



# Open Hearth

PERMACULTURE DESIGN CERTIFICATION

*exploring the resilient culture, communities, & skills of the Upper Midwest bioregion; cultivating leaders to continue this beautiful story...*

## What is Permaculture?

An interdisciplinary and **solution focused** application of principles, ethics, & methods for living a thriving livelihood in harmony with Mother Earth. The traditional introduction to Permaculture is the PDC (Permaculture Design Certification); a 72+ hour experiential learning journey which provides an **integrated, whole systems overview of both natural and social aspects of our world**. Inspired by many Indigenous cultures around the world, Permaculture helps **develop skills in observation, design & action** for creating resilient abundance in food, shelter, water, clothing, community, livelihood, economy, health & time **through building relationships**.

## What makes these programs unique?

Our PDC programs emphasize a **hands-on, intensive, & practical approach to learning skills** that empower humans to awaken, connect the dots, and take action to break the chains of destructive systems, livelihoods & culture. Our program seeks to **connect with the experienced folks of our community & region** who have developed regenerative & diverse expressions of leading a life in this place we call home and **share our strategies to transform problems into solutions**.

## What will we learn about & explore in this program?

Gardening, Farming, & Agroforestry  
Ecological & Whole Systems Design  
Natural Building & Architecture  
Community/Village Building  
Water, Soils, & Earthworks  
Plant, Tree, & Fungi ID & Polycultures  
Edible / Medicinal Mushroom Cultivation  
Plant/Fungi Propagation & Seed-Saving  
Bio & Myco-Remediation

Herbalism, Wellness, & Wildcrafting  
Rewilding, Hunting, Fishing, & Wilderness Skills  
Raising Animals & Wildlife Habitat  
Food Preservation, Cooking, Fermentation  
Open Source & Alternative Education  
Art, Placemaking, & Bioregionalism  
Regenerative Business, Economics, Social  
Entrepreneurship  
Communication, Activism, & Leadership

## Who is this for? Anyone interested in:

- *Transforming Problems into Solutions*
- *Transitioning to a new career, livelihood & lifestyle*
- *Gaining more free time for friends & family*
- *Starting a rural or urban homestead*
- *Developing an independent livelihood or start-up business*
- *Becoming more effective communicator, activist, & educator*
- *Differentiating your professional work (Engineers, Designers, Inventors, Developers, Realtors, Entrepreneurs)*
- *Complex issues of ecological & social systems*
- *Educating/Homeschooling children*
- *Growing more nutritious food for you and your family*
- *Making, growing, & wildcrafting medicine*
- *Teaching these skills to others*
- *Trading & bartering your gifts with others*
- *Organizing an ecovillage or community group*
- *Designing & restoring degraded land, water & common space*
- *Farming, Broad-acre or Urban*
- *Building community & regional resilience*

## 6 Month PDC Program Schedule

Spring Germination Retreat	WED	SAT	Details	Autumn Harvest Potluck
<u>Friday, 4/5 – Sunday, 4/7</u> Opening Spring farm stay weekend retreat amongst the woods & waterfalls. Opportunity to connect with one another, enjoy the wild, and take a deep dive into the vast world of Permaculture, setting the stage for what we will be learning throughout this journey.	- - 5/8 - - 6/5 - 7/24 - 8/21 - 9/4 - - -	4/20 - - 5/25 - - 6/29 - - 7/13 - - 8/3 - - 9/21 - - 10/5	<b>Studio Days - Wednesdays</b> <u>6pm - 9pm</u> Gather indoors, presentations, studio time, class discussion, snacks, drinks & more - <i>MPLS</i>  <b>Field Days - Saturdays</b> <u>9am - 4pm</u> (includes 1 hr lunch break) Hands-on projects, tours & activities w/ guest instructors & project hosts - <i>Various extended regional locations</i>  <b>Program Length</b> <u>6 Months, 3 Seasons</u> For PDC completion, 72 hrs minimum (see FAQ for attendance requirement info)	<u>Saturday, 10/19</u> The culminating harvest of our program, we will gather in community to enjoy a feast and celebrate the work & play of our season together.
15hrs	15hrs	49hrs	Approx. Total of PDC program: 80hrs+	Closing: 10/19

### What will you create & cultivate?

Aside from our group time, we will be guiding the development of **personal & self-directed projects** that **integrates the content** of the program and each student's gifts, skills & context to **add value to life & community**. We encourage project ideas be determined early and will provide ongoing feedback & mentorship through check-ins with us & the cohort. Our program will conclude with a community potluck celebration and informal final project storytelling.

### Who are some of our partners?

Our program seeks to tap into the bioregional & cultural abundance of wisdom, experience & skills - through this we hope to provide a 'balanced diet' of perspectives of the many complex problems & solutions involved in this work.

**Seed Sages** | Seed-saving, plant propagation, & gardening/farming education

**Bluebird Hill Homestead** | Homesteading, alternative education, natural building, Medicinal Herb, Kids' Summer Camp  
**U&i** | Self revival, education, permaculture, and consultations grounded in critical thinking and the creative design process

**Beez Kneez** | Urban & rural Beekeeping, pollinator habitat & forage, native pollinator support

**New City Backyard Farms** | Connecting backyard urban farmers, neighbors & livelihoods

**Regeneration Acres** | Raising animals & heritage breeding, farming, cooperative model, Perennial Nursery

**Organic Compound** | community focused regenerative farm, arts & homestead - <http://bit.ly/OCgotg>

**Blue Dirt Farm** | Natural Building & Architecture, Raising animals, Soil health strategies

**Green Guilds** | collaborative & community focused permaculture design

### What are you investing in with the 6 month PDC Program?

- A life changing experience of 80+ hours of instruction, projects, tours and so much more
- 1 on 1 Mentorship support throughout program
- Ongoing development & support of self-directed personal project
- Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC)
- PDC workbook, lesson materials, numerous resources & portfolio to document learning journey
- Inspiring stories, skills & experiences
- Open Hearth Silk-Screened T-Shirt
- Project Opportunities w/ Land by Hand
- Membership to the Open Hearth Guild of current/past students & community partners to collaborate / network
- Retreat weekend including room & board
- Organic Snacks, Herbal Tea & Coffee-field days & studio nights
- Community Harvest Potluck party
- Cody, Megan, the partners & the growing community
- Yourself, skills, goals, vision & lifestyle!

## 6 Month PDC Program Investment

**Earlybird Tuition** | Paid in full by 2/22 - \$995 - \$1195 (Sliding Scale)

**Regular Tuition** | Paid in full by 3/29 - \$1095 - \$1295 (Sliding Scale)

Payment Plans & Need-Based Scholarships available\*

More Details	How to Complete Registration
<p><b>DEPOSIT: \$150</b> Non-refundable <b>deposit is due to complete registration</b> and secure your spot as our program size will be limited. This deposit amount is already included in tuition price, not in addition to it so deduct accordingly if you are making multiple payments. Refunds are issued up to 31 days before PDC starts.</p> <p><b>REFERRAL DISCOUNT:</b> Refer a Friend / Partner to join for \$50 off Tuition</p> <p><b>*PAYMENT PLANS:</b> Talk to us if you need this option: 3 trimester payments of \$365 OR 6 monthly payments of \$210</p> <p><b>*SCHOLARSHIPS:</b> may be available as needed, please talk to us about your situation.</p> <p><b>SLIDING SCALE:</b> We provide 'sliding scale' to better accommodate for all financial situations to support &amp; spread this beautiful work! If you are able to pay more, your higher contribution will help others who may need to pay less. <b>Thank you!</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) <b>Submit Online Application</b> - here: <a href="http://bit.ly/ohpdcapply">bit.ly/ohpdcapply</a></li><li>2) <b>Make Payment within 10 days</b> by:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) <a href="#">Pay Deposit</a></li><li>b) OR Pay full tuition</li></ol></li><li>3) <b>Receive Registration Confirmation</b> via email</li><li>4) <b>Complete all payments in full</b> by 3/29</li></ol> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Payment Methods to Choose From:</b></p> <p><b>A) Pay Online:</b> Please send online payment via <b>Paypal</b> to our email: <a href="mailto:landbyhand.co@gmail.com">landbyhand.co@gmail.com</a> (PLEASE <b>SEND USING FRIEND &amp; FAMILY OPTION</b> - NOT GOODS &amp; SERVICES. Otherwise we are charged a transaction fee and will ask for you to reimburse us)</p> <p><b>B) Send check by Mail:</b> Pay to: Land by Hand Mail to: 18125 Eiler Ave, Faribault, MN 55021</p>

