



Putting the Use back in Reuse

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Bobby Tucker, PE



"Among the illusions which have invested our civilization is an absolute belief that the solutions to our problems must be a more determined application of rationally organized expertise.

The division of knowledge into "feudal fiefdoms of expertise" has meant that general understanding and coordinated action are increasingly difficult and often looked upon with suspicion, as evidenced by our systems of education which reward the specialist and disdain the generalist.

It has also resulted in a fracturing of society into smaller and smaller and increasingly insulated professional groups."

Mechanical/Technological

Development of:

- Transportation
- Computers
- Communication
- Weaponry
- Medical tech
- Genetic engineering
- Chemistry

Nonmechanical/Complex

Management of:

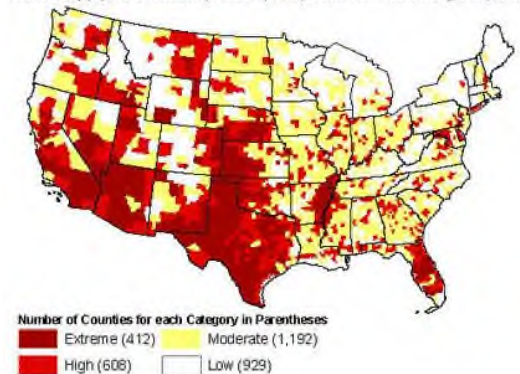
- Agriculture
- Water/air quality
- Land/soil management
- Economies
- Wildlife (including insects)
- Human relationships
- Government
- Human health

U.S. Agriculture Policy

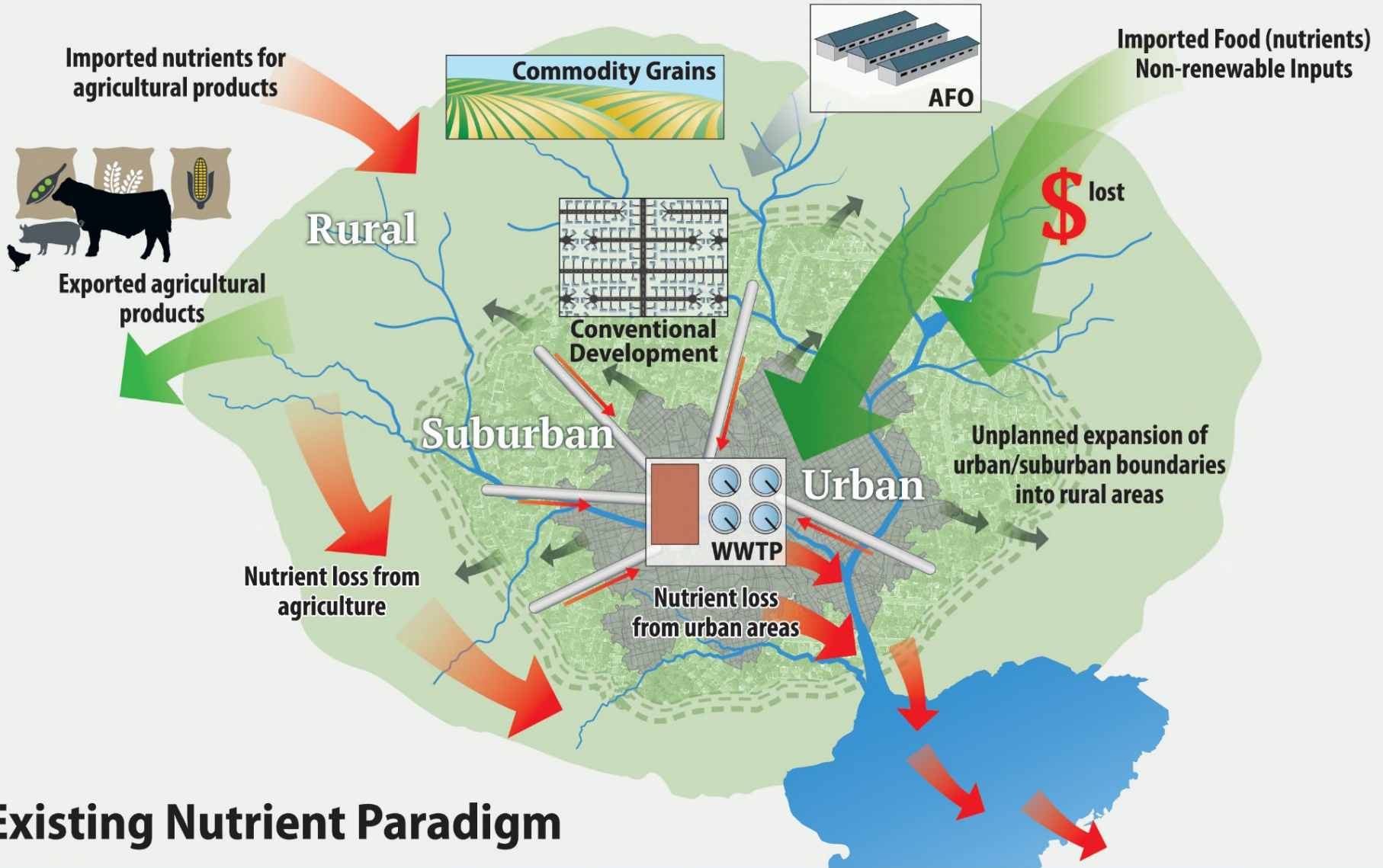
- Thermodynamically imbalanced
 - 10:1 caloric food-input ratio
- Future Resource Deficit
 - Soil bank (10x more erosion than food)
 - Water supply
 - Fossil fuels
 - Mined nutrients (e.g., phosphorus)
- Ecologically Degrading
- Elitist



