, etc.).
 - <https://emswcd.org/in-your-yard/urban-weeds/>
- A corner of yard allowed to "go wild," be undisturbed by mowing, spraying, cutting, etc.
 - <https://www.wildlife-gardening.co.uk/Make%20a%20Wild%20Corner.htm>
- Native tree(s) or several native shrubs creating vertical structure.
 - http://www.plantnative.org/how_wildlife.htm
 - <https://www.tenthacrefarm.com/how-to-plant-a-hedge-row/>
- Domestic cats are spayed/neutered and are kept indoors in the early mornings and late evenings.
 - <https://www.birdnote.org/listen/shows/keep-your-cats-indoors>



Frank Cone, via Pexels.com
See also www.instagram.com/frankconephotos/

- Bee blocks, birdboxes, and/or bat boxes. (Not bird feeders.)

WILDLIFE INTERACTION



Start where you are, do what you can

SOME QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- + SO HOW DO I KNOW I'M ELIGIBLE?
- + HOW MUCH DOES THIS COST?
- + HOW DO I GET STARTED?
- + WHAT'S ON THIS CHECKLIST YOU KEEP MENTIONING?
- + NOT ALL YARDS ARE THE SAME, RIGHT?
- + LANDSCAPING CAN BE OVERWHELMING, SO MANY DIFFERENT PLANTS AND OTHER THINGS.
- + CAN YOU HELP ME WITH LANDSCAPING QUESTIONS?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- ARTICLES

[Creating a Garden Paradise for Birds – and Humans](#)

[Meet the Ecologist Who Wants You to Unleash the Wild on Your Backyard](#)

The Wild Yards Project (interview with founder: <https://www.rootsimple.com/2018/10/12/newsom/>) ... (talk by ecologist inspiring the project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I>

+ BOOKS

+ BOOKLETS/PDFS

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER



NATURE'S BEST HOPE

A New Approach
to Conservation That
Starts in Your Yard

DOUGLAS W. TALLAMY

Author of Scraming Nature Home





Before



After

Self-paced

Learn as you go

Do something,
not everything

One thing at a
time



YBY is good for soil, water,
wildlife... community...

IT'S GOOD FOR YOU, TOO

Number of studies “point in one direction: Nature is not only nice to have, but it’s a have-to-have for physical health and cognitive function.”

SOME READING

<https://e360.yale.edu/features/eco-psychology-how-immersion-in-nature-benefits-your-health>

The Nature Fix, Florence Williams

The Comfort Crisis, Michael Easter



Questions?

- ⚡ See the YBY link → much info there
- ⚡ email: dan@ucdwa.org
- ⚡ Yes: plant questions
- ⚡ No: landscaping plans
- ⚡ Feedback? you bet!

Yard By Yard: "A living program"

Yard by Yard!

Sign up!

Go!

- Let us know – It's your journey ... but you can share it.
- Feedback – Other ideas for the checkboxes on the certification form? Things we missed?
- “A living program”
 - Maybe a sixth category: “Community”?
 - Spring garden tour?
 - Instagram?



Thanks
for your
attention
this evening.



A Natural Paradox

Creating backyard wildlife habitat while also avoiding conflicts with wildlife

Todd Jacobsen

Wildlife Conflict Specialist, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife















Why Create Backyard Wildlife Habitat?

- ▶ Urbanization

- ▶ Habitat loss due to land conversion is a threat to species
- ▶ **Gorge Sensitive/Threatened/Endangered Species:** western gray squirrel, fisher, western pond turtle, Oregon spotted frog, Larch Mountain salamander, northern spotted owl, ferruginous hawk, and more
- ▶ Existing residential (<1/2 acre) dwellings are not currently identified as a large threat to species in the Gorge, but every bit of habitat helps!



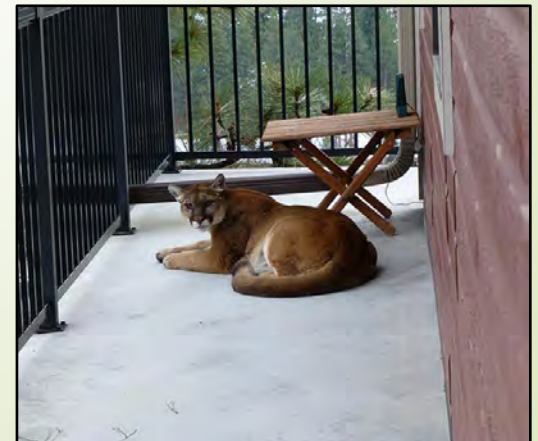
Why Create Backyard Wildlife Habitat?

- ▶ All levels of ecosystems are interconnected, even if not directly creating habitat for a specific species
- ▶ Insect pest reduction, bird/insect pollinator attractant
 - ▶ Attract birds, small mammals, and reptiles that may prey on non-native garden pests
 - ▶ Pollinators help other flowers, fruit trees, gardens
- ▶ Enjoyment
 - ▶ Wildlife viewing (particularly birds)
 - ▶ Appreciation of the outdoors and nature, especially for children



Creating Habitat While Avoiding Conflicts with Wildlife

- ▶ Be aware that with habitat comes wildlife
- ▶ Backyard scale: ½ acre or less
- ▶ Your yard ≠ Yellowstone
 - ▶ Have realistic expectations
 - ▶ City limits and surrounding areas – not suited for attracting most medium-large native mammals
 - ▶ Some species just don't make good yard guests; most cities don't make good large animal habitat
 - ▶ Vehicle collisions, fence entanglement

