

## Naturescaping to Attract Wildlife

### Why we care

Years of urban development in Portland have replaced wetlands, woods and meadows with pavement, lawns and exotic plants. As a result, the native animals that rely on natural areas have been displaced, and the rainwater that once soaked into the soil now runs off pavement, surges to creeks, and erodes stream banks. By following the principles of naturescaping, you can attract butterflies, birds, bats, and bees to your yard and prevent pollution and erosion.

### Simple, positive steps

- Reduce the size of your lawn and substitute native plants that provide foliage, nectar, pollen, berries, seeds, and nuts.
- Dense shrubs, stone walls, and mature trees offer shelter for many species. Plan a mix of evergreen and deciduous plants to ensure cover year-round.
- Plant in multiple layers using ground cover, small plants, shrubs, and trees to provide more cover and attract more species.
- Lure hummingbirds, butterflies, frogs, and salamanders by planting a rain garden that is designed to capture water from your roof, keep it out of your city's storm-water system, and recharge ground water. Check out the [OSU Oregon Rain Garden Guide](#). Portlanders receive a discount on their water bill for reducing storm water.
- Remove invasive weeds like blackberry, clematis, butterfly bush, and garlic mustard.
- Construct houses for native birds, bees, and bats.
- Avoid pesticides.
- Take a free workshop offered by [East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District](#).
- Sign up for the [Backyard Habitat Certification](#) Program by the Columbia Land Trust and Portland Audubon Society.

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