



RETROSUBURBIA

THE DOWNSHIFTER'S GUIDE TO A RESILIENT FUTURE

CHAPTER 23: BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES

QUESTIONS:

- What common spaces in your local area might be suitable for growing annual crops and/or keeping animals and/or agroforestry, either now or in an energy descent future? Use a map or Google Earth as well as the group's local knowledge to inform the discussion.
- How do you feel about native and introduced species? Do you have an emotional, intellectual or practical response to novel ecosystems?

ACTIVITIES:

- If there is a local market garden in your area, organise a visit. How do the food growing strategies used there differ from those used in home production?
- Do some 'guerrilla gardening' – plant useful species in an underutilised local space.
- Go for a foraging walk together – look at and taste what is freely available in your local area. Do members of the group know other uses for any of the plants?
- Visit a local novel ecosystem, especially along a waterway if you have one. What ecological roles are each of the plants playing? Are any of the plants causing problems? What might this system look like in 5, 10, 50 or 100 years? Are there ways in which human intervention might be able to speed succession or add other benefits (such as food producing plants)?

