**Definition:**

“Hugelkultur” is a German word meaning “mound culture”. It is a type of raised garden bed made from digging a hole in the earth. Logs are piled in the hole, followed by branches, twigs, smaller organic matter and finally soil on top.

**Benefits**

- Decomposition of the wood and other organic matter provides copious nutrients for plant growth
- The organic matter acts as a sponge, decreasing or eliminating the need for irrigation
- Internal composting of organic matter warms the soil, which increases the length of the growing season
- The three dimensional shape of the bed nearly doubles the surface area compared to a conventional bed
- Provides an opportunity to utilize wood waste
- Composting of the wood causes air pockets which aerate plant roots

Above is a portion of the Gibbs House Master Plan showing the east side of the property, where the hugelkultur beds will be located. Blue stars represent beds or portions of beds recommended to have predominantly perennial plants. Red-starred beds and bed portions are recommended for predominantly annual production. Already completed beds have a black border around the star. Beds in progress have a white border.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bed Type</th>
<th>Anticipated Plant Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>Hazel, elderberry, raspberry, strawberry, service berry, rhubarb, asparagus, grape, hops, chives, goose berry, currant, lovage, horseradish, Viburnum, paw paw, nettle, groundnut, persimmon, borage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Tomato, eggplant, pepper, squash, pumpkin, bean, pea, turnip, beet, radish, carrot, cucumber, basil, dill, parsley, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, brussel sprouts, kale, lettuce, Swiss chard, melon, onion, beet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At the drafting of this report, we have currently constructed two hugelkultur beds and are working on a third and fourth. The first two were populated with primarily annual crops. The latter two and any subsequent beds we get to this year will be sown with cover crop and garlic for next season.