Water Supply Sustainability Index (2050) With Climate Change Impacts



An Unsustainable Model



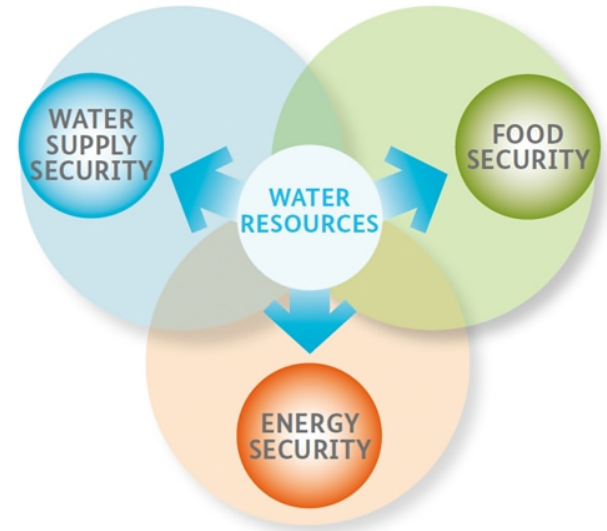
What are we really talking about today?

1. Developing Complex Solutions

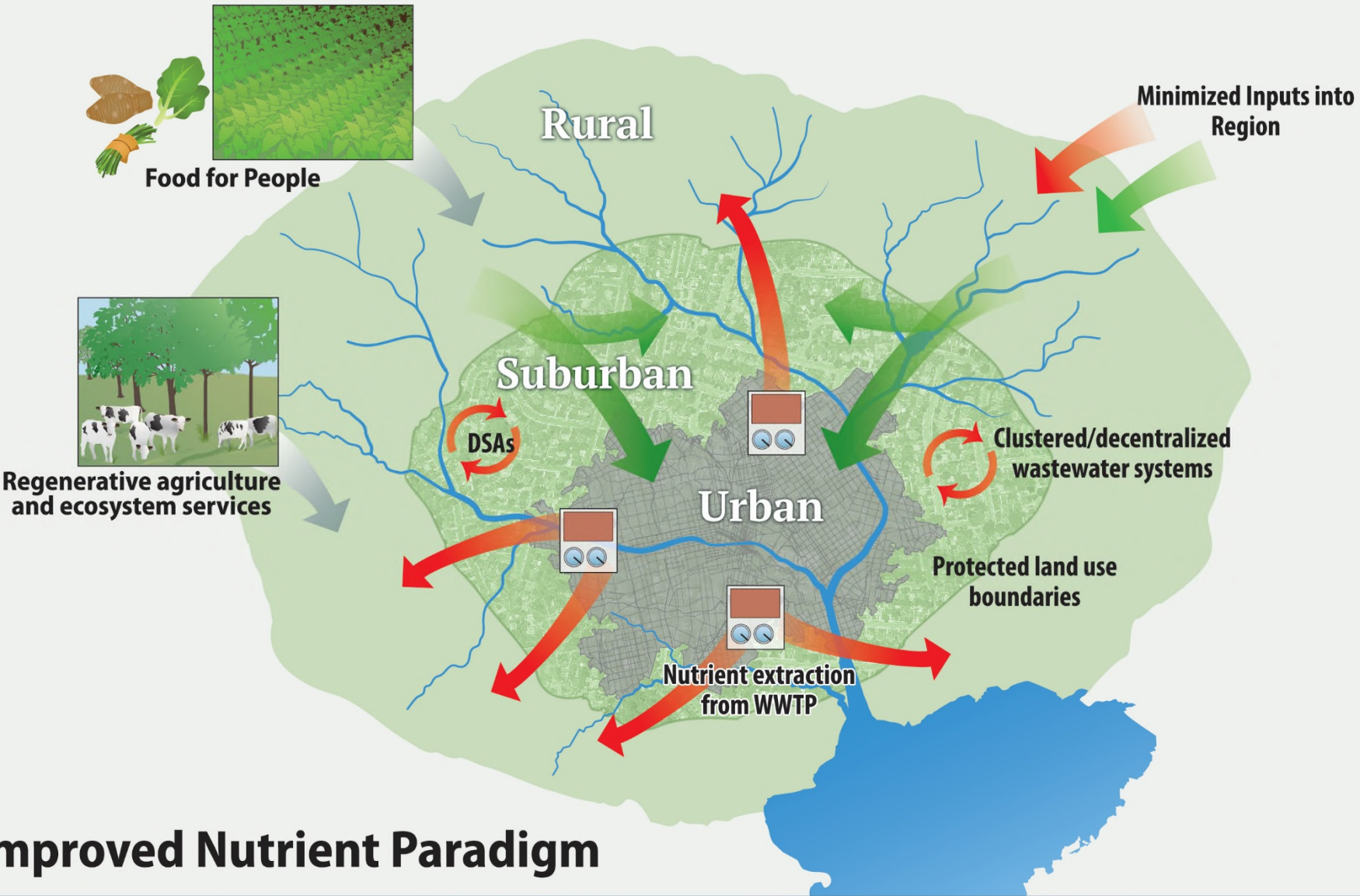
- Holistic goal-setting
- Multi-disciplinary
- Full-capital valuation

