

nature and nation:
the ecology, culture and identity of using
native plants

IMLA program
international perspectives on planting design seminar,
november 20, 2013

kristin faurest, ph.d/lecturer, IMLA program
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pacific northwest

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chaparral

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sonoran desert

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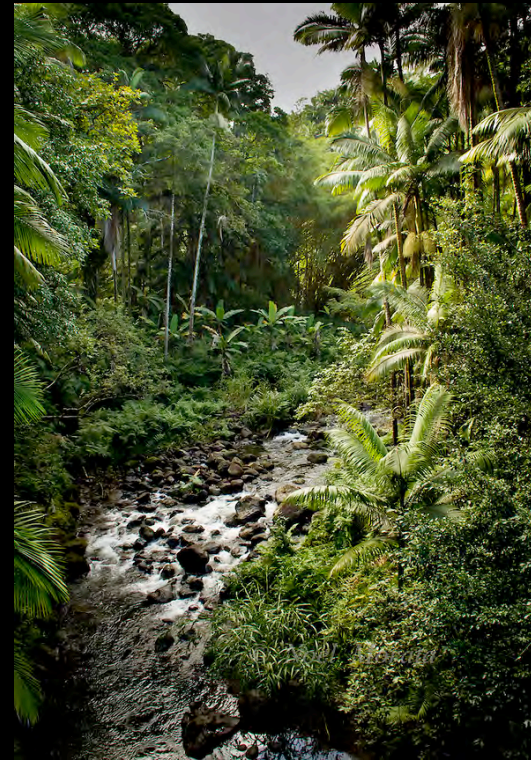
shortgrass prairie

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coastal plain, southern mixed forest

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tropical forest

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evolutionary biologist stephen jay gould:

the concept of native plants “encompasses a remarkable mixture of sound biology, invalid ideas, false extensions, ethical implications and political usages both intended and unanticipated.” native plants “are only those organisms that first happened to gain and keep a footing...in this context, the only conceivable rationale for the moral or practical superiority of “natives” must lie in a romanticized notion that old inhabitants learn to live in ecological harmony with their surroundings, while later interlopers tend to be exploiters.”

u.s. environmental protection agency:

“native plants provide a beautiful, hardy, drought resistant, low maintenance landscape while benefiting the environment. native plants, once established, save time and money by eliminating or significantly reducing the need for fertilizers, pesticides, water and lawn maintenance equipment.”

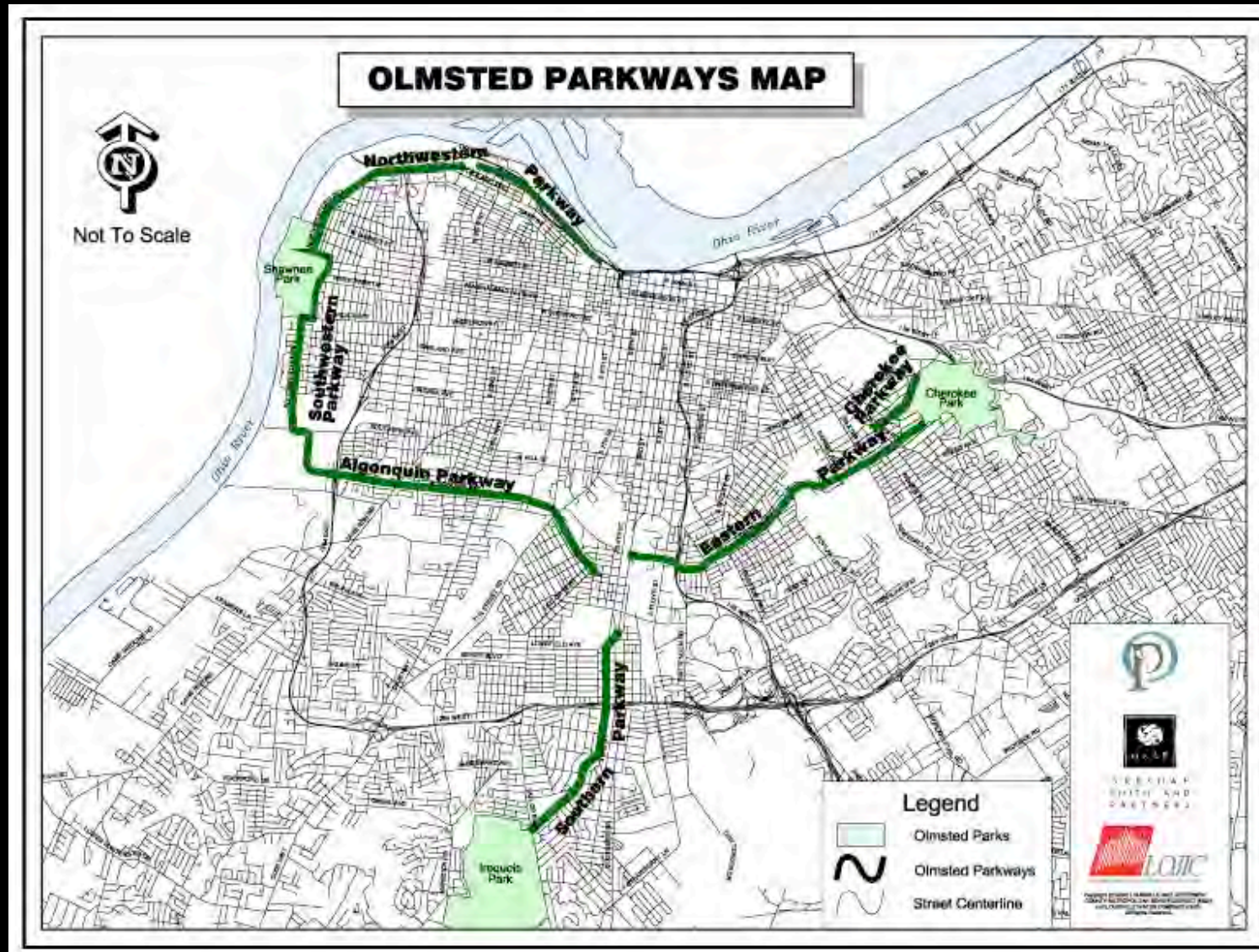
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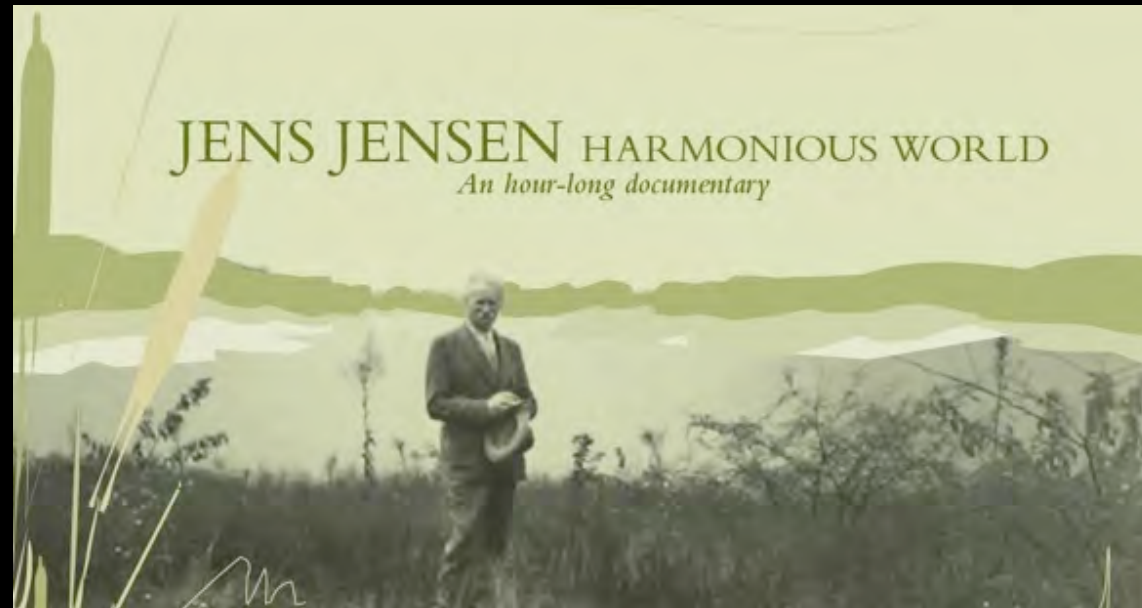
"the urban elegance generally desired in a small public or private pleasure ground is to be methodically guarded against. turf, for example, is to be in most parts preferred as kept short by sheep, rather than lawn mowers; well known and long tried trees and bushes to rare ones; natives to exotics."

--frederick law olmsted

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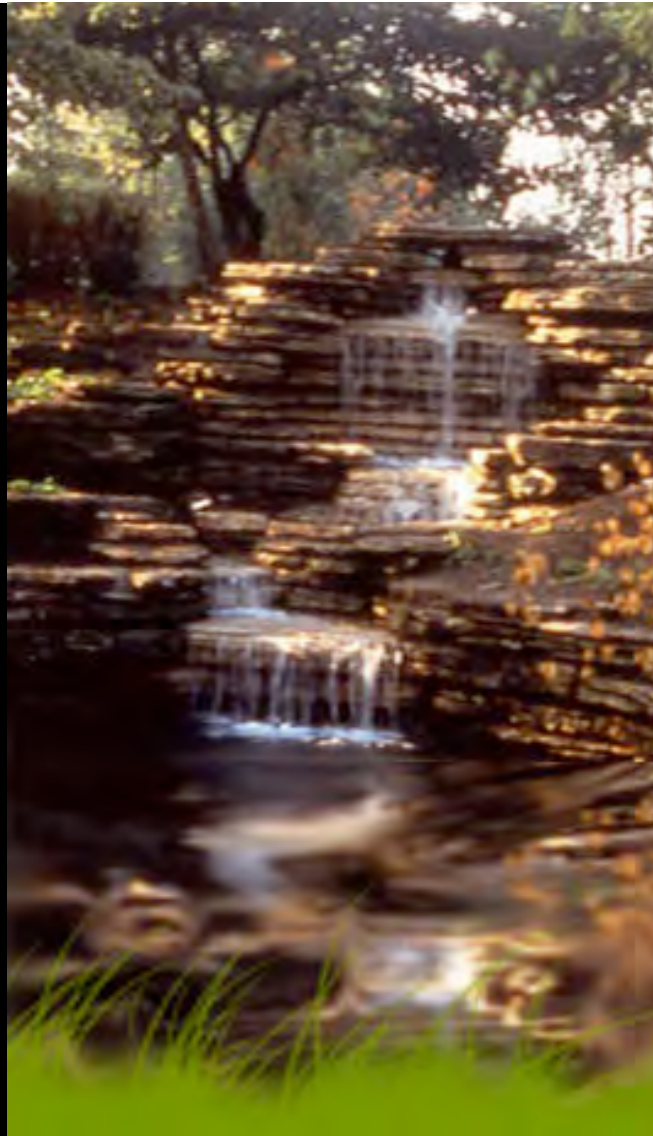


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frank lloyd wright, prairie style house, oak park, chicago

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jens jensen (1860-1951),
columbus park waterfall and swimming pool,
chicago, 1930s

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non-native swordfern (*nephrolepis multiflora*) and other invasive species facilitate fire in an area dominated by 'ohi'a (*metrosideros polymorpha*), a native hawaiian tree. fire increases the abundance of invasive species.

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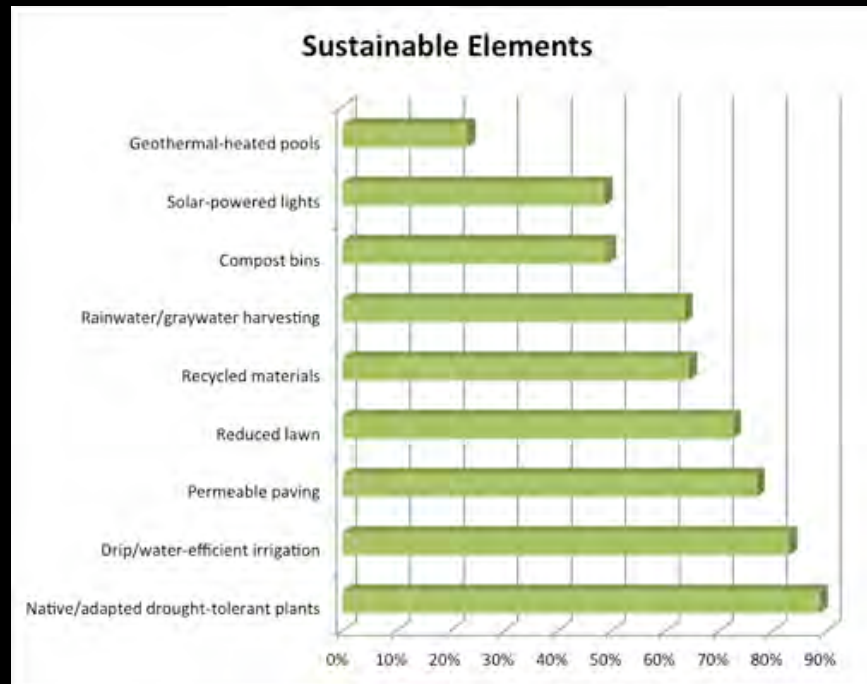
lawn and non-native species vs. xeriscaped, native arizona planting

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arizona roadside plantings, buffelgrass (*pennisetum ciliare*) controlled vs. not controlled

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the american society of landscape architects endorses “federal and state policies for the use of native or indigenous species in projects, while avoiding the use of known noxious and invasive species.”

(policy statement on vegetation in the built environment, asla, 2001)

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native plantings, red butte garden, salt lake city, utah

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native wildflower landscaping, northeastern u.s.

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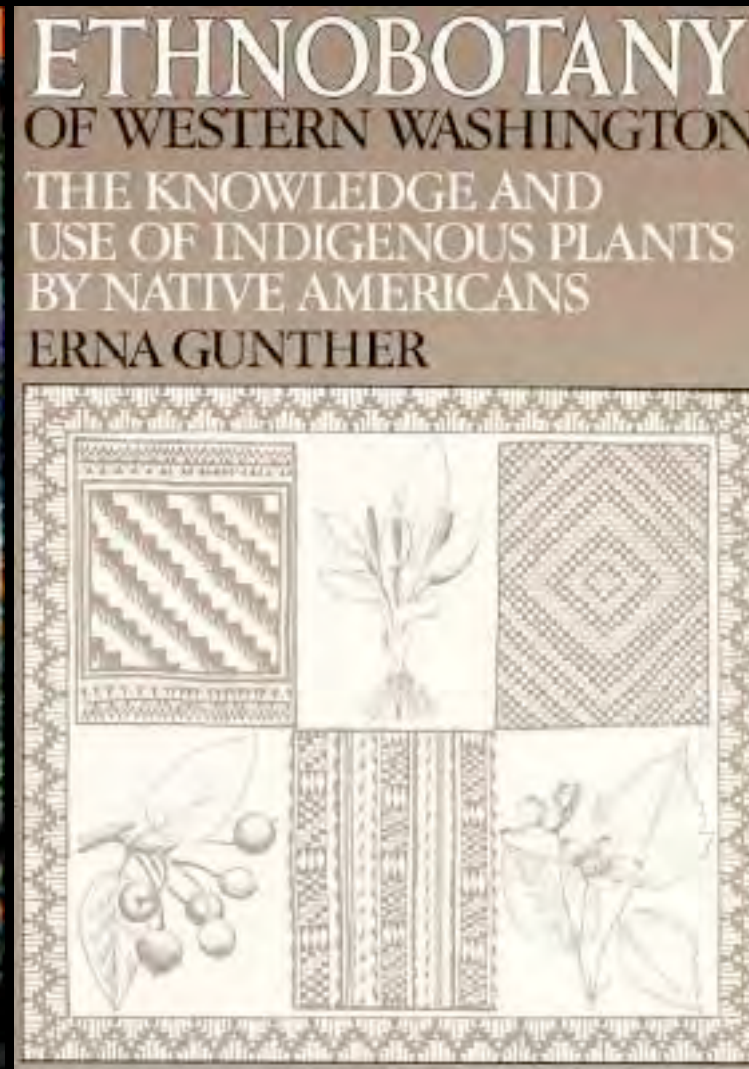


