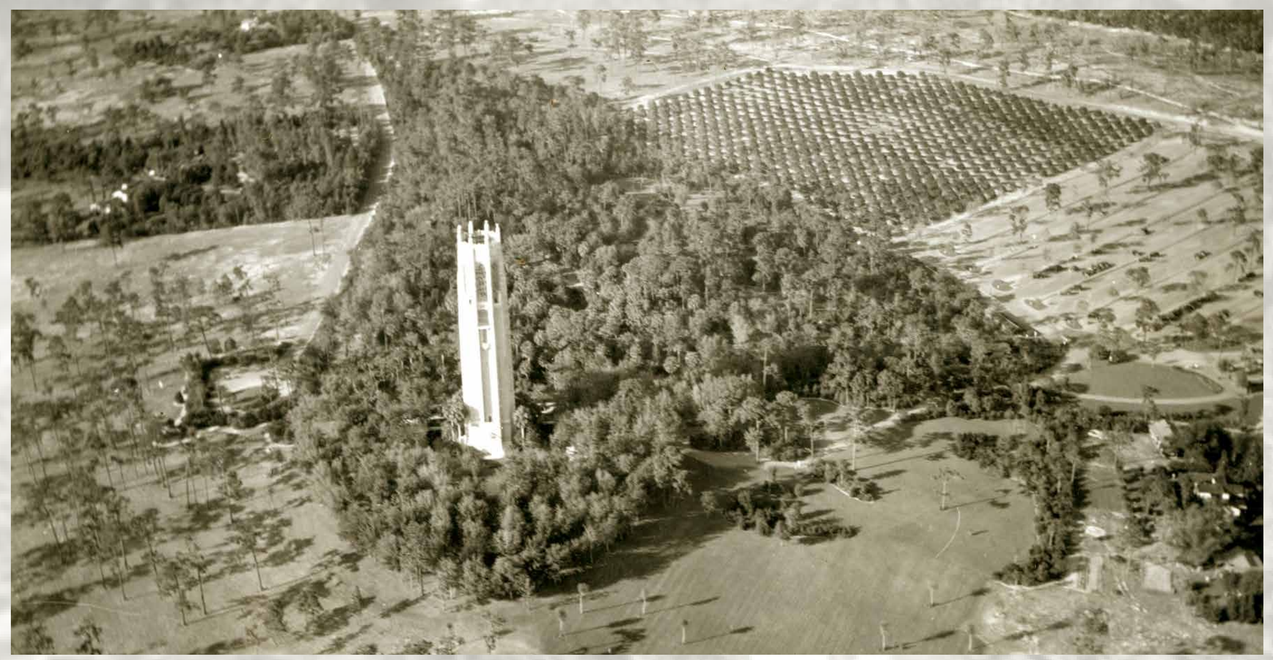
BOK TOWER GARDENS:
Cultural Landscape Report and Management Plan