2. Preserving Our Future Resource Base

- Sustainable regional agriculture
 - Productive rural lands and economies
 - Maximized solar wealth
 - Effective water cycling
 - Optimized mineral cycling (e.g., soil, fossil fuels, nutrients)
 - Improved community dynamics



A Resilient Model



Resilient Food Regions

- *Urban Agriculture* = Green Infrastructure

- Local Inputs (labor, organic waste, stormwater, microclimate)
- Nutrition + socio-economic benefits



- *Rural Restoration*

- Solar-driven
- Soil-based



- *Urban-rural Continuum*

- Waste/resource exchanges
 - Nutrients, biofuels, etc.
- Local markets and Value-chain connections
- ‘Working-lands’ mitigation



Matching Source to Sink to Scale

**Existing Urban/
Brownfield Redevelopment**

**Suburban/Greenfield
Development**

Rural

Centralized/Satellite Systems

*Decentralized/Cluster Systems
(large scale)*

*Decentralized/Cluster Systems
(small scale)*

Wastewater
(Source)

Nutrient Extraction Processes
• Struvite, biosolids

Subsurface/surface
disposal

Subsurface disposal

Treatment Wetlands
• Ecosystem Services

Water Supply

Potable (centralized)
• Microgrids/integrated pipelines
Non-Potable (decentralized)
• Cisterns (large scale)

Potable
Community wells
Non-Potable
Cisterns
Wet ponds

Potable
Private wells
Non-Potable
Farm ponds
Streams (ram, nose pumps)

Organic
Waste

Urban Agriculture

Ag-Support Developments

Production Agriculture

Agriculture
(Sink)

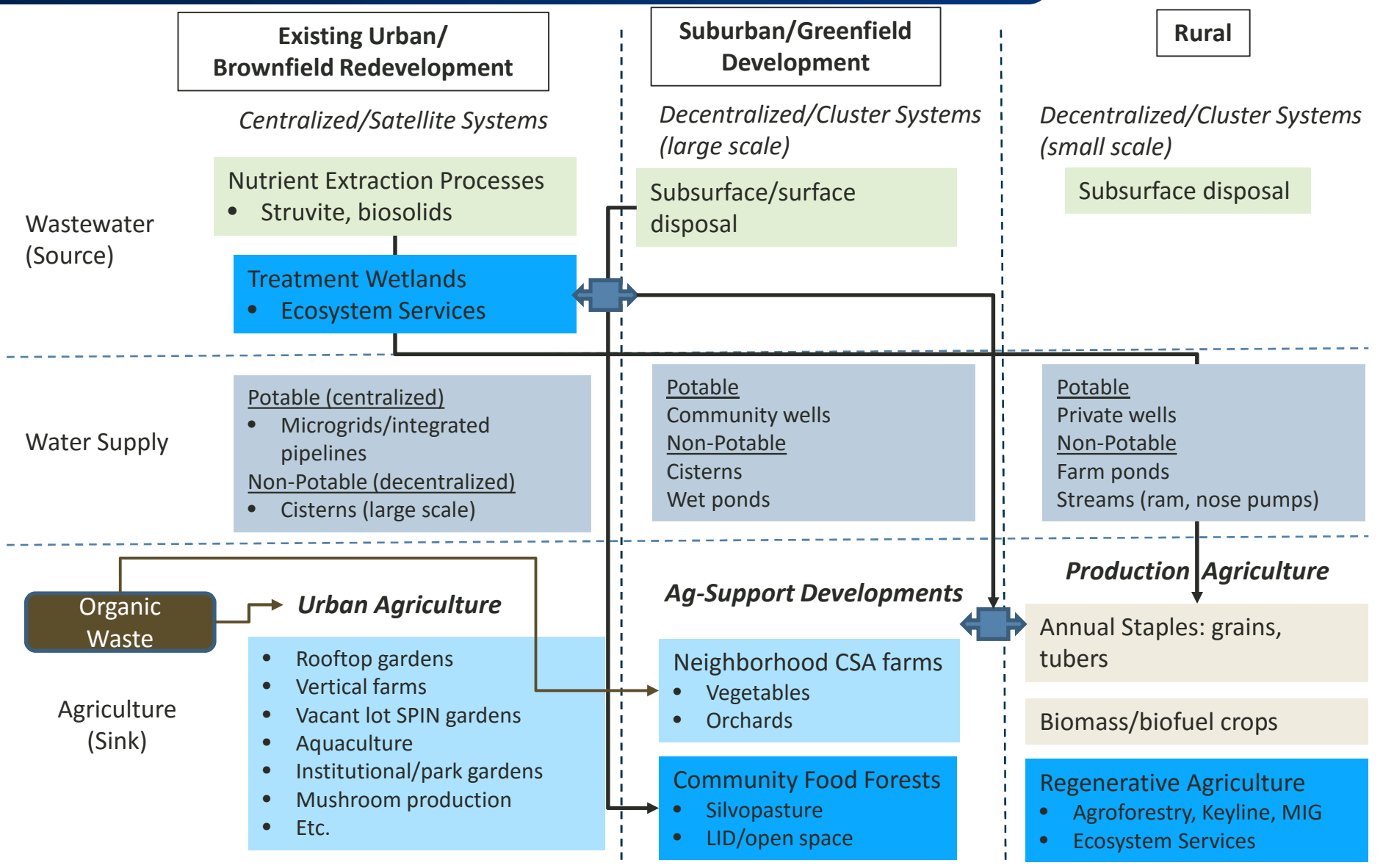
- Rooftop gardens
- Vertical farms
- Vacant lot SPIN gardens
- Aquaculture
- Institutional/park gardens
- Mushroom production
- Etc.

