



## Consultation Process

With [permaculture](#) principles, we can turn current disadvantages and lawn areas into beautiful, productive, regenerative, and integrated edible landscapes. Most sites can support a robust annual vegetable garden, fruit trees/shrubs that grow well in the Piedmont, and four-season interest through our support perennials. We do all types of stormwater remediation, hardscaping including patios, fire pits, etc and many other services.

Our process of working with any client starts with an initial consultation. We charge \$100 for a one hour consultation with one of our design team members. After scheduling, we'll come out to talk with you about your goals while walking your property with you to gauge the strengths and weaknesses of your site.

Mainly we are evaluating four overlapping forces or elements on the consultation:

- **Stormwater:** Impervious surfaces including driveways and roof runoff, adjacent slopes or downspouts effecting your yard. Holding water at the top of a landscape via a rain garden, or otherwise redirecting water to more useful downhill plantings is often step one for most. Roughly 80% of our clients begin with a rain garden or some other drainage issue.
- **Sunlight:** We measure the quality and quantity of available sunlight for plant photosynthesis. While many perennials and fruits do not need full sun (6+ hours), most need a minimum of three hours. On the other side of the coin there are some places that need to create shade. Your 'solar budget' determines what you can or cannot grow.
- **Soil quality and general topography:** We will evaluate the tilth and quality of the existing topsoil to determine what materials could be in the implementation budget, and also to tailor our suggestions so that they can dynamically work with what you have (including slopes, bottom areas, re-grading etc). Most soils in the Piedmont are similar in their needs: remineralization, compost, mulches, and top quality organic fertilizers to bring it to its true potential.
- **The gardener/client relationship:** We talk extensively about the goals you have for your site, your available time, talent, and financial budget for accomplishing your landscaping goals, along with any additional questions you may have.

After our first meeting we'll follow up with a written summary of our recommendations and an estimate for any work moving forward with design and/or installation. While most people choose to do a design, it is not always necessary. While we are a full service/full-time landscaping company that primarily work through 1-5 day installations, we try to allow space where possible for many ways of working together with our clients, including phasing various aspects of the installation, quarterly assistance with implementation, and design-only jobs. We look forward to meeting you!