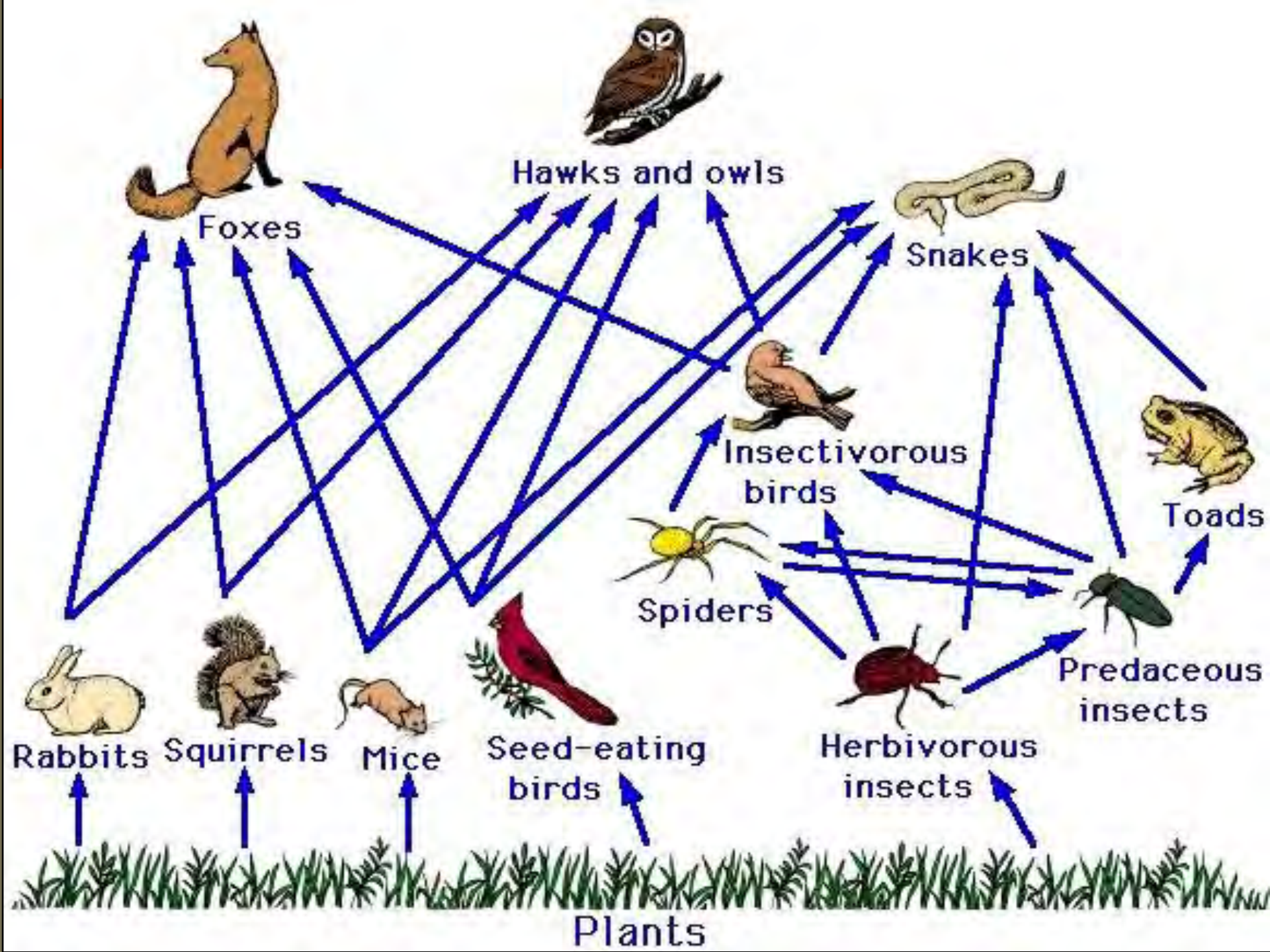


Creating Habitat While Avoiding Conflicts with Wildlife

- ▶ Your desires may not match those of your neighbor
 - ▶ Conflicting actions may actually be worse for wildlife!



- ▶ Wildlife are not computer programs that follow set rules and protocols
- ▶ **Avoiding attracting certain species DOES NOT devalue them – it is in their best interest!**



Tips for Minimizing Backyard Conflicts

- ▶ Prevention is easier than reaction
 - ▶ “A fed bear is a dead bear”
- ▶ Recognizing conflicts when they occur...and when they don't
 - ▶ Sighting ≠ conflict in most cases
 - ▶ The entirety of the Gorge is wildlife habitat on a landscape scale
- ▶ Mimicking natural environment (seed- and nectar-bearing flowers, snags) vs artificial supplements (bird **food**, deer **food**, bigfoot **food**)



Tips for Minimizing Backyard Conflicts

- ▶ Keep wildlife wild (and not habituated to humans)
 - ▶ With some species, this means discouraging use of yard!
- ▶ Target species
 - ▶ Focus on birds (other than turkeys), insects/pollinators, small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians
 - ▶ Be prepared for non-target wildlife to use your habitat
 - ▶ Adjust accordingly, and seek assistance with conflicts if needed



Habitat Checklist – Yard by Yard

- ☑ Yard includes fruit-producing trees or shrubs, or First Foods (from “**Foods**” section)
 - Pick up fallen fruit to avoid attracting bears and other larger animals that may feed on this fruit
- ☑ At least three plant species native to the Pacific Northwest growing in the yard
 - Try to select deer-resistant native plants
 - see UCD's native plant sale list!
- ☑ Three or more plant species (flower, herb, shrub) flowering in each season (spring, summer, fall)
 - Try to select seed-producing or flowering/nectar-producing plants
- ☑ Remove invasive blackberries
 - Reduces competition with native species
 - reduces bear attractant
- ☑ A corner of yard allowed to “go wild,” be undisturbed by mowing, spraying, cutting, etc.
 - Keep areas with livestock clear of brush cover where carnivores may hide



Habitat Checklist – Yard by Yard

- ☑ Domestic cats are spayed/neutered and are kept indoors in the early mornings and late evenings
 - Protects birds, mammals, reptiles, as well as cats!
- ☑ Rock pile, dry-stacked rock wall, or brush pile integrated into landscaping
 - Be mindful of the possibility for snakes, ground squirrels, and skunks to occupy these areas
 - Select rocks for smaller crevices
 - Lay chicken wire down as a base to prevent tunnelling by squirrels and other small mammals
- ☑ Year-round water feature on site, whether existing (a stream), or added (a bird bath, dripper, etc.)
 - ☑ If artificial source, try to create a flowing source with continuous supply of fresh water to help prevent disease transmission



Wildlife Interaction – Yard by Yard

- ☑ All livestock in four-sided and roofed enclosures every night (before dusk until after dawn)
 - Vast majority of livestock depredations happen during evenings/at night
- ☑ Removal of artificial bird-feeders, which may attract unwanted wildlife such as bears
 - “A fed bear is a dead bear”
- ☑ Pets kept indoors or within fenced areas, especially between dusk and dawn
 - Vast majority of pet depredations occur with outdoor cats, or dogs let outside at night
- ☑ Dogs leashed/controlled when outside
- ☑ Electric fencing around bee hives and compost bins to prevent conflicts with bears (and other animals)
 - The only effective way to protect these un-movable attractants



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SPYPOINT

Wildlife Interaction – Yard by Yard

- ☑ Gardens deer-proofed with fencing, or with hedgerow or shrub barriers.



- ☑ Habituated wildlife (deer, turkeys, etc.) actively hazed away from the yard, and no supplemental feeding of wildlife (no corn, deer blocks, salt blocks, etc.), to keep wildlife healthy and to not attract predators
- ☑ Trash and compost secured inside structures/enclosures (except for weekly trash pickup)
- ☑ Crawl spaces under houses, decks, and outbuildings closed off with siding, wire mesh, etc., to prevent unwanted occupation by animals such as skunks and raccoons



Handling/Reporting Backyard Wildlife Conflicts

- Self help
 - Species fact sheets
(<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living>)
 - (Most) other internet resources
- WDFW Region 5 Customer Service
 - **360-696-6211; TeamRidgefield@dfw.wa.gov**
 - Larger conflicts
 - Commercial crop damage
- Non-emergency dangerous wildlife conflicts
 - WDFW Enforcement Dispatch: **877-933-9847**
 - Bear/cougar sightings in urban areas
- Emergency wildlife issues
 - **911** for immediate law enforcement assistance

Kris's Yard by Yard Adventures



Spring 2021



Potential for habitat is everywhere!

Soil

- Maintain a pesticide-free yard. (This means no use of synthetic herbicide, pesticide, or pre-emergent applications.)

SOIL

- Mulch applied around gardens, shrubs, trees to build organic soil matter and hold moisture (use compost, or else woodchips, leaves, straw, etc.; no synthetic or dyed products).

https://www.wams-blogs-uploads.s3.amazonaws.com/blogs_dir/2080/files/2018/05/MG-Study-Guide-Paper-04-23-2018-Final.pdf

- <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/documents/12281/gardeningwithmulch.pdf>

- http://www.sosonoma.com/Gardener_Articles/Mulch--a_Gardeners_Best_Friend

- On-site composting system capturing organic waste for use in the landscape.

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/collection/composting-publications-resources-plans>

- Lawn mowing height set to at least 3", and clippings mulched in placed instead of bagged.

- <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1521/html>

- https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/mow_high_for_weed_and_grub_control

- Cover crops grown in garden during off-season.

