

The Problem With Non-native Invasive Plants



The **Bradford Pear** tree
Pyrus calleryana
is a non-native invasive
species often used in
landscaping.

Non-native refers to a species that has been introduced into an area, either on purpose or accidentally. Many non-native plants are used in landscaping and sold in nurseries. Some of these species cause harm to ecosystems and can cost billions to remove.

Non-native invasive plant species are able to grow aggressively, reproduce rapidly, and outcompete native plants for available water, nutrients, and sunlight. They can be dispersed from a residential area and can displace native plant species. Wildlife that depend on native plants for their health and nutritional needs, as well as a source of cover and shelter, are adversely affected and may leave an area if these native plants are not available. Some native species could become locally extinct.



Removing
non-native invasive
species from Lake
Crabtree property
keeps staff busy.



The **Flowering Dogwood**
Cornus florida is a beautiful
native alternative to the
non-native Bradford Pear.

Native plant species can be more aesthetically pleasing than non-native plants. Also, native plants are adapted to the local soil and weather conditions and require less care and expense than non-native plants.



Join us in becoming part of the
National Wildlife Federation's Certified
Wildlife Habitat community, by
creating your own native,
wildlife-friendly habitat.



Lake Crabtree County Park

1400 Aviation Parkway
Morrisville, NC 27560
919-460-3355

www.wakegov.com/parks/lakecrabtree



Parks, Recreation,
and Open Space

Welcome to Lake Crabtree's Native Wildlife Garden



Our garden consists entirely of native
plants.

Native plants:

- provide food for local native wildlife, with the necessary nutrients, in the form of seeds, nuts and fruits
- provide nectar for important plant pollinators
- provide host plants for the larva of butterflies

Providing Wildlife Habitat



Many of our native animals, as well as migrating birds, are being adversely affected by habitat loss due to development. In our native wildlife garden, as well as various areas in the park, we provide habitat, both natural and artificial, to help alleviate this problem. Some species, like Eastern Bluebirds, are also monitored by volunteers and park staff to track the success of conservation efforts.

Most of the garden features that we use in our conservation efforts can be incorporated into your landscaping plans at home. Wildlife requires food, water, cover, and places to raise young, in their habitats. Our native plant selection provides both a food source and shelter for native wildlife. Other garden features also provide habitat components in the form of :

FOOD



We provide food for many different bird species by using various types of feeders.

Our **three-tube feeder** contains a seed mixture and black-oil sunflower seeds, which are high in energy and appealing to many species of birds.

Thistle seeds are very tiny and require special feeders that have very small openings to prevent spillage. Thistle is popular with the American Goldfinch and Pine Siskin.

Suet cakes are placed in the **suet feeder**. Suet is made out of fat, seeds, nuts, and other ingredients. Woodpeckers, nuthatches, and wrens love suet.

Hummingbirds are valuable pollinators. In our hummingbird feeder, we use an inexpensive **homemade nectar**, consisting of one part sugar to four parts boiling water. There is no need to add red food coloring, as this may be harmful to the birds.



WATER



Water is very important to birds for drinking and bathing. Birds and other animals need water all year round.

We provide two sources of water in our garden. Besides our bird bath, an intermittent stream makes use of runoff that occurs naturally during rain events.

SHELTER



Eastern Bluebirds, Brown-headed Nuthatches, and Chimney Swifts are cavity dwellers. With the loss of available hollow trees, (as well as competition from some invasive introduced species, like the House Sparrows and European Starlings), they are in need of safe nesting areas.

We provide **Eastern Bluebird and Brown-headed Nuthatch boxes**, which have specially sized openings that prevent introduced species from entering.

Chimney Swifts require a vertical surface to be able to nest and roost, which is provided by our **Chimney Swift tower**. Building a chimney swift tower may not be feasible in most yards, but if you have a chimney, please allow chimney swifts to nest if they happen to show up. Chimney Swifts and their offspring are very beneficial in reducing insect pests, like gnats, mosquitoes, and termites, and the noise will diminish in a few weeks when the babies fledge.



Reptiles and Amphibians can be a valuable asset to any garden. Toads and frogs eat a lot of insects and slugs that can damage your plants. **Toad abodes and frog pipes** offer protection from predators and the elements.

Brush piles and rock piles make use of materials that might otherwise be removed from landscaping, to provide habitat for small animals. Brush piles are not the same as compost piles; brush piles contain only branches, sticks, and twigs.



Don't forget the importance of insect pollinators when planning your native wildlife garden. Mason Bees are valuable native pollinators which make use of holes that are already available. Another benefit of Mason Bees is that they rarely sting!

You can find instructions on how to build a **mason bee house** on the **National Wildlife Federation's** web page.