

BEYOND THE BINARY



XI

RECALIBRATION

Native plants are rightly beloved. They've shaped and been shaped by the creatures around them for millennia. And their celebration is a wonderful way for people to engage with their local landscapes.

Categories are useful. They help us communicate, set policy, and allocate resources. The problem is when they harden into ideology.

Environmental conditions are changing faster than any conventional restoration plan can keep up with.



The U.S. Dept. of Interior spent \$143 million on anti-invasive measures in 2020, much of it on toxic herbicides.

Most of these measures are destined to fail.

The plants return the moment the intervention stops.

This is not an argument against native plants, or for introduced plants at all costs.

This is an argument for nuance.



What's growing in your neighborhood right now?

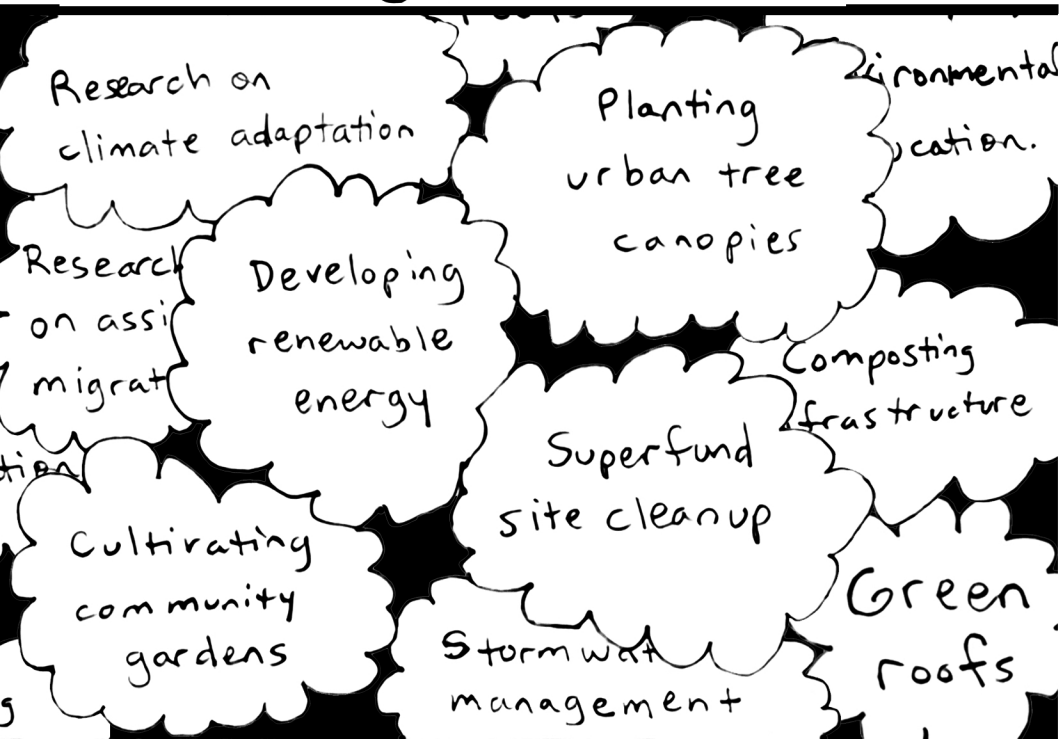


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SOURCES

How else might that money be used?



In many Indigenous cultures, relationships with land are based in reciprocity and a sense of responsibility, rather than ownership or extraction. This ethic is worth learning from.

But learning from it means practicing reciprocity with whatever plants are growing near you, not freezing the botanical inventory in time.