

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, hollow logs, stone walls and mature trees offer shelter for many species. A mix of evergreen and deciduous plants will 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.
- 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 [Backyard Habitat Certification](#) by the Columbia Land Trust and Portland Audubon Society.

Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@earthleaders.org.