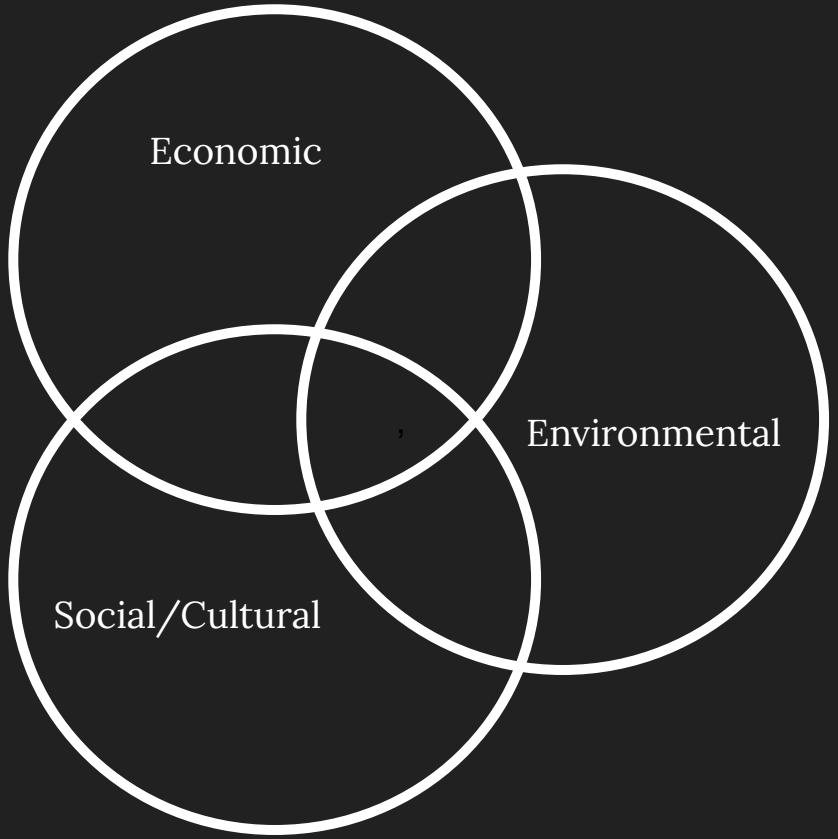
Sustainable Landscapes and Water-wise Landscaping Strategies

Aligning our principles with our processes



Sustainability

- Applying the Venn diagram of Sustainability to landscape systems
- Which circle is your priority?
  - Economic
  - Environmental
  - Sociocultural
- Priorities should steer a need analysis before any work is actually done

