

MARK A. GILLILAND

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Related Experience

2008-present - Chairperson of the Irvington **Tree Policy Working Group**

Leader of effort both to strengthen the town's existing tree code and to develop a long-term tree policy, which will be comprised of developing stricter guidelines for permit approvals, re-landscaping requirements and tree replanting. In addition, developing a website with permit forms, guidelines and educational materials for village staff, builders and residents.

2008-present – Member, Irvington **Environmental Conservation Board**

Primary areas of expertise on this 6-person board: NYS DEC “Blue Book” Best Practices concerning storm water, runoff and flooding mitigation, including cost-effective solutions such as rain gardens; tree care and maintenance, including proper tree protection to minimize damage during site development. ECB review is required for all site plans in the village.

Summer 2009 – Developer, **Tree Permit Management Database**

The village of Irvington has engaged me to specify, design and construct a Tree Permit Management database. The purpose is to improve the organization and tracking of permits throughout the various approval processes required of a resident or village department to remove a tree, including public notification of approval/disapproval status, historical reporting and query, as well as tracking the performance of restitutions required when there are violations.

2004-present – Member of Irvington **Tree Commission**, named Chairperson in 2009

Worked with elected officials and village staff to gain support for a uniform approach to the long-term goal of protecting the urban forest canopy. Redesigned tree-removal permit forms and process of permit approval, expanding oversight to include village agencies such as DPW (Department of Public Works). Developed a public permit posting and notification requirement, plus tree valuation criteria and preferred species lists for use in replanting and restoration.

2007-2008 - Member of the Irvington **Climate Protection Task Force**

This influential task force suggested and prioritized actions the village could take to prevent or mitigate damage owing to climate change, several of which have already been undertaken by the village. Led the study group on water policy, which included storm water management and flood prevention, water quality, water conservation and related concerns. Edited the final CPTF Report and presented summary recommendations to the village Board of Trustees. Continue to advise village board as needed.

2008 – Member, “**SWAT**” team, **Cornell Urban Tree Survey**

Participated in survey of village public street trees, gathering information such as tree species, diameter, GPS location, overall condition and “warning flags” indicating a need for high-priority pruning or arborist consultation. The final report findings showed village officials the species and age distribution as well as the condition of municipal street trees. Because of the report, the village has created a new street tree replanting program.

2004-present Landscape Design Principal, **Garden Artistry**

My design firm specializes in unique designs for public and private spaces that incorporate native plants, bio-filtration, eco-buffers and concern for sustainable landscapes. In addition, I have taught, lectured and tutored extensively on a wide range of horticultural, landscape design and design history topics, including an ongoing series of lectures and hands-on workshops (e.g., “Using the Computer in Landscape Design Process”) which I developed for the Landscape Design certification program at the New York Botanical Garden. I also write horticultural and “how-to” gardening articles for local newspapers, magazines and online blogs. Samples of my work are available at www.garden-artistry.com.

Bio

Mark Gilliland is a visual artist and graphic designer turned landscape designer and local environmentalist. He has been a life-long gardener and has a certification in Landscape Design from the New York Botanical Garden. He is a Cornell Master Gardener, a board member of the NYBG Landscape Design Student and Alumni Association, belongs to the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD NY Chapter). He opened his landscape design firm, Garden Artistry, in 2004.

Employment History

• GARDEN ARTISTRY	Landscape Design Principal	June 2004 - present
• MAYA TECHNOLOGY DESIGN	Graphic Designer	Nov. 2001 – present
• MONEY.COM	VP Interactive Development	July 2000 – July 2001
• STARMEDIA NETWORK, INC.	VP Technical Production	Nov. 1998 – June 2000
• COGITO LEARNING MEDIA, INC.	Chief Technology Officer	Nov. 1997 – Nov. 1998
• TIME WARNER CABLE PROGRAMMING	Director of Technology	August 1995 – August 1997
• DOW JONES & COMPANY, INC.	Director Systems Development	June 1992 – August 1995
• TELERATE SYSTEMS, INC.	Chief Architect	June 1984 – June 1992

Education

• NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN, CONTINUING EDUCATION, Bronx, NY	Landscape Design Certification
• SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS, New York, NY	CED program, Computer Graphics/Design
• HEALD INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, San Francisco, CA	ASEET
• VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY, Richmond, VA	B.F.A.