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Initial Garden Consultation - Written Report

Client: Anna Banana

Date: 2/31/2022 – 4–5:30pm

Address: 1234 56th St NE, Seattle, WA 99999

Notes & Recommendations:

- **Needs/Factors:**

- Create a straw mulch bed in the backyard, incorporating edibles and medicinals where possible.
- Reduce need for water and maintenance; digestibility of garden tasks.
- Reduce lawn where possible.
- Prioritize wildlife habitat and support their nourishment and travel.
- Create sanctuary spaces for relaxation.

- **Priorities (2022 season):**

- Backyard (north side):
 - Overall: Begin here to gain confidence with creating new gardens/outdoors spaces.
 - Create organically-shaped beds along the north fenceline along the path we discussed, creating a trail against the north edge of your small greenhouse.
 - Lay down 3–5” of compost (can put cardboard down first if desired) in the shape of the future bed.
 - Choose plants from the plant recommendation list (see below) incorporating a mix of taller shrubs and herbaceous plants & groundcovers. Choose a low-growing plant under hammock!
 - Mulch beds with medium fine bark or arborist chips once planted.



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- Create a path along the back edge to keep your dog off (arborist chips may be a great option). You may fence off the planted areas to keep them safe from dog interference. Options: T-posts + mesh deer fencing, electric invisible dog fencing.
- Create organically-shaped beds for the plants of an intentional social garden.
 - Lay down mulch (desired) in the beds.
 - Plant: Raspberries in a galvanized stock (see below) incorporating a variety of plants & groundcovers. Choose a variety of plants to mock!
 - Mulch: Use arborist chips or bark once planted.
 - You may choose to fence off the planted areas to keep them safe from dog interference.
- Plant: Raspberries in a galvanized stock on the east side of the greenhouse. Use an organic potting soil or the vegetable planting mix from Cedar Grove to fill (amended with compost). Either option would benefit from some organic berry fertilizer to bring in nutrients.
- Berry bed: Care for rhubarb and other berries by amending with 3" of compost or composted manure.
 - Separate blueberries by removing 2-3 of them and transplanting to another area. Might even put in large containers on deck with other plants, eventually transplanting them to a place in the garden.
 - You may choose to transplant in fall, but now is fine as long as they get plenty of water in summer.



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- Vegetable Bed:
 - Soil Test – As a resident of King County you get a soil test through King Conservation District. Learn more about how to drop soil samples off for free at their office or mail them. All soil sampling instructions are included.
 - Take 2 soil samples + 1 from each of the east beds.
 - Do as instructed to get the best results.
 - Fertilizer: Use a balanced fertilizer like Espoma or just choose a composted manure + general purpose fertilizer (e.g., Hendrikus, Down to Earth)
 - Watering: You can get by with an oscillating sprinkler attached to a hose. You will need to let it sit on each zone for at least 20–25 minutes for your new plantings, and especially in the summer, so consider how this might fit into your routine. Better than hand watering!
 - Future: In your fenced garden consider piping water underground each raised bed and installing either soaker hoses or drip emitters. I personally love the “bubbler” emitters, as you can arrange them around the bed to sprinkle water more evenly, though other great options exist. Around blueberries and other shrubs other drip emitters are best.
 - Plant: Shrubs and/or herbaceous plants along house and lower deck, giving distance of at least 12” from house. See plant recommendations below.
 - Veggies: Stick with leafy green vegetables here whenever possible, due to low light.



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- Deck: Utilize this resource as a sunny “zone 1” closest to your house. This is the most ideal for culinary herbs and smaller sun-loving vegetables.
 - Add: More containers, either a mix of large and small, or all large. Consider rectangular cedar planters OR two tiered planters.
 - Possible herbs/vegetables to grow: basil, peppers, bush chives, dill, parsley, tomatoes, lettuce, swiss chard, and many other leafy greens. Many flowers could be grown here as well.
- Front Yard:
 - Consider using this area to focus your energy on this year.
 - Amend soil and plant low-maintenance veggies here: winter squash, etc.
 - Remove rhododendrons if necessary, weed and prune out dead plant material wherever possible.
 - Rhododendron issues: It may be a combination of Phytophthora fungal infection and drought/heat stress. Often stressed plants are weaker and more susceptible to infections. Recommendations for Phytophthora usually include cutting back any diseased twigs (you’d see dark lesions or sections along twigs) and removing and destroying any diseased leaves. Even those that have fallen to the ground.
 - Depending on your level of care you can leave it as-is this year until you get to a future front-yard redesign OR you can choose to remove them this year.
 - Resources for Phytophthora on Rhodies:
 - <https://ppo.puyallup.wsu.edu/sod-home/education/pr-symptoms/rhododendron>



