EXERCISE 3: design forms & ecological functions

The objective of this exercise is to use a single form to achieve multiple (3) ecological functions. In order to encourage students to think in 3 dimensions about form and process, this exercise should be completed in model form. You can either: (1) make three models that use the same form to accomplish three different functions, or (2) make 1 or 2 models that demonstrate how you can use the same form to accomplish three different functions.

The scale of your model should be chosen to best represent the function/process you chose from the list of functions below (i.e., scales will vary among models produced in the class). Suggested model materials include modeling clay, cardboards, bass/balsa wood, and dead twigs/plants. Size of the model(s) should not be larger than 3' x 3'.

Step One:

Select one landscape architectural design form from the lists of landforms or vegetated forms handed out in class (such as "berm," from the landform list, or "bosque" from the vegetated forms list).

Step Two:

Now select three functions from the list below:

1) CONDUIT: A dispersal corridor for a selected wildlife species,
2) FILTER: An infiltration zone for surface water to percolate down to the water table,
3) FILTER: A "mechanical" filtration zone (consisting of woody plant material) to remove suspended solids from surface water,
4) SOURCE: A reproductive source area for one or more selected bird species.
5) CONDUIT/SOURCE: A movement corridor/foraging area for a selected species that gives them good access to source food (may be juvenile birds or fish; one type of their prey),
6) SOURCE: A habitat source area to support a bird species through the winter,
7) BARRIER: A barrier that separates people and dogs from shrub-nesting or shrub-feeding birds or aquatic wildlife,
8) SINK: A sink that reduces the population size of a “pest-like” or non-native specie (eg. raccoons, crows, bullfrogs, etc.),
9) CONDUIT: A "conveyor belt" that brings more terrestrial insects to aquatic or terrestrial wildlife.

Step Three:

Select a portion of the E. Montlake/McCurdy Park as the site for you model.

To be reviewed in class on Wednesday, April 19th.