

Bed and Path Patterns

| pattern | strengths | examples in nature | garden application |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| linear, rectilinear | simple | - | raised bed |
| dendritic | distributing from central source | leaves, veins, rivers | path to tool shed, path to main entrance |
| contour | catches water | ridge line | parking lot rehab, ravine bed, dry soil |
| radial | dense quick expansion | forest edge, bacterial and fungal growth | expansion beds, forest garden node |
| open clustering | open expansion | weedy and pioneering growth | clover (cover cropping), shade trees and shrubs, nitrogen fixing trees and shrubs |
| spiral | dense controlled expansion, protected center | tree growth | herb spiral |
| vertical and fencing | maximum use of space | vines on a tree | chicken moat, fence-line arbor, squash trellis |
| keyhole/lobe | (linear/dendritic + radial) maximizing contact with central path, minimum path for bed size | river edge | keyhole beds |
| honeycomb | lobe + linear | honeycomb | honeycomb beds, container planting |
| mandala | dendritic + radial or open cluster | forest growth, herbaceous growth | mandala beds |
| web | radial + dendritic | spider web, nerves | hub and spoke community gardening |



Some rights reserved under creative commons attribution-noncommercial-share alike 3.0 United States license. The Green Triangle is an educational non-profit. If you like these materials, please consider donating to the Green Triangle (www.greentri.org)

