



RESTORATION
AGRICULTURE
DEVELOPMENT



An Introductory Guide

Introduction

RAD is a full-service environmental consulting, and development firm committed to creating agricultural ecosystems that provide nutritious food for mankind while enhancing the life-supporting ecosystem services of planet Earth. Our founders, Mark Shepard and Johann Rinkens, have over 30 years of experience in environmental consulting, production agriculture, and real estate development. Together, RAD has worked on 100+ projects in multiple climates across 4 continents. Through active ecosystem management, RAD combines ecological restoration with agricultural development to improve your landscape.



Our Process

The RAD approach is based on merging your goals with the ecological reality of the site. Our design, implementation and management process has rapidly transformed thousands of acres into their own respective restorative ecological systems in the most economical and timely of ways.

Our design process is initiated with an On-Site Consultation with one or more of our RAD Consultants. The purpose of this site analysis is to glean the kinds of information that can only be achieved through being present on the land so as to formulate an appropriate action strategy. The following describes the kinds of activity one might expect before, during and after consultations.

Before the Consultation

1. *Once we decide to move forward with scheduling a consultation*, we will reserve a time frame for the first visit and make preparations for any future visits. We will then bill you for a nonrefundable deposit of \$500USD to reserve this time. *For scheduling visits, it may be necessary to set up a time up to 2 months in advance. For scheduling project installations, it may be necessary to set up a time up to 3 months in advance. Please contact Karen (karen.restorationag@gmail.com) to request our latest availability.

2. *In the time before the consultation*, we must review important information such as topographical maps, land history use, climate history and other important details. Please feel free to share with us as much information as you have about the Project, including your observations, changes to your goals, or bring to our awareness constraints that must be observed (examples include invisible structures like zoning, finances, belief systems). We have a "questionnaire & homework" document we give to our clients that describes in more detail what information we are

looking for. (For extra assistance with completing the "homework and questionnaire" document, our Research hourly rates may apply)

3. [We organize details with you](#) such as the consultant's known or estimated travel expenses, arrival/departure arrangements, meal preferences, and lodging arrangements. The RAD team ultimately decides the most practical means of travel for the consultants based on factors including travel distance, site location, weather, scheduling, and especially client input. We expect our clients to cover travel costs and associated lodging and meal expenses unless otherwise agreed upon.

During the Consultation

4. [When your RAD consultant arrives to your property](#), ask as many questions as you'd like and utilize their expertise to the fullest extent. Your consultant will perform such activities as walking the land, locating the biological legacies on site, and analyzing the site's terrain and maps to understand the flow of the water on-site. In the event that your RAD consultant requires additional time on-site, we may need to schedule additional time for the current visit, or a return at later date. Consultation rates apply for any time a consultant spends on-site.

5. [Once a site consultation is completed](#), the consultant(s) will deliver to you a combination of project-specific information that may include: biome information, scale of permanence, description of observations, hand-drawn bubble map(s) with locations of land use practices that are most appropriate for each area, woody crop selection and siting, water management schematics, and suggested next steps. Details such as woody crop pricing and construction cost estimates that take additional time for evaluation will not be available immediately following a site consultation.

After the Consultation

6. [After completing the consultation process](#), RAD is ready to oversee or directly contract for the construction of the installation of water management earthworks, tree planting, or other development activities. Either the on-site work will be conducted by experienced local contractors selected by you or by RAD and hired by you, or RAD can be the contractor and hire all necessary subcontractors. Next steps may include the design and installation of earthworks to manage water across the land, agroforestry design and management, woody crop selection and planting, ongoing care or any combination thereof based on your needs and the suggestions from a consultation. Rates apply for any time a consultant spends on-site during designing and installation.

7. [Following completion of installation](#), RAD can work with you to help run the day-to-day operations of the ecological systems and the agroforestry elements. RAD will consult with the you to monitor the operational progress of the farm, reporting to you on a regular basis.

RAD has over 30 years of successful experience managing restoration ecology/agriculture projects in this manner.

List of services

*All work with our clients is always carried out under a professional duty of confidentiality.

