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Adventures in Urban Native Species Gardening

**Presented by:
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Advantages of Native Plants



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- Tolerant of variable conditions and our harsh weather extremes
- Provide Habitat and food for wildlife
- Resistant to local pests and disease
- They don't become invasive!
- Stop erosion and filter run off.



Non-Native Disadvantages



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- Ability to out compete native species and become invasive
- Difficult to control and remove.
- Used by few insects or animals.

Species to Avoid:

- Himalayan Balsam
- Scots pine
- European cranberry
- Common buckthorn
- Russian Olive
- Norway & Manitoba Maple
- European Mountain Ash
- Garlic Mustard
- Giant Hogweed (health hazard)

Periwinkle



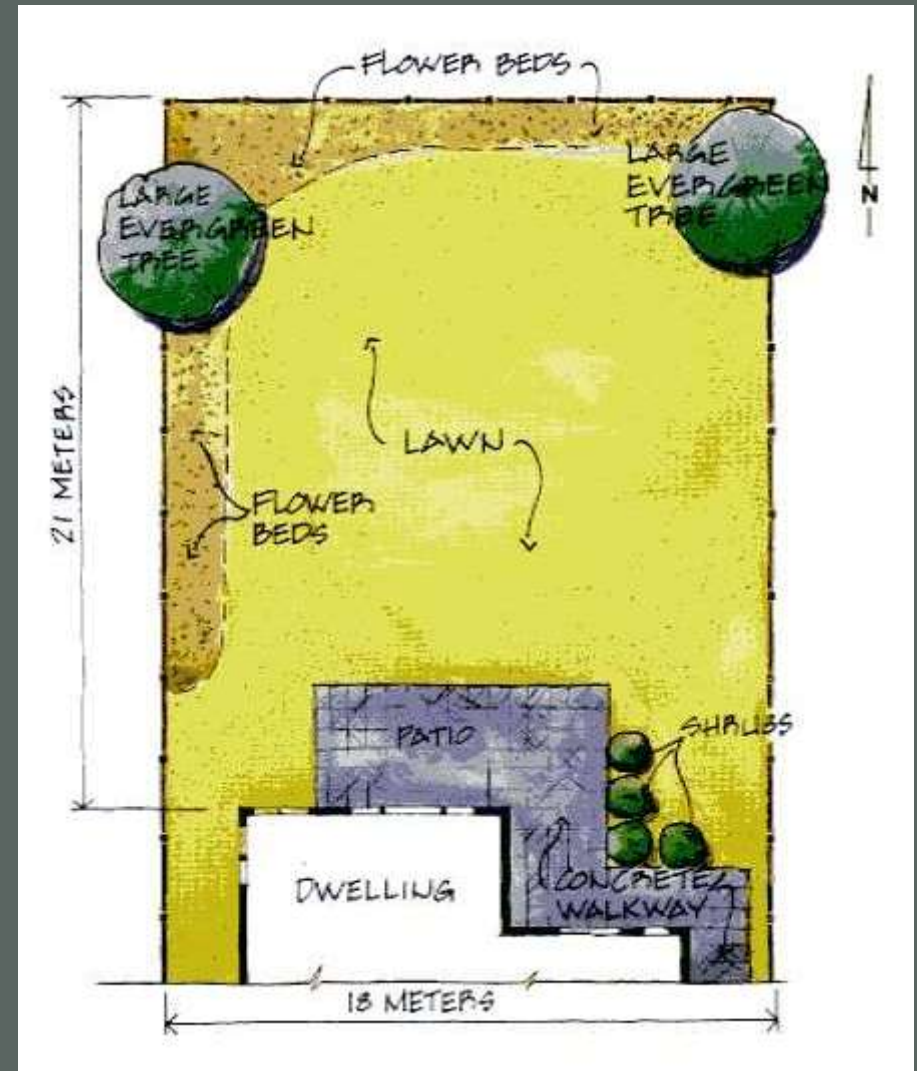
Step 1: Inventory



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Do an inventory of your property!

