

# Landscaping for Wildlife

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# Objectives

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- Identify reasons to landscape for wildlife
- Identify basic needs of landscaping for wildlife
- Identify ways to develop a landscape centered around wildlife
- Identify why native plants are important to incorporate into a wildlife landscape
- Observe and identify components of a certified wildlife garden (virtually)
- Identify resources to help you along the way

# Why landscape for wildlife?

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- Help offset the many acres of habitat that are lost to urban development in Washington State
- Decreases habitat fragmentation
- It's fun to connect with nature
- It adds an extra element of nature to your backyard
- Supports the overall ecosystem

# Meeting Basic Needs

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- Food
- Water
- Shelter (Cover)
- Places to raise young

# Food

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- Animals need food for energy and survival
- Herbivores
  - Wildlife that eats plants
  - Deer, rabbits, chipmunks
- Carnivores
  - Animals that eat meat
  - Bobcats, mountain lions
- Omnivores
  - Animals that eat both plants and meat
  - Crows, Jays, racoons, opossums, bears

# Food

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- Some animals have specific food requirements
  - You may not see these in your landscape
- Herbivores can live successfully in a variety of habitats
  - You are likely to see these in your landscapes and in more urban areas
  - These are more generalist eaters

# Food

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- What's needed to attract wildlife?
  - The easy answer is bird feeders—Right?
- NATIVE PLANTS
  - Focus on plants that:
    - Produce edible berries
    - Produce edible seeds
    - Fruits, nuts, and pollen

# Water

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- Needed for cleaning
- Keeping cellular tissue alive
- Vital for production of food
- Most mammals and birds need to consume water daily
- Can be a limiting factor for many backyard landscapes
  - The provision of water can turn any wildlife habitat into an exceptional one



# Water

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- Drinking
- Cleaning
- Bathing/preening
- Amphibians/Dragonflies
  - Development
  - Moisture

# Water

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- I am limited on space; do I need a pond?
  - No
- Birdbaths
- Puddle stones
- Small water gardens (in a pot)
- Water features/fountains/wildlife ponds

# Shelter

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- Allows for a space to hide from predators
- Avoid the elements
  - Heat, cold, wind
- Feed
- Play
- Rest

# Shelter

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- Snags
- Log piles, fallen trees
- Thick shrubbery
- Small piece 3x3 foot plywood on ground
- Brambles
- Insect hotels
- Water as cover

# Places to Raise Young

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- Natural nesting places
  - Densely planted shrubs
  - Butterfly gardens
  - Tree snags
  - Burrows
  - Nesting boxes
    - Birds
    - Insects
    - Mammals

# Habitat Quality

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- Structural diversity
  - Divide different types of habitat (grassy areas, densely wooded areas)
- Layers in the landscape
  - Plant a variety of layers for wildlife
- **Native** plants
  - Easy to care for
  - Great for native pollinators

# Developing the Landscape Area Approach

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- Area one:
  - Usually within 30 feet of the home
  - Where trees, shrubs, ground covers, and other plants bring wildlife into view
  - This area has the most human activity
  - Trees planted for food and shelter
    - Specialty gardens (hummingbirds, butterflies, other pollinator gardens)
    - Nest boxes (mason bees, bird houses)
    - Brush shelters, rock retaining walls (basking spot for reptiles)

# Developing the Landscape Area Approach

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- Area Two:
  - Less human activity in this area
  - Area two contains some landscape features that require less visits than those of area one.
  - This area blends smoothly into area three
  - Usually contains trees, shrubs, hedgerows,
  - Snags, rock shelters, nest boxes, wildlife friendly ditches, drainage areas, or ponds

