



Sustainable Practices for Ecosystem Restoration

Thursday, January 19, 2012 (Snow date Jan. 25)
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Wellesley College Botanic Gardens' Visitor Center
Adjacent to Greenhouse and Science Center
Wellesley College Campus, 106 Central Street, Wellesley,
MA

\$20.00 ELA Member - Wellesley Friends of Horticulture
\$25 Non-Member

Groundscapes Express has worked on many ecosystem restoration projects throughout the region. Groundscapes' approach treats the whole site as an ecosystem or a sub-watershed for greatest success. Projects implement best practices for improved water quality, soil compaction, invasive species, and erosion control. John Engwer will describe ecosystem restoration projects at sites including Wellesley College, Kent Hospital, the Rose Kennedy Greenway, Mount Auburn Cemetery, and Fresh Pond Reservation. Though the sites differ widely, the issues of soil compaction, stormwater management, and invasive species control are common to all.

Effective stormwater management is a major component of successful restoration projects. On some sites, large turf areas, impervious roads, and parking areas are pre-existing conditions and in many cases are essential to the function of the public and private spaces. Existing site features are often not capable of handling the volume of runoff during high-intensity rain events. Large volumes of rainwater from turf, road, or roof areas sheet-flow down slopes, which then drain into the drains, streams and lakes. Site disturbance such as tree removal, soil compaction, or the addition of increased impervious surfaces can dramatically changed site conditions, exacerbating stormwater problems. Site disturbance is also ideal for invasive plant colonization.

Ecosystem restoration includes stabilizing the soils on disturbed slopes; stopping soil erosion; preventing invasive infestation, and establishing new vegetation. Groundscapes worked on these project sites to restore ecological structure and to regain hydrological functioning. This process involved treating invasive plants, restoring a mulch layer, dispersing water flow, establishing a vegetative ground layer, and restoring the soil food web. Join John Engwer to take an in-depth look at a holistic approach to managing and restoring ecosystems.

Registrations are limited - [Use This Link to Register Online.](#)
More information: ela.info@comcast.net or (617) 436-5838

John Engwer is the owner and driving force behind Groundscapes Express. For the past 14 years, John as infused his business with an ethic of environmental responsibility. Groundscapes avoids using synthetic encapsulation materials, their compost utilizes locally produced source materials, and John's compost containment structure design has clear and proven benefits to the environment.

CEUs are being sought for this presentation.