- <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/fs304>



Water



WATER

- Xeriscape and/or drought-tolerant plants emphasized in landscaping.
 - <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/>
- Efficient irrigation equipment and controllers (meters or drip irrigation and/or automatic timers).
 - https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1392-2016_0.pdf
 - <https://www.emswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2083/2020/01/Drip-Irrigation-Practices.pdf>
- Lawn allowed to go dormant (unwatered) over the summer.
 - https://www.oregonlive.com/hg/2018/08/how_to_rejuvenate_your_lawn_of.html
 - <https://www.thedesigner.com/water/article/646865>
- Lawn areas have been reduced or eliminated.
 - https://wmswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2015LawnAlternatives_SoilSchool_MLo.pdf
- Single-species grass lawns have been replanted with a diverse seed mix (e.g., natives, drought-tolerant, or eco-lawn seed mix); and ideally allowed to flower.
 - <https://content.yardmap.org/learn/native-grasses-for-your-native-lawn/>
 - <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/brainwaves/outgrowing-the-traditional-grass-lawn/>
- Paved surface has been depaved and/or permeable pavers have been used.
 - <https://depave.org/learn/how-to-depave/>
- Rain barrel(s) captures rainwater for irrigation use.
 - <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/378190>
- Rain garden or bioswale that captures, slows, and infiltrates rainwater.
 - <https://emswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Rain-Gardens-Guide.pdf>

Food



FOOD

- ❑ Vegetable garden with at least three species growing, whether in-ground, raised bed, or in containers.

- <http://gardening.wsu.edu/vegetable-gardens/>
- <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9027>

- <https://www.meflora.com/vegetable-gardens/>
- ❑ Herb garden with at least three species for cooking and/or medicinal purposes, whether in-ground, raised bed, or in containers.

- <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/documents/12281/growingherbs.pdf>
- <https://www.backyardgardens.com/garden-tips/more-garden-herb-gardening/>

- ❑ Companion crops grown in garden during growing season – and some allowed to bolt.

- <http://gardenenergy.co/vegetables-love-flowers/>
- <https://today.oregonstate.edu/news/practice-good-neighbor-policy-garden-try-companion-planting>

- ❑ Yard includes fruit-producing trees or shrubs, or First Foods.

- <https://extension.wsu.edu/maritimefruit/publications/>

- ❑ Season-extending row covers, cloches, etc., in use for vegetables or root crops.

- <https://extension.wsu.edu/snohomish/plastic-culture-to-extend-growing-season/>

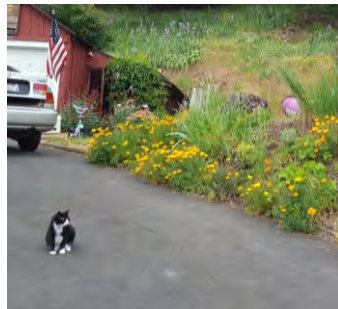
Habitat



HABITAT

- At least three plant species native to the Pacific Northwest growing in the yard.
 - <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>
 - <https://www.bhg.com/gardening/design/nature-lovers/landscape-for-bees/>
- Three or more plant species (flower, herb, shrub) flowering in each season (spring, summer, fall).
 - <https://www.gomh.org/garden/index.php> (note that this link is helpful for all native plant-related questions)
- Invasive species removed from area it's overrunning (e.g., a patch of blackberry, vinca, ivy, etc.).
 - <https://www.gomh.org/garden/index.php>
- A corner of yard allowed to "go wild," be undisturbed by mowing, spraying, cutting, etc.
 - <https://www.wildlife-gardening.com/04-1-100-100WildGardening.htm>
- Native tree(s) or several native shrubs creating vertical structure.
 - http://www.plantnative.org/how_wildlife.htm
 - <https://www.thegreenfarm.com/how-to-plant-a-hedge-row/>
- Domestic cats are spayed/neutered and are kept indoors in the early mornings and late evenings.
 - <https://www.birdnote.org/listen/shows/keep-your-cats-indoors>
- Bee blocks, birdboxes, and/or bat boxes. (Not bird feeders.)
 - <https://xerces.org/publications/periodicals/articles/enhancing-nest-sites-for-native-bee-crop-pollinators>
 - <https://www.gomh.org/pollinator-resources/nesting-habitat-for-native-pollinators/>
- Snag tree ("wildlife tree") or nurse log on the ground incorporated into landscaping (tree at least 15' tall and 12" across, or a log at least 12" in diameter).
 - <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/snags>
- Rock pile, dry-stacked rock wall, or stone wall.
 - <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/snags>
 - <https://stonewall.com/2017/02/13/pile-it-on-habitat-niles-for-wildlife/>
 - <http://www.metrotraquide.com/stone-walls-for-wildlife/>
- Year-round water feature on site, whether existing (a stream), or added (a bird bath, dripper, etc.).
 - <https://www.audubon.org/news/how-make-birdbath>

