

20

WONDERFUL WAYS TO HELP NATURE



GOT MILKWEED?

Monarch butterflies, those famous migrators, raise their young on only one plant: milkweed. Plant milkweed in your garden, and you'll raise new generations of this highly endangered flyer.



PLANT A NATIVE TREE...

Trees do so many things for us: clean the air, protect you from stormwater, provide homes for so many creatures great and small, even combat climate change. Pick a native tree, and plant one. Or many!

...WHILE REMOVING SOME LAWN

Lawns are ecological deserts supporting precious few plants and animals. Converting any slice of yard to native wildflowers is a giant step forward.

GO ORGANIC

All pesticides and herbicides have unintended consequences, and potentially harm, not only for wildlife—but for you. Chemical-free yards make more homes for more of nature.

FEED THE BIRDS...

Try squirrel-proof feeders for seed-eaters, or goldfinch feeders for those bright canary-like beauties. Make sure you follow all cleaning instructions.



...AND WATER THEM TOO

Try a water feature to attract even more local native birds to your yard.



...AND GIVE THEM HOMES

Install birdhouses to raise families of local natives like wrens, robins, even woodpeckers.

HELP OUR HUMMINGBIRDS

Encourage more hummingbirds by first installing a hummingbird feeder, and then planting the red-flowered, nectar-rich (native) flowers they crave. You'll love seeing these tiny wonders.

INSTALL DECALS ON WINDOWS...

Migrating birds are often confused by glass windows, and hurt themselves flying into them. If a bird has ever struck your window, decals like those sold in our gift shop prevent this.



...AND KEEP THE CATS INDOORS

Sadly, outdoor cats kill more than 2 billion songbirds annually. To protect native birds, cats need to stay inside.



WARM THEM IN WINTER

Stocking a suet feeder in the winter brings nuthatches, chickadees, woodpeckers and more to your yard, the fatty food offering fuel to warm them.



GO TO BAT

Bats—our nocturnal friends who eat so many mosquitos—are reeling from an imported disease, and need help. Install a bat box, and see who moves in.



WELCOME BEES TO YOUR HOTEL

Bee hotels—there are many versions online and for sale—offer homes to native bees, cousins of honeybees who rarely sting, pollinate our flowers, and are increasingly rare.

LEAVE LEAVES IN CORNERS

Insects like butterflies and fireflies overwinter by hibernating in leaf litter. In the fall, leave some corners of your garden leafy and unraked to welcome hibernating insects.





PILE THOSE ROCKS

Small animals like toads, salamanders, and (non poisonous!) snakes seek shelter in rock piles, and will love your yard if you install one.

USE ANIMAL-FRIENDLY LANTERNFLY TRAPS

While everyone hates the spotted lanternfly, those duct-taped traps harm so many other creatures, from hummingbirds to helpful insects. Use traps that do not harm wildlife!



ADOPT A SPECIES

Pick a rare or endangered creature, local or not, and help that species get what it needs, which could be joining a group that supports that species.

LEARN

So many places like the Schuylkill Center offer so many programs to help you learn more about nature. The more you learn, the more you can do.



VOLUNTEER

So many organizations have so many ways to help local wildlife, including our Wildlife Clinic and Toad Detour. Give your time to nature.



DONATE

Of course, the universe of nonprofits helping nature relies on your support. Donate to as many as you can!



The Schuylkill
Center | for ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION