

Wildlife & Water

Bringing birds and wildlife to woodlands, farmlands and big backyards

What should you do? Plant native habitat for birds and wildlife on shorelines & streambanks, steep hillsides & bluffs, and along natural drainage pathways.

Why plant native habitat on your land?

Do it for the birds! Native flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees provide food and shelter for birds and other wildlife. You'll see more birds and animals on your property, and habitat on your land could be an important connection for migratory birds and other animals traveling in the region.

Do it for the lakes and rivers!

Deep-rooted native plants, trees, shrubs and groundcover plants all help to reduce erosion and runoff pollution to local lakes and streams, as well as the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers.

Do it for yourself! Deep-rooted native flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees also help to slow runoff from rain and melting snow so that it can soak into the ground and recharge groundwater reserves. In the east metro, 100% of our water for drinking, irrigation and household use is groundwater.

What else can you do? Remove buckthorn - especially in woodlands and along shorelines, streambanks, hills and bluffs. Buckthorn crowds out native plants that birds and wildlife need to survive. It also shades out groundcover plants, leaving bare soil underneath that is highly prone to erosion and can easily be washed into nearby lakes, rivers and streams.

Get Started!

Visit [Audubon MN / WCD / etc.] for resources and assistance to get started, including:

- 1) How-to's for habitat restoration;
- 2) Best picks for native trees and plants;
- 3) Local retailers selling native plants, trees and seeds;
- 4) Local contractors specializing in habitat restoration;
- 5) Info about tax credits, grants and paybacks for conservation projects;
- 6) Info about birds and wildlife in the area, including species of concern; and,
- 7) Project assistance.