Find your purpose

For the last 31 years, we have taught the principles of Permaculture and art of sustainable living. We take a holistic approach, engaging students in theory, creativity, and hands-on skills. Empowered with the right tools, knowledge, and purpose, you too can become an agent of positive change.
Permaculture is a revolution disguised as organic gardening.

- Bill Mollison
Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC)

13 Months

12 Class days

72 Hours of Permaculture Study
Permaculture is a practical design science, based on the patterns and principles of natural systems. Drawing from the wisdom of nature, Permaculture is a creative and thoughtful response to the disconnected modern paradigm of resource extraction, industrial growth, and consumerism.

Over the span of 3 months, we'll deliver 72 hours of the critical information you need to become a certified designer and to get your dreams moving.

Classes are each Wednesday for 12 weeks, 6 hours per day. Cherry-pick the most attractive topics, or commute for the full course to get your Permaculture Design Certificate.

Our diverse teaching team is knowledgeable, experienced, accessible, and ready to help you grow your future.

The revolution is here, and it starts with you.
Skill.  
Integrity.  
Vision.  

This course is excellent for anyone who doesn’t know what they want to be when they grow up. Permaculture helps you learn about yourself and our planet in ways I didn’t think possible. I learned more in 12 weeks about myself than I did in 4 years in college!

– Jamie, PDC Student
WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

WEEK ONE:
Ethics & Principles

Earth Care ~ People Care ~ Fair Share! By staying grounded in our core values and principles, we can design solutions to any of our collective challenges. Learn the 3 ethics and 12 principles that guide and inform Permaculture design and practice, and why they’re so needed in the world.
WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

WEEK TWO:
Patterns in Nature

Learn the art of observation and awaken to the patterns all around you. In Permaculture, pattern language informs our design process at all levels. Weather systems, ecological succession, zones & sectors, keyhole beds, deer trails, seashell spirals, leaf veins, and more...
WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

WEEK THREE:
Permaculture Design

Learn the fundamental elements of Permaculture’s innovative design process, including practical tools for measuring and mapping your landscape. Our whole systems approach doesn’t stop at the ecological; a design is never complete without integrating cultural, economic, and even spiritual considerations.
WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

WEEK FOUR:
Resilient Plants, Healthy Soils

Soil is the foundation of all terrestrial life. Learn from the ground up about soil care, basic botany, plant families and uses, and sample plant guilds and local installations. This day is organized as a field trip to a learning site in Eugene.
WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

WEEK FIVE:
Natural Building (+ design group formation)

Modern construction creates a huge amount of landfill waste. In natural building, materials come from and return to the Earth. Learn how to use local, renewable elements to design smart and simple shelters. Then get dirty with a hands-on project.
WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

WEEK SIX:
Appropriate Technology

Sustainability + innovation = low impact technologies that benefit the planet and improve the quality of human life. Learn about aquaculture as an alternative closed-loop food production system. And discover human nutrient recycling - the responsible use of composting toilets and urine recycling.
WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

WEEK SEVEN:

Responsible Forestry (+ design project check-in)

Forests are among the most diverse and resilient habitats on Earth. With conscious management, they can grow our long-term needs while providing habitat for other life. Explore how forest ecosystems function and how to design productive and regenerative food forests & woodlots.
WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

WEEK EIGHT:

Water is Life

Water is the lifeblood of our world. In Permaculture, we work with its natural flows: catching it from the sky, cleaning it with plants, and storing it in the landscape. Carry out hands-on water planning projects. Then learn how to treat and reuse greywater.
WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

WEEK NINE:

Animal Partnerships (+ design project check in)

Learn the characteristics of wild and domesticated animals and how to design productive ecosystems that benefit us and them. Also explore techniques for dealing with troublesome critters – integrated pest management (IPM). Then, do a hands-on project with our animal systems on-site.
WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

WEEK TEN:

Energy Ecology (+ design project check in)

Energy is abundant in natural systems and ubiquitous in our industrial society. Learn the fundamental principles of how energy moves through landscapes and how to capture and store it with good design. Get a taste of alternative energy sources and how to implement them for small & simple solutions.
WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

WEEK ELEVEN:

Designing for all Situations (+ project presentation tips)

Permaculture design can be implemented anywhere to improve resiliency. Learn practical strategies for other biomes, such as tropics and deserts. See how permaculture design can mitigate the effects of climate change, natural disasters, and other emergencies.
WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

WEEK TWELVE:

Project Presentations

Present your polished group project to the Lost Valley community and mentors, the culmination of twelve weeks of study. Complete course evaluations. Explore what you can do next with your PDC.

Also participate in the homespun “Untalent Show.” Congratulations!
Self-Motivated

Being part of the PDC program at Lost Valley has motivated me to be a creative individual. A creator, not just a consumer—and how to live in a sustainable way. With this knowledge, I now feel confident to create my own future.

– Bruce, PDC Student
WHERE WILL YOUR PDC TAKE YOU?

- Utilize permaculture design principles to bring insight to any line of work, or any part of life
- Strengthen your college degree - apply to your home institution for academic credit.
- Become more hireable for environmental and land-based work opportunities.
- Begin the journey towards true self-reliance
- Improve a home garden with innovative techniques
- Imagine & design your own farm or homestead
- Grow into a permaculture teacher yourself
- Awaken as an informed and responsible global citizen
This PDC course has shown me the dynamic connectivity between myself and the environment. I feel rooted in the simple wisdoms of the Earth & inspired by the innovative receptive philosophy of permaculture.

- Recent student
The 2020 Permaculture course will take place September 4th – November 20th

Every Wednesday:
9:00 am – 4:45 pm with a 1-hour break for lunch
Coming to Lost Valley and taking the Permaculture Design Certification course has been both an enjoyable and inspiring experience. I feel more empowered to advance my understanding of Permaculture - building off of the basics one brick at a time. I would highly recommend this course to anyone interested in the subject.

- River, HSS Student
A Vision of Sustainability
Lost Valley, since 1989
OVER 30 YEARS OF STUDYING SUSTAINABILITY

For the last three decades, we’ve been educating students about sustainable living. We are a community that gathers around a set of collective understandings and interests, common in our hearts:

- To live lightly on the Earth
- To cultivate a spirit of service
- To explore the essence of family, tribe, and partnership
- To dedicate ourselves to personal growth, healing, and spiritual understanding.
Why Lost Valley?
Why Lost Valley

- Experienced and helpful instructors
- Extended learning period for increased integration
- The best course for its price in the Northwest
- Only one day per week - build career skills while keeping your day job
- Based at a living permaculture-inspired site
- Explore 87 acres of forest, meadow, creek & trails
- Only 30 minutes from Eugene/Springfield (commuters have come from as far as Portland and Ashland)
- We’re your local permaculture community - stay connected beyond the course
Cost
$800 is the Early Bird price, if paid by August 1, 2020
$900 is the regular course price (paid by course start)

This is an impressive price for a Permaculture Design course, half of what most immersion PDCs cost. Additionally, it’s half-price for anyone who lives in our zip code (97431).

$80 per class session, if taken individually.
Pay for lunch, or bring your own.

Visit our financial aid page for options – the application deadline is June 15.
Register
Thank you for reading this information and your interest in the program. If you're ready to register, click here. An interview is not required.

Have questions? Please email programs@lostvalley.org or call 541-937-3351. To learn more about our organization, you can visit lostvalley.org.

Cheers from your friends at Lost Valley, until we see you in person!