



The Eight Essential Elements of Conservation Landscaping

1. Conservation landscaping is designed to benefit the environment and to function well for human use.

A conservation landscape is designed to benefit the environment and to function well for personal use. Conservation landscape design occurs in the context of nature. It seeks to preserve, enhance, and reduce impacts upon a site's natural features.

2. Conservation landscaping contains locally native plants that are appropriate for site conditions.

Balanced communities of native plants contribute to the biodiversity of the landscape. Native plants have co-evolved with associated animals to form interdependent communities. Properly sited native plants are adapted to local conditions, consequently once established they require few inputs of water, fertilizer or pesticides. Native plants express the character of our natural landscape in a way that alien plants cannot.

3. Conservation landscaping has an ongoing management process to remove existing invasive plants, and to manage the property to prevent future alien plant invasions.

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4. Conservation landscaping provides wildlife habitat.

A conservation landscape encourages native wildlife species that may include birds, butterflies, bees, other pollinators, spiders, fish, frogs, salamanders, snakes, and other wildlife. An animal's habitat is the particular type of area where it finds food, water, shelter, and breeding or nesting space. Biodiversity – a wide variety of native plant and animal life – is critical to maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

5. Conservation landscaping promotes good air quality and is not a source of air pollution.

A conservation landscape promotes good air quality, and helps to prevent and filter air pollutants.

6. Conservation landscaping conserves water and promotes good water quality.

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7. Conservation landscaping promotes healthy soils, composts plant waste on site, and amends disturbed soils to encourage native plant communities.

A conservation landscape protects and maintains healthy soils and amends disturbed soils to encourage native plant communities.

8. Conservation landscaping works with nature to be more sustainable with less input.

A conservation landscape is managed and maintained in a way that requires fewer inputs, works with nature and promotes or works toward sustainability.

Source: James Holland

