

Design a Garden for wildlife

Key Strategies

- Remove invasive plants that choke out native plants (check out the Brandywine Conservancy's [fact sheets](#) on common invasive plants).
- Reduce or replace lawn area and non-permeable areas by increasing size & diversity of planted areas.
- Add a variety of shrubs and trees that provide forage, nesting & shelter.
- Include functional living space (play & gather), and create natural shade.
- Use Dark-Sky compliant lighting, minimize up-lighting, minimize bluish light (disruptive to wildlife), and use dimmers and timers, especially during migration (Check out [bird-cast.info](#) for a nightly migration forecast map).
- Create new habitat by adding in food sources (host plants, flowers, insects, fruit), water sources, and shelter (stems, dead trees, leaves, untreated wood).
- Leave stems and seedheads for winter forage and nesting. Cut them back in the spring after a few 50-degree days and mulch into beds.
- Do not rake leaves that fall below the drip line of trees to allow beneficial insects to complete their life cycles over the winter.

Online Resources

DarkSky International

Objective, third-party certification for products, designs, and completed projects that minimize glare, reduce light trespass, and don't pollute the night sky.

www.darksky.org

Xerces Society

Region-specific resources to aid in the planning, establishment, restoration, and maintenance of pollinator habitat. www.xerces.org

www.xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center

Ladybird Johnson

Recommended Species for plants where you live, bee-friendly or hummingbird plants, drought tolerant species.

www.wildflower.org

Where to Buy Native Plants

The PA Dept. of Environmental Protection maintains [a list of nurseries](#) that focus on native plant sales.

