Salmon-Safe Developer Accreditation

PRINCIPLES for developing ecologically functional urban landscapes

1. CONNECT TO WATERSHED CONTEXT
Every project and property is part of something bigger. Know your watershed. Many watersheds have specific restoration or recovery plans defining strategies that can benefit important species. Incorporate these strategies into your development planning decisions.

2. INTEGRATE HABITATS
Restore degraded habitat based on pre-development native species and ecosystems as well as future need for climate change adaptations. Habitat diversity can make project sites more resilient and adaptable. A site can support larger natural systems through corridor linkages.

3. START WITH SITE ECOLOGY
Approach landscape ecological systems as site infrastructure and incorporate them early in the design process. Habitat can be retained, reestablished, or both, as part of site development. Design your site to avoid impacting wetlands, streams, riparian areas, and wildlife habitat.

4. PROTECTING HABITAT AND WATER QUALITY DURING CONSTRUCTION
Implement construction site pollutant control and runoff protection measures that achieve zero sediment discharge. Protect and salvage healthy native soils, vegetation, and habitat structures.

5. MANAGE WATER AT THE SOURCE
Disperse and infiltrate stormwater on site through Low Impact Development (LID) approaches to reduce pollution and downstream impacts. Design site to reduce stormwater runoff by minimizing impervious rooftop areas and reduced roadway widths and pervious road systems.

6. DESIGN FOR THE LAND
Consider each part of the project, including buildings, open space, parking, stormwater retention features, as contributing components of the greater hydrology and ecology. Structure and buildings can also positively contribute to natural system performance.

7. WATER CONSERVATION IS A PRIORITY
Limit water demand by selecting native and non-native vegetation adapted to site conditions and climate. Install rainwater harvest systems to further balance water budgets.

8. CARING FOR LAND OVER TIME
Encourage consistent post-development land management practices by embedding riparian restoration, irrigation management, and integrated pest management practices into site management guidelines, policies, or project legal documents.

9. CLEAN WATER FOR SALMON
Manage projects with an ongoing commitment to low input landscaping, habitat restoration that filters containants, and low-impact (LID) designs in future development phases.

10. DESIGN LEARNING LANDSCAPES
Development presents opportunities for interpretive signage and/or demonstration projects highlighting features that contribute to an ecologically functional urban landscape.

Since 2004, Salmon-Safe has successfully defined and promoted ecologically sustainable site design, construction, and operations management practices that help restore urban watersheds. Building on our flagship urban certification program and our new accreditation program for construction-phase pollution prevention, Salmon-Safe accreditation for developers is the nation’s first independent accreditation program to recognize development professionals’ excellence in water quality protection and habitat conservation practices across all of their operations.

www.salmonsafe.org