- What Species are already there?
- Are there invasive species present?
- What are the Conditions:
 - Full sun or shade
 - Wet or Dry
 - Clay, sand, rock
- What native species would work?



Resources to help:



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MHF Native Plant Sale May 14th, 2011

Or online:

<http://nativeplants.evergreen.ca/>
www.wildflowerfarm.com (orillia)
www.ontariowildflowers.com/

Examples of Native Plants



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- Steeplebush (*Spirea tomentosa*)
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*)
- Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata*)
- Sweet Gale (*Myrica gale*)
- Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)
- Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
- Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)
- White Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)
- Tamarack (*Larix laricina*)
- Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)
- Willow (*Salix spp.*)
- High-bush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)



Sweet Gale



Tamarack



Winterberry



Steeplebush



Serviceberry



Herbaceous Plants for Shoreline Projects



Swamp
milkweed



New England
Aster



Joe-Pye Weed



Blue Flag Iris

- Cattail (*Typha latifolia*)
- Blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*)
- New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)
- Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- White Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)
- Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*)

Herbaceous Plants for Shoreline Projects



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- Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
- Wild Beebalm (*Monarda fistulosa*)
- Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
- Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*)
- Big Blue Stem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
- Fringed Sedge (*Carex crinita*)
- Virginia wild rye (*Elymus virginicus*)



Fringed
Sedge



Big Blue Stem



Cardinal Flower

Step 2: Goals



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What do I want to Achieve?

- Buffer your Shoreline
- Enhance wildlife Habitat
- Re-naturalize
- Colourful Garden
- Privacy from Neighbours.



(example) My Goals:

- Remove Invasive Periwinkle
- Create Structure/layers
- Introduce Native Plants/Shrubs

Wildlife Landscaping



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Basic Requirements:

1. Food – Provided by Native plants, or insects
2. Water – Creeks, Bird Baths, Puddles
3. Cover – Vegetation Structure, brush/stone piles

Structure (create corridors wherever possible):

Over storey – Trees (Oak, Beach, Pine, Spruce)

Shrub Layer – High Bush Cranberry, Juniper

Ground Cover – Grasses, flowers

Food/Mast:

Nuts – Oak, beach, walnut, beaked hazel

Seeds – Basswood, birch, sumac,

Fruits – Service berry, dogwood, mountain ash

Nectar – butterfly weed, bee balm, cardinal flower



Wildlife Habitat Enhancement



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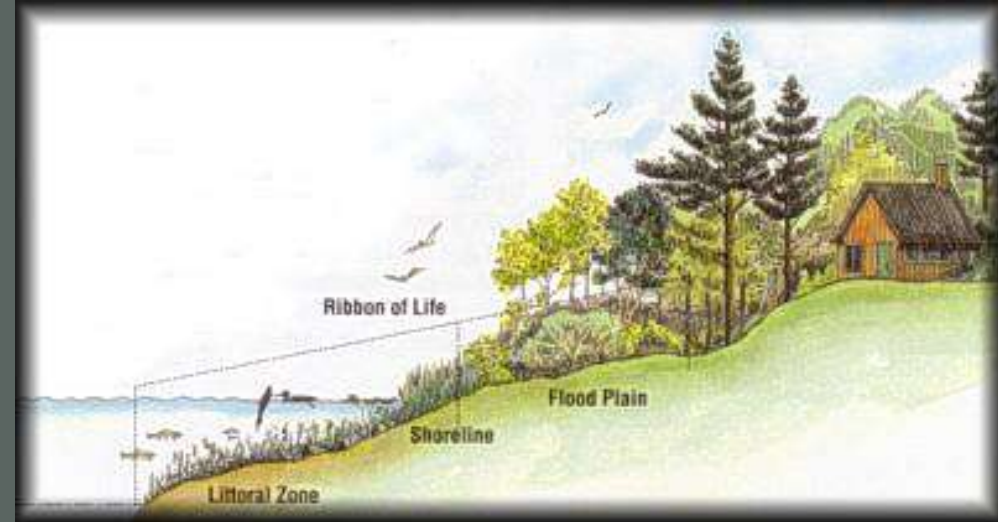
- Leave standing dead trees if they do not pose a threat to buildings, power lines or safety.
- Where brush or stones are collected from the property create piles to shelter wildlife.
- Corridors create safe passages for wildlife, diverse habitat for breeding birds, nursery areas for native vegetation, take up nutrients and prevent erosion.