- Neighborhood CSA farms
 - Vegetables
 - Orchards
- Community Food Forests
 - Silvopasture
 - LID/open space

Annual Staples: grains, tubers

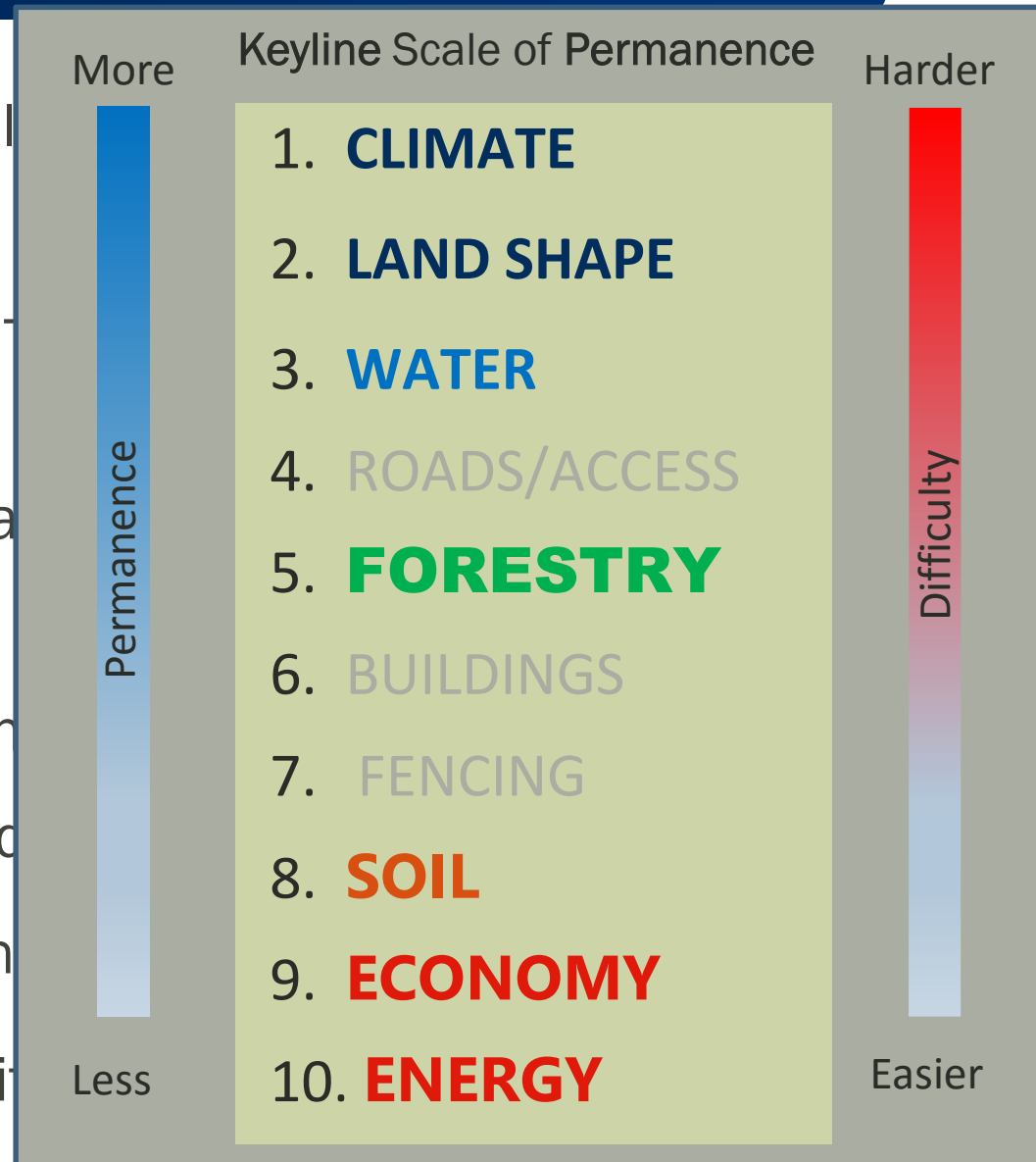
Biomass/biofuel crops

Regenerative Agriculture
• Agroforestry, Keyline, MIG
• Ecosystem Services



Rural Restoration

- Perennial Agriculture (permaculture)
 - Soil Building - Prosperity
 - Holistic management
 - Agroforestry
 - No-till cropping
 - Keyline-based
- Design based on
- Planning = Profit



Versaland

Iowa City, Iowa



Investing in Our Rural-shed

- Regenerative Production + Holistic Business Models

- Profitable livestock/agroforestry enterprises

- Alternative models

- Co-operative

- Regional production

- “Working-land”

