

Bio for Richard Freeman

Owner, Managing Director, Edible Ecotones, LLC. 2014-Present. My mission is to successfully build this business and work with diverse clients in cold, temperate ecosystems throughout the west. Eventually I would like to work with clients in similar regions throughout the world.

The mission of this business is to commercially design, install, and maintain residential ecological gardens. These systems meet the needs of someone who wants to harvest fresh vegetables every day (in season) without having to water, plant, or weed. Making a nice fit with any landscape, these horticultural installations blend ease of use and access and visual attractiveness with the advantages of ecological management.

Partner, Developer, Lively Soils, Ilc. 2010-2014. During this period, I worked to develop ecological landscape management systems for food and ecological health. My goals were three-fold:

1. Develop a framework for commercially designing, installing, and maintaining residential ecological gardens and a workable implementation model. These systems should meet the needs of someone who wants to harvest fresh vegetables every day without having to water, plant, or weed. To develop the framework, I had the opportunity to develop a fledgling edible forest garden (6,400 sq. ft.) in a highly adverse ecology and climate (hardiness zone 4a) with degraded, rocky and acidic soils. Learning from successes and profound errors, as well as from doing extensive research into scientific literature pertaining to soil ecology, plant ecology, ecological design and permaculture, I developed a framework that blends ease of use and access and visual attractiveness with the advantages of ecological management.
2. Develop an understanding of making biologically-intensive composts for restoring degraded soils. Learning from several experiments, I was able to develop several biologically-rich composting pathways that mimic natural ecological pathways.
3. Develop an information management system (with GIS and relational-database for modeling) to link annual historical meal plans to land and resource needs assessment and to develop a methodology for constructing all data. I developed a primitive prototype involving copious linked spreadsheet tables. I need to transform this monster into a relational database... some day.

President and Owner, Interface Forestry, Ilc. 1998-present. <http://interfaceforestry.com/> I have been a forestry consultant working in the wildland-urban interface of western Montana as Interface Forestry, Ilc. My professional objective is to blend a conservation ethic with forestry to create beautiful, healthy landscapes. I love working in the field as well as solving the analytical problems that planning, management, and document-writing present.