

PTEV Mandala

We were introduced to the concept of the mandala process for identifying goals through a workshop led by Robina McCurdy, co-founder of a community in New Zealand, who works internationally in community development and permaculture design.

A mandala is a circular design which, in this context, is a tool for diagramming an intentional community's core values, principles and attitudes, and activities. It is our hope that by agreeing on our core values, our principles and attitudes will naturally grow out of those core values. And likewise, our activities and structures on the land will be in alignment with our principles and attitudes in each topic area.

When you click on each section of the graphic below, you will see the concepts we have discussed in each topic area and at each level, with items on which we have reached consensus marked with an asterisk. We have found this process to be a way of grounding ourselves in our core values and defining our principles and attitudes as we plan our specific activities and structures on the land. We have found it relatively easy to agree on the core values, while it has been more challenging to translate those core values into principles we can articulate and specific activities we can agree to carry out. When questions arise around a controversial or confusing topic, it has proved to be very helpful to return to the mandala for guidance.

***CORE VALUES**

Balance	Beauty	Compassion
Courage	Creativity	Curiosity
Empathy	Equality	Flexibility
Forgiveness	Generosity	Harmony
Health	Honesty	Humility
Humor	Inclusiveness	Inspiration
Integrity	Interdependence (on each other and the land)	Joy
Justice	Respect	Responsibility
Reverence	Simplicity/Frugality	Spirituality
Sustainability	Trust	Wisdom

***AGRICULTURE: PRINCIPLES & ATTITUDES**

Cooperation	Mutual indebtedness	Education of selves and others
Appropriate specialization	Abundance	Fertility
Reverence for all of Earth's elements: soil, water, sun, air, etc.	Reciprocity with Nature	Honoring diverse contributions
Seventh Generation thinking	Gratitude	Promote health of ourselves and of the Earth
Kindness to all kinds	Appreciate beauty	Optimal self sufficiency
Emphasize local production and consumption		

***AGRICULTURE: ACTIVITIES**

Agriculture-based trade	Humane treatment of creatures
Beautiful landscapes	Sharing work

Cooperate with each other, other ecovillages, other farms	Help individuals develop skills and talents
Creative use of waste	Foster interdependence with and understanding of Nature

SITE DESIGN: ACTIVITIES & STRUCTURES

Three acres of active agriculture *	Edible landscaping
Animal husbandry – bees, chickens, etc.	Greenhouses and plant nurseries
Areas for growing useful raw materials – bamboo, etc.	Spaces that are warm, welcoming, and inspiring
Intersecting pathways that facilitate human encounters	Special nooks that promote intimate human interaction
Sacred spaces	Pervious, peripheral parking places for residents and guests
Passive solar energy collection for buildings*	Onsite active energy generation – wind, solar
Rainwater collection, storage and distribution systems*	Living systems for gray and black water treatment
Composting toilets	Water storage systems
Wildlife ponds	

***COMMUNITY BUILDINGS: PRINCIPLES & ATTITUDES**

Sharing resources, space and costs	Sustainable technology
Frugality	Promote social connection
Integration with land/nature	Efficient design
Healthy buildings	Promote spiritual engagement
Creative and beautiful design	Life-cycle consideration and costing
Adaptability for future uses	Accessibility for all
Permaculture principles	Low-impact techniques

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS: STRUCTURES & ACTIVITIES

Meditation Playhouse – All Season *	Commercial Kitchen, Certifiable Option *
Community Woodshop *	Bathroom open for all members *
Barn for Ag *	Age-Appropriate Indoor and Outdoor Youth Spaces for Toddlers through Teens *
Covered Space for Community Resource Storage (building materials, etc.) *	Classroom/Education Space *
Outdoor kitchen	Central place for recycling, reusing, and trash
Green houses	Garden shed
Teen residential house	Office space
Fire circle	Sacred space, roofed but semi-open
Places for quiet spiritual practice (meditation, yoga, dance...)	All weather sacred space for 50
Rentable creative arts space for music, dance, etc.	Multiple-purpose spaces for eating, meeting, public interface.
Places for eating and gathering all together	Places that promote hobbies, crafts, do-it-

*	yourself and community cottage industries *
Storage places for food, equipment, tools & limited space for personal belongings *	Public interface facilities *
Facilities for overnight guests *	In-ground cellars, food storage *
Common laundry facilities for all, excepting for special needs *	A mechanical repair facility for bikes, cars and other equipment and for R & D *
Small retreat hut for adults *	

***HOUSING: PRINCIPLES & ATTITUDES**

Limiting personal profit	Adaptable/flexible design
Energy-efficient homes	Favor natural and local materials
Healthy homes	Honor needs for privacy
Enhances interaction and connection	Unified aesthetic design elements
Permaculture design principles	Willingness to invest in alternative ideas
Harmonious with the landscape/environment	Small is beautiful (size does matter)
Appropriate use of resources	“Reduce, reuse & recycle”
Access for people with low financial resources	Encourage opportunities for community built residences

***HOUSING: ACTIVITIES|**

Beautiful and comfortable homes	Emphasize on-site/local energy sources
Variety of materials and techniques	Sustainability change agents
Place inviting gathering places throughout the land	Create an R&D team to acquire knowledge and skills in utilizing local building materials
Collect rainwater and sunlight energy	Reuse wastewater on site
Measure our consumption of electricity	Retrofit current buildings to conserve energy
Houses will have a planned relationship with pathways, gathering places and neighbors	Adopt a plan that specifies maximum size of footprints per dwelling type
Option for members to build homes, within guidelines	Option of common designs for building components

***ECONOMICS: PRINCIPLES & ATTITUDES**

Legal feasibility	Openness to creative financing
Protection of individual equity	Low income access
Permaculture principles	Economic viability
Uphold the dignity of every member	Positive model for greater society
Supportive of changing personal and family needs	Sustainable over many generations
Openness to creative financing of purchases	Fosters personal growth
Embracing paradigm shift toward interdependence	Balancing community needs and individual needs

Equal voice for owner members	Think globally, act locally
Fair trade principles	

ECONOMICS: ACTIVITIES

Have at least 2 rentals *	Apply for grants *
Internal loan fund *	Use the Ecological Footprint as one tool to measure group consumption
Use Operation and Maintenance (O&M) costs as part of true cost projections	Apply for grants, donations, subsidies, including for low-income access *
Create not-for profit entities *	Economic/class diversity trainings *
Car sharing *	Develop community businesses to generate income *
Hold educational activities as a community business *	Develop internal economy, e.g., barter, Ecovillage dollars, hiring internally *
Develop work equity system/policy as one tool for community building to address low-resource access *	Shared ownership of land and buildings *
Limited equity ownership *	Research other models of ownership, entrepreneurship and loans *
Membership agreement specifies minimum required levels of participation *	Sliding scale for assessments based, in part, on number of adults and residence size*
Sliding scale for assessments based, in part, on need and ability to pay pending availability of funds*	

PROCESS: PRINCIPLES & ATTITUDES

Honest, compassionate and direct communication *	Inclusive decision-making *
Maintain alignment with core values *	Nurture the spiritual dimension *
Stimulate community interdependence *	Address all conflicts

PROCESS: ACTIVITIES

Seek consensus	Facilitate
Resolve conflicts using conflict resolution tools such as NVC, etc.	Create celebrations and rituals
Create sacred space	Plan and carry out community-building activities
Promote the use of the mandala for goal-setting	