

Home Connections



There are many simple things that you can do to make your yard, patio, or windows more appealing to your family and to wildlife. The following are some ideas and resources to get you started.

- Plant native vegetation that is adapted to the local climate so that it requires less watering.
- Plant flowers, shrubs, and trees that provide food and shelter for wildlife. Watching wildlife is a fun and relaxing family activity. Grab some wildlife guides to try and start identifying what you see!
- Plant a garden or use window boxes and containers on patios to plant flowering plants, herbs, strawberries, tomatoes and more!
- Place mulch around plants and trees to maintain moisture.
- Capture rainwater in a rain barrel and use it for watering plants.
- Set up compost bin for yard waste, as well as for fruit and vegetable scraps. The compost will make a good fertilizer for your yard, garden or potted plants.
- Vermicomposting bins are composting bins containing “red wigglers” which are a type of worm that consume your food scraps. The bins are inexpensive to make and the compost produced by the worms is a great natural fertilizer to use for your plants.
- Observe plants and wildlife in your yard, and keep a phenological record or chart of what you see each month. For example, tulips bloom in mid-April, and wrens build their nests in March. You can use the Plant and Wildlife Observation Chart included with this investigation to record sightings.
- Hang nesting boxes for birds and bats. Birds and bats eat lots of insects, including mosquitoes, which will make your yard more comfortable!
- Remove invasive species from your yard that compete with native species.
- Use solar-powered lights to light your walkways.
- Use nontoxic methods to eliminate or reduce the use of pesticides.
- If lawn and plants need to be watered, do so during the cooler parts of the day to minimize evaporation loss.
- To increase the wildlife in your yard, use several layers of plants: ground covers, shrubs, larger shrubs, and trees.