



Cedar Waxwing eating Amelanchier berries

Gardening to Attract Wildlife

MEDFORD TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY FORUM

MARCH 14, 2023

<https://npsnj.org/>

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/tallmys-hub-1>

<https://www.jerseyyards.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7ligldtfc4>

<https://www.marthastewart.com/8117751/native-plant-garden-tips>

https://www.marthastewart.com/8339179/tapestry-lawns?did=8388717-20230311&utm_campaign=martha-stewartliving_newsletter&utm_source=msl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=031123&ctg=54619835fe5db77567081988b7511234729898dc

https://www.marthastewart.com/8322420/clover-lawns?did=8388717-20230311&utm_campaign=martha-stewartliving_newsletter&utm_source=msl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=031123&ctg=54619835fe5db77567081988b7511234729898dc

<https://www.homesandgardens.com/ideas/wildlife-garden-ideas>

<https://8billiontrees.com/trees/how-much-co2-does-a-tree-absorb/>

RESOURCES

<https://www.northcreeknurseries.com/>

<https://www.pleasantrunnursery.com/>

<http://www.newmoonnursery.com/>

<https://www.pinelandsnursery.com/>

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/>

<https://mtcubacenter.org>

<https://www.agrolab.us>

cecilia schmidt GARDEN DESIGN LLC

Understanding our local ecosystem and attracting wildlife to our gardens is a giant positive step in the SAVE THE WORLD business. We can wait for a global effort of corporations and governments to set up and agree on policies, but the individual can act now on their own property and make a giant impact.

There is over 40 million acres of lawn to convert! To compare there are 35 million acres in state and federal parks and open space. This is an opportunity to reverse some of the sprawl.

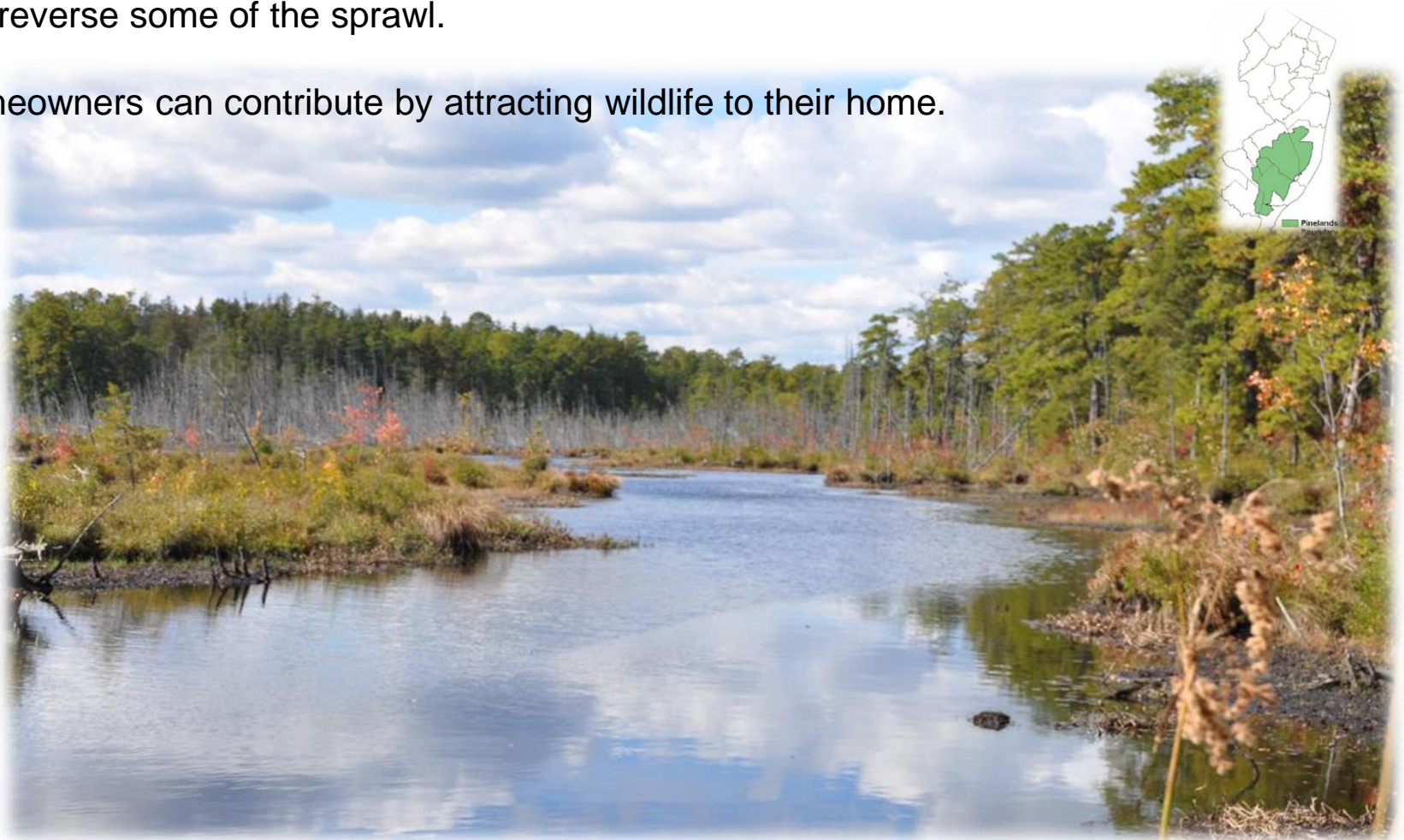
This presentation will look at how homeowners can contribute by attracting wildlife to their home.