## 10 Day PDC Program Schedule

Opening	Celebration	Closing	Details
<p><b>THURS 8/8</b> Arrive in Evening - check-in</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>FRI 8/9</b> Arrive by 8AM to check-in &amp; join opening circle</p>	<p><b>SAT 8/17</b> Afternoon to Evening - Harvest Celebration</p>	<p><b>SUN 8/18</b> Farewell closing circle - leave late morning</p>	<p><b>Location</b> Organic Compound - See their Videos here: <a href="http://bit.ly/OCgotg">http://bit.ly/OCgotg</a> 18125 Eiler Ave, Faribault, MN 55021 <i>Camping included on-site, other opportunities may be available</i></p> <p><b>Daily Description</b> <u>~ 8:30am - 5:30pm</u> (includes 1 hr lunch break) <i>8hrs/day average</i> Classroom, hands-on projects, tours, activities, guests &amp; more <i>3 Meals/day + Snacks, Tea, Coffee included</i></p> <p><b>Program Length</b> <u>8/9 - 8/18 = 10 days</u> For PDC completion, 72 hrs minimum (see FAQ for attendance requirement info)</p>

### What will you create & cultivate?

Aside from our class content, we will be guiding the development of each student creating a **personal plan** that **integrates the content** of the program and each student's gifts, skills & context to **add value to life & community**. Our program will conclude with a community celebration and how we can support each other moving forward in our work!

### Where is the PDC being held and what is the location like?

*Organic Compound - Center for Creation Regeneration* is a growing community, farm & homestead based in Faribault focused on arts, music, education & regenerative farming led by our dear friends Carly & Wil Crombie. Their farm & homestead grows a variety of produce including vegetables, fruits, herbs, mushrooms, meat & eggs. They host many types of groups & events in their community including the annual *Halfway to Harmony & Gathering of the Guilds*.

Learn more about Organic Compound at their website: [organiccompoundmn.org](http://organiccompoundmn.org) or see their Videos here: <http://bit.ly/OCgotg>

### What are you investing in with the 10 Day PDC Program?

- A life changing experience of instruction, projects, skill-building, inspiration, tours village life, and more
- PDC workbook, lesson materials, numerous resources & portfolio to document learning journey
- A Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) in 10 days!
- Mentorship & networking w/ PDC group
- Establishing lifelong connections with PDC cohort & the Twin Cities area permaculture scene
- Open Hearth Silk-Screened T-Shirt
- Full room & board including all delicious, local homestead meals w/ emphasis on fresh produce from the farm
- Organic Snacks, Herbal Tea & Coffee
- Community Harvest Potluck party
- Membership to Open Hearth Guild of current/past students & partners to collaborate / network
- Supporting Cody, Megan, Carly & Wil, the partners & the growing community!
- Yourself, skills, goals, vision & lifestyle!

# 10 Day PDC Program Investment

**Earlybird Tuition** | Paid in full by 4/19 - \$1295 - \$1495 (Sliding Scale)

**Regular Tuition** | Paid in full by 7/12 - \$1395 - \$1595 (Sliding Scale)

Payment Plans & Need-Based Scholarships available\*

More Details	How to Complete Registration
<p><b>DEPOSIT:</b> \$150 Non-refundable deposit is due to complete registration and secure your spot as our program size will be limited. This deposit amount is already included in tuition price, not in addition to it so deduct accordingly if you are making multiple payments. Refunds are issued up to 45 days before PDC starts.</p> <p><b>REFERRAL DISCOUNT:</b> Refer a Friend / Partner to join for \$50 off Tuition</p> <p><b>*PAYMENT PLANS:</b> Talk to us if you need this option <b>*SCHOLARSHIPS:</b> may be available as needed, please talk to us about your situation.</p> <p><b>SLIDING SCALE:</b> We provide 'sliding scale' to better accommodate for all financial situations to support &amp; spread this beautiful work! If you are able to pay more, your higher contribution will help others who may need to pay less. <b>Thank you!</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) <b>Submit Online Application here:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/ohpdcapply">bit.ly/ohpdcapply</a></li><li>2) <b>Make Payment within 10 days by:</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) <a href="#">Pay Deposit</a></li><li>b) <i>OR Pay full tuition</i></li></ol></li><li>3) <b>Receive Registration Confirmation via email</b></li><li>4) <b>Complete all payments in full by 7/12</b></li></ol> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Payment Methods to Choose From:</b></p> <p><b>A) Pay Online:</b> Please send online payment via <b>Paypal</b> to our email: <a href="mailto:landbyhand.co@gmail.com">landbyhand.co@gmail.com</a> (PLEASE SEND USING FRIEND &amp; FAMILY OPTION - NOT GOODS &amp; SERVICES. Otherwise we are charged a transaction fee and will ask for you to reimburse us)</p> <p><b>B) Send check by Mail:</b> Pay to: Land by Hand Mail to: 18125 Eiler Ave, Faribault, MN 55021</p>

## What are our past PDC graduates doing now?

- Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council & Community Sustainability Coordinator
- Developing new Small Business Ownership Models
- Landscape & Homestead Design business
- Improving Community Cohousing & Intentional Community
- Grief Ritual Facilitation organization
- Planning a Farm to Table & Production Partnership business
- Sustainable Building, Contracting & Consulting
- Community Church Partnership, Food Forest Planting
- Farming, Fungi Cultivation & Education organization
- Designing Urban, Suburban & Rural Homesteads
- Developing multifunctional Landscape Design business for Schools
- Outdoor Education & Preschool Teacher
- Regenerative Farming & Growing a Regional Hub
- Planning Urban Placemaking & Art Events
- Studying International Social Entrepreneurship overseas
- Environmental Non-Profit Executive Director

## What do our past participants say about their experience?

### What brought you to this program?

*"I wanted more connections with people who are pursuing sustainable change in the world and are passionate about working with the earth and being a balanced human in a balanced ecosystem. I also hoped to garner a lot of tools about working with the earth and designing landscapes that support human healing and planet healing."*

*"Seeking knowledge within community. Permaculture wasn't a word I had spent much time with, but the majority of the topics were concepts I have always wanted to dig deeper into. I felt that the value of this course would be absolutely worth the cost because it seemed like I would learn a lot in a relatively short amount of time, and do so with hands-on examples and within a group of like-minded people. Groups and classes give me energy and help me learn best (more so than trying to teach myself permaculture concepts alone). I was and am at a place in my life where I am privileged to have the time and space to think about my future and how I want it to look when I am ready to have a family"*

*and be more of a familial leader. I want to know all of these things and actively use them – be ready to use them – when the time comes to support more people than just myself.”*

*“A desire to better understand the interconnectedness of natural systems and how to support these systems in my own backyard; a new found passion for soil and plant ecology; A desire for learning in a supportive community.”*

*“I have a passion for food – growing it, cooking it, preserving it, teaching about it. I was looking for a program (at the higher education level) to learn more about the ‘right’ ways to be within that when I came across the program, or rather when the program found me. It was exactly what I was looking for and didn’t realize it until I discovered it. The twelve permaculture design principles are how I want to continue the connection I have with food, but as I’ve learned more, they are also my ways to connect with nature, plants, animals, and humans; they are how I want to live.”*

*“I was brought to this program through a guided force, by following my heart and listening to the magic hum of what my light is trying to call in. Initially I was just being called to be with Cody and Megan and support the retreat by meal crafting – I fell in love with the essence of the group that weekend and knew this was a council of humans I wanted to be a part of – and with the foundation of the entire group being permaculture, I knew the foundation was solid.”*

*“I started a company to try a get out of putting my labor towards projects I didn’t care about, much less was philosophically opposed to. But the jobs and project that came my way were not much different the the jobs I had been working on before. I still was looking for a way, for the real, for truth. All this time I believe I was learning a new language. I picked up a few words and phrases here and there but was not fluent.”*

#### **What experiences have you most valued or enjoyed throughout the Open Hearth PDC?**

*“Field trips to so many awesome places. Talking about my project and other people’s projects- giving and receiving knowledge and support. Hearing about other people’s dreams and aspirations. Hearing about other people’s process of growth and change. Meeting people doing this work!”*

*“The program began with the initial retreat in Osceola, Wisconsin and was one of the most powerful two days I’ve had. The immediate gentle comradery and the genuine nature of those who were there filled my soul. Beyond that, each month included eye- opening experiences at farms, whose owners were only welcoming and enthusiastic in sharing their stories. I found the visits to the farms broadened who I am in an intellectual way and, more importantly, through connection with the outside world and what it beholds. Walking through the property of each place; it seems I created bonds and now have everlasting conversation with each person within the group because of those. Walking again as that helped me to learn about and name plants; I know this knowledge is in me and these experiences helped it to begin its return. Gathering together to share food as there is no greater sense of community.”*

