

THE  
**PERMACULTURE·INSTITUTE**

**CHICAGO**

**2020-2021  
Course Catalog**



PERMACULTURE DESIGN CERTIFICATION



PERMACULTURE  
GAIA  
NETWORK



# Calendar

## September 2020

September 4-- Free Friday Permaculture Course  
September 5, 6, 12, 13, —Permaculture Mini (McFarland)  
September 11-- Free Friday Permaculture Course  
September 12, 13—Gardening Methods, 1 (Smith)  
September 18— Free Friday Permaculture Course  
September 19, 20—Gardening Methods, 2 (Smith)  
September 25-- Free Friday Permaculture Course  
**September 29, 2020-March 30, 2021--Permaculture Design Certification (Stephens, McFarland)**

## October 2020

October 1, October 8—Extending the Yield, 1 (Smith)  
October 2-- Free Friday Permaculture Course  
October 3, 4, 10, 11—Permaculture POC (McFarland, Smith, Stephens)  
October 9-- Free Friday Permaculture Course  
October 15, October 22—Extending the Yield, 2 (Smith)  
October 16-- Free Friday Permaculture Course  
October 23-- Free Friday Permaculture Course  
October 30-- Free Friday Permaculture Course  
October 31, November 1—Tinctures, Tonics and Teas (McFarland and Smith)

## November 2020

November 4, 5, 18, 19—Permaculture Design Methods (McFarland)  
November 6-- Free Friday Permaculture Course  
November 7, 8—Tinctures, Tonics and Teas (McFarland, Smith)  
November 13-- Free Friday Permaculture Course  
November 20-- Free Friday Permaculture Course  
November 27-- Free Friday Permaculture Course

## December 2020

December 4-- Free Friday Permaculture Course  
December 5, 6, 12 13—Creating a Local Economy (McFarland)  
December 11-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)  
December 18-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)  
December 25-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

## **January 2021**

January 8-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

January 9, 10, 16, 17—Medicine Garden Design (McFarland)

**January 14, 2020-June 24, 2021—Permaculture Design Certification (Smith, McFarland)**

January 15-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

January 22-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

January 29-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

## **February 2021**

February 5-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

February 6—Using Guilds in Your Design (McFarland)

February 12--Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

February 19-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

February 20, 21, 27, 28—Permaculture Design Methods (McFarland)

February 26-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

## **March 2021**

March 5-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

March 6, 7, 13, 14—Permaculture Mini (McFarland)

March 12-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

March 19-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

March 26-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

## **April 2021**

April 2-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

April 3, 4, 10, 11—Decolonizing Permaculture (McFarland)

**April 6, 2021-September 14, 2021—Permaculture Design Certification (McFarland, Stephens)**

April 9-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

April 16-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

April 23-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

April 30-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

## **May 2021**

May 1, 2, 8, 9—Creating a Local Economy (McFarland)

May 7-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

May 14-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

May 15, 16--Foraging 1 (McFarland)

May 21-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

May 28-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

## **June 2021**

June 4-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

June 5, 6, 12, 13—Urban Permaculture (McFarland)

June 11-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

June 18-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

June 25-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

**July 2021**

July 2-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)  
July 10, 11, 17, 18--Permaculture POC (McFarland, Smith, Stephens)  
July 9-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)  
July 16-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)  
July 23-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)  
July 30-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)

**August 2021**

August 6-- Free Friday Permaculture Course (tba)  
August 7, 8—Urban Food Forests 1 (McFarland)

**Fees**

The Permaculture Institute of Chicago strives to make permaculture available to everyone by offering free classes and keeping tuition low for others. The cost per course is determined by the number of course hours. Every three hours of class time costs \$20. Introductory courses are free. The Permaculture Design Certification costs \$400.

# Course Summaries

## Permaculture Design Certificate

The 72-hour course will develop students' understanding and application of permaculture. The Permaculture Institute of Chicago uses *Permaculture: A Designer's Manual* by Bill Mollison as the standard text for our pdc's. PDCs are taught in a variety of formats including 6- and 3-month video conferencing classes, private classes and two-week intensives. Students will earn design certificate after 72 hours of class time.

## Free Friday Permaculture Courses

The Permaculture Institute provides a number of high quality courses without tuition. These two and three hour courses began as a Friday afternoon tradition but may occur throughout the week and year. These courses are introductory level explorations of permaculture and related topics designed so that students can 'test the waters' of permaculture while learning a significant amount of practical permaculture applications.

### Introduction to Permaculture

Provides student with an overview of ethics, principles, techniques, design methods and politics central to understanding permaculture

### Introduction to Urban Permaculture

Discusses urban areas as special habitat that requires particular foci within permaculture

### Introduction to Forest Gardening

Discussion of forest garden concept and 7-layer forest garden design

### Introduction to Urban Foraging with Permaculture Design

Discusses permaculture, plant identification, foraging, designing forageable spaces and the urban environment

### Small-space Design Permaculture

Introduction to important permaculture techniques for designing small spaces

### Community Organizing for Permaculture

How do we organize our communities using permaculture

### Urban Survival

Using permaculture ideas and concepts to survive urban life today and in the future

### Urban Gardening

Gardening basics for the urban setting

### Introduction to Permaculture Design Methods

Emphasis on chapter three of *Permaculture: A Designer's Manual*

### Introduction to Permaculture Principles

Emphasis on chapters one and two of *Permaculture: A Designer's Manual*

### Introduction to the Permaculture Chicken

Beginning discussion of how permaculture designers incorporate chickens into their spaces

### Matthew's Top 100

100 of the most important permaculture concepts and techniques

### Introduction to Permaculture and Financial Freedom

Using the ethnics and techniques of permaculture to design financial freedom

### Introduction to Permaculture Hand Tools

Discussion of appropriate technology with emphasis on hand tools used in permaculture

### Introduction to Urban Wildlife

Discussion of wildlife in the city and how to design and care for it

### Plant Identification for Beginners

Basics of identifying common wild and cultivated plants

### Introduction to Pattern Understanding and Analysis

Emphasis on chapter four of Permaculture: A Designer's Manual

### Introduction to Natural Farming

Introduction to the Fukuoka method of natural farming

### Introduction to Bicycles, Bike Trailers and Community Design

Beginning discussion of appropriate transportation technology and how to incorporate into your life

### How to Kill Your Lawn and Eat It

Methods for destroying grass lawns and planting aesthetically pleasing edible spaces

### Introduction to Guilds

Basics of guilds including patterns, diversity, and companion planting

## Core Courses

The following courses are considered the core courses of The Permaculture Institute of Chicago's curriculum. With the consent of the instructors a combination of these 6 and 12 hour courses can be used to earn a Permaculture Design Certificate.

### Urban Food Forests, 1 and 2 (6/section)

Food forest methods and the benefits of food forestry

### Tinctures, Tonics and Teas (6)

Growing, foraging and using herbs, flowers, and roots for medicines

### Compost Systems (6)

Methods for designing a productive compost system

### Chickens, Parts 1-4 (6 /section)

Intermediate and advanced analysis and development of chickens in the permaculture system

### Creating a Local Economy (12)

Emphasis on chapter 14 of *Permaculture: A Designer's Manual*. Includes discussion and analysis of alternative economic systems and traditions

### Permaculture Design Methods (12)

Discussion and analysis of chapter three of *Permaculture: A Designer's Manual*. Includes use of computer technology to design for yourself and clients

### Extending the Yield: Preservation Methods, 1 and 2 (6/section)

Designing for year-round eating using permaculture and preservation techniques. Discuss planning, design, pickling, fermenting, canning, drying and other methods

### Pattern Understanding and Analysis (12)

Discussion of understanding, analysis and use of patterns in nature. Emphasis on chapter four of *Permaculture: A Designer's Manual*

### Permaculture Hand Tools (6)

Analysis of hand tools appropriate for permaculture design

### Water: Hoses, Tanks, Cans and Nozzles (6)

Focused discussion of water, its importance to the landscape and how to use it

### Trees, 1 and 2 (6/section)

Trees, their functions, and needs. Advanced discussion of trees in the permaculture design

### Small-Space Design (12)

Focused discussion of the uses of permaculture in designing small spaces

### Permaculture Mini (12)

This course goes beyond an introductory understanding of permaculture to delve deeper into its ethics, principles, politics and design techniques. This course focuses on chapters 1-4 and 14 of *Permaculture: A Designer's Manual*.

### How to Teach Introduction to Permaculture (12)

Advanced class on techniques, tools and perspectives appropriate for teaching permaculture

### Using Guilds in Your Design (6)

Intermediate and advanced discussion of guilds and their roles in permaculture design

### Medicine Garden Design (12 hours)

Discussion of permaculture design methods and their use in designing a garden for developing plant-based medicines

## Specialized Courses

These courses are designed for students that have a deep interest in a particular permaculture topic.

### Natural Farming (6)

Understanding and using Fukuoka's natural farming method

### Ruth Stout Method (6)

Understanding using the Ruth Stout Method

### Permaculture POC (12)

Permaculture design aimed at the particular experience and circumstances of people of color. Discussion of colonialism, capitalism and white supremacy as limiting factors and the use of permaculture as a means of liberation

### Designing a Zero-waste Life (12)

Using permaculture principles and ethics to design a no waste lifestyle

### Perennial Polyculture Design 1 and 2 (6/section)

Focus on perennials and their functions in permaculture design. Discussion of important and useful plants

### Urban Permaculture (12)

Discussion of permaculture philosophy and design appropriate for the urban landscape. Emphasis on race, inequality, capitalism and colonialism

### Permaculture and Financial Freedom (6)

Intermediate and advanced discussion of using the ethics and techniques of permaculture to design financial freedom

### Off-grid Solar (6)

How to design off-grid solar power systems using permaculture thought. Emphasis on the urban landscape

### Design Science Revolution (6)

Examining the history and importance of design science

### Creating Wildlife Habitat in Urban Environments (12)

Intermediate and advanced discussion of using permaculture to design wildlife habitat in urban areas

### Soil Food Web (6)

understanding the importance of soil. Practical knowledge for soil conservation, restoration and stewardship

### The Urban Off-Grid Communications and Command Center (12)

Developing a communications center that is off-grid using permaculture

### Herbs for Detox (6)

Discussion of herbs used for human detoxification of toxins, illness and emotional stress

### Urban Wildlife (6)

Identifying, understanding and designing for urban wildlife

### Designing Your Kitchen for a Sustainable Local Diet (6)

Use permaculture to design an effective, efficient sustainable kitchen. Emphasis on tools, local food, and food preparation

### Designing a Mobile Garden (6)

Permaculture techniques for designing a garden that you can move

### Plant Identification, 1 and 2 (6/section)

Intermediate and advanced discussion of wild and cultivated plants



#### Foraging 1 and 2 (6/section)

Intermediate and advanced foraging techniques. Emphasis on ethics of foraging, backyard and urban foraging

#### Mycology: Mushrooms, Fungi and Foraging (6)

Learn techniques for growing, identifying, harvesting and preparing mushrooms. Emphasis on the importance of mushrooms to an ecosystem

#### Tree Crops (6)

Discussion of the centrality of trees to permaculture design. Emphasis on trees that produce crops

#### Using Computers for Permaculture Design (12)

How to design permaculture spaces for yourself and others using widely available computer software

#### Decolonizing Permaculture (12)

Discussion of permaculture and the permaculture movement and ways to decolonize it. Emphasis on native thought, land and methods of decolonization

#### Gardening Methods, 1-4 (6/section)

Learn numerous design methods appropriate for permaculture. Emphasis on designing your ideal garden

#### Appropriate Transportation: Bicycles, Bike Trailers and Community Design, 1 and 2 (6 hrs each section)

Discussion of the importance of bicycles to a sustainable community