Wildlife Interaction



WILDLIFE INTERACTION

The Wildlife Interaction section is mandatory for participants living on rural land, on the edge of a town or city, or living adjacent to wooded land or large undeveloped tracts of land, including gullies, streams, fields, and woodlands. Participants in these areas must check at least three of these boxes in addition to the five or more practices across soil-water-food-habitat categories. We **strongly** recommend the first item below for all small livestock.

- All livestock in four-sided and roofed enclosures every night (before dusk until after dawn).
 - <https://mountainlion.org/home/stay-safe/#enclosures-and-pens>
- Removal of artificial bird-feeders, which may attract unwanted wildlife such as bears.
 - <https://bearwise.org/six-bearwise-basics/remove-birdfeeders/>
- Pets kept indoors or within fenced areas, especially between dusk and dawn. Dogs leashed/controlled when outside.
 - <https://mountainlion.org/home/stay-safe/#four-steps-to-stay-safe>
- Electric fencing around bee hives and compost bins to prevent conflicts with bears (and other animals).
 - <http://www.bearwise.org/2015/05/06/electric-fencing-around-bee-hives/>
- Gardens deer-proofed with fencing, or with hedgerow or shrub barriers.
 - <https://savvygardening.com/deer-proof-gardens/>
 - <https://www.dfa.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=83544&inline>
- Habituated wildlife (deer, turkeys, etc.) actively hazed away from the yard, and no supplemental feeding of wildlife (no corn, deer blocks, salt blocks, etc.), to keep wildlife healthy and to not attract predators.
 - <http://www.deerfriendly.com/feeding-deer>
 - <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/wildlife-feeding>
- Trash and compost secured inside structures/enclosures (except for weekly trash pickup).
 - <https://bearwise.org/bear-safety-tips/keep-bears-out/>
- Crawl spaces under houses, decks, and outbuildings closed off with siding, wire mesh, etc., to prevent unwanted occupation by animals such as skunks and raccoons.
 - <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/species-facts/skunks#preventing-conflict>



Pollinator garden

Species selection

- **Forbes-**

- Larkspur (N)
- Asters (N)
- Goldenrod (N)
- Penstemons (N)
- Oregon sunshine (N)
- Sedums
- Yarrow (N)
- Native buckwheat
- Native lomatiums
- Native lupins
- Narrow leaf and showy milkweed (N)
- Blue flax (N)
- Great basin sage (N)
- Columbine (N)
- Balsam root (N)
- Blanket flower (N)

- Phacelia (N)
- Fireweed (N)
- California poppy (N)
- Wild onions (N)

- **Herbs-**

- Thyme
- Rosemary
- Sage
- Dill
- Anise hyssop

- **Woody Shrubs-**

- Red flowering currant (N)
- Gold currant (N)
- Serviceberry (N)
- Osoberry (N)
- Mock orange (N)

