

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

2019 WESTERN CHAPTER ISA
CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

An Ecological Approach to Urban Landscapes

Date/Time/Session: **WEDNESDAY, 5.01.2019, 11:15:00 AM, in the URBAN FORESTRY session**

Presentation Length: **45 minutes**

Presented by: **Richard Quinn**

Co-Presenter (if scheduled): **NA**



Overview of Presentation:

An “ecological” approach to our urban forests recognizes the soil microbiome, plant relationships, and other factors to create more naturalized landscapes that use less water and protect biodiversity, while recognizing that endemic plants are, in general, not good ornamental “landscape” plants in traditional horticultural practice. The presentation will show example projects that involve a “re-wilding” approach in urban settings. Related to this is how our collective sense of landscape aesthetic is shifting to accommodate this approach. How can we utilize trees in our urban forests in a more natural way, such as in planting groupings or small “forests” rather than in regimented evenly spaced rows of individual trees?

Mycorrhizal fungus, endophytic fungus, and soil bacteria, can support an immune system for native plants, while invasive plants shift the soil microbiome to favor invasives. Native plants then become less resilient to disease and insects. Examples of a naturalistic landscape approach will be presented with ideas and techniques on restoring a native soil ecosystem to support native plants.

Listeners to this talk will gain understanding of an Ecological Approach to urban forests, and the potential to protect biodiversity with more sustainable and resilient landscapes.

Presenter Bio:

Richard Quinn is a licensed Landscape Architect and Certified Arborist in Honolulu, and is a partner at HHF Planners. He has 35 years of experience with landscape design in Hawai‘i and throughout the Pacific. The incorporation of the principles of sustainable and regenerative designs has become an integral part of his design approach. He is in private practice as a landscape architect, is on the Board of Parks and Recreation for Honolulu, and is a board member of the Landscape Industry Council of Hawai‘i.