- Performance

- Poor soils

- Soil C directly related to water and nutrient retention

Win³



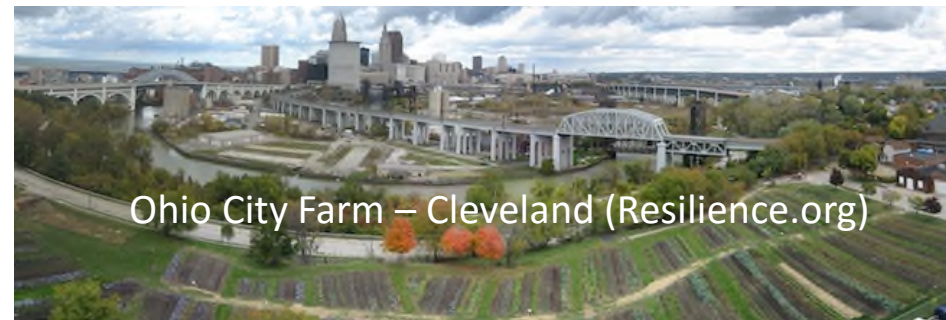
(ac/-yr over 30 yrs)

- Climate Mitigation

- Grassland/savannah systems = Permanent sequestration

- Agroforestry

- Urban Ag.: “Problem to solution”
 - Waste = Lack of beneficial uses
- Productive landscapes
 - Food, fuel, medicine, habitat, etc.
- Improved stormwater “business model”
- Working with nature
 - Maximize ecosystem services w/ minimized energy inputs

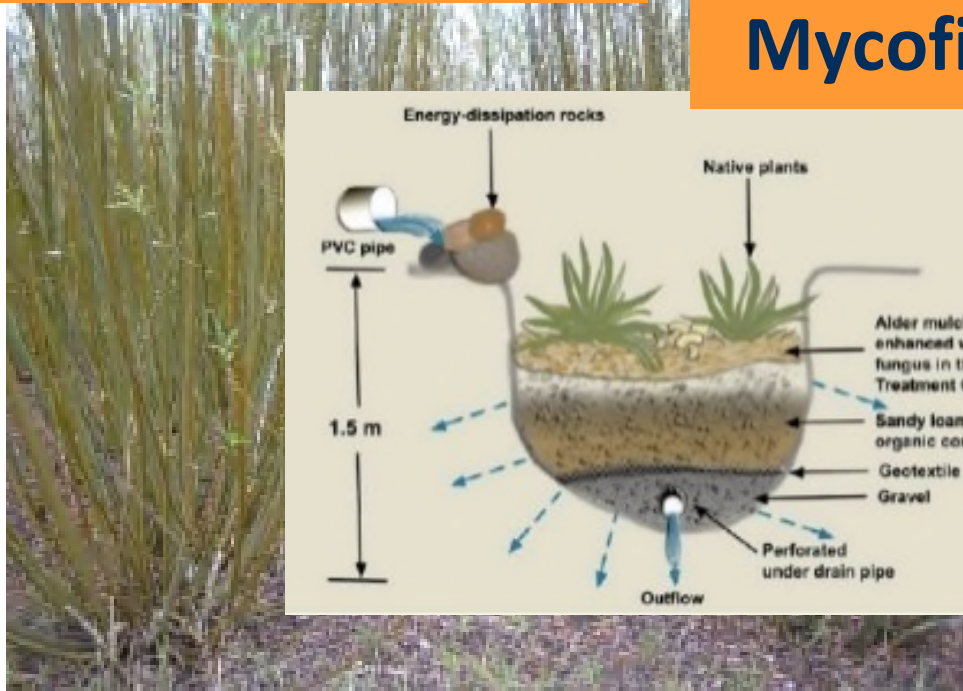


Coppice Forestry

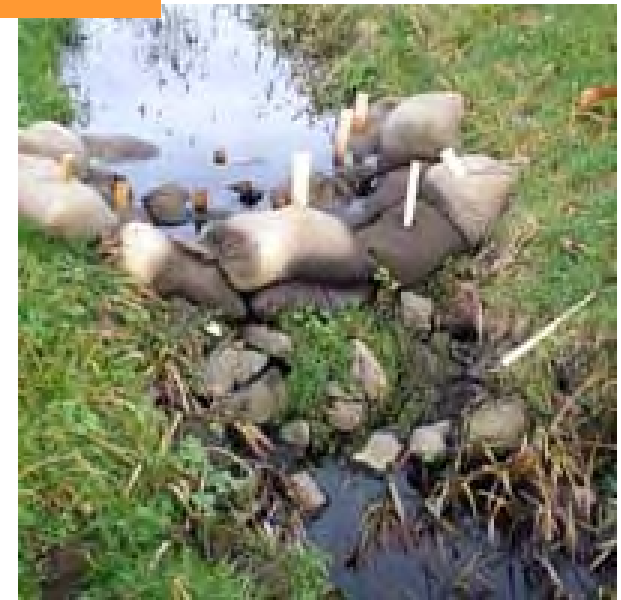
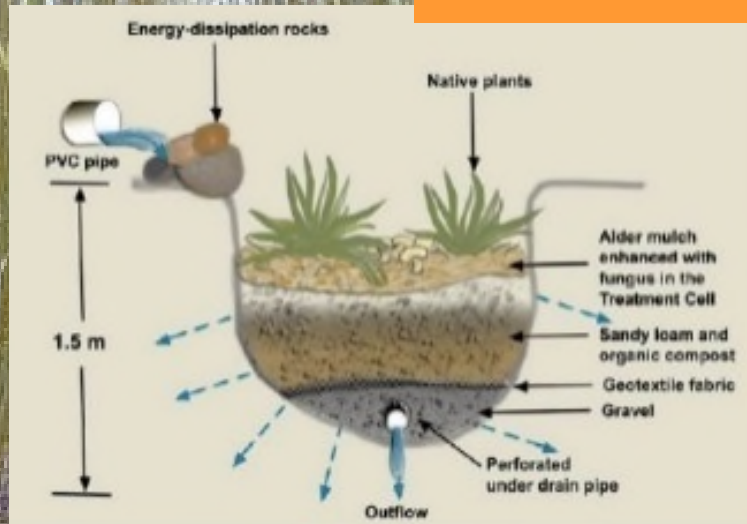




