



Former monoculture desert became ecological landscaping

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Ecological land usage is a precondition for successful nature conservation and sustainability in many region and types of habitats. Realization of sustainability is an extremely complex challenge if we aim to consider the demands and economic activity of local people as well. Ecological, economical and social aspects of sustainability have to get across together in the same time. Krishna-valley ecovillage, the model site of Eco-valley Foundation in Somogyvámos carry out programs in spirit of complex sustainability.



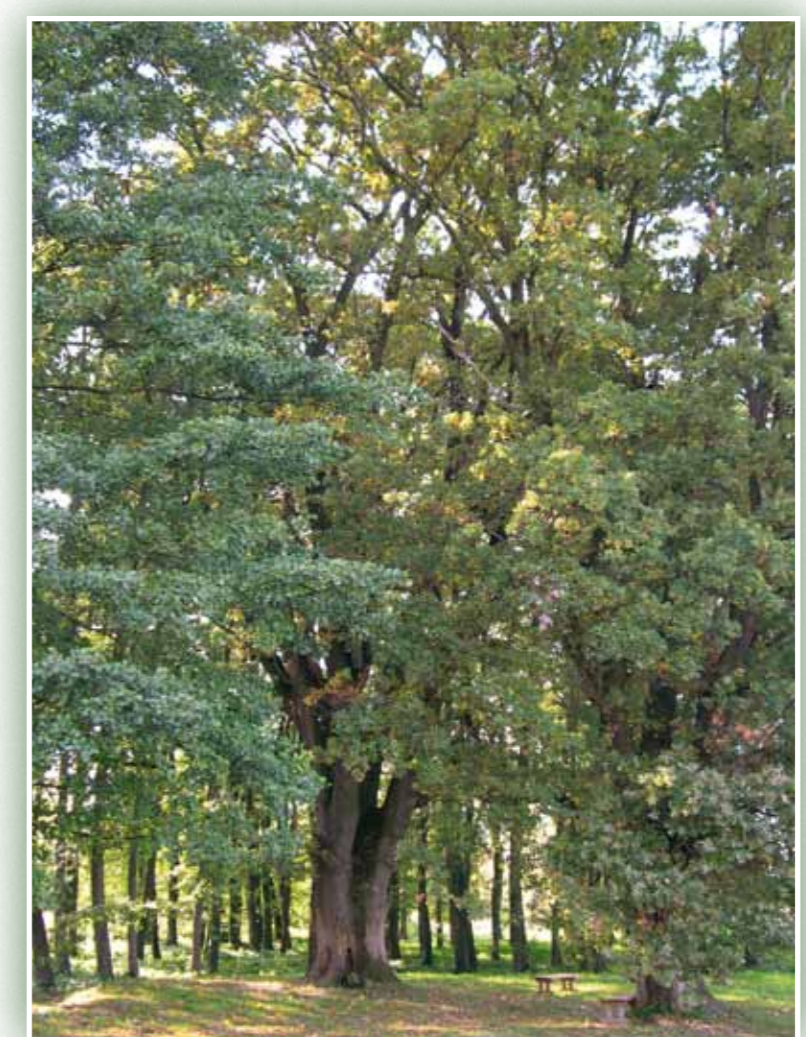
Ecological land management have been continued here for 15 years. On the 230 ha land, which used to be intensive ploughed field and sheep-run before the program, today we find complex habitat with mosaic landscape structure and continuously enriching wildlife. This land is a nice example of harmonic land use and reconstruction nature conservation. Effort to self-sufficiency, ecological lifestyle and agriculture also promote the enrichment of indigenous flora and fauna year by year. We also practice nature conservation in a narrow sense, like rehabilitation, reconstruction and creation of habitats. We created mosaic landscape structure and also pasturing and mowing are done in a mosaic structure.



Ecological cattle ranching include ecological pasture management as well.



A successful experiment of acacia release-ment: native species grow in the place of acacia grove.



