



# Urban Ecosystem Restorations

**MAKE EVERY SQUARE FOOT COUNT**

<http://www.urbanecosystemrestorations.org>

Urban Ecosystem Restorations is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit urban land trust (or conservancy) created to work with landowners and communities to preserve or develop value-enhancing green spaces that serve integrated ecosystem functions — spaces we call [Eco-Functioning Spaces®](#) — and then to protect these spaces, and functions, over time.

Eco-Functioning Spaces® are living systems that are specifically designed to use or replicate pre-existing ecosystems in sub/urban areas for the environmental, economic and social benefit of urban communities. Learn more about Eco-Functioning Spaces here:

<http://www.urbanecosystemrestorations.org/efs>

## Native Plant Resource List

### Finding native plants

**Nurseries that offer 100% ecotypic<sup>i</sup> natives** (grown from responsibly collected regional seed sources):

- Chesapeake Natives <http://chesapeakenatives.org/> (a not-for-profit)
- Earth Sangha <http://www.earthsangha.org/> (a not-for-profit)
- Locust Grove Nature Center [locust-grove-nature-center/native-plant-sale](http://locust-grove-nature-center/native-plant-sale) (Montgomery Parks)

**Some ecotypic natives, mostly native to the region:**

- Native By Design - [laurenhubbard100@gmail.com](mailto:laurenhubbard100@gmail.com), 631-764-6226
- Friends of Black Hills Spring Plant Sale [www.friendsofblackhillnature.org](http://www.friendsofblackhillnature.org)
- Herring Run <https://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/herring-run-nursery/> (a not-for-profit)
- Lauren's Garden Service <https://www.laurensgardenservice.com/>
- Nature By Design <http://www.nature-by-design.com/>
- Direct Native Plants <https://www.directnativeplants.com>

Some natives as well as non-natives be sure to check on the plants your purchase:

- American Plant <https://www.americanplant.net/>
- Kollar Nursery <http://kollarnursery.com/>
- Potomac Garden Center <http://www.potomacgardencenter.com/>
- Stadler Nurseries <https://www.stadlergardencenters.com/>
- Sun Nurseries <http://www.sunnurseries.com/>
- Wakefield Valley Nursery <https://www.wakefieldvalleynursery.com/>

### Additional Notes

- For nurseries not committed to selling only natives, ask if the plants they are selling are native to our region and if they are locally sourced. Are they grown from seed? Also, ask if the natives they are selling are “cultivars” (or “nativars”). Learn more about the difference in this article on the difference between true natives and native cultivars: <https://www.ecobeneficial.com/2015/10/the-nativar-conundrum-new-research-on-natives-vs-native-cultivars-with-dr-doug-tallamy/>.
- Neighborhood native plant enthusiasts are usually willing to share their plants once they have lots of plants that are flourishing.
- Before hiring a designer, ask if they are a certified Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional.

## Native Plant Databases

- National Wildlife Federation, <https://www.nwf.org/garden-for-wildlife>
- Lady Bird Wildflower Center <https://www.wildflower.org/>
- USDA database with fact sheets [https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/about\\_plants.html](https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/about_plants.html)
- Chesapeake Bay Native Plant Center (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) <http://www.nativeplantcenter.net/>

## Native Plant Communities

- Rainscapes Resource:  
[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/Resources/Files/rainscapes/Natural\\_Associations\\_of\\_Trees\\_and\\_Shrubs.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/Resources/Files/rainscapes/Natural_Associations_of_Trees_and_Shrubs.pdf)

## Rain Garden/Conservation Landscape (DIY) Design Resources

- Montgomery County - Rainscapes Design Resources, <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/rainscapes/resources.html#projects>
- Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy <http://aawsa.org/resources>

## Financial help

Rebates are available to homeowners, schools and community organizations who install projects that reduce stormwater runoff:

- Montgomery County Residents - Rainscapes.org  
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/rainscapes/index.html>
- City of Gaithersburg Residents - <https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/services/environmental-services/rainscapes-reward-program>