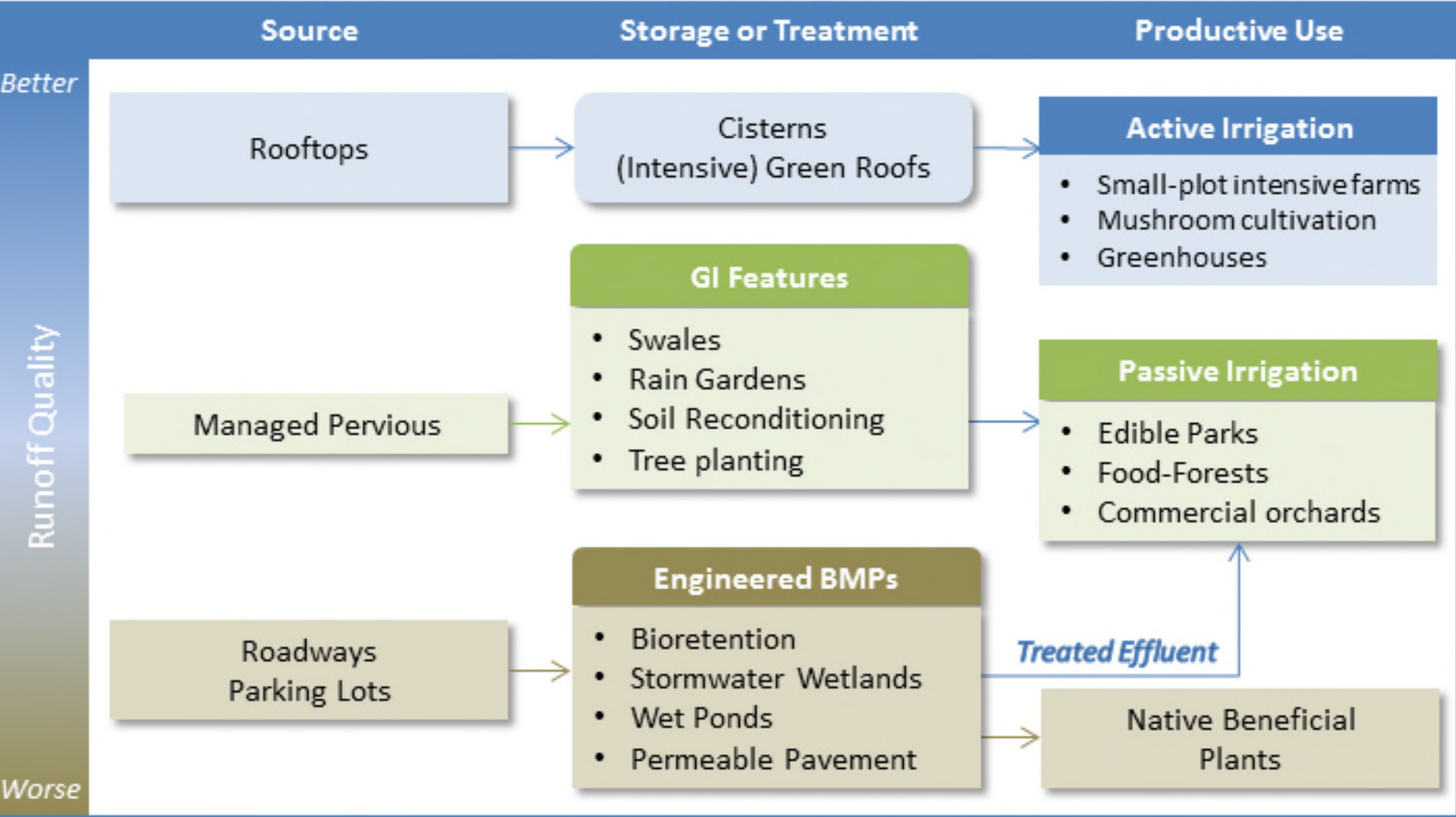
Coppice Forestry



Mycofiltration



Linking Stormwater with Urban Agriculture



- Interdependent concepts

That consists of:

- Strategic land use planning

AND/OR

- Agriculture-Supported Development

- Socio-economics

- Value-chains + food hubs
- Processing/storage facilities
- Agri-tourism
- Jobs/education

- Waste-to-resource investment

- Fertilizer (struvite, biosolids, compost, minerals, feedstock waste, etc.)
- Bio-energy
- Irrigation supply

N,P,K Budget of Nutrient Loss in Waste (Source: Jonsson,1994)

Type of waste	Nitrogen	Phosphorous	Potassium
From food production processes in industries and restaurants, etc.	8	10	15
From trade	5	4	6
Domestic (kitchen)	15	26	18
Urine	64	43	52
Faeces	7	22	9