the New Jersey Pinelands

It is the largest forested area on the eastern seaboard between Maine and Florida and contains over 1 million acres of land and water. This area was designated to protect one of the largest aquifers in the world and the plants and wildlife that thrive within this unusual ecosystem. It is our country's first and only National Preserve.

Because of Pineland's protections, and the fact that our surrounding neighbors to our south and east are sparsely developed, wildlife is relatively more abundant in this area and the effort to attract and expand its habitat can make a significant impact.

Medford is uniquely situated.



<https://www.nps.gov/pine/index.htm>

Strategies for a safe and healthy home for wildlife and our families.

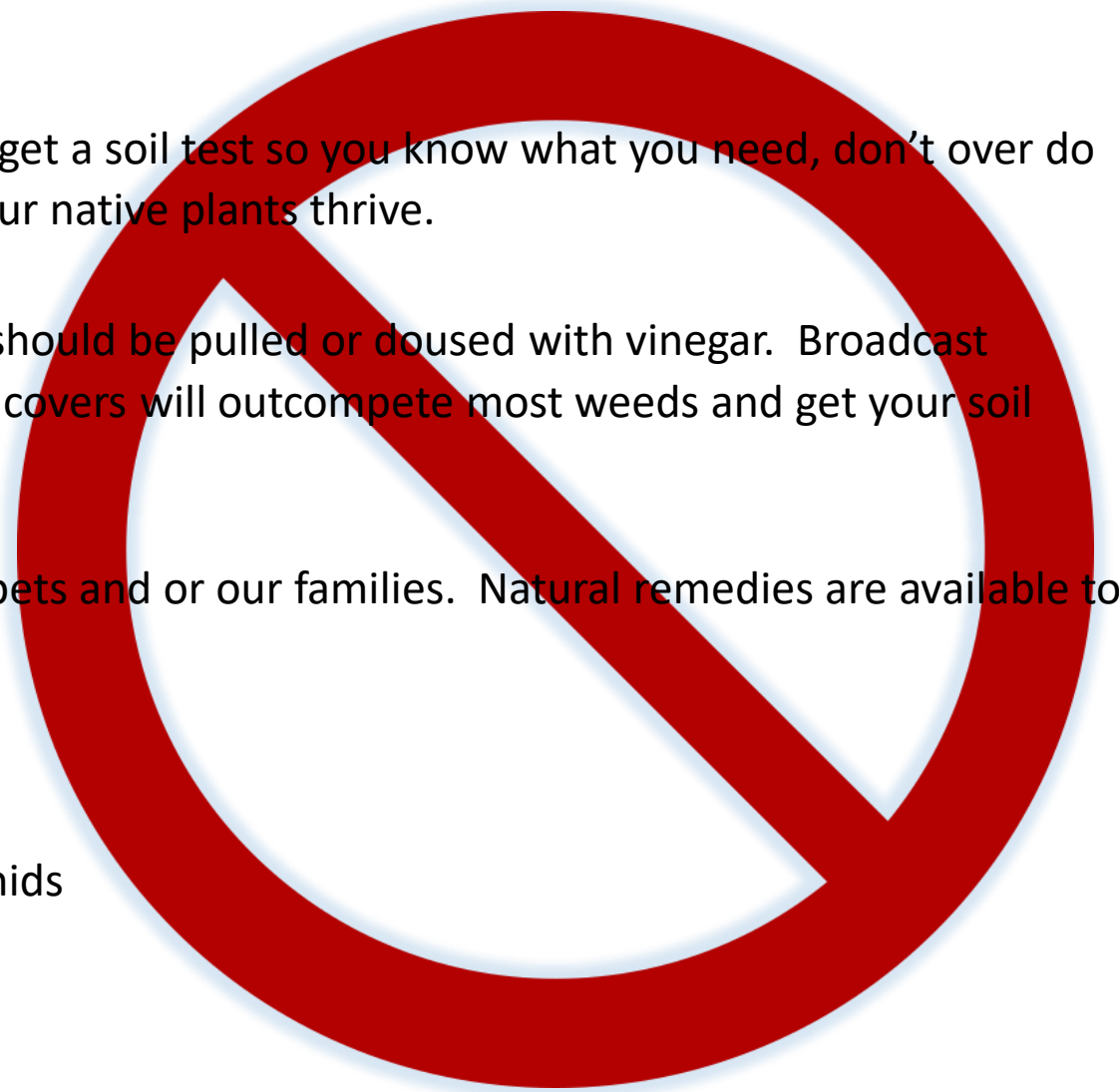
1. STOP USING CHEMICALS

Fertilize with compost and organics, but first get a soil test so you know what you need, don't over do it, our unique sandy loam soil is nutrient deficient, and our native plants thrive.

Avoid harsh chemicals & herbicides. Weeds should be pulled or doused with vinegar. Broadcast spraying should be avoided. Taller lawn grass and groundcovers will outcompete most weeds and get your soil tested, most weeds are found in poor soil.

Do not use pesticides, they are not good for our pets and or our families. Natural remedies are available to use.

- a. Wash with water using a hard spray- aphids
- b. Garlic spray- deterrent
- c. Lady Bugs- aphids
- d. Vegetable oil & soap mixtures - thrips, mites and aphids
- e. Soap sprays- aphids, white flies, beetles and mites
- f. Neem oil – wide spectrum LIMIT ITS USE
- g. Bacillus thuringiensis- mosquitos LIMIT ITS USE



2. REDUCE THE SIZE OF YOUR LAWN

- a. Think of your lawn as an area rug and not wall to wall carpeting. Carve out an area and designate its function, for play and walkways. The large expanse in front of your house is difficult to justify.
- b. Expand your garden beds with groundcovers, not mulch.
- c. Create NO MOW AREAS where you allow the grasses to grow long and maintain with 3 cuts a year. This is good for ground dwelling insects. You can also plant with bulbs and ephemerals that emerge in the spring and disappear before your first cut in July.



Bluets



2. REDUCE THE SIZE OF YOUR LAWN

a. LAWN ALTERNATIVES

No mow areas

Clover

Tapestry lawns



Carex pensylvanica



No Mow Areas



Clover mix

3. REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS

This is the most difficult chore to do, removing by hand is the best practice, but you may need to go to harsher chemicals to eradicate the roots of invasives. Remember they are successful because they can thrive in harsh areas with a lot of abuse.

You should always check the Latin name before you purchase your plants, common names are not accurate.

INVASIVES

Some of our worst offenders include:

Alanthus altissima / Tree of heaven

Lonicera japonica & *mackii* / Japanese and Amur Honeysuckle

Microstegium vimineum / Japanese Stilt Grass

Barberis thunbergia / Barberry

Euonymus altantus / Burning Bush

Buddleia species. / Butterfly bush

Prunus calleryana / Bradford Pear

Wisteria sinensis & *floribunda* / Chinese and Japanese Wisteria

Acer platanoides / Norway Maple

Reynoutria japonica / Japanese Knotweed

Alliara petiolate / Garlic mustard



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_invasive_plant_species_in_New_Jersey

<https://www.jerseyyards.org/jersey-friendly-plants/invasive-plants/>

4. CREATE HABITAT

Habitat is a community of plants and animals that thrive together in certain conditions. For an animal, that means everything it needs to find and gather food, select a mate, and successfully reproduce.

- a. **Plant native species** and make sure you include **keystone plants**. These are the 17% of natives that support 90% of our lepidoptera species of moths and butterfly. The building block of our food chain.

