

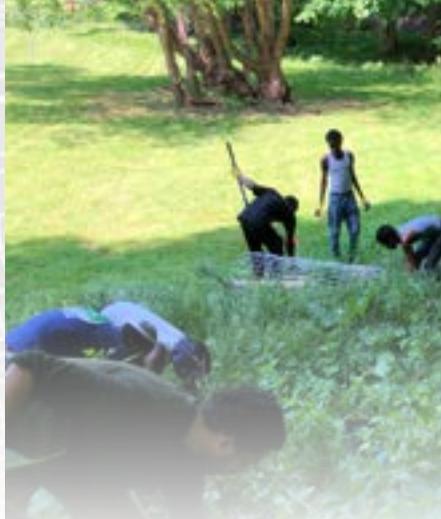
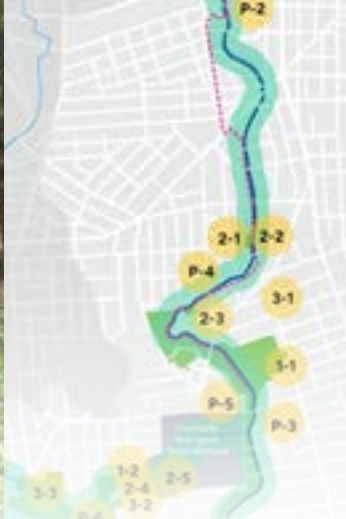
A hand with dark red nail polish holds a bundle of harvested green stalks, likely asparagus, in a field of tall green grasses. The background is a lush, green landscape with trees and a path.

ASLA 2024  
**INSIGHT**  
Conference on Landscape Architecture

# Eating Ecologies

growing edible green infrastructure  
and environmental justice

Integrating indigenous knowledge and agroecology into the design of green infrastructure, including food forests, bikeways, and riparian corridors, creates edible ecologies that expand biodiversity, improve public health, and engage communities. By restoring this fundamental connection between people and place, eating ecologies offers powerful ways to address environmental justice issues.



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Learn approaches for creating and managing community food forests as a new form of productive green infrastructure -- including best practices for community engagement and agroecological system design.
2. Discover how place-based food systems can be a vital means of restoring and protecting indigenous food and land sovereignty.
3. Explore the diverse types of edible ecological spaces and how they can be integrated with multifunctional green infrastructure systems.
4. Gain an awareness of the environmental justice issues and how they factor into the design process for edible green infrastructure spaces.

## SOURCES

Bukowski, C., and Munsell, J., *The Community Food Forest Handbook*. Chelsea Green Publishing, 2018,

Syracuse Urban Food Forest Project  
<https://www.esf.edu/suffp/index.php>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/26/dining/native-american-agriculture.html>

## OUTLINE

### Part I. New models for productive ecological infrastructures

- Mapping and connecting a mosaic of spaces
- Engaging diverse communities and practices of public harvest

### Part II. Projects, Places and Practices

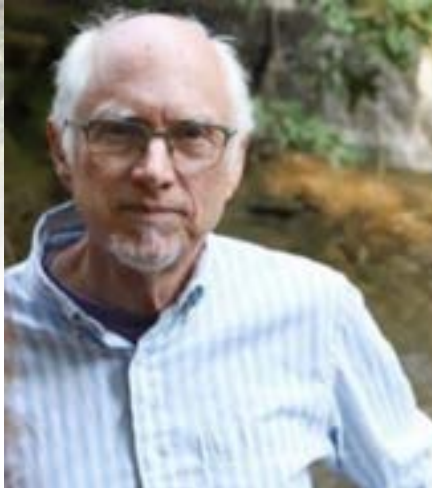
1. The AlterNative Project: Sowing Seeds, Cultivating Community Spaces, and Sustaining Sovereignty
  - Seeds as Sovereignty
  - The Reciprocity of Edible Landscapes
  - Events – Houdenosaunee food ceremonies, Maple walks
  - Building networks and partnerships -
  - Places:
    - Three Sisters Sovereignty Gardens – returning indigenous seeds to ancestral lands
    - Museums and interpretive spaces
2. Community Food Forests: A New Agroecological Model
  - Introduction to food forest design and history
  - Best management practices from *The Community Food Forest Handbook*
  - Benefits and resources to the landscape and local food system.
    - increasing the possibilities for native species
    - stormwater management
    - designing welcoming spaces
  - Case studies
  - What is the future for community food forests?
    - UCAN- the Urban and Community Agroforestry Network
3. Scaling out -- Syracuse Urban Food Forest Project
  - a 9-mile edible riparian corridor
    - Assessing capacity and connectivity of edible ecologies
    - Modeling ecosystem benefits and nutritional values
  - Community engagement strategies
    - Community foraging food walks and cooking events
    - Planting events
  - Designing systems framework for infrastructural ecologies
    - Site specific designs for edible ecologies: parkway, parking lots, riparian zones, upland forest, and urban farms

### Part III: Critical issues and edible futures

- Ecological capacity and impacts
- Toxicity and public health

# SPEAKERS

image: Beacon Food Forest, Seattle



**Matthew Potteiger** is a Professor of Landscape Architecture at the SUNY College Environmental Science and Forestry where his teaching, research, and community engagement focuses on understanding the vital cultural practices that shape landscapes. He leads studios and community-based projects, and conducts international research on the interrelationships of food and landscape and the role of design in creating sustainable and socially just food systems. His book, *Landscape Narratives: Design Practices for Telling Stories* (ASLA Merit Award, 1998), co-authored with Jamie Purinton, outlines methods of working with narratives as a means of interpreting and designing landscapes.



**Ethan Tyo** is an urban rooftop gardener, home chef, food systems educator, and member of the Mohawk Nation. Ethan strives to innovate the Indigenous higher education experience through collaborations between colleges and Haudenosaunee communities. He has since established gardens and other food-related programming across New York State colleges, museums, and k-12 schools. Ethan is passionate about building food sovereignty, creating pathways for experiential education and access, and sustaining Indigenous food knowledge for the next seven generations.



**Catherine Bukowski** is a planner with the Montgomery County Government Department of Environmental Protection. As a doctoral candidate in Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech, Catherine researched the ecological and social benefits of urban and community food forests across the United States as a design strategy that brings multiple benefits to communities and the environment. Her findings were published in *The Community Food Forest Handbook: How to Plan, Organize, and Nurture Edible Gathering Places*. She co-founded Kindred Roots Design, which has partnered with the National Agroforestry Center to create an Urban and Community Agroforestry Network.