

# Permaculture in Your Garden

Using the example of nature to produce more food!

**Presented by Alec LePoidevin**

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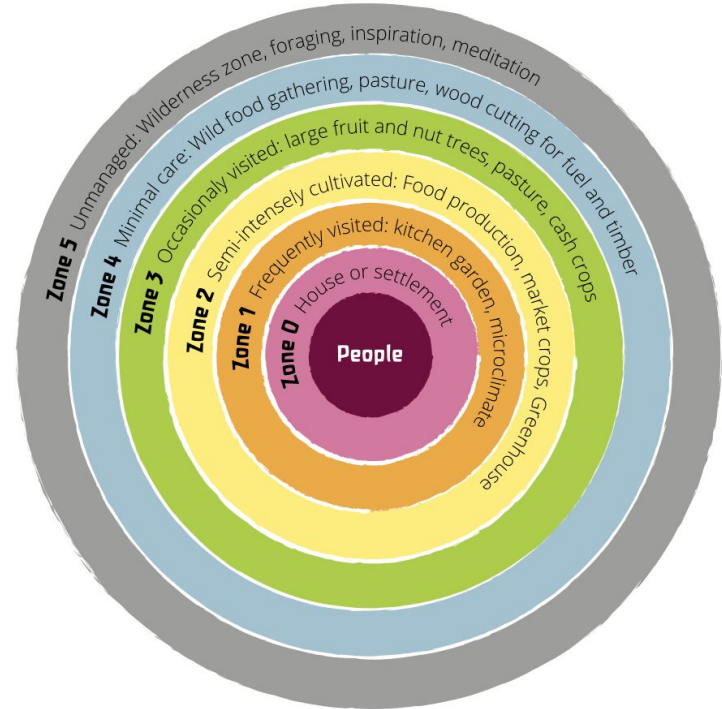
Board Member for the **Waukesha County Green Team**

Gardening with Permaculture in mind is a holistic approach that takes the natural elements into account: wind, water, and sun.



# Where to Start?

- Observation
- Envision the project
- Make a plan



# OBSERVE YOUR AREA

- Take some time to see how your area changes over time.
- Where does water flow:
  - Snow melt
  - Rain storms
  - Roof and other hard surfaces
- What areas get the most/least sunlight
- Do some areas get stronger wind
- What wildlife is coming around



# IDEAS AND GOALS FOR PROPERTY

- Amount of food
- Structures
- Time and Labor
  - Succession planting
  - Year round garden
- Types of plants
  - Fruit trees or bushes
  - Vegetables
  - Herbs
  - Flowers



# DESIGN

- Containers
- Raised Beds
- In Ground Garden





Use Containers to work plants into smaller spaces close to the home or patios



**Raised Beds can be used in a Permaculture Garden by keeping the same ideas in mind**



Larger scale permaculture projects

# Key Elements of Permaculture Gardens

- Soil
- Compost
- Animals
- Perennials
- Mulch
- Water



# SOIL...NOT DIRT!

- Importance of soil
- Soil vs Dirt
- Building soil
- Cover Crops
- No till gardening
- Mulch





# COMPOST FOR THE WIN

- Keep waste on property as a resource
- Best amendment for the garden!
- Helps build soil
- Sources: kitchen scraps, plant material, paper, animal bedding, some animal waste

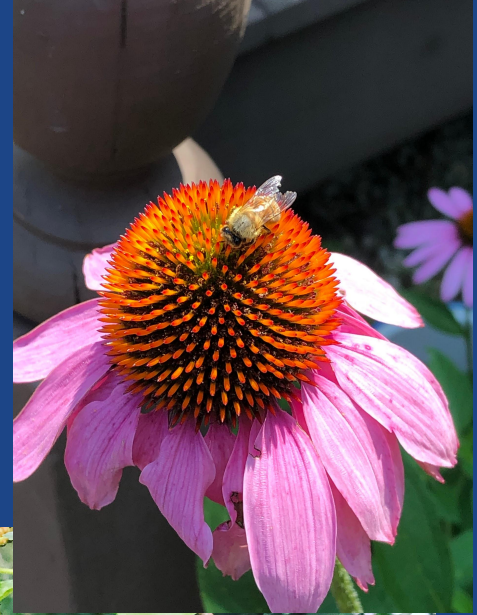
# ANIMALS IN THE GARDEN

- Chickens
  - Till
  - Fertilize
  - Produce
  - Control pests
- Goats
  - Landscape
  - Control growth
  - Fertilize
- Bees
  - Pollinate
  - Produce
- Cows
- Pigs
- Ducks
- Fish



# Perennial Plants

- Require less work
- Native to your area
- Reliable and hardy
- Establish permanent roots to help prevent erosion and improve soil
- Examples:
  - Fruit trees and bushes
  - Certain herbs
  - Wild flowers



# THE WONDERS OF MULCH

- Protect the soil
- Helps build soil
- Types of mulch
  - Wood chips (beware the evils of Black Walnut)
  - Grass clippings
  - Hay or straw
  - Plants

\*Cover Crops





Mulch can be used in a container, raised bed, or in planting beds around the property



