

Conservation Design

Often the goals of creating a beautiful outdoor living space and gardens aligns with the principals of Conservation Garden Design.

This approach may include planning techniques that conserve natural resources like healthy topsoil and clean water, reduce consumption of fossil fuels and eliminate the need for polluting fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. Properties can be shaped to mimic how a natural ecosystem works. Rainwater can fall and be reabsorbed directly into the soil, and plant, insect and natural ecosystem webs are reconnected.

Water wise gardens

Drought conditions of this past season has brought much attention to water conservation. Managing and reusing storm water runoff from property can be an excellent way of contributing to the health of ecosystems and reduce clean water consumption. Storm water generated from roof drains and "hardscape" surfaces can often be directed to garden areas so that run off water can be reused by plants. Water can be "harvested" into above ground or below ground systems to be used to supply irrigation or recharge ground water tables. Dry stream beds can be a good way to slow the pace of water run off so that soil erosion is prevented. Incorporating plant species which have low water needs once established also benefits water conservation.



Native Plant Gardens

Designing a garden that incorporates native plants can provide benefits on many levels. Native plants are generally better adapted to local conditions of soil, temperature and weather patterns resulting in low maintenance. Meadows, alternative lawns and roadside buffers utilizing native plants better support the needs of native insects and animals making them the basis for creating a Wildlife Garden.



Wildflower Gardens

Wildflower Gardens are designed to create a habitat of resources for insects and animals that folks would like to attract to their properties. Planning includes plants that provide food and shelter, water features and protection from predators.



Plant diversity is currently being lost at an unprecedented rate, resulting in an associated decrease in ecosystem services. About a third of the world's vascular plant species face the threat of extinction due to a variety of devastating activities, including, over-harvesting and over exploitation, destructive agricultural and forestry practices, urbanization, environmental pollution, land-use changes, exotic invasive species, global climate change, and more. We therefore need to increase our efforts to develop integrative conservation approaches for plant species conservation.