## Free stuff!

- Backyard Buffer program - get free trees from the state:  
<http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/programs/Backyard-Buffer-Program.aspx>
- The Muddy Branch Alliance offers free tree and occasional rain barrel giveaways. MBA also offers native plant sales during the year. To receive announcements, sign up for their newsletter at <https://muddybranch.org/>
- Tree Montgomery offers free shade trees 12' tall (and will plant for you) and for smaller trees \$25-\$40 tree rebates at <https://treemontgomery.org/get-trees/>

## General information

- Montgomery County Rainscapes has a rich website with many helpful resources:  
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/rainscapes/resources.html>
- Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council (CCLC) <https://www.chesapeakelandscape.org>
- Muddy Branchy Alliance [muddybranch.org](http://muddybranch.org) (a nonprofit)
- Landscape For Life for a deeper dive into sustainable gardening practices  
<https://landscapeforlife.org/>
- Montgomery County Cooperative Extension <http://extension.umd.edu/hgic>
- UMD Extension/Master Gardeners <https://extension.umd.edu/mg/locations/montgomery-county-master-gardeners>

## Inspiration

- Audubon Naturalist Society Woodend Sanctuary <https://anshome.org/visit/>
- Brookside Gardens <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/brookside-gardens/>
- Master Gardener Demonstration Garden <https://extension.umd.edu/montgomery-county/home-gardening/derwood-demo-garden>
- Muddy Branch Alliance Garden Tour <https://muddybranch.org/wp-content/uploads/Butterfly-Bird-and-Bay-Friendly-Garden-Tour-Stops-Final-1.pdf>
- National Botanical Garden on the Mall <https://www.usbg.gov/>
- National Arboretum's Fern Valley garden <https://www.usna.usda.gov/>

- Smithsonian Natural History Museum gardens on the Mall <http://www.gardens.si.edu/our-gardens/pollinator-garden.html>
- Nature Play <https://earlyspace.com>

## Design and Installation Professionals

Search Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals (CBLP) for certified individuals offering a variety of services <https://certified.cblpro.org/>

Please contact Lauren Hubbard, the Health Habitats Program Manager and CBLP certified professional with additional questions. [Lauren@Urbanecosystemrestoration.org](mailto:Lauren@Urbanecosystemrestoration.org). Lauren also runs a consulting business: Native By Design, LLC, [www.facebook.com/Native-By-Design-LLC-2113417288925283](http://www.facebook.com/Native-By-Design-LLC-2113417288925283)

## Selected bibliography (some hard copy, some websites)

- *Nature's Best Hope* and *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas W. Tallamy. Book and a website <http://www.bringingnaturehome.net/>; <https://homegrownnationalpark.org>
- *Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. <https://www.fws.gov/Chesapeakebay/pdf/NativePlantsforWildlifeHabitatandConservationLandscaping.pdf>
- *Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change* by Larry Weaner and Thomas Christopher
- *Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants* by C. Colston Burrell. Book and a website [https://www.bbg.org/gardening/article/native\\_alternatives\\_plant\\_list1](https://www.bbg.org/gardening/article/native_alternatives_plant_list1)
- *Planting in a Post-Wild World* by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West
- *Plant Invaders of the Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas* <https://www.invasive.org/eastern/midatlantic/>
- *Native Planting – Genetic Considerations*, [https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/Native\\_Plant\\_Materials/Native\\_Gardening/genetics.shtml](https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/Native_Plant_Materials/Native_Gardening/genetics.shtml)

***The information provided here is accurate to the best of our ability. We continue to update this list periodically, so please let UER know if you know of a resource we should include or if corrections are needed.***

***Email comments or updates to [rachel@urbanecosystemrestorations.org](mailto:rachel@urbanecosystemrestorations.org)***

***Thank you!***

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<sup>i</sup> Even within their natural range, native plant species are genetically adapted to local growing conditions. This adaptation is typically referred to as an "ecotype". An ecotype is a subset of a species that possesses genetic adaptation to local growing conditions <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/what-native-plant>.