

## **Environmental Stewardship Policy**

**Design Ecosystems LLC**, led by partners Dean and Tom, is a landscape architecture firm rooted in sustainable practices and environmental stewardship. Our guiding principles reflect our commitment to enhancing ecological resilience, fostering biodiversity, and creating meaningful connections between people and the environment through art and beauty. Sustainability is at the heart of our business—from design to daily operations—and drives each decision we make for our projects.

### **Our Environmental Goals and Sustainable Practices**

#### **1. Sustainable Design as Core Philosophy**

Every project and operational choice reflects our commitment to environmental stewardship. We employ regenerative practices that restore the environment, utilizing native plants to enhance local biodiversity, designing to minimize runoff and improve water efficiency, and incorporating smart design solutions to reduce carbon footprints. Our work is both a practical and artistic expression of the harmony between humans and nature.

#### **2. Client-Centric and Collaborative Design Process**

Our design process is collaborative, educational, and client-centric. We empower clients to be an integral part of their landscape transformation, fostering a sense of stewardship. Through transparent communication and educational outreach, we guide clients in making sustainable choices with long-term benefits. Our team's lighthearted, joy-filled approach keeps the process approachable and even encourages a bit of friendly humility along the way.

#### **3. Community Engagement and Education**

Actively engaging with local communities, schools, and educational bodies is essential to our mission. We collaborate on initiatives to promote sustainable landscaping and provide resources and workshops that empower communities to adopt eco-friendly practices. By sharing the story of the land—its past, present, and future—we remind people of their place within the larger ecological narrative.

#### **4. Innovation and Adaptation**

At Design Ecosystems LLC, we continually innovate to remain at the forefront of sustainable landscape design. Our team integrates the latest ecological research, sustainable technologies, and adaptive design practices tailored to local conditions. We operate as a decentralized service area business, leveraging new technology to streamline workflows, while minimizing our carbon footprint by avoiding the commutes and overhead of traditional office spaces. By integrating sustainability to all elements of the business, we aim to reduce environmental impacts while maximizing the quality of the work we produce.

#### **5. Transparency and Authenticity**

Transparency and authenticity are central to our operations and interactions. We maintain a clear, open dialogue with clients, partners, and our internal team, building relationships based on respect, trust, and shared values. This honest approach is the

foundation of our work, ensuring our clients and partners have a genuine and positive experience.

At Design Ecosystems LLC, we believe in landscapes that benefit both people and the planet. By aligning our work with these guiding principles and sustainable practices, we strive to make a meaningful, lasting impact on the built and natural environments across New Jersey, New York, and beyond.