**Ecological Enhancement:
A Process
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ChicoryLane Farm
May, 2022**

**Overview**

* **Select a site**
* **Record it**
* **Identify Features of Interest**
* **Map the site**
* **Consider changes**
* **Plan changes**
* **Implement**
* **Assess**

**Select a site**

* Scale is important
	+ Not too big: large enough to have impact
	+ E.g.:100 yard segment of stream in a 10-100 acre property
* You are drawn to it

**Record it**

* Images of the whole, in some logical order
	+ Starting state
	+ Evolving state
	+ End or transition state
* Other forms?
	+ Audio
	+ Records in some form of other perceptions

**Identify Features of Interest**

* Plant species
	+ Present / missing
	+ Gather them into two palettes
		- Desirable / undesirable
* Natural elements
	+ Rocks, streams, vistas, etc.

**Map the site**

* Rough, hand drawn
* Place species and elements
	+ Indicate desirable/undesirable

**Consider changes**

* Desirable species that might be increased
	+ Why
	+ Where
		- Existing location
		- New locations
			* Conditions appropriate?
* Undesirable species that might be reduced or removed
	+ Why
	+ Where
* Same for Natural elements

**Plan changes**

* Make tentative decisions
	+ Why and in what way would changes enhance ecology of the site?
		- Better balance?
		- benefits wildlife?
		- New element?
		- Reduces problem?
	+ Asses personal preferences vs. ecological benefits
		- Consider resulting motivation a plus
		- Beware personal idiosyncrasies not matched by benefit
	+ Draft working plan/notes

**Implement**

* Work from plan
	+ Revise plan as things work/don’t work
* Get help
* Monitor ecological pros and cons as site evolves
	+ Work on personal honesty
	+ Work on listening to others but trusting your own judgement
* Strive to be aware as to when to pause, when to start up again, when to transition to stop or maintenance

**Assess**

* Document the site
* Identify ecological factors that have changed or are changing
	+ Quantify, if possible/practical
	+ Qualitative, as well
* Tell the story of the site
	+ What drew you to the site?
	+ Motivation and/or need?
	+ Brief narrative of the process
	+ Identify elements of the palettes
	+ Hard look at decision that were made and their reasons
	+ How did it work out?
		- Ecological improvement?
		- Ecological problems reduced?
		- New problems created?
		- Document
	+ What would you do differently?