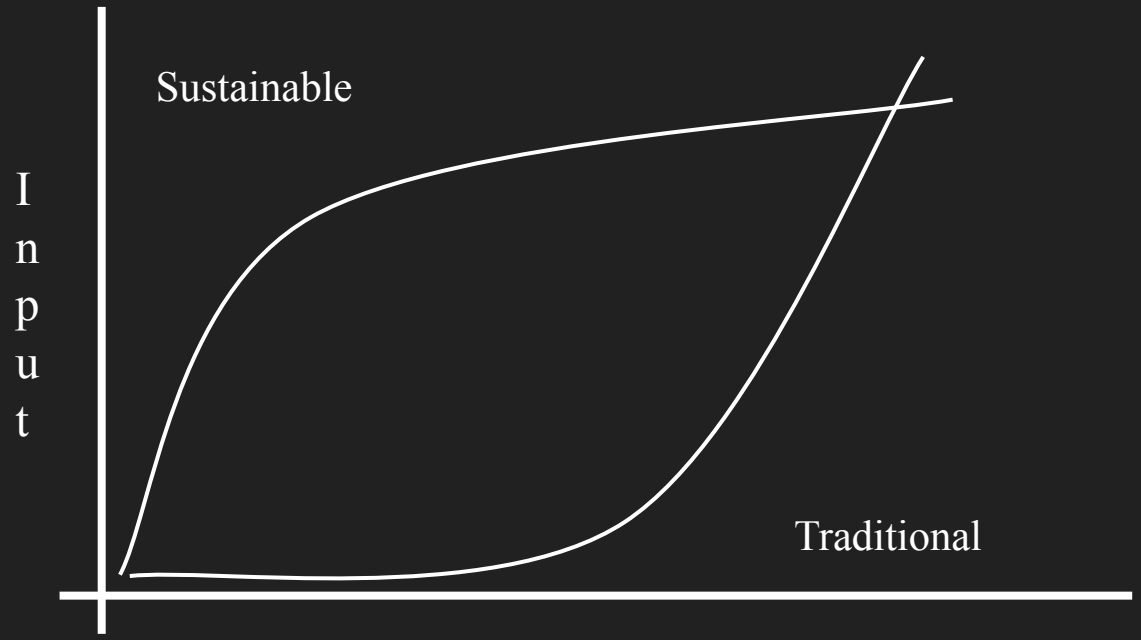
Landscape Sustainability Scale

	Environmental	Economic	Cultural
Low Score 1	- High water needs - High fertilizer needs - Unique soil conditions - High carbon output mechanical needs	- Large container size - Use of specialized plant varieties - High planting density - Specialized maintenance	- Special care required to ensure landscape survives usage - Low plant resilience - Four season use
Moderate Score 2	- Average water needs - Occasion fertilization - Adaptable to existing soil types	- Mixture of container sizes - Use of available plant varieties and cultivars - General maintenance required	- Landscape will generally tolerate constituent usage - Occasional special plant maintenance required
High Score 3	- Low water needs - Low or no extra fertilization - Waterwise plant usage - Low carbon mechanical needs	- Small container sizes - Naturalizing plants - Low maintenance requirements	- Landscape tolerates all forms of usage without deterioration - High natural resilience - Single season emphasis
	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3

Score Total _____ Low Sustainability **3** → High Sustainability **9**

Landscape Maintenance Illustration

- Traditional versus Sustainable



Needs Analysis

- Understand precisely what your values or those of your client are as they relate to the overall landscape and its use

- Strip away initial assumptions

- Plan based on known post-installation management strategies

Accurate Forecasting - From installation to maturity

- Understand the developmental stages of a maturing landscape
  - What inputs are required at specific times in order to achieve the desired outcomes

- Narrow any possible outcome variability thresholds in order to make confident predictions
  - E.g. Native plants vs. Exotics
  - E.g. waterwise vs. water loving

Principles of Environmental Sustainability

- Appropriate water usage
- Carbon emissions reduction
- Carbon Sequestration
- Petro-chemical usage reduction
- Loosening our grip on the landscape
    - Being part of the process, not THE process
    - Using species naturalization to our advantage

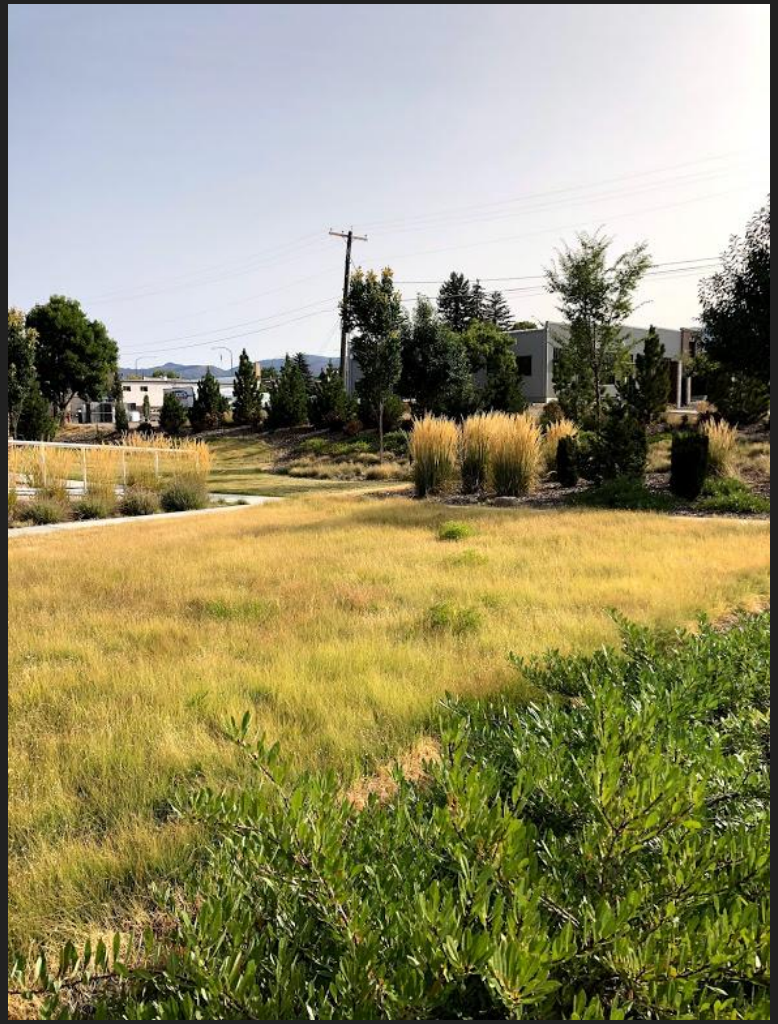
Water-wise Landscaping

- Principle Components
  - Plant Selection
  - Arrangement
  - Maintenance
  - Water Delivery
  - Utilizing Naturalization
  - Patience and Perseverance

Naturalization

- Relinquishing control while increasing the probability of a predictable outcome
- Survival mechanism
- Resilience
- Understanding the effects of irrigation
    - Amount of water and mode of delivery
- Varying performance through differing horticultural techniques


Bernadette and Edward Feeney
Music
Conservatory

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