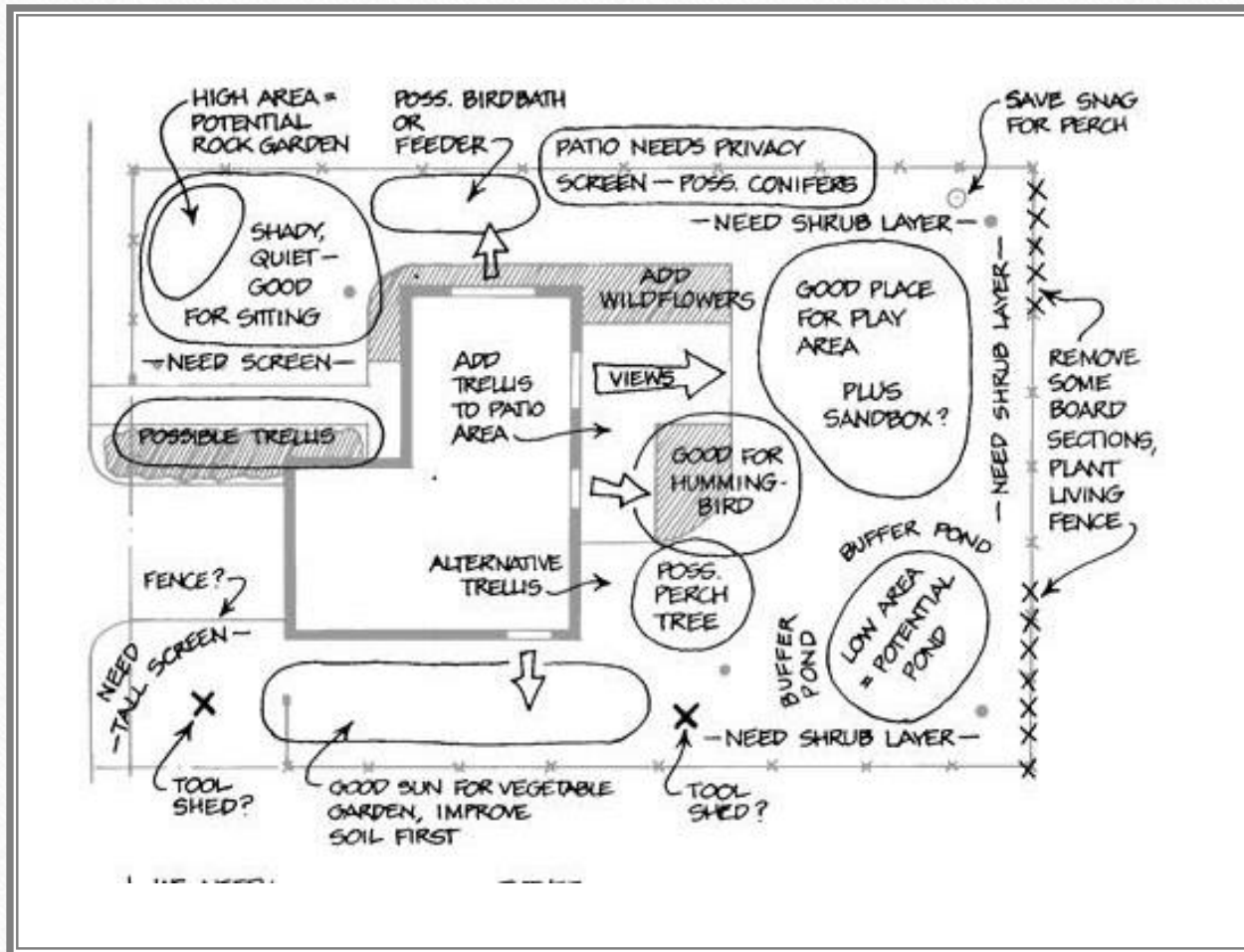


# Developing the Landscape Area Approach

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- Area Three:
  - Least amount of human activity
  - Undisturbed wild areas where plants native to the region are dominant
  - Wetlands
  - Groupings of trees
  - Snags, brush piles
  - Nest boxes for mammals and birds

# Developing the Plan



- Outline needs
- Observe existing conditions
- Evaluate plan
- Design plan

## Backyard Habitat Inventory Checklist

### STRUCTURES

- House and other buildings
- Doors and windows
- Fences
- Play structures

### VEGETATION

- Existing trees & shrubs
- Lawn areas
- Garden areas
- Flower boxes and beds

### FEATURES

- Water sources
- Dead or partly dead trees (snags)
- Hazards to wildlife
- Tree cavities and nesting areas
- Burrows
- Perching areas
- Existing bird houses or feeders

