

Permaculture Project Urban Abundance

Michele L. Couture

August 2013

www.adventureonplanetearth.com



About 2 years ago I started watching and reading everything I could find about Permaculture, Bill Mollison, Geoff Lawton, etc. In the past year we used what we learned to install our garden beds and perennials. The new windows, roof and wood stove reduced our energy needs, but what was missing was the understanding of being sustainable and energy flowing through our property that wasn't being slowed down or used. The animal, energy and water systems are now planned and we will continue to work toward closing the loops of our personal sustainability and find a way to help our community move toward food and energy security.

+ Facts about property:



- Altitude: 630 ft.
- Latitude: 42°15'31.83"N
- Longitude: 71°46'44.42W
- Slope is Northeast to Southwest 2'
- Temperate Zone: 5b
- Lot size: 100ft. x 50ft.
- House size: 936 sq. ft. Living area – 936 unfinished basement



Sustainable House, Shed and Glass house



- Installation of Wood Cook-top stove for heat and cooking (complete)
- New roof with lifetime warranty (complete)
- New windows with 3 pane energy efficient glass (complete)
- Composting toilet
- Partial Gray water system
- Solar panels for electricity & hot water
- 1st flush system for drinking water with cistern in basement for winter storage
- Addition of glass house to the back- accessible from basement door with room for winter plants and spring seedlings - as well as safe & warm place for Quail and Rabbits
- Shed for wood storage as well as garden tools, etc.



Garden and Small Food Forest

(Installed during 2012-2013)

- Perennials: Paw-Paw Tree, 4 Semi-Dwarf Apple, 3 Dwarf Pear, Almond, Hazelnut, Goumi, Jostaberry, Red Current, Pink Current, Blueberries, Raspberry, Grapevines (variety), Hardy Kiwi, Strawberry, Sea Kale, Sorrel, Turkish Rocket, Jerusalem Artichokes, Chinese Yam.
- To repair poor soil: Comfrey, Vetch, Clover and Barley Cover crop and on edges.
- Bulb flowers also along the front fence. (all are planted)
- Herb Spiral: Variety of various perennial and annual herbs.
- Annual beds for tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, corn, drying red beans, lettuce, eggplant, sunflowers, radishes, carrots, etc.: Six 4x4ft (12 inches high), One 4x8ft, Several other random beds where we plant squash to fill the front of the house.
- Variety of planters with annual flowers such as Marigolds and Poppies.