*“I loved the Spring Germination Retreat it affirmed completely that I had made the right choice. I felt so at home and excited for the months to come! I also loved the field visits – the chance to see so many different places and communities I had never been to in MN, hear different stories, and learn experiential through service projects on-site.”*

*“Throughout the course I have most enjoyed the cosmic play of characters within the group that has enhanced who I am and how I see and how I am in the world. The deep conversations and critical thinking was a good fire for my life. Saturday farm tours were a potent way for me to see these classroom concepts in action and get to see all the flavors and styles of the permaculture lifestyle. There were also many new connections made and methods learned, sharing about my farm and projects with all of our classmates and expanding the circle that way. I am very grateful for this time of reflection, and it is truly bittersweet reminiscing back on this course, many precious memories and friendships that will live on.”*

#### **How would you describe this program to others?**

*“Great community- loved the meals and the community building. Cody and Megan are awesome caring people and great community resources. Well organized. Plenty of opportunities to make connections and network with other people. A great way to deepen your working knowledge around farming, gardening, landscape design, working with the earth, working with the community.”*

*“A hands-on dive into nature-based skills to use in growing food and growing community sustainably and regeneratively. A way to learn about all meanings of permaculture – a multi-faceted way of being, focusing on living in intelligently and in harmony with the land and your surroundings.”*

*“Hands-on, experiential and discussion-based; Reflective and introspective; Non-traditional; Relational vs. transactional. Unique. Nurturing. Powerful.”*

*“A great way to gain practical skills to work with the land around you in a natural way. Lots of self discovery and inner landscape work. Very co-created and highlights personal character strengths in a working group setting.”*

**How would you describe Megan & Cody as facilitators & mentors of the program? The project partners & guests?**

*“Both are caring and easy to talk to. I appreciate their humor, and willingness to share their passions and knowledge with us. All of the partners were approachable and had a lot to share. It was great to see their work and listen to their process. It inspires me to get out there and try something.”*

*“Megan and Cody are outgoing teachers, welcoming, inclusive, thoughtful, a team to support if you want to support their own growth as teachers. Passionate, grateful, useful, fast-paced. Peers/not hierarchical. Partners and guests: absolutely 100% inspiring. Measured, thoughtful elements. Take life and just live it elements. Practical yet passionate. Giving. Life-long learners. Regular people, not perfect, just trying and doing their best, thus very relatable.”*

*“The program is led by Megan and Cody who are not only highly knowledgeable about permaculture principles but who also live within them. It is as if they are each radiant light ready to pass on what they know to make this world the best place it can be. The care they have for all souls is eminent. They are loving and kind. They teach from this as well as guide through offering resources, challenging with questions, and leading by example. I appreciated the way the program was designed with the balance of lecture and hands on with the farm visits.”*

*“Cody and Megan are full of passion for ecology, experiential education, and personal growth. They are powerful mentors and role models in their vision for Land By Hand (dream it - do it!). They bring confidence and competence, as well as humility and humor - and together make a graceful and complimentary team!”*

*“Megan and Cody are terrific teachers and work beautifully together as guides on this journey of rewilding - wonderful examples of how nourish and preserve our inner and outer landscapes. The guest speakers were a nice asset to diversify our time together and gather information and resources. This course has helped me gain and strengthened many relationships and connections. Some of the farmers and presenters I knew already and I got to see and hear a deeper version of their story!”*

*“Throughout the course connections were made. My dreams and visions now had words and language and science behind them. I have been, through taking this course, refined. Although still I am not fluent in this new language, I can join in the conversation. This language is what has been missing for me for all these years. It's as if now I can start to really live. I have reached the base of the mountain, Cody and Megan you both have taught me to speak, now it's time to climb.”*

**What skills or experience have you cultivated throughout the program & how has this affected your lifestyle?**

*“Listening and asking better questions. I think that many things in my life coalesced to create a growth medium for empathy and connection through inquiry and sharing. It was awesome a great platform to explore what I want in the next phase of my life and take steps to create it. I feel that one of the main benefits of this course is that I can more confidently select which skills I would put into play in my future life and that of my future family. I feel less overwhelmed by the vast realm of permaculture principles. I have seen how people live and therefore I can make more informed decisions which means much less stress when beginning. It was very useful to visit people and get a sense of how time is a factor in all of this, which you can only really understand through story and being able to ask questions. I also feel I know of so many places to look to find possibility of supplemental topics.”*

*“I believe these experiences have confirmed my personal beliefs and have now provided a framework for me to place it. Parts of it were within me and only needed the mirror of the people within the group to bring it out and bring it further. I have learned specifically, too. I now know swale, slope, and soil; fruit tree guilds and food forests; plantain, comfrey, birch, elderberry, nettle and so much more. I have expanded my library and knowledge base as well. At times I am overwhelmed with all there is to know. The wisdom of the group has settled that some with reminders to take it all in and take it slow. I know more now than I did before because of these experiences, which has made me only more of who I am.”*

*“Building soil health; supporting fungal growth and falling in love with mycelium, learning about plant guilds as a strategy to support fruit trees and ward off disease. This has made me feel more capable in my own ability to troubleshoot in my backyard (i.e. apple scab and aster rust) and to grow the things I want (mushrooms!) on my own.”*

**What types of personal or professional connections have you grown?**

**How have these connections potentially helped your goals in life moving forward?**

*“This has motivated me to reach out to a ton of people and ask for a conversation! Who knows where they will go, but connections are being made and I am learning more and more about the landscape that is happening in the Twin Cities.”*

“The most powerful connections for me, have been with other members of the PDC. I truly adore our group, and am so grateful to have crossed paths with such a wonderful community of people! It was a very grounding experience for me to build these connections during such a significant time of transition in my life and I am very much looking forward to staying connected.”

“The program has also broadened my awareness of looking at those around me as resources for skills and assets related to projects and community connection: local farmers; farmers markets; local health food stores and co-ops; local college administrators, colleagues, and students; and neighbors, friends, and family. Being a part of this program has been life changing and life affirming. While I know this will not occur – if it comes that I do not cross paths with any of the group or any of those who I’ve met along the way again, it does not matter. Each time I am in my garden, or checking on my elderberry bush, or moving dirt from here to there, they will be with me. All will grow well and be well because I will carry the wisdom and kindness and comfort they have each provided as I care for my land and those who come to it.

Through me is them.”

## What makes a PDC effective in learning?

**Much of Today’s Educational Ecosystem is Struggling.** Throughout human history, one of the simplest & most effective ways of learning knowledge and skill has been shared through experiential relationships between people and place. These types of learning environments provide a balance of independence and mutual interdependence that moves in feedback loop from teacher to student, providing opportunities to create and contribute their work with the world. In our experience, we have noticed this relationship has struggled to maintain its viability as an alternative to the relatively modern & abstract learning models that quite often neglect the practical skills, knowledge, & experience of the greater community. The experiences that did awaken our creativity, often outside of the traditional classroom environment, have inspired us to continue on this path of learning and sharing with others. Both of our PDC programs seek to tap into this bioregional & cultural abundance of wisdom and provide a ‘balanced diet’ perspective of the many complex problems & solutions involved in this work.

The PDC builds on the knowledge gained in each session in what is known as spiral learning, going from patterns to details - where we revisit topics presented earlier but from a more advanced and broader perspective. This **reinforces the subjects, makes learning easier, and shows how each subject is related to the others.** By the end of the program, this whole-systems approach will give you regenerative tools to let you **redesign or improve almost any aspect of your life**, from your garden and house to your livelihood, relationships, and community.

**Look in the Mirror.** The health of our planet is a mirror to the health of our people & culture - how does our reflection look? We must realize we are *a part of nature*, not *apart* from it. Our true wealth lies in the right to live in harmonious health with our planet and her many beings. Healing our macro life support system (Earth) also helps heal our micro life support system (ourselves).

**Where do we Start?** Many folks are becoming increasingly aware and overwhelmed by the responsibility of these issues; not knowing where to start without experienced guides, mentors and elders of the community. The Open Hearth programs seek to connect the threads that help weave and strengthen our communities through **sharing stories, gaining experience, & developing practical skills to cultivate resilient livelihoods.**

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Which PDC is right for me?

