

# TIPS FOR REDUCING THE SIZE OF YOUR LAWN

**Reducing your lawn by even 20 percent will provide a more diverse habitat for birds and pollinators. In addition, you will create a beautiful low-maintenance landscape.**

## **MAKE THE EXPANSIONS LOOK “INTENDED” — NOT “UNTENDED”**

- Use distinctive borders around the expanded beds: landscape timbers, plants, rocks, etc.
- Use mulch. Fallen leaves/pine needles (or bought mulch) will:
  - enrich the soil with organic matter as they decay (best fertilizer you can find!)
  - keep soil/roots warm and moist in winter; cool and moist in summer.
  - make the area look planned
- Use stepping stones to:
  - give the area a professional look
  - help you reach plants without stepping on soil
  - draw the eye away from plants in “down time” (no flowers)
- Use other hardscapes (boulders, birdbath, fencing) to add even more eye interest.
- If you use natives with down time, use decorative signs to educate your neighbors. Examples:

**“Wildflowers at Rest!”  
“Feeding Pollinators Now!”  
“Wildflowers Reseeding!”**