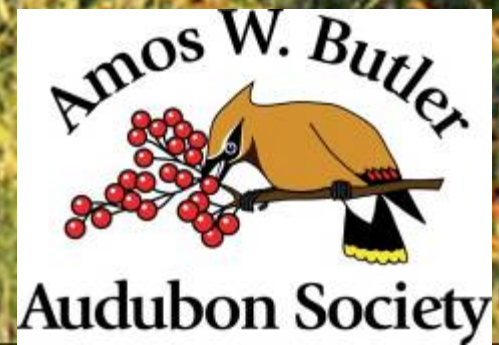


Greening the Land: Supporting Wildlife and Biodiversity

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

- Genesis 1:31



Why Greening The Land Matters

A photograph of a lush field of native plants, including yellow wildflowers and purple flowers, in the foreground. In the background, a grey house with a porch is visible, surrounded by trees and other buildings under a bright sky.

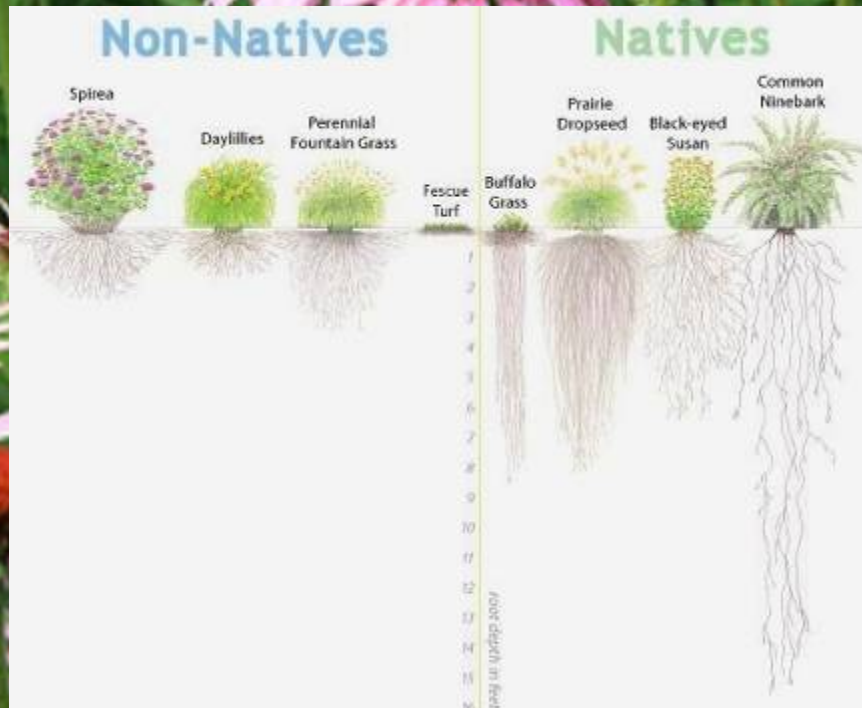
NATIVE PLANTS :

- Require less water and increase ability of ground to absorb and retain water
- Require less fertilizer and maintenance
- Serve as the foundation of a healthy, native ecosystem
- Can serve as wildlife corridors when we work together

Native Plants Require Less Water

- Indiana withdrew 101 million gallons per day of water in 2000 for irrigation
 - 55% ground water / 45% surface water

Source: USGS



It's all in the roots!

Native Plants Require Less Fertilizer and Maintenance

- Natives have adapted to local conditions and need little attention for sustained growth
- ✓ A lawn mower pollutes as much in one hour as 40 automobiles driving
- ✓ 67 million pounds of pesticides are used on U.S. lawns each year
- ✓ 580 million gallons of gasoline are used in lawnmowers each year

It All Starts With Native Plants

- Insects attracted to native plants serve as the base of the food chain for other animals
- More native plants means more wildlife



Bird Friendly Practices

All birds need **food, water, and shelter**

- ✓ Native plants (food, shelter)
- ✓ Nest boxes (shelter, place to raise young)
- ✓ Bird bath, pond, drainage (water)



Nest Boxes



Best Practices

- Consider future needs of land, volunteers available, and expenses
- Take into consideration surrounding habitat type to expand wildlife corridor
- Target wildlife species of conservation concern
- It's OK to start small!

Lighting, Glass, and Birds Don't Mix



Understanding the problem



www.CTPPIX.com

Excess lighting at night

Tall buildings

Glass

Reflectivity

Weather



Why Care?

Energy

- ❖ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- ❖ Reduce need for additional generating stations
- ❖ Limit impact on land, water, and air
- ❖ Promote energy independence
- ❖ Save money
- ❖ It's the right thing to do

Birds

- ✓ Help species already experiencing declining populations
- ✓ Maintain healthy ecosystems
- ✓ Economic impact of birdwatching
- ✓ They are God's creatures
- ✓ It's the right thing to do

Best Practices for Window Strikes

- Decrease lighting at night
- Direct lighting downward, not upward
- Plant vegetation immediately next to windows
- For problem areas, make glass visible to birds by using art work, signage, paint, frosting, etc



Site Analysis Examples

St. Thomas Aquinas



Epworth United Methodist

Resources

- Indiana Native Plant and Wildlife Society
 - Amos W. Butler Audubon
 - Indiana Wildlife Federation
 - Keep Indianapolis Beautiful
 - Woody Warehouse Nursery
 - Native Plants Unlimited
 - Purdue Extension / Master Gardeners
 - Hamilton County Urban Conservation Association
- 
- A close-up photograph of a white butterfly with brown spots on its wings, perched on a green, spiky plant. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and brown.

Resources

AN INVITATION TO A HEALTHY SCHOOLYARD



AN INVITATION TO A HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD



AN INVITATION TO A HEALTHY APARTMENT



This publication is printed cooperatively by Audubon and the National Resources Conservation Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

AN INVITATION TO A HEALTHY COUNTRY HOME



AN INVITATION TO A HEALTHY YARD



This publication is printed cooperatively by Audubon and the National Resources Conservation Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

This publication is printed cooperatively by Audubon and the National Resources Conservation Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Order free from USDA Landcare

Questions?

- Thanks to Dan McCord for use of his photos from Ridgefield Subdivision