nā'ū or nānū

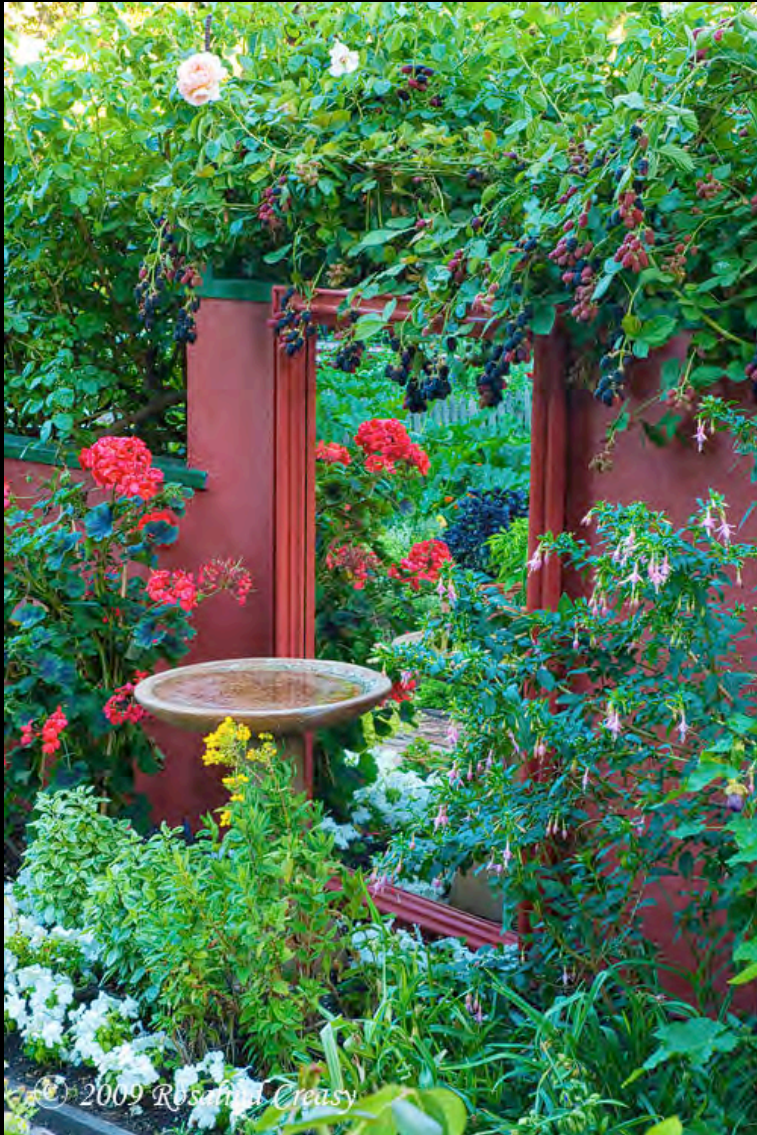
Gardenia brighamii

- one of the three species of native gardenia
- endangered species, very rare
- easy to grow
- likes dry conditions, full sun to partial shade
- unique fragrance
- fruit and wood used in old Hawai'i

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fritz haeg, edible estate, london, 2007

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thank you for your attention!
comments and questions, please!

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credits and sources:

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<http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/garden/az1510.pdf>

kim mcreynolds, cori dolan: invasive plants on small acreage properties in arizona. university of arizona college of agriculture and life sciences, january 2010

native plant enthusiasm: ecological panacea or xenophobia?

gert groningen and joachim wolschke-bulmahn, *arnoldia* periodical, harvard university

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