







### Soil Design Questions to Ask for Your Project

1. What type of soils are we working with for this project, and how will they support the success of planned vegetation and site use?
  - a. Are native plants being used, or exotic species?
  - b. How much person traffic will impact the soil and vegetation?
  - c. How much and what type of maintenance will be needed to support vegetation and planned site use?
  
2. Should we use native soils, or will imported or manufactured soils be better for the project?
  
3. Have we considered and assessed soil properties?
  - a. Soil chemical and nutrient condition (of either or both existing or imported soils)?
  - b. Soil physical condition, including soil structure, density, and drainage?
  - c. Soil biological condition, including soil organic matter, soil microbial communities, and soil biological diversity?
  - d. Soil location in the project?
    - i. Slopes?
    - ii. Wet areas
    - iii. Upland areas
    - iv. Vegetation types
    - v. Expected site use
  
4. Do we have sufficient soil sources to support the project?
  - a. Soil vendor capacity for supply and production?
  - b. Consistent soil resources?
  - c. Compatible soil resources?
  
5. How can we optimize soil condition?
  - a. Have we identified the expertise necessary to help design quality soils?
  - b. What are the project design priorities?
  
6. Have we discussed with the project owner the value and importance of soils in the project design?
  - a. Project economics?
    - i. Initial costs
    - ii. Project savings
    - iii. Short- and Long-term maintenance
  - b. How soils will contribute to their landscape vision and enjoyment

### Common Ground

#### About the Presenters

##### **Jeffrey Aten PLA, CLARB, ASLA.**

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Jeff Aten joined Nelson Byrd Woltz in 2004 after earning Masters degrees in Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Virginia. Projects include the Wolong Giant Panda Reserve in Sichuan, China; an award-winning master plan for the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena; Luck Stone Architectural Design Centers in Richmond and Sterling, VA; Anthony Fokker Business Park in Schiphol, the Netherlands; and the landscape master plan and development for Watercolor's 500-acre community on the Gulf Coast of Florida. Jeff has also led master planning and built project efforts for NBW's ConAg Studio throughout Virginia. He is currently the Senior Associate in charge for the landscape portion of the McMillan Filtration Site in

Washington DC and the implementation of Houston's Memorial Park master plan. Jeff led the winning competition entry and is now leading the development of a concept plan for a two acre park in the Noma BID of Washington, DC and continues to lead the broad design team at the Summit Bechtel National Scouting Reserve in Glen Jean, West Virginia.

##### **Theodore Hartsig, CPSS**

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Ted is a certified professional soil scientist with more than 30 years of experience in natural resources restoration and urban ecosystems. He has worked with professional design teams for the design and construction of native landscapes at the George W. Bush Library in Dallas, the Jefferson Memorial Arch in St. Louis, at Notre Dame University, Memorial Park in Houston, Texas, and Tulsa's Riverside Park. Ted has developed publications and workshops for the design and construction of stormwater BMPs, native landscapes, sustainable cities, and soil restoration and management. Ted has a B.S. degree in Plant Physiology from Northern Arizona University and M.S. degree in Soil Science from Kansas State University.

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#### **James Sotillo**

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James Sotillo is the president of Ecological Landscape Management, a noted firm serving the sustainable landscape management industry. Since the company founding in 2010, James and his team has continued to pioneer the industry with programs that are unique solutions supporting healthy landscape behavior and ornamentation of the land. With years of education and training, our techniques have yielded results that challenge industry norms and traditional management schedules while encouraging environmental awareness, protection and preservation focuses. Because of James' experiences and success, ELM continues to collaborate on some of the most dynamic and transformative projects across the nation.

#### **Adrienne Heflich**

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Adrienne is a graduate of Bowdoin College, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Visual Arts and Environmental Studies, and a Master of Landscape Architecture from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, where she was a teaching assistant for core courses, taught drawing for the Career Discovery program, and received a travel grant to study sustainable neighborhoods in Scandinavia. She is a licensed landscape architect in the state of New York. In addition to serving as the project manager for landscape improvements to Albright College, Vassar College, and the historic Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, NY, since 2013 she has been an integral member of MVVA's design and construction administration team for the St. Louis Gateway Arch Grounds.