**Cover crops help protect soil and add nutrients between plantings**

# Water Resources

- Rain Barrels
- Swales
- Ponds
- Rain Gardens



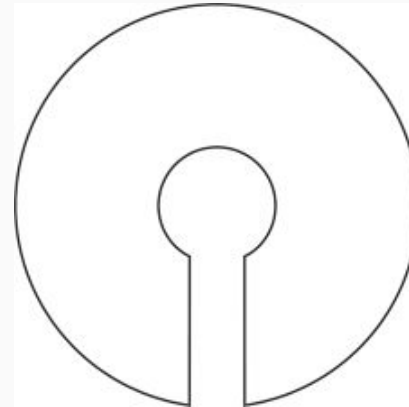
# Fun Features for the Garden

- Keyhole Garden
- Food Forest
- Hugelkultur
- Herb Spiral
- Rain Garden



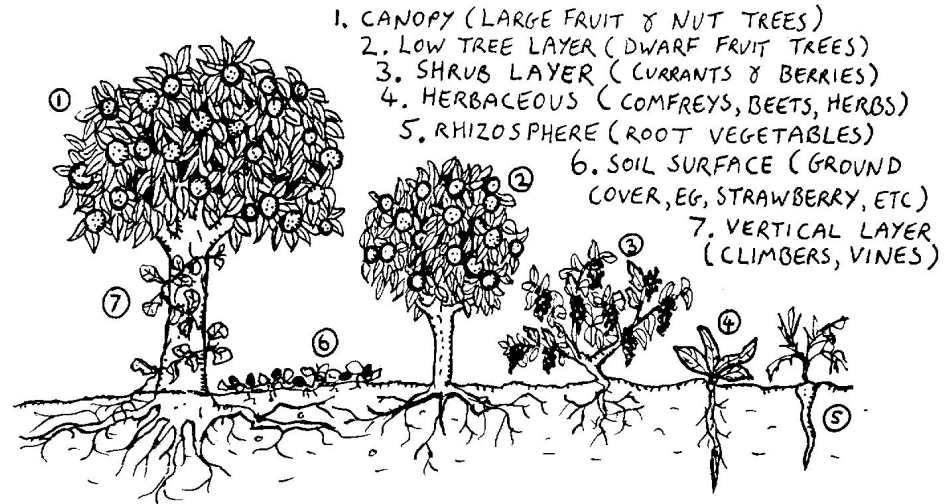
# Keyhole Garden

- Great use of space
- Adds beauty to space
- Structured for harvesting



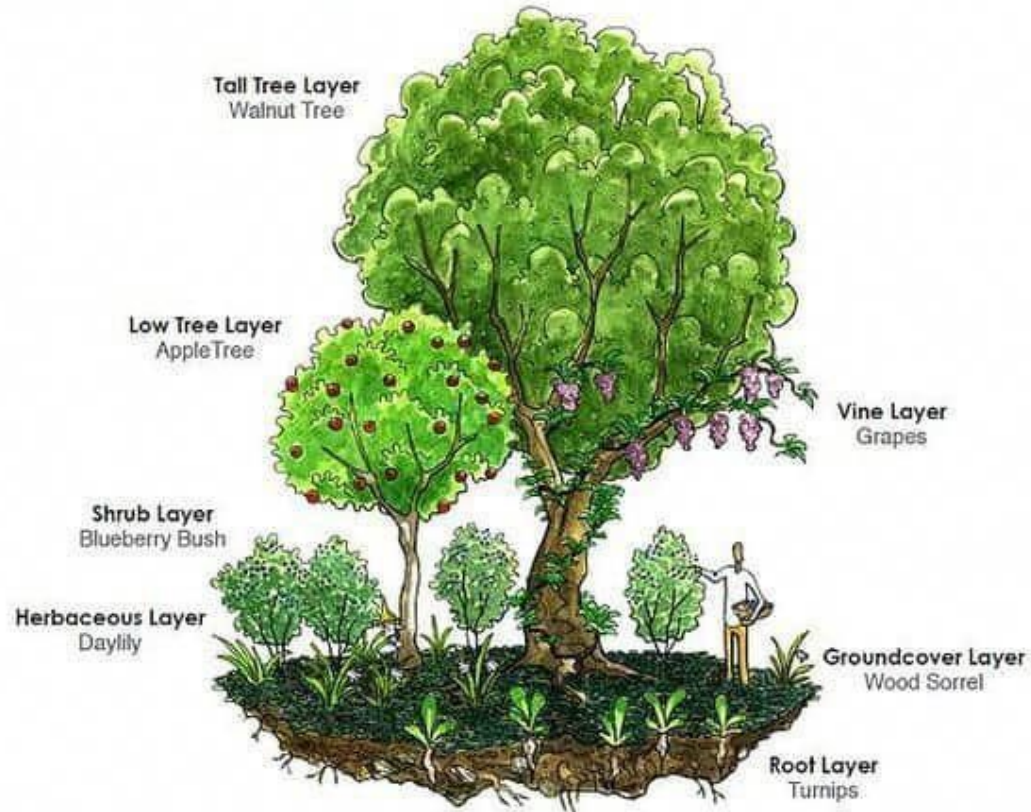
# Food Forest

- Mimics nature
- Low maintenance
- Abundant
- Guilds
- Creates habitat



THE FOREST GARDEN: A SEVEN LEVEL BENEFICIAL GUILD

## Layers of a Forest Garden



Paul Kearsley 2014

# Hugelkultur Mound

- Natural raised bed
- Water retention
- Blockage
- Low maintenance
- Beautiful style



# Herb Spiral

- Contained garden
- Saves space by going vertical
- Contains resources
- Looks cool!



# Final Thoughts...

- Start small
- Pick plants that work for your space
- Make a plan-short term and long term
- Use the resources available to you first, then go off site
- HAVE FUN WITH IT!!

## Some of my favorite Resources

- Books
  - Gaia's Garden by Toby Hemenway
  - Edible Landscaping with a Permaculture Twist by Michael Judd
- Podcasts
  - The Joe Gardener Show
  - Mother Earth News and Friends
  - The Permaculture Podcast

# ***Thank You!***

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