Service	Description
RAD Questionnaire	This is a document provided via email containing a series of questions to learn more about you and your goals for the project while at the same time allowing our team to make sure that the services we provide coincide with your goals. Prior to moving forward with a RAD consultation, we highly recommend a submission of the completed questions go to Karen at karen.restorationag@gmail.com
RAD Homework	This is a document provided via email containing a series of more detailed questions to help the clients develop a higher degree of participation with their project as well as inform the RAD team of vital details that may impact the site design. Prior to moving forward with a RAD consultation, we highly recommend you submit the completed answers to Karen at karen.restorationag@gmail.com
Phone Consultation	This is a platform for you (and other parties involved with the Project) to receive immediate feedback from one of our consultants about pressing questions you have about your Project, identifying opportunities and challenges to reaching your project goals and other foundational aspects of your project. The consultant will have reviewed your project goals, your site(s) via aerial imagery, and contour maps from the completed and submitted questionnaire and homework (provided it had been submitted prior to the phone call). This is a useful service when nuanced time-sensitive decisions may be involved such as property selection.
Online Consultation	A meeting with you (and others involved with the Project) on the computer (Skype) where we may review of your goals and project, your site(s) via aerial imagery and contour maps, discuss the most pressing questions you have, identify primary opportunities and challenges to reaching your project goals and other foundational aspects of your project. May include agroforestry schematics and/or water management schematics and/or generalized cost estimates for construction and/or resources specific to your project following the consultation. *To receive the most accurate feedback, you will need to obtain our On-Site Consultation.
On-Site Consultation	The Site Consultation is one of our foundational services. We visit your site or prospective site and review challenges and opportunities with you. In some cases, an On-Site Consultation is all a landowner or prospective buyer needs to make key decisions. Details such as woody crop pricing and construction cost estimates that take additional time for evaluation will not be available immediately following a site consultation. A site consultation is required prior to further site development services.
Installation	Provide either oversight or general contractor at the client's option. Specialties in installing earthworks often used in permaculture and regenerative farm systems including swales, terraces, access paths, watercourses, wetlands, ponds in accordance to NRCS USDA Conservation Practice Standard Contour Farming Code 330.
Agroforestry Services	Integrates agroforestry systems within a holistic framework that achieves synergy between projects implemented on site; keyline plantings, forest gardens, woodland, pasture management, farm operation, residential areas. RAD will design and implement woodlands installation utilizing species suited for the region and site conditions as well as develop and install pasture edges that harness the productive potential of berry brambles and other mid succession species that occupy the transitional niche. Likewise, marginal spaces unsuitable for pasture can be developed into productive habitat for wildlife with additional yields sourced from the edible and medicinal species that comprise the architecture. RAD may also develop, design, and install appropriate species for keyline plantings in accordance to site parameters and desired yields.

Service	Description
Sourcing plants	Provide all the perennial plants or seed recommended for the Project from the RAD network of nurseries.
Tree planting	Providing supplies, equipment, and labor oversight for planting.
Project Management	We coordinate with the needs of the client and the site to produce management strategies that ensure the success of these systems.
Event Speaking	Presenters for conferences, retreats, guest speaking events, book tours for <u>Restoration Agriculture</u> and <u>Water for ANY farm</u> . Topics have included permaculture, water management for any farm, restoration agriculture, agroforestry, agroecology, silvopasture, ecosystem management, regenerative business modeling, forest ecology, and hybrid hazelnuts.
Teaching	Instructors for workshops, retreats, permaculture design courses. Topics have included permaculture, water management for any farm, restoration agriculture, agroforestry, silvopasture, ecosystem management, regenerative business modeling, forest ecology, and hybrid hazelnuts.
RAD Workshop	This is a popular option in which a client may subsidize some to all of their project expenses through hosting a RAD Workshop. The contents of a workshop is fully up to the client, and RAD is available to assist in event planning and marketing (Additional marketing expenses may apply and will always be first approved by the client). A RAD Workshop may be fully lecture-based all the way to hands-on project based and may include any of our services. The most common approach is hosting a workshop from Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon with a blend of classroom teachings and experiential learning out in the field that contributes to developing a restorative system upon host's property. Contact Karen at karen.restorationag@gmail.com for examples of our previous Workshops.
Research/ Design and Analysis & Office Hours	We act as contributors and creators of information beneficial to Master Plans, articles, and collaborative research related to regenerative agriculture. We maintain informed and connected to the latest findings in permaculture, agroforestry, regenerative agriculture, silvopasture, soil nutrition, holistic management and the like. Requests made for researching, document assembly, website creation, renderings or other office-related work are applied here. *Information gathered during Site Consultations, Online Consultations or Phone Consultations are of no additional Research charge beyond the fees for those services.

Project Examples

Contact us through karen.restorationag@gmail.com to obtain examples of our projects that are the most pertinent to you.

Contacts

Mark Shepard; Founder/CEO

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Karen Vanek; Client Services/Point-of-Contact

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Website: restorationag.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/restorationagriculture/>

Instagram: [@restoration.ag](https://www.instagram.com/restoration.ag)

Contact Karen Vanek to learn more about how Restoration Agriculture Development can be of service to you.