

CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING

A conservation landscape is a garden filled with deep-rooted native plants. Conservation landscaping can be installed anywhere, often replacing turf grass or exposed soil. The native plants help stabilize slopes, reduce erosion, absorb stormwater runoff, and provide crucial pollinator habitat.

BENEFITS

- **Improved Air & Water Quality:** As a replacement to traditional lawn, conservation landscapes with native plants reduce air pollution from lawn mower exhaust. Native plants also capture water moving across surfaces and down sloped areas, reducing erosion and flooding.
- **Maintenance Savings:** Established native plants are more drought-resistant than turf grass or ornamental species. They are also adapted to the local conditions and require less fertilizer and pesticides. This saves homeowners time and money.
- **Wildlife Habitat:** Conservation landscapes create wildlife and pollinator habitats and provide more nutritious food sources than non-native plant communities and monocultures, like lawns.
- **Beautiful Landscapes:** These gardens are as functional as they are beautiful. They often contain lots of flowering native plants bringing color and biodiversity to a yard.



QUICK FACTS

NATIVE PLANT ROOTS CAN EXTEND UP TO 16 FEET DEEP, RETAINING MORE WATER AND STABILIZING THE SOIL, PREVENTING MORE EROSION¹



ON AVERAGE, NATIVE PLANTS SUPPORT 15X MORE NATIVE CATERPILLAR SPECIES COMPARED TO NON-NATIVE PLANTS²

CONSERVATION LANDSCAPES CAN BE EASIER TO GROW AND CHEAPER TO MAINTAIN THAN TRADITIONAL LANDSCAPES³



A CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING TRANSFORMATION

A steep-sloping front yard on a property in Washington, D.C. is transformed with a conservation landscaping installation consisting of native plants and mulch.⁴

BEFORE



AFTER



MAINTENANCE

- Use mulch only as needed to help retain soil moisture and limit weed growth.
- Weed, as needed.
- Prune trees and shrubs, as needed, during winter.
- Leave stems and shoots overwinter for wildlife. Wait until at least mid-April or later to cut back growth. If you choose to cut back growth, try to spread plant material around your garden.
- Leave stems and shoots alone for wildlife over winter months. Wait until at least mid-April (or later) to cut back growth from the previous year.

See more on the Alliance's Stormwater Management page at allianceforthebay.org/stormwater.



You can find a native plants best suited for your yard through the **NativePlantCenter.net**

SOURCES

1. Chesapeake Bay Trust Conservation Landscaping Fact Sheet: cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Fact-Sheet-and-Guidelines-Conservation-Landscaping-12-11-24.pdf
2. Xerces Society: xerces.org/blog/for-wildlife-and-humans-native-plants-are-key-to-climate-resilience
3. Penn State Extension: <https://extension.psu.edu/why-use-native-plants>
4. DC Department of Energy & Environment: doee.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddoe/service_content/attachments/RiverSmart%20Homes%20-%20BayScaping%20Flyer.pdf

LEARN MORE AND EXPLORE DIY RESOURCES AT
[ALLIANCEFORTHEBAY.ORG/NATIVEPLANTS](https://allianceforthebay.org/nativeplants)