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- <https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/download/1451>
(scroll to Phytophthora and Droun'...
sample leaf photos)
- Bed Along Street:
 - Continue performing minimal maintenance on the back yard.
 - Get clear on what you're planning for planting in future.
 - Plan with a mix of fruit trees, flowers with low-maintenance
 - maintenance pollinator/flower oasis with mix other flowers.
 - Planting: Tulip magnolia, fig, kiwi (hardy), peach
 - Start thinking installing a water tap on the west side of the house for future irrigation needs in this area. See notes above from vegetable garden for this area.
- **Future Seasons:**
 - Backyard:
 - Any leftover tasks from this season.
 - Eventual expansion of fence to current wood chip area, create more raised beds and room for edible shrubs (and kiwi trellis!); removal of berry bed and treated wood inherent in this construction.
 - Continue to reduce or shape the lawn, replacing with arborist chips as needed.
 - Front Yard:
 - Any leftover tasks from this season.
 - Eventual hardscape redesign to create two levels with pathways in-between.



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- Many possibilities here, but ideal to reduce lawn and in... e... ble
- functional plants. This area is the most ideal sun... ally
- and other edible plants, but do think about... ally
- as close to house as possible. Also...
- choose to go more in the direc...
- and pollinator pathwa...
- By Front Door: F... enance
- plantings...
- I w... ed landscape
- ... have a better feel than I
- Contin...
- Bed Along Street...
- Any leftover... season.
- Eventual inst... of irrigation system, design and planting.

SAMPLE

Plant Recommendations:

Backyard – Back fence line and around fire pit area (dry, understory, wildlife, PNW native emphasis).

- Red flowering currant
- Oceanspray
- Red elderberry
- Aronia
- Osoberry/Indian plum
- Salal
- Dull Oregon grape



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- Epimedium
- Western sword fern
- Foxglove
- Hosta sp. (drought-tolerant cultivars)
- Azalea, deciduous
- Heavenly bamboo (*Nandina* sp.)
- Oregon oxalis
- Hellebore – any cultivar
- *Epimedium* sp.
- Japanese forest grass

SAMPLE

Backyard – Along back edge of h... u vegetables

- Bleeding Heart (Native *Dicentra spectabilis* or Introduced *Dicentra spectabilis*)
- Hellebore – any cultivar
- Heavenly Bamboo (*Nandina* sp.)
- Dull Oregon grape (*Mahonia nervosa*)
- *Euonymus fortunei* ‘Emerald Gaiety’
- Sweet box (*Sarcococca* sp.)
- Evergreen huckleberry
- Ferns: Western sword fern, shield ferns, wood ferns.



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Other Recommendations:

- Support with labor:
 - Post an ad on local neighborhood groups (Buy Nothing, Nextdoor, etc. in your area).
 - Make a work party and invite all your friends' help. Consider larger task-oriented projects like mowing.
- Natural Lawn Care: For more lawn care information, see [this link](#).
- Book Recommendation: Creating an Outdoor Sanctuary Space by [Katie Vincent](#) as for creating outdoor sanctuary spaces for your yard.
- Book Recommendation: The Filth by [Katie Vincent](#) – to support you in figuring out what to do in your yard & what to plant when (the seed-starting calendar).

SAMPLE

Possible Future Coaching Sessions:

- Nursery visit to select plants for your backyard.
- Follow-up to place plants in your backyard.
- Seasonal follow-up sessions to grow your gardening skills (i.e. what to do in the garden in spring, summer, fall, winter)
- Follow up consultations to create individual plans for streetside bed and front yard in future years.

Thank you for choosing my services! I look forward to working with you this season.

Greenly,
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