- Blue elderberry (N)
- Beaked Hazelnut
- Russian sage
- Lavender

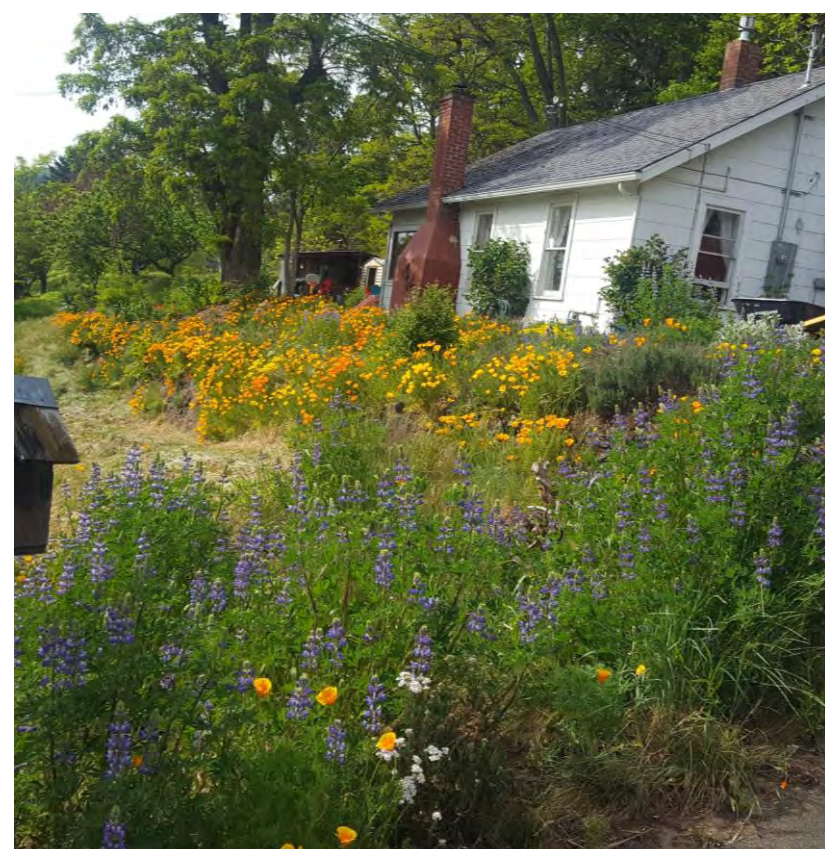
- **Trees**

- Oregon white oak

- **Native bunch grass**

- Basin wild rye
- Blue wild rye
- Blue bunch wheat grass
- June grass
- Idaho fescue





Native Bunchgrass and Wildflower Meadow

Herb Garden

Plant what you
cook with!

- Rosemary
- Sage
- Thyme
- Winter savory
- Marjoram
- Bay Laurel
- Lavender
- Strawberry
- Chives
- Saffron
- Camas
- Cilantro
- Pineapple sage
- Dill
- Basil
- Parsley
- Lovage
- Mint
- Borage
- Salvia
- Yarrow
- Hops
- Roses
- Lemon balm
- Tarragon
- Sunflowers
- Anise hyssop
- Chamomile
- Violets
- Lemon Verbena





- Free Plants!!
- Don't forget Conservation District's Native Plant Sales

Lessons Learned from Yard by Yard

- Its fun to work with the UCD!
- Pick a practice that is exciting to you and start small
- Work in the front yard or wherever you spend most of your time
- Site prep, site prep, site prep!
- Be resourceful, lazy, and cheap!
- Talk with local experts, master gardeners, neighbors, nurseries
- Share your lessons learned (and share your plants)
- It's not without maintenance
- Look at other yards or natural areas for inspiration
- Learn to propagate your own plants!
- Think throughout the seasons, throughout life cycles, and spaces
- Participate in Citizen Science efforts-ex: Xerces Society Bumble Bee Watch
- Take the time to enjoy the space we all occupy!





Yard by Yard and Beyond...



Kris's Yard by Yard and beyond...
Thank You!

Special Thanks to:

- Kris Schaedel and Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District
- Todd Jacobsen with WDFW
- Kevin Mink with Oklahoma County Conservation District
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- Audubon Society and Columbia Land Trust's "Backyard Habitat Certification" Program in the Portland area.



National Association of
Conservation Districts



**Property Sketches –
share and discuss ideas or
challenges**

Questions and Discussion

Thank you for attending!

Visit us at www.ucdwa.org or call 509-493-1936

