

Ecological Enhancement:
A Process
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ChicoryLane Farm
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Overview

- **Select a site**
- **Record it**
- **Identify Features of Interest**
- **Map the site**
- **Consider changes**
- **Plan changes**
- **Implement**
- **Assess**

Select a site

- Scale is important
 - Not too big: large enough to have impact
 - E.g.: 100 yard segment of stream in a 10-100 acre property
- You are drawn to it

Record it

- Images of the whole, in some logical order
 - Starting state
 - Evolving state
 - End or transition state
- Other forms?
 - Audio
 - Records in some form of other perceptions

Identify Features of Interest

- Plant species
 - Present / missing
 - Gather them into two palettes
 - Desirable / undesirable
- Natural elements
 - Rocks, streams, vistas, etc.

Map the site

- Rough, hand drawn
- Place species and elements
 - Indicate desirable/undesirable

Consider changes

- Desirable species that might be increased
 - Why
 - Where
 - Existing location
 - New locations
 - Conditions appropriate?
- Undesirable species that might be reduced or removed
 - Why
 - Where
- Same for Natural elements

Plan changes

- Make tentative decisions
 - Why and in what way would changes enhance ecology of the site?
 - Better balance?
 - benefits wildlife?
 - New element?
 - Reduces problem?
 - Asses personal preferences vs. ecological benefits
 - Consider resulting motivation a plus
 - Beware personal idiosyncrasies not matched by benefit
 - Draft working plan/notes

Implement

- Work from plan
 - Revise plan as things work/don't work
- Get help
- Monitor ecological pros and cons as site evolves
 - Work on personal honesty
 - Work on listening to others but trusting your own judgement
- Strive to be aware as to when to pause, when to start up again, when to transition to stop or maintenance

Assess

- Document the site
- Identify ecological factors that have changed or are changing
 - Quantify, if possible/practical
 - Qualitative, as well
- Tell the story of the site
 - What drew you to the site?
 - Motivation and/or need?
 - Brief narrative of the process
 - Identify elements of the palettes
 - Hard look at decision that were made and their reasons
 - How did it work out?
 - Ecological improvement?
 - Ecological problems reduced?
 - New problems created?
 - Document
 - What would you do differently?