

**SAVING THE PLANET ONE PLANT AT A TIME!**

# **BE A HABITAT HERO!**

What is a  
Habitat?

**the natural home or  
environment of an animal,  
plant, or other organism.**



# CREATING A "BACKYARD" HABITAT

Go Native  
& Plant Trees

Go Organic

Keep it Grassy  
& Protect the Birds

Help Pollinators  
& Celebrate Bugs

Be Sustainable  
& Keep it Leafy

Compost

Supply Water





### Go Native & Plant Trees

Native plants provide food and shelter for wildlife and are better suited to the climate and soil.

### Go Organic

Organic gardening is a great way to grow your food without harmful pesticides

### Be Sustainable & Keep it Leafy

Plant flowers that bloom at different times of the year to provide food for wildlife

### Keep it Grassy & Protect the Birds

Lawns are homes for beetles, worms, and other vital insects, They attract birds that feed on the bugs hidden below and can help drain rainwater.

### Compost

Create a habitat for worms and save organic plant waste from ending up in the landfill.

### Help Pollinators & Celebrate Bugs

Plant flowers and plants that attract beneficial bugs and pollinators

### Supply Water

Provide a birdbath, shallow water bowl, or pond to keep your visitors healthy.

# Backyard habitat



A variety of plants, shrubs and trees can help provide shelter, food and homes for local wildlife!



Creating an at-home habitat can be as simple as placing plants and bird feeders around the outdoor openings of your home. Even the smallest contribution to creating a safe habitat for wildlife can make a huge difference.

Flowers on a balcony help encourage pollinators to stop by for a tasty drink! It's amazing how much you can do in a small space!



## Balcony Habitat

# A SAFE SPACE FOR ALL



You can encourage birds to visit your backyard by placing a bird house and bird feeders near shaded areas. Make sure you research what type of bird prefers what type of nest box.

**Tape strips:** Attach strips of chart tape on outside of window—either 1/4" vertical white strips (spaced 4" apart) or 1/8" horizontal black strips (spaced an inch apart).



Make sure there is a water source such as a raised bird bath or groundwater such as a pond for fish, frogs and other wildlife.

If you own a cat that goes outdoors, put a bell on its collar so that vulnerable wildlife can hear it coming and make their escape!



Make make "bee houses" for Mason Bees for pollinating plants. Buy local made honey.



# HEALTHY HABITATS: GOOD GUYS, BAD GUYS & FRIENDS VS PESTS!



VS



## Good Guys

## Bad Guys

### WHO YA GONNA CALL?

### THE PESTS

Ladybugs and praying mantis eat aphids and other insects

Birds and bats eat mosquitoes and ticks and pollinate your garden.

Native flowers and plants create a welcoming environment.

Backyard chickens eat mosquitoes, slugs, and other invaders.

Slugs and snails-- like to hide in backyard pots and boards and similar objects. Create physical barriers from metal, copper mesh or sometimes egg or oyster shells. to stop slugs and snails.

Aphids-- eat and damage crops and plants. Get physical. Forcefully spray the insects with water.

## Other Friends

## Make a Batch

Pest-resistant garden plant friends that protect each other from pests.

Garden friends that need to stay together are called companion plants. For example, marigolds keep away many insects, including mosquitoes, when planted next to cilantro or tomatoes!

Keep your soil properly drained and replace nutrients periodically to help plants stay healthy. Healthy plants are naturally more resistant to pests.

Natural homemade sprays control many problems, like pesty bugs and mold growing on your plants.

**Bug Spray Baking Soda & Oil**  
Combine 1 tablespoon baking soda, 1 tablespoon horticultural oil (special gardening oil) and mix into 4 liters of water. Spray on leaves.

**Mildew Milk Mixture**  
Mix a solution of half milk and half water. Thoroughly spray plants at the first sign of mildew.  
Repeat every 3 to 4 days and then weekly to prevent more.

# DON'T FORGET THE WORMS!



Creating a compost heap in your garden from kitchen waste, grass clippings and cardboard is a great way to reduce what goes to landfill.

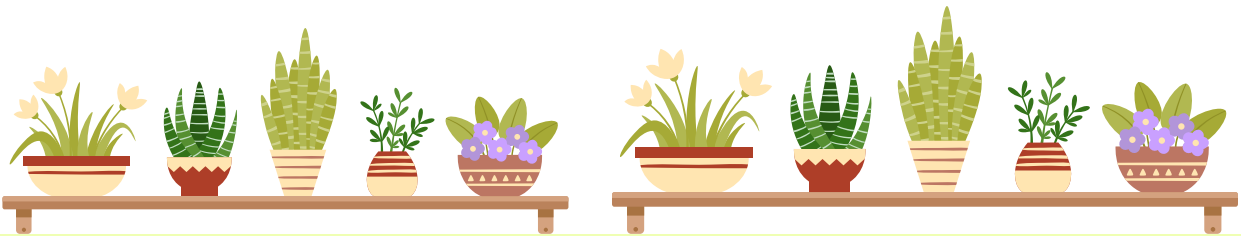
Earthworms, often called nightcrawlers or red wigglers, help to create compost out of leaves and other organic material, by wriggling their way into your compost heap. Spreading home-made compost on your garden will attract more worms wherever it spreads. Worms improve soil drainage and transfer important nutrients to the surface.

**Composting is a great way to put nutrients back into your soil while at the same time reducing food waste and improving the soil's ability to hold water longer.**





**DRAW A GARDEN HABITAT YOU COULD MAKE IN YOUR HOME! REMEMBER FOOD, WATER, AND SHELTER FOR THE VISITING ANIMALS**



**PROTECT OUR BACKYARD HABITATS!**

**Certify your Garden Habitat with OHS's A Habitat in Every Home and School Program**

**EDUCATE!**

