



How can you make a difference

For our waters

For our birds and wildlife



- **Replace 25% or more of your lawn** with native plants to reduce runoff.
- **Replace lawn areas** to reduce mowing time and mower pollution.
- **Plant a rain garden** using only native plants to capture storm water and return it to the ground.
- **Shape your yard with berms and swales** to slow runoff. Learn about other conservation practices.
- **Test your soil** and use a **minimum** of fertilizer.
- **Learn which stream your yard drains into** and work to improve its quality.
- **Get to know your stream critters** and use them to **monitor the health of your stream.**
- **Reduce or eliminate** your use of **pesticides** and herbicides.
- **Avoid using excess salt** on winter walkways and driveways.
- **Control roof runoff** with downspouts and rain barrels.
- Learn about and **remove invasive plants.**
- If you live beside a stream **stop mowing** to the edge and **install** native trees and shrubs to provide a **buffer** and to **stabilize** the bank.

- **Plant native trees, shrubs and perennials** to create a multi-layered habitat that will provide food and shelter for migration birds and other wildlife.
- **Encourage community involvement** in habitat restoration to **create continuous green corridors.**
- **Make your backyard a fun and relaxing place** for all ages. Add a vegetable and/or herb garden.
- **Design native plant gardens** to provide year round beauty, and add to your home's "curb appeal" and value.
- **Register your yard** as a bird habitat with Audubon Pennsylvania.
- **Plant native deciduous trees** on the south side of your house and native **evergreen** trees on the north side of your house to make your house more energy efficient.
- **Compost** leaves and vegetable scraps or **mulch leaves in place** on lawn areas.
- **Learn the names** of the flora and fauna in your yard and **share nature** with your family. Visit community gardens, nature centers and arboretums.
- Start a backyard **bird list.** Take part in citizen scientist projects such as the Great Back yard Bird Count each February.
- **Contact your local Bird Town** representatives for design help, more ideas or to take the Healthy Yard Pledge at <http://pa.audubon.org>.



"The single most effective thing we can do is build biological corridors that connect isolated habitat fragments."

Doug Tallamy

Bringing Nature Home

We All Live Downstream.

What we do to our land impacts the quality of our water and our lives.

We All Live in Penn's Woods.

What we do to our land can restore and protect our natural heritage.

Join us in our commitment to make Doylestown a healthier habitat one backyard at a time. Every yard counts!

Restore your piece of Penn's Woods and ensure the joys of nature for generations to come.

For more information or to register your backyard habitat with Audubon Pennsylvania contact:

Jeannine Mitchell
j9mitchell@gmail.com
Doylestown Township EAC

Steve Rubenstein
rubesp@verizon.net
Doylestown Borough EAC

Mary Ellen Noonan
maryellennoonan@bucksccd.org
Bucks County Conservation District

Doylestown Bird Town
Find us on Facebook



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We All Live Downstream

Native Plants for Clean Streams



Native trees, shrubs and plants improve our environment one backyard at a time.



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, INC.



Designing With Nature



BIRD TOWN



Join us in our commitment to make Doylestown a richer ecosystem one yard at a time!

With small steps we can landscape our homes to reduce flooding and water pollution, to improve habitat for birds and other wildlife and to provide a connection to nature for our families.

Why focus on water?

We all live downstream. Whether or not your house is near a stream all water flows downhill. How you maintain your property affects the quality of the water flowing into our stream. The quality of our waters affects the quality of our lives.

Lawns, houses, patios and driveways all prevent rain water from soaking into the ground. Instead, rain runs over these hard surfaces picking up pollutants and increasing flooding. Reducing your lawn area by replacing it with native plants improves water quality and habitat.

Landscaping choices you make will:
control water pollution
reduce flooding and
provide habitat for wildlife.



Why focus on birds?

Birds are one of the most visible indicators of environmental health. Pennsylvania is located within the Atlantic Flyway: one of the main "highways" for millions of migrant birds and key to their survival.

Habitat loss and fragmentation and water degradation are the leading causes of population decline in birds and other wildlife.

Landscapes designed with native plants recreate habitat for birds and beautify your property. Natives are adapted to the area, so are low maintenance. Thoughtfully planted, they add aesthetic appeal, increasing the value of your home and reducing energy costs. They cool and nourish our streams, sustain shelter for birds and create a healthy oasis for our families.

Spread the word to your neighbors and together create continuous corridors of welcoming habitat.

"The one process...that will take millions of years to correct is the loss of genetic and species diversity by the destruction of natural habitats. This is the folly our descendants are least likely to forgive us."

E. O. Wilson

Biologist, Naturalist and Author