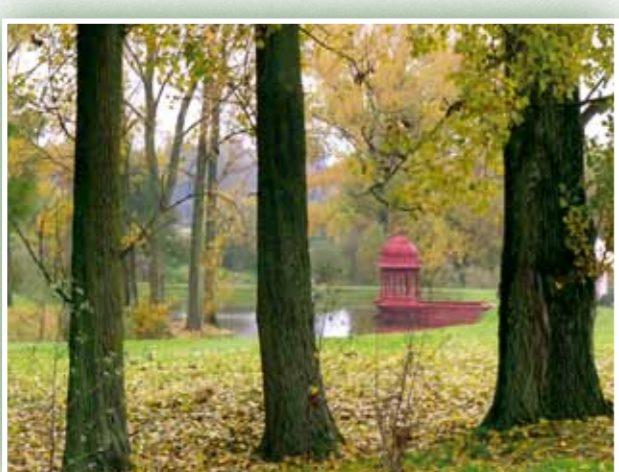
Natural areas remained untouched (two old English oak can be seen on the picture).



Electric grid is not installed on the property. Needful energy supplied by renewable sources. One of them is ox-power.



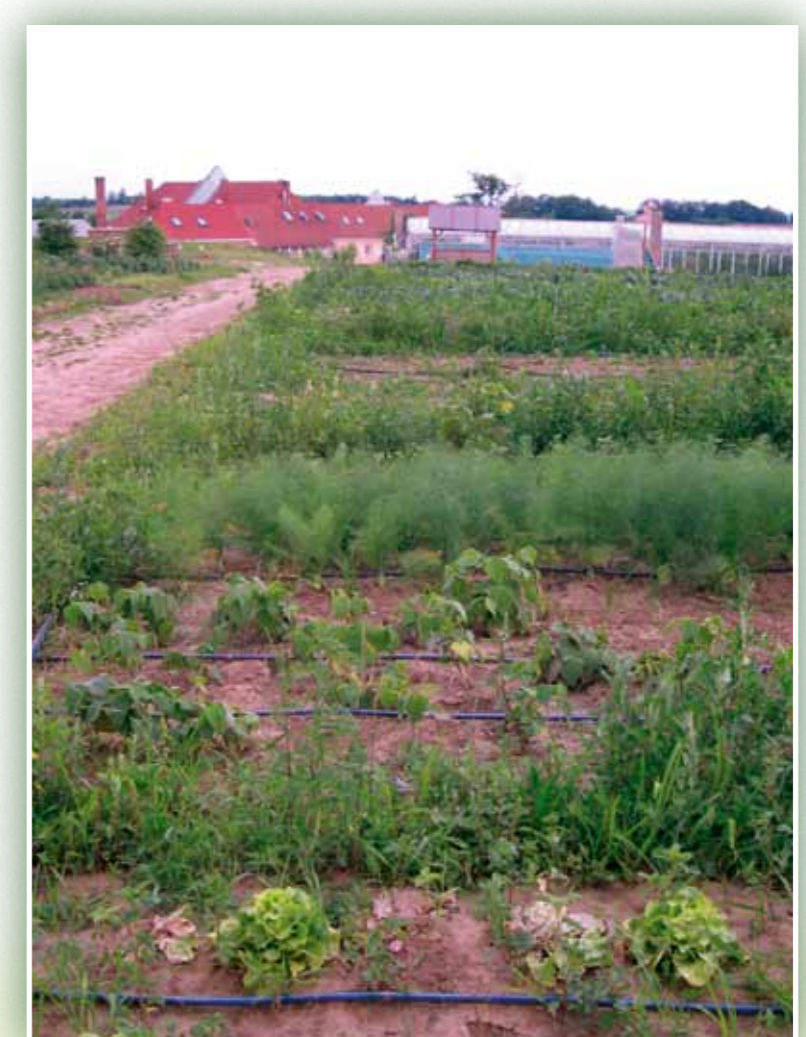
On the edge of ploughlands and pastures we planted windbreak lines of mixed native trees to protect the soil from wind and erosion.



Our Botanical Garden is a member of the Hungarian Botanical Garden Society. We have almost 700 species of trees.



Number of observed bird species on the site is continuously increasing according to data of bird monitoring in the last decade.



Thanks to organic farming, water of the wells became drinkable again. Nitrate content went down to acceptable level.

The research program of our foundation cover all segment of a complex ecological landscaping. Our research and educational activities also appears in cooperation programs, currently with 6 Hungarian higher education institutes and the Research Institute for Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (*RISSAC*). On our model farm in Somogyvámos we provide site and possibility for carrying out researches, diploma works, Ph. D. thesis, apprentice training programs. Our programs theoretical and practical results related to sustainability of ecological, economical and social systems are disseminated widely via different programs, courses and exhibitions.

For more information about Eco-valley Program go to: www.ecovalley.hu
Further partners to cooperate are very-welcomed!

