



The Permaculture City

Regenerative Design for Urban, Suburban,
and Town Resilience

Toby Hemenway

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“ **Urban permaculture takes what we have learned in the garden and applies it to people, neighborhoods, and even culture.** ”

More than a fad or mere buzzword, permaculture offers positive solutions for many of the environmental and social challenges confronting modern society. And nowhere are those empowering remedies more needed and desired than in our cities.

In his latest book, bestselling permaculture author Toby Hemenway (*Gaia's Garden*) demonstrates that the same nature-based approach that works to grow food—connecting the pieces of the landscape together in harmonious ways—applies perfectly to our need for water, shelter, energy, livelihood, and community.

As Hemenway demonstrates in *The Permaculture City*, urban permaculture is about much more than gardening in the city. Growing food is only a small part of the challenge we face in solving our essential and increasingly urgent problem of coexisting with a finite planet and with each other.

Permaculture's ethics lead us on a path to ecologically and socially sound decisions, ruling out the acts and ideas that harm people and planet. Its principles, however, do more than just rule out foolishness, they encourage us to think like an ecosystem, helping us spot solutions that enhance diversity, resilience, productivity, interconnectedness, and elegance and encourage lean use of resources.

In *The Permaculture City*, Hemenway provides readers with practical tips and new information from around the country of how people are using permaculture principles to live in more sustainable, and deeply connected, ways to each other and their community.

The Permaculture City documents the rise of a new sophistication, depth, and diversity in the approaches and thinking of permaculture designers and practioners, and provides hope and opportunity for our cities, towns, and suburbs.



Toby Hemenway is the author of the first major North American book on permaculture, *Gaia's Garden: A Guide to Home-Scale Permaculture*. After obtaining a degree in biology from Tufts University, Toby worked for many years as a researcher in genetics and immunology. At about the time he was growing dissatisfied with the direction biotechnology was taking, he discovered permaculture. A career change followed, and Toby and his wife spent ten years creating a rural permaculture site in southern Oregon. He was editor of *Permaculture Activist*, a journal of ecological design and sustainable culture, from 1999 to 2004. He teaches permaculture and consults and lectures on ecological design throughout the country. He is available for workshops, lectures, and consulting in ecological design. He lives in Sebastopol, California.

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