Maintenance & Stewardship Approaches to CPTED in Natural Areas

Urban Natural Areas Seminar
UW Botanic Gardens
January 11, 2017

Christina Pfeiffer
capfeiffer@comcast.net
Horticulture Consultant & Educator
ISA Certified Arborist, Urban Forestry Services, Inc.
Stewardship Issues & Objectives
Safety concerns

Positive values for high tree canopy
View corridors
Well maintained settings

Negative values for dense vegetation as opportunities for concealment
Vegetation Management

Design – plant selection and placement

Defensible Space – trail edges, sight lines

Well-maintained vegetation – territorial markers
Placement for mature size
Plant set backs at edges
No large, spreading shrubs near edges
Limb trees up early to train them for optimal trail clearance.

Maintain lower growing plants near trail edges.
Low plants for view corridors
Pruning Practices

• Timing
  – Work with seasonal plant growth cycles
  – Be sensitive to seasonal wildlife activity
Winter

Strong growth response
Summer

Weak growth response

Carbohydrates Growth compounds
Heading cuts & shearing are counter-productive
Shrubs die back at the base after repeated top-shearing.
Selective Pruning to Maintain Natural Growth Habit

Before

After
Problem here...

...cut here for longer term results
Training young trees

From: Arborist News April 2001
Establish canopy height early

Don’t stub off branch ends
Manage co-dominant leaders

Branch bark ridge

Co-dominant stems & included bark
Western hazelnut

Before

After
Success – looks like nothing was pruned

Cut made at ground level

After pruning – improved visibility
Think there’s no time to do it differently?
Nearly half the crew time using basal cuts compared to previous year of shearing tops.
Next year’s pruning was less volume and time.
Employ stewardship practices to promote healthy vegetation & maintain safety objectives

- Right Plant, Right Place
- Pruning for natural growth habit
- Early transplanting/removal of species that will grow too large for the location
- Pro-active maintenance and correct timing with seasonal growth cycles