Why natural shorelines?



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**A natural shoreline
protects water
quality, prevents
erosion and
benefits wildlife.**





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Step 3: Plan



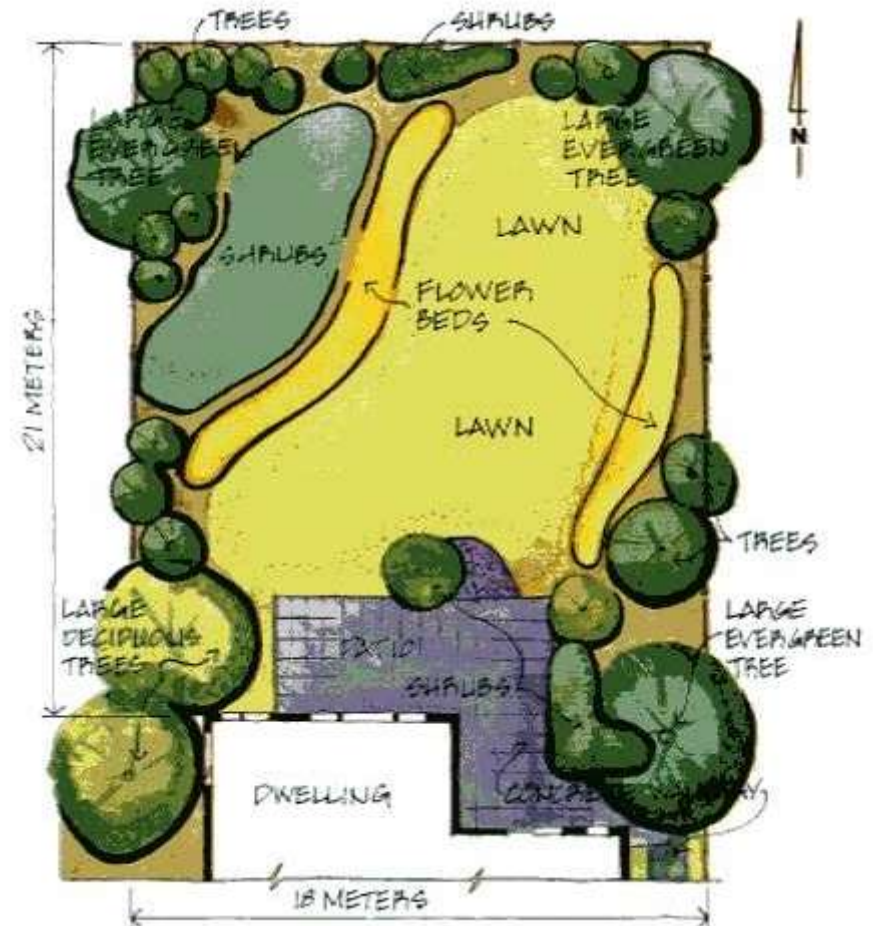
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Make a Plan:

- Make a list of species that will work for your site.
- Draw out your property and layout your design.

