



Updated 11/14/25

It's about designing gardens, homes, and communities that care for the **Earth**, care for **people**, and share what we have **fairly**.

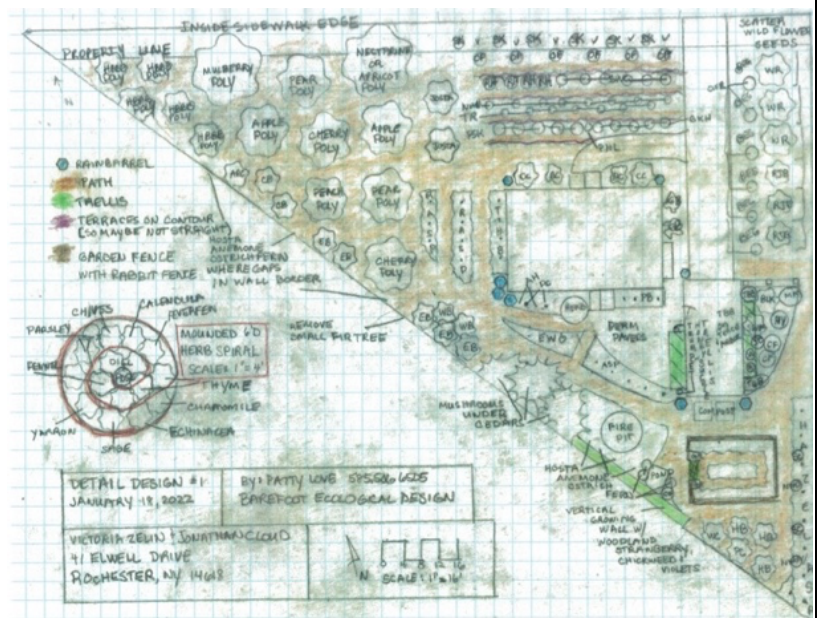
It's kind of like creating an ecosystem where *everything has a purpose* and *nothing goes to waste*. From growing your own food and collecting rainwater to building stronger communities, permaculture is about creating a world that can last — for everyone.

It's about noticing how everything in nature connects: the soil, the water, the plants, the animals — and us. When we understand those connections, we can design gardens, homes, and communities that are healthy, balanced, and able to take care of themselves.

- 🍏 **Earth Care** – caring for the living world that gives us life
- 👨‍👩‍👧 **People Care** – making sure everyone’s needs are met
- 👉 **Fair Share** – using only what we need and sharing the rest

When we live by these values, we become part of something bigger — a way of life that helps the planet heal and helps us grow too.

The **Twelve Principles of Permaculture**, articulated by David Holmgren, serve as a guide for analysis and design, both in landscapes and in life.



Permaculture Design for 41 Elwell Drive
by Patty Love, Barefoot Permaculture, Brighton, NY

Seeing Through a Bioregional Lens

Our tiny food forest garden in Brighton is more than a backyard project—it's part of a living system that connects soil, water, and community. It may seem like a small act of cultivation, but it's a microcosm of a much larger living system. Here, on a few hundred square feet of suburban soil, we can begin to see how all life is interconnected—how the health of our soil, plants, and pollinators is tied to the health of our waters, communities, and planet. Each



plant, pollinator, and raindrop here belongs to a larger pattern, one that begins in our immediate surroundings and extends outward through nested ecological scales.

The rain that falls on our garden flows downhill into **Allen's Creek**, winding through backyards and culverts before joining

the **Irondequoit Creek watershed**, draining into **Lake Ontario**. Along the way it carries traces of everything we've done—what we plant, what we leave bare, what we allow to flow off our land. If the soil is rich in organic matter, if roots and fungi weave strong networks underground, the water runs clearer and slower, recharging the groundwater and protecting the creek's fragile ecosystems.

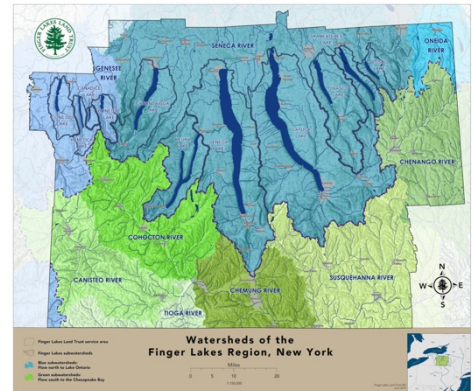
What happens in our garden—how we manage water, soil, and biodiversity—ultimately affects the creek's health, which in turn shapes the vitality of the river and the Genesee Finger Lakes bioregion it nourishes. The Allens Creek watershed is one of many tributaries in the **Genesee Finger Lakes bioregion**, a landscape shaped by ancient glaciers and sustained by its interconnected lakes, rivers, and wetlands. This region is more than a geographic area—it's a living community of humans and nonhumans bound together by shared climate, geology, and culture. The concept of a bioregion invites us to think in terms of natural boundaries rather than political ones, to understand where our water comes from, where it goes, and who depends on it along the way.

This bioregion includes the rolling glacial hills, fertile valleys, and interwoven communities that share a common climate, culture, and ecological destiny. The health of our local ecosystems—our soils, forests, and lakes—depends on how well we care for these shared watersheds.

All of this flows onward to the **Great Lakes basin**, one of Earth's largest reservoirs of fresh water and a vital planetary commons. It is one of the largest freshwater systems on Earth, holding nearly a fifth of the planet's surface freshwater.

Across the Finger Lakes and Genesee Valley, the quality of our waters tells a story. Decades of agricultural runoff, industrial pollution, and habitat loss have stressed the land and water systems, yet many signs of regeneration are emerging: riparian buffers are being restored, native forests are returning, and community groups are working to monitor and clean local streams. The health of these ecosystems mirrors the health of the human communities within them—when one is restored, the other begins to thrive. The Great Lakes hold nearly 20% of the world's surface fresh water, yet their quality depends on countless small actions in places like ours. Every raingarden, every food forest, every act of care ripples outward, influencing the future of these vast waters.

Through a bioregional lens, we learn to see our garden not as an isolated patch but as a living node in a regenerative web that



stretches from our doorstep to the Great Lakes—and ultimately, to the whole Earth community. By viewing our place in the context of the bioregion, we begin to see that regeneration starts right where we are—and that healing the land at any scale contributes to the well-being of the whole living system.

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Contact us at www.PossibleRochester.org for more information