- Urine: < 1% of domestic wastewater volume
- Food waste: least recycled waste stream nationwide
 - < 5% of generation (US EPA, 2012)

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Urine</u>	<u>Feces</u>	<u>Blackwater</u>
Wet mass	kg/person/yr	550	51	610
Dry mass	kg/person/yr	21	11	40.5
Nitrogen	g/person/yr	4000 (88%)	550 (12%)	4550
Phosphorus	g/person/yr	365 (67%)	183 (33%)	548

Source: Rich Earth Institute data from Swedish Study

- Easily diverted at the toilet
- Sterile
 - Alkaline treatment through storage
- Fertilizer Value
 - Direct: 18:2:5 (Linden, 1997)
 - Flushed: 15:1:3 (Palmquist et al, 2003)
 - Struvite: 6:29:0 (Mg) 10
 - Micronutrients



Most important nutrients	Urine 500 l	Faeces 50 l	Total	Fertilizer need for 250 kg grain
N	5.6 kg	0.09 kg	5.7 kg	5.6 kg
P	0.4 kg	0.19 kg	0.6 kg	0.7 kg
K	1.0 kg	0.17 kg	1.2 kg	1.2 kg
N + P + K	7.0 kg (94%)	0.45 kg (6%)	7.5 kg (100%)	7.5 kg

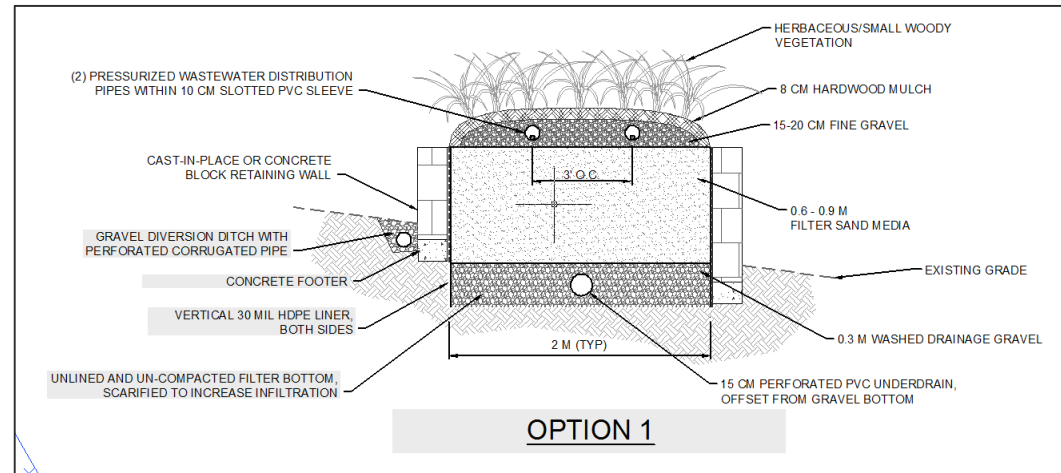
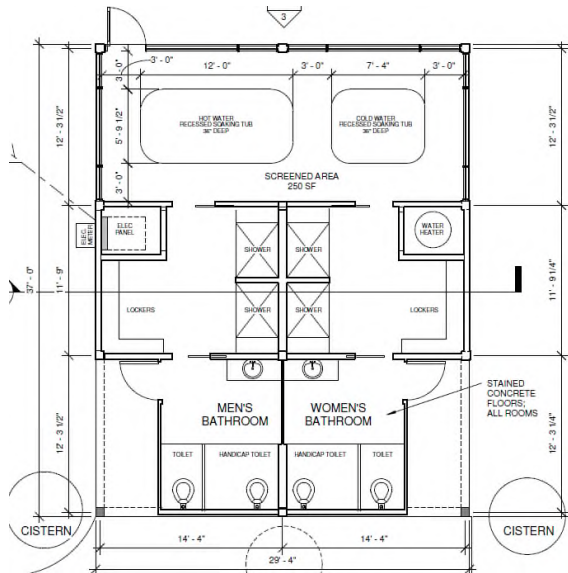
(Source: Wolgast, 1993)



