

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!”**