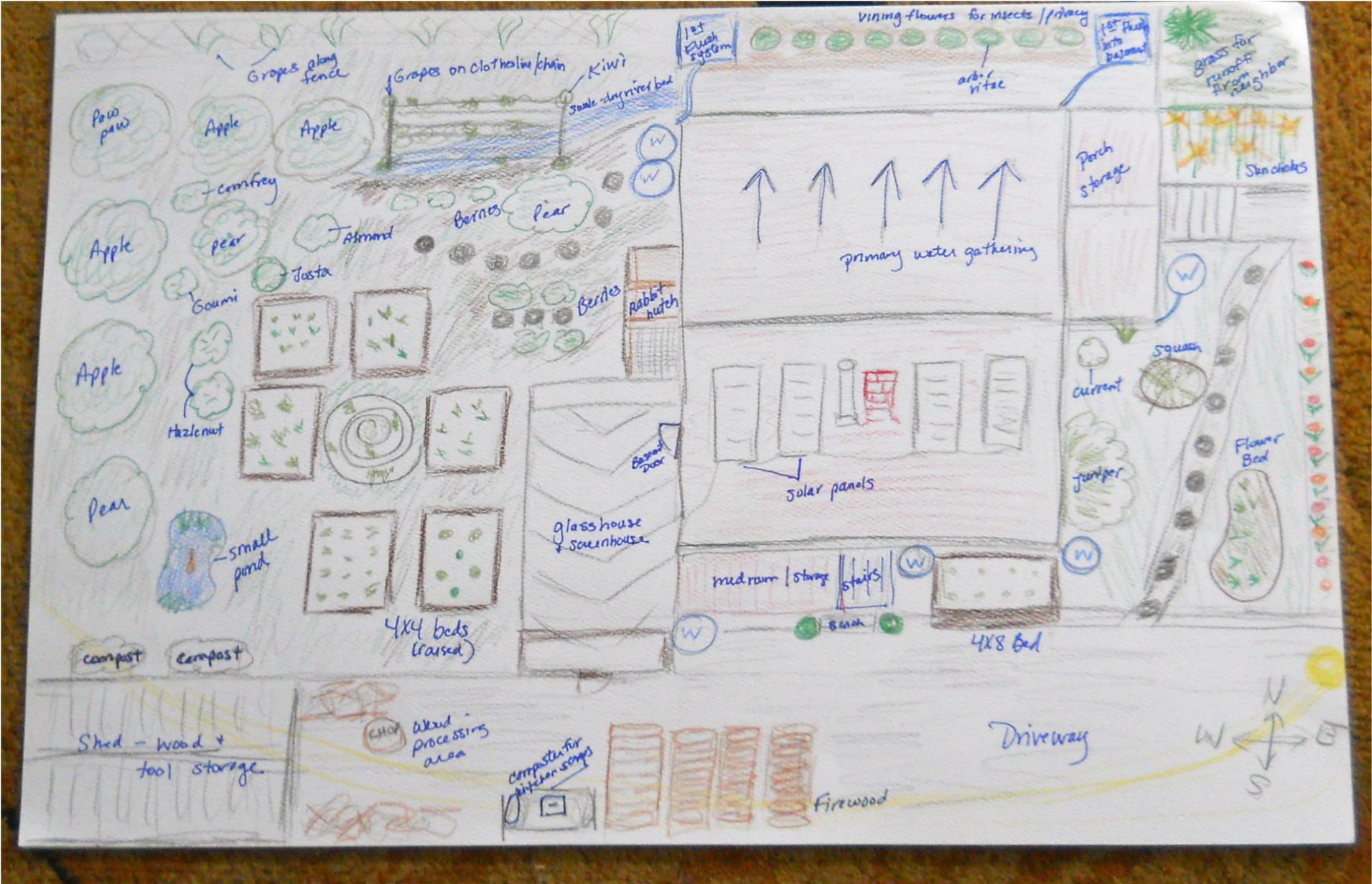


+ Solutions:

- Rabbits will provide an input of manure and consume greens
- Quail will provide eggs as well as input of manure (we can't currently have chickens) and will eat seeds and bugs from the garden.
- First flush water system – connected to cistern in basement provides drinking water
- Dry Riverbed redirects runoff and rain barrel overflow to the center of the yard to the fruit trees
- Solar panels on the roof provide electricity and hot water
- Glass house provides longer growing season and protection from elements for Rabbits and Quail
- Small pond provides space for water plants, toads, birds and a few fish
- The lot is too small to raise meat (it isn't allowed anyway) – so we connected in to the local food coop and order local organic, free range, grass fed, etc. for meat, cheese, and eggs
- Neighbors – Noise and privacy issues solved by Arbor Vitae on North side with vining flowers to attract birds and insects – as well as grape vines in several varieties for the other 50 ft. that borders the garden. There is currently a new 6ft chainlink fence that will become a living fence of green. Otherwise, as the trees grow in – it will provide more privacy and buffer the noise.



The Plan



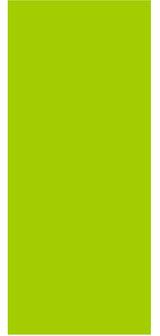
+ 34 Pilgrim Ave., Worcester, MA
USA – The before pictures



+ One year of completed projects



+ View from the House
Paw-paw is in far right corner



- + The old Maple in the yard next door: The upper layer of our little forest one day, shelter for birds and animals, watering the back garden after the rains, shade on hot days and compost covering for the garden when its leaves fall.