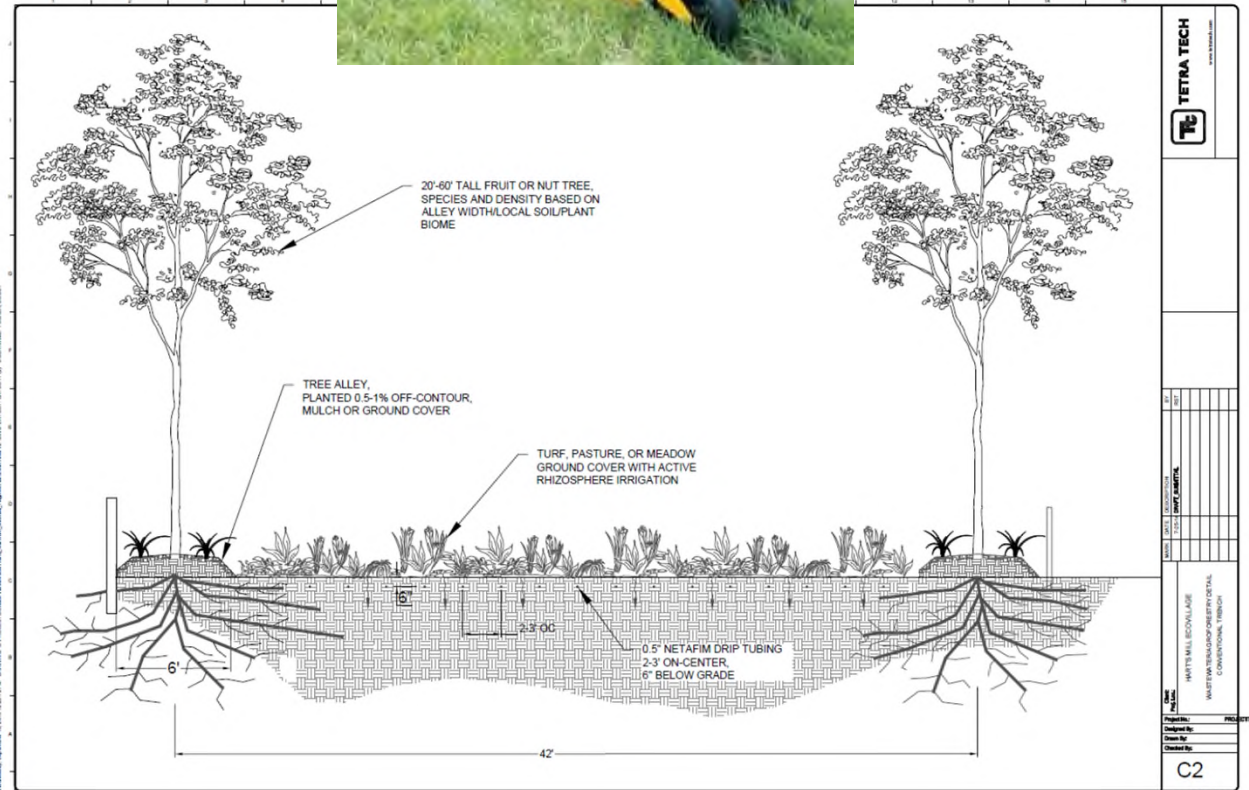
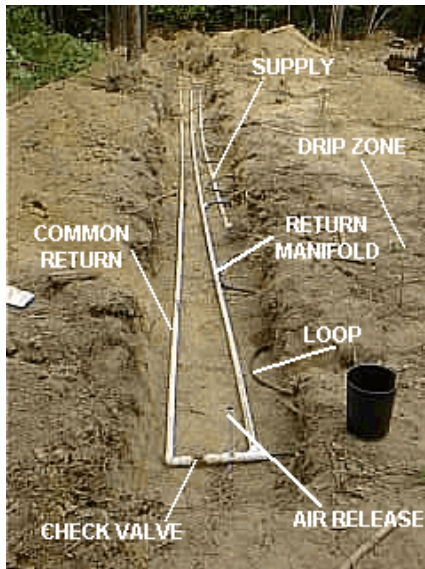
Guidelines for Safe Urine Application

Crop	Example	Inherent risk	People exposed to risk	Application time****	Urine storage***
Slow growing crops	Pineapple	Low	Workers	In early stages	No storage needed
Ornamental flowers, garden plants		Low	Workers	Up until one month before harvest	No storage needed
High growing crops not picked off the ground and with "cover"	Banana.	Low	Workers	Up until one month before harvest	No storage needed
Grain crops processed before eating	Millet, Rice, Sorghum, Maize	Low	Workers	Up until one month before harvest	No storage needed
Hanging plants not in direct contact with the ground and usually not eaten raw	Egg plant	Medium	Consumers and workers	Up until one month before harvest	Storage needed
Fruits likely picked from the ground and eaten directly*	Mango, passion fruit, orange	Low	Workers	Outside the fruiting season**	No storage needed
Hanging plants partly or fully in contact with the soil and eaten raw	Tomatoes	High	Consumers and workers	Up until one month before harvest	Storage needed
Root crops processed/cooked	Cassava, potatoes	Low	Protection of workers	Up until one month before harvest	No storage needed
Root crops eaten raw	Carrots	High	Consumers and workers	Up until one month before harvest	Storage needed
Leafy crops on the ground that are cooked	Spinach	Low	Workers	Up until one month before harvest	No storage needed
Leafy crops eaten raw	Lettuce, cabbage	High	Consumers and workers	Up until one month before harvest	Storage needed
Energy or fibre crops	Cotton, oil crops	Low	Workers	Up until one month before harvest	No storage needed

- Urine diverting toilets
 - Storage for ‘fertigation’ of crops
- Reuse quality wastewater
 - Recirculating vegetated sand filters
 - Primary irrigation supply
- Dry toilet composting



Subsurface Drip Systems



TETRA TECH

PROJECT: HAYS HILL ECOLOGICAL WATERWAY/GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION TRENCH

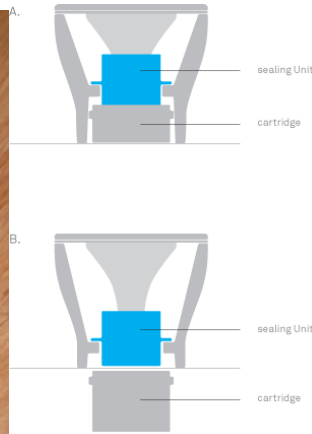
DATE: 11/2017

SCALE: AS SHOWN

PROJECT: C2

Option 2: Dry Toilets

Loowat Self-sealing Toilet



Sawdust Bucket



Omick design



Clivus Multrum

“For in the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught.”