Some of these keystone species include:



Oak trees harbor 557 species of caterpillar

Quercus alba / White Oak
Salix species / Willows
Betula nigra / Birch
Prunus serotina / Wild Cherry
Viburnum dentatum / Arrowwood Viburnum
Ilex verticillate / Winterberry Holly
Solidago sp. / Goldenrods
Aster species / Asters
Helianthus sp. / Perennial Sunflowers
Eupatorium sp. / Joe Pyeweed

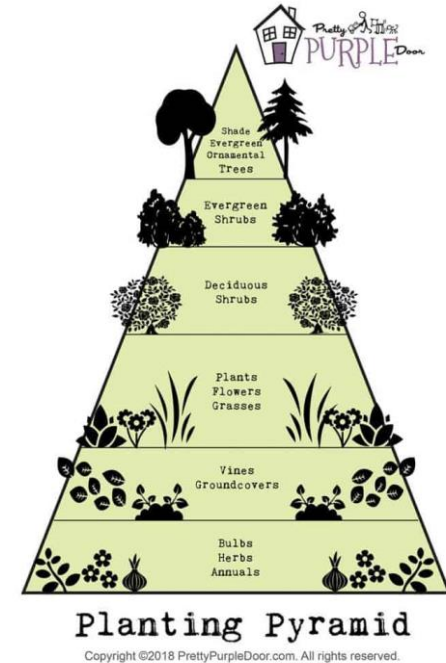


4. CREATE HABITAT

b. Plant in layers. Plantings should be layered and include at least 6 categories of plants.

The shade tree canopy, the evergreen tree, understory trees, shrubs, perennials and the groundcover layer, not lawn.

These layers provide shelter at many levels and will attract a diversity of species into your garden.



4. CREATE HABITAT

b. Layered plantings in an oak pine fragmented woodlands. This front garden is overwhelmed with deer, and the design focused on preserving the existing plants. Supplemental plants of non-natives that are deer resistant were planted. Although they do not provide the nutrition for this habitat, they do provide the layering for shelter.

Existing natives include sassafras, mountain laurel, white oak, chestnut oak and pitch pine. New native plantings included American holly, American dogwood, and ostrich fern.



4. CREATE HABITAT

c. Provide **shelter**. Evergreen plants like holly provide secluded landing areas, fallen logs or log piles provide crevices for insects and small mammals and leaf litter is another refuge for the smallest of creatures. Man made ideas are becoming very creative when designing for bat houses, bee hotels, and bird boxes.



4. CREATE HABITAT

d. Providing a clean source of **water** for wildlife is a big draw to the garden, its not necessary, but it is an advantage when it comes to the diversity of species that you can attract. It can be as simple as a bird bath, a water feature with a small pump or a pond. It all depends on your resources and the time you have to maintain these structures.

Rain gardens are a non-structural water feature that serves a few purposes: wildlife, stormwater management and on-site water infiltration to the underground aquifers.



4. CREATE HABITAT

d. **Rain gardens** are created low area in your garden that are suitable to collect rainwater from your house gutters. The size of the basin (low area) depends on the amount of water discharged into the area. Infiltration rates of your soil are also performed. This is all designed by a set of guidelines set up by Rutgers University. These guidelines provide you with charts to calculate the volume of water permitted for discharge and infiltration with in 72 hours. These areas do not stay wet. They are ephemeral lowland basins, that are planted with appropriate native plants that filter the water before it penetrates to the ground water.



4. CREATE HABITAT

e. Protect your plants. Deer predation is the biggest problem to gardening in suburban areas near any green spaces. They have become so invasive that you cannot plant a garden. There are elixirs and sprays to deter deer, but they don't last long. Deer eat plants and rub the bark off the trees, all leading to an eventual loss of the plant.

Fencing an area that you intend to garden is really the only solution. The height of the fence is important, it should be at least 6ft tall but preferably 8ft. Eight ft could be a problem in most communities because fence heights are typically regulated to 6ft. Sometimes deer fencing is the exception, but you should check before you install any fence.

A few options to consider.

- Post and netting

- Post and Rail with wire netting

- Typical privacy fence





Why this amazing oak tree will **save the world**....if given the chance.

Measuring Tree Benefits

What Is the Circumference of the Tree?
74 2/3" to 98 1/3"

How Many Trees?
1

How Many Years Old?
100

Produces 790 tons of Oxygen.	Allows 853075 people to breathe for an entire day.	Stores 296 tons of carbon.
Equal to 1855 miles travelled in a commercial plane.	11888 gallons of water evaporation.	Which in turn has the cooling effect of 5 air conditioners working for 2000 hours!