6 Month Apprenticeship PDC	10 Day PDC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Large emphasis on personal project</li> <li>● Ongoing mentorship (via in-person &amp; remote check-ins)</li> <li>● Time for integration in between class days</li> <li>● Spread out over growing season &amp; fits into daily life schedule</li> <li>● Visits to several field sites &amp; opportunity to hear several perspectives</li> <li>● Establishing lifelong connections with PDC cohort &amp; extended area permaculture scene</li> <li>● Schedule is 4/5 – 10/19, 2019</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Immersive experience</li> <li>● Quick turnaround – receive a PDC after only 10 days</li> <li>● Great for folks not located near the twin cities</li> <li>● Community meals, camping &amp; living on site</li> <li>● Beautiful location as a living example of permaculture design</li> <li>● Opportunity to thoroughly get to know land, see real projects through to completion</li> <li>● Establishing deep connections with PDC hosts and their site</li> <li>● Schedule is 8/9 – 8/18, 2019</li> </ul>



### **Why is it important to earn a PDC, can't I just watch YouTube videos about it?**

Yes, of course YouTube University is a great place to start, but we are not effectively applying the principles of Permaculture until we interact & integrate with others and their diverse skills; learning through taking action in our community. A PDC weaves an interconnected web of seemingly different subjects into a coherent and clear picture of understanding whole systems. Graduates of a PDC program will gain new perspectives in their connection to our living planet and may provide much needed holistic insight to just about any discipline - while building their network & community of incredible folks.

### **I can take a PDC anywhere, what's so unique about this program?**

As an apprenticeship program, it combines the wonderful diversity of course content from a standard PDC with a hands-on, practical approach to learning through experience from the local wisdom and stories of people & place. Spread out over the season, this format allows many folks to not take much time away from work, school, vacation, or other obligations. Some PDC courses are intensive 10-14 day immersive programs that can be considerably more expensive due to food & lodging (\$1500-\$3000+). **Check out our 10 Day PDC option!** It just depends on what format works best for the individual!

### **I'm very excited about this program, but I'm concerned about the financial investment. How do you make it more accessible?**

We have scholarship opportunities available for anyone who is sincerely interested and hope that lack of financial capital not be a barrier. Earlybird rate, Payment Plans, Referral discounts & Sliding Scale is also offered. We feel confident from our student feedback that we deliver above and beyond the program costs in terms of value provided. We encourage you to be creative and ask your family, friends or community for support & sponsorship ex. Crowdfunding, gifts, donations etc... We're happy to help, reach out to us!

### **Will there be any required reading materials?**

Some of our greatest teachers have been found in written material - we will focus on one specific text that we strongly suggest getting your hands on. We will certainly suggest many other useful resources throughout the program - many of these selected texts, handouts, and recommended reading lists shall be provided.

### **What sort of learning environments can I expect?**

Outdoor environments will be emphasized and participants should be prepared for potential inclement weather on our field days. Our studio nights will be indoors. Please refer to the Schedule section.

### **I won't be able to attend all of the program dates, should I still apply?**

Yes! Our flexible schedule will allow students to miss some of the dates. Beyond that, we also offer limited make-up opportunities for those who wish to complete their PDC requirements. Accommodation can be made for extraordinary circumstances. If it works better, check out our **10 Day PDC option!**

### **Who are the instructors for this program?**

[Cody & Megan](#) are the lead instructors, but the beauty of this program is that we honor our elders & experienced community members who teach and share throughout the program. It is encouraged that participants will also contribute from their own experience whenever relevant. Teaching & facilitation training is built into this program so we can all better communicate and share these skills with others more effectively. Apprentices are highly encouraged for feedback & critique of their instructors teaching throughout the program!

### **Will there be guest instructors?**

Yes! There are so many folks in our region with much to share - many of our days will be spent learning from spaces and places that others have helped cultivate. If you have person or place in mind, **email them to us!** The schedule will be updated as opportunities arise throughout the growing season. Stay tuned on our Facebook for updates!

### **I can't attend the full program, but would love to get involved. How can I help?**

Join us for a workshop, share this program with your friends on Facebook/Instagram, and join our Land by Hand Newsletter for volunteer & workshop opportunities! Hopefully join us next season!

## **Ready to join us?**

Apply here for 6 Month PDC : [bit.ly/oh6month](https://bit.ly/oh6month)

Apply here for 10 Day PDC : [bit.ly/oh10day](https://bit.ly/oh10day)

~ In Gratitude ~

We thank you for your support and wish you the best on this journey,  
**Cody & Megan**