Gregory De Vries, PLA, ASLA, Heritage Landscapes LLC

Lake Wales, Florida

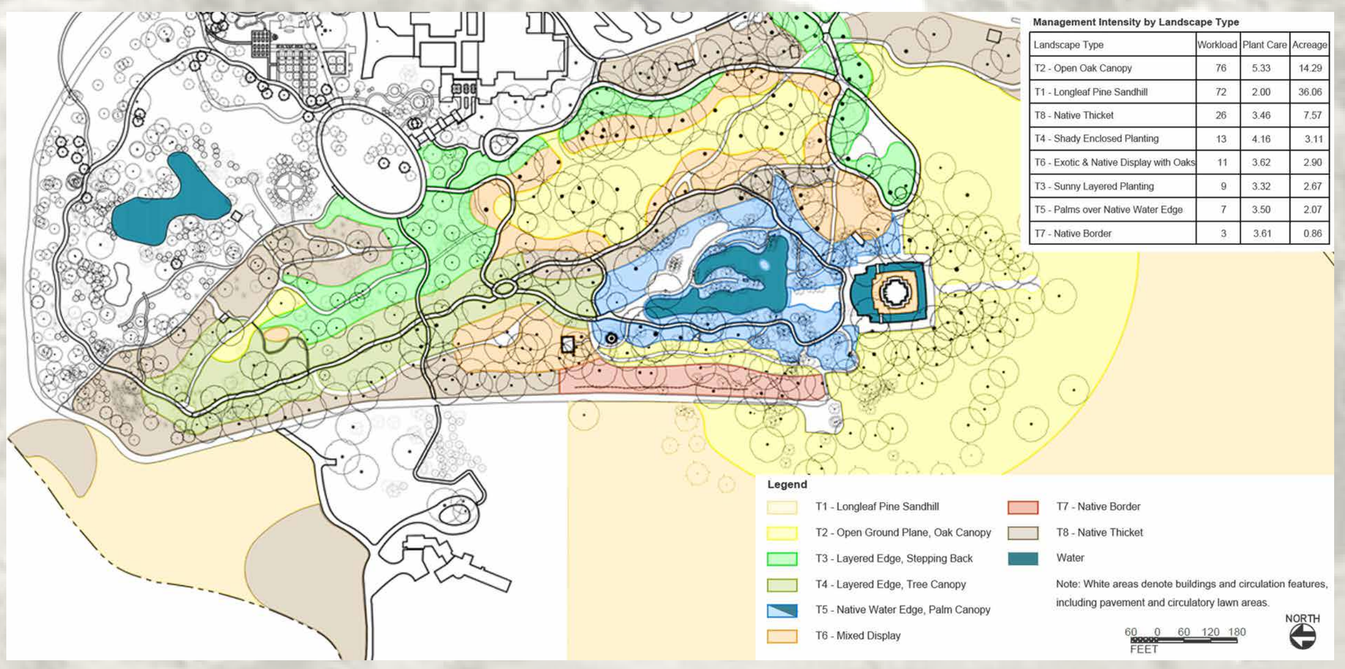
Professor Nassauer's lessons are firmly embedded in work recently completed by Heritage Landscapes LLC on the Bok Tower Gardens Cultural Landscape Report and Management Plan (CLR). The comprehensive stewardship plan is a research-based blueprint for preservation and renewal of the 100+ acre core gardens and natural areas completed 1922-1964 for Edward Bok by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and William Lyman Phillips, Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects. Nine decades of continuity and change prompted the need to assess and realign to the historic design and desired future of this National Historic Landmark.





The CLR provides tangible recommendations for implementation to foster the original design intent. It exemplifies Nassauer's principles through a strategy that combines rehabilitation of the historic landscape with ecological restoration. Historic circulation patterns, carefully differentiated landscape character areas, multiple vegetation templates, and targeted planting palettes create landscapes that are both ecologically functional and visually coherent. Restoration of longleaf pine sandhill communities, enhancement of bird habitat, invasive species management, and re-establishment of historic vistas all target historic character. These design decisions make ecological processes understandable to visitors and reinforce the cultural identity of the landscape, embodying her theory that aesthetic order encourages long-term stewardship and public acceptance.

In a preservation context, Nassauer's ideas about cultural sustainability can transition to the management and interpretation of a place. When the intended landscape is communicated and perceived, it can be sustained by stewards (be they maintenance staff or the board of directors) and recognized by visitors or residents. The Bok Tower project exemplifies how her ideas can guide preservation practice by integrating cultural significance, ecological performance, and visitor experience into a unified management framework. Her concepts of cues to care, orderly frames, and cultural sustainability suggest that landscapes gain effective and enduring support when environmental processes are expressed through intentional stewardship.



Management Intensity by Landscape Type

Landscape Type	Workload	Plant Care	Acreage
T2 - Open Oak Canopy	76	5.33	14.29
T1 - Longleaf Pine Sandhill	72	2.00	36.06
T8 - Native Thicket	26	3.46	7.57
T4 - Shady Enclosed Planting	13	4.16	3.11
T6 - Exotic & Native Display with Oaks	11	3.62	2.90
T3 - Sunny Layered Planting	9	3.32	2.67
T5 - Palms over Native Water Edge	7	3.50	2.07
T7 - Native Border	3	3.61	0.86



SEAS SCHOOL FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN