Stormwater detention basins can both support wildlife and protect water quality.

Backyards can be planted to mimic adjacent natural areas to link open space areas and expand habitat to support and attract birds and beneficial wildlife.

Driveways and walkways can be constructed with permeable materials such as stone, gravel or brick pavers that allow rain water to drain into the ground to reduce stormwater runoff and naturally irrigate yards.

A combination of native evergreen and seasonally colorful trees and shrubs such as American holly, mountain