Permaculture Designers Client Questionnaire

Compiled by Jude Hobbs & Max Lindeggar

Client Profile

Name:
Address:
Phone/Email:
Property Size:
Occupation:
Amount of time available for maintaining property:
Financial situation/Budget for implementation:
Lifestyle:
Number of people living on site and ages:
Vehicle preference and needs (car/truck, farm equipment, recreational equip):
Special requirements:
Hobbies:
Allergies:
How long do you plan to live at this site?

Client Needs

Prioritize goals, primary concern, functional objectives, phase planning (list)
The wish list:
Water (source, drinking, irrigation, storage):
Lighting (paths, buildings):
Structures (house/type of heat, greenhouse, shop, barns, chicken house, other out buildings):
Utility areas (clothes line, recycle & trash, compost, wood, service equipment):
Children's special areas:
Level of food self-reliance (present and future, diet and taste preferences, vegetables, herbs, berries, orchards, nuts):
Income production from property (market gardens, animals, woodlot, crafts, education center):
Livestock/Pets:
Wildlife Enhancement:
Woodlot:
Earth moving equipment:

Site Overview

1. Plans and drawing
- a. Existing site drawings, aerial photos, contour maps, legal description, land survey

2. Existing
- a. Ecosystems, structures, fences, pathways, sacred sites
- b. History: logged, cropped, pastured, sprayed
- c. Talk with neighbors, research county records, soil conservation service

3. Known challenges on-site
- a. Water
- b. Topography
- c. Erosion
- d. Noise: rail, aircraft, highway, neighbors

e. Visual pollution
f. Unpleasant odors or other off-site nuisance, dust, privacy concerns
g. Time and Money

4. Location for:

a. Plants, animals
b. Structures: ease of access and for excavation, foundation strength, depth of bedrock, depth to water table
c. Wells: depth to water, rock porosity and permeability, pollution potential
d. Septic: depth of bedrock, depth to water table, drainage characteristics of soil

5. Energy

a. Wind direction and velocity (monthly)
b. Number of sunny and cloudy days
c. Solar access- obstructions
d. Stream gradient: from top to bottom
e. Other potential energy sources- biomass, geothermal, methane

6. Resources: on/off site

a. Natural features: springs, sunken areas, woodland, minerals, timber, sand deposits in creek, stones for building
b. Edibles: native fruits and berries, fish
c. Sources of biomass: on and off the property
d. Views: good and not so good
e. Sawmill, factories, dump, plant and seed sources

7. Zoning

a. Local governments
b. Previous land use

8. Legal Constraints

a. Restriction on use – covenants
b. Property lines
c. Easements: buildings, roads, access
d. Water rights

9. Access

a. Existing roads
b. New roads required and potential cost: structure(s), fields, other

10. Utilities

a. Electricity, gas, water (well or district), telephone, sewage
b. Locate existing utility lines, water lines, sewer, and septic

11. Community Land Use

a. What is going on upstream and over the fence (toxic sprays, cattle in creeks, etc).
b. Economic and emotional health of community
c. Schools, public transit, hospitals, fire department, landfill/dump, shops

Environmental Analysis

12. Aspect

a. Solar access: South/Southwest preferred
b. Hot/warm summer slopes
c. Cool summer slopes

13. Climate

a. Light availability: sun, rain, clouds, fog

b. Temperature: average high and low temps, hardiness zone
c. Average rainfall: yearly and monthly
d. Frost: average dates, extreme first and last dates, pockets
e. Hail: timing, frequency, direction
f. Storms: timing, frequency, direction
g. Microclimates
h. Air drainage
i. Altitude and latitude

14. Wind

a. Wind access, drains, thermals, chills,
b. Damaging or desirable winter winds
c. Cooling breezes

15. Hydrology

a. Water quality
b. Existing water rights and resources- note potential water rights
c. Surface water and level of water table – year round and seasonal
d. Drainage patterns
e. Springs, creeks, streams, ponds (permanence)
f. Catchment- size, type
g. Flood levels – 100 year flood

16. Soils and Geology

a. Geology and conservation maps (government maps)
b. Soil type: clay, loam, sand
c. Soil tests: -pH, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, other elements and minerals
d. Drainage and absorption
e. Soil depth, organic content
f. Stability of site
g. Maximum depth of frost
h. History of use

17. Topography

a. Contour maps or field survey
b. Identify keylines, valley and ridges
c. Determine slope gradient (degree of slope: severe, moderate, minor, or percent grade)

18. Natural Disasters

a. Fire, flood, frost, lava flows, cyclones (timing and direction)

Plants and Animals

19. Vegetation

a. Identification of existing plants and their vigor (note location, guilds, species, height and width, noxious, and/or poisonous)
b. Forests – type, age, condition, value
c. Density
d. Plants to be cultivated: vegetables, fruits, berries, nuts, natives, exotics, woodlot

20. Animals

a. Domestic: primary use, food, manure, grazing
b. Water foul and native birds – nests and droppings
c. Aquaculture
d. Native animals of concern (cougar, bear, coyotes)