Considerations:

- Snow load
- Traffic areas
- Septic
- Future (shade/hazards)

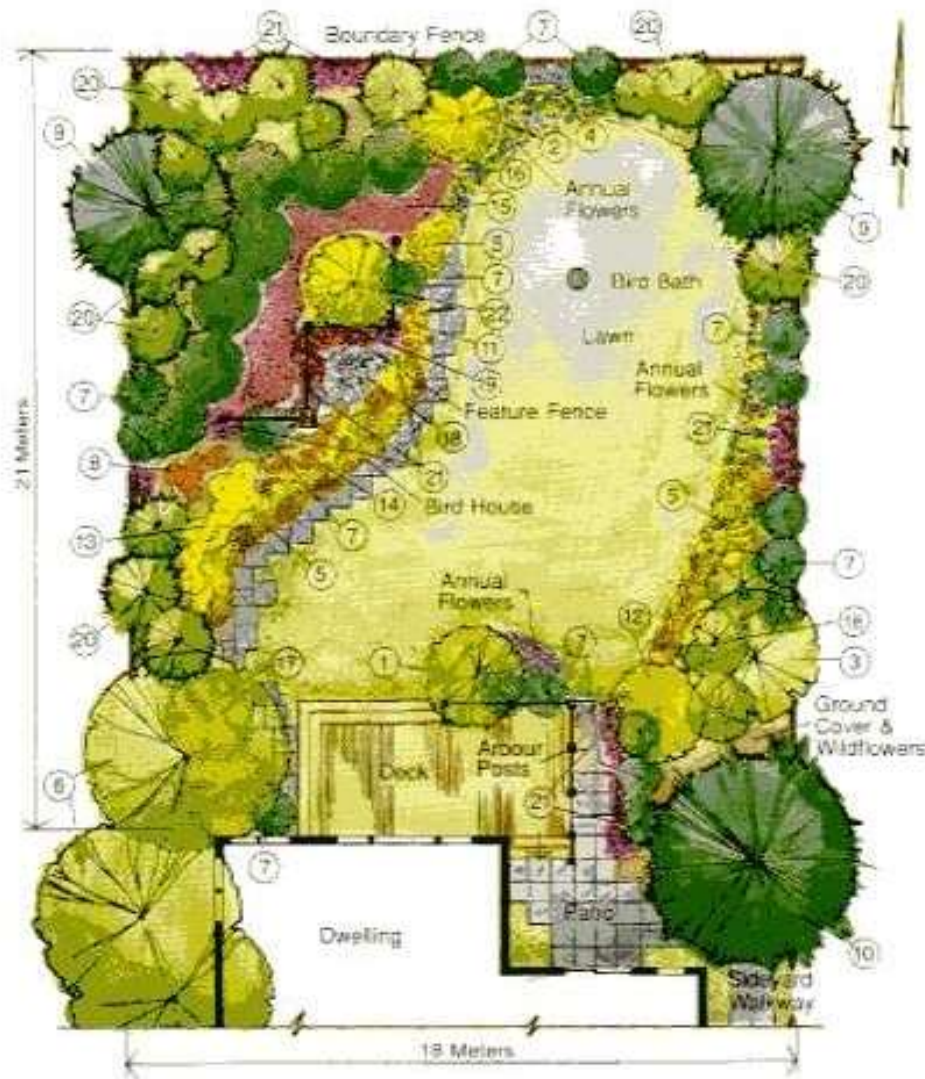


Step 3: Plan



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Let the Plan Evolve



1. Alternate-Leaved Dogwood
2. American Elder
3. American Mountain Ash
4. Bittersweet
5. Black-eyed Susan
6. Butternut
7. Common Juniper
8. Coreopsis
9. Eastern Hemlock
10. Eastern White Pine
11. Evening Primrose
12. Hawthorn
13. New England Aster
14. Orange Milkweed
15. Raspberry
16. Rose Bush
17. Serviceberry
18. Spotted Jewelweed
19. Trumpet Creeper
20. White Cedar
21. Wild Grape
22. Winterberry Holly



- It takes 2-3 years for plants to establish and become low maintenance.
- Weeding and watering for the first 2 years is very important as any area that is recently disturbed will have a “flush” of weedy growth.
- Young trees and shrubs should have rodent or deer guards until they grow past browsing height.

Let the adventure begin!



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Whether your lot is small or large, inland or shoreland, it will make a difference if you choose native plant species!