### CONDITIONS

- Neighboring trees
- Nearby buildings or roads
- Wet areas, dry areas
- Sunny and shaded areas
- Slopes
- Sources of noise
- Soil composition



# Things to Keep in Mind

- Every backyard is different
- Remember the Major Elements
  - Food
  - Water
  - Cover
  - Places to Raise Young

# Native Plants

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- Adapted to our climate
- Require less water once established
- Resist native pests and diseases better
- Improve water quality by requiring less fertilizer and no pesticides
- Saves resources and fosters a sense of stewardship
- Remember with natives: right plant, right site, and right conditions

# Sourcing Natives

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- Local nurseries usually have a native section
- Native seeds
- Nurseries dedicated to only natives
  - Watershed Garden Works (Local in Longview)
- Washington Native Plant Society
  - [www.wnps.org](http://www.wnps.org)

# Washington Native Plant Society

The screenshot displays the website for the Washington Native Plant Society. The header is dark green with the society's logo on the left, a mission statement in the center, and a search bar on the right. Below the header is a navigation menu with categories like 'PLANTS', 'PLANT DIRECTORY', and 'GARDENING'. The main content area features a 'Landscaping Resources' section with two highlighted items: 'Starflower Image Herbarium & Plant ID Cards' and 'Native Plant Spotlights'. To the right, there is a 'Gardening with Natives' sidebar with a list of links. At the bottom, there are external links for 'Gardening Information from King County' and 'Plants for Shorelines'. The browser's taskbar and system tray are visible at the very bottom of the image.

Washington Native Plant Society

Mission Statement: To promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants and their habitats through study, education, and advocacy.


Search ...

WNPS HOME GET INVOLVED CHAPTERS PROGRAMS PLANTS STORE BLOG

PLANTS PLANT DIRECTORY PLANT LISTS **GARDENING** INVASIVES ETHNOBOTANY ECOSYSTEMS IDENTIFYING PLANTS


Last Updated: Monday, May 17 2021 14:08

## Landscaping Resources



### Starflower Image Herbarium & Plant ID Cards

For about 10 years, the Starflower Foundation produced an assortment of educational, landscaping, and identifying resources.



### Native Plant Spotlights

Thirty 1-2 page reports on native plants that do exceptionally well in western Washington gardens.

## Gardening with Natives

- [About Native Plant Gardening](#)
- [Birds, Bees, and Wildlife](#)
- [Native Display Gardens](#)
- [Plant Spotlights](#)
- [Sourcing Native Plants](#)  
*Includes annual seed source list*
- [Landscaping Resources](#)  
*Printable Brochures*
  - [Plants by Habitat](#)
- [Upcoming Plant Sales](#)

## Plant Directory

Browse a few hundred native plants and valuable information on their habitat needs.

plants-directory

to search

68°F Clear

# Meet All of the Criteria?

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- Get Certified!
  - [www.wdfa.gov](http://www.wdfa.gov)
    - Habitat at Home Program
  - [www.nwf.org/certify](http://www.nwf.org/certify)
    - Certified Wildlife Habitat
  - <http://xerces.org>
  - <https://audubonportland.org>
    - Certifies some parts of Clark County

# Certifications Displayed

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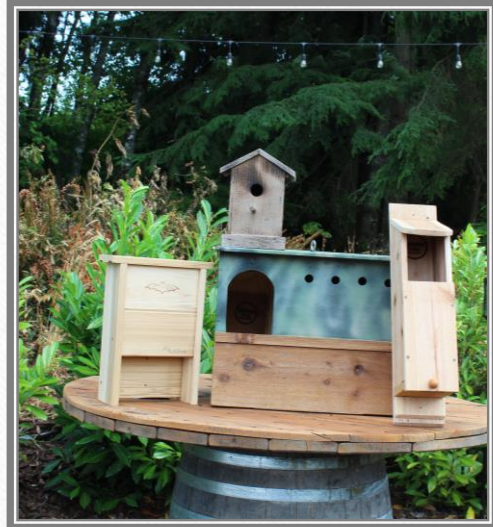
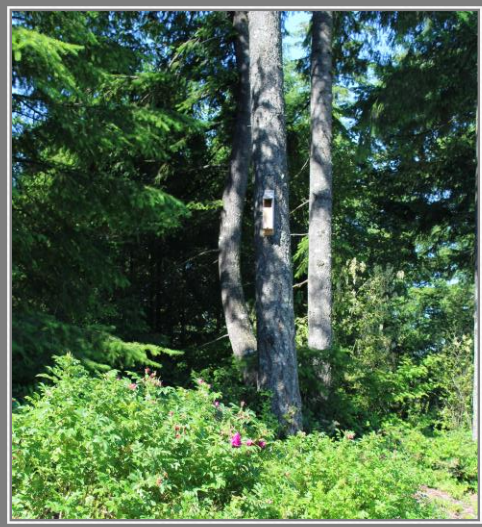
# Let's Tour Some Gardens!

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- Here we will look at my own landscape that is designed around attracting wildlife
  - Planted and natural areas
- We will also look at other components of landscaping for wildlife and discuss these

# Habitat Structures

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- Bat houses
  - Place near a body of water
- Owl Houses
  - Barred/Barn Owl
  - Western Screech/Saw Whet Owl
- Bird houses of varying sizes

## Insect Hotel

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- Located at the Oregon Zoo in the Native Plant area
- Provides many different structures for insect nests to and raise young.
- Mason Bees, leaf cutter bees, etc.
- These are very popular in the UK



# Structures

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- Birdhouse inhabited by a chipmunk
- Structure can also be a woodpile
  - Provides cover for animals
  - Nesting
  - Places to raise young
    - If left in place long enough (woodpile)

# Plant Pictures for Wildlife

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- *Mahonia aquifolium*
  - Tall Oregon grape
  - Native
  - Evergreen
  - Yellow flowers in spring, with berries in the summer that birds love.
  - Beautiful fall foliage

# Native Plants

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- Top Picture: *Holodiscus discolor*
  - Oceanspray or Ironwood
- Bottom Picture:
  - *Gaultheria shallon*
  - Salal
  - Evergreen, produces berries, provides great cover, attracts native pollinators



# Native Plants

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- *Sambucus racemosa*
- Red Elderberry
- Provides cover, berries for food source

# Explore the World Around You

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- Snag tree in upper left photo provides a great place for animals such as owls, woodpeckers, and other cavity nesting animals
- A dense wood line with native plants such as salal, vine maples, nootka roses. Bird house for cover, and place to raise young.



# Landscape Considerations

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- Birdfeeders with baffles
- Bird baths
- Pollinator loving plants
- Dense shrubs for cover

# Pollinator attracting features

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Photo Courtesy: Kathie Luce,  
Woodland, Washington 8/2021

# Animals

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- Top Right:
- *Charina bottae*
- Native boa species
  - Fossorial, crepuscular
  - Target prey: nesting mice, voles, and moles
  - The most docile snake species
  - Survives our winters

# More Animals

- Black bears

- Not what you want to attract but may be in the area eating things thrown outside, berries, etc.

- Deer

- A deer that could be eating any vine maple in the forest, but the ones in my landscape taste better.



## Resources

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- Merlin Bird ID
- PictureThis
- iNaturalist
- Nest Watch
- National Wildlife Federation
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State University
- Washington Native Plant Society



Photo Courtesy: Melody Kranz of Pat the Great Horned Owl and mother.

# References

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- Link, Russell. *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1999.
- Mizejewski, David. *Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Creative Homeowner, 2019
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW]. (2021). Habitat at Home. Retrieved From <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/backyard>
- Washington Native Plant Society. (2021). About Native Plant Gardening. Retrieved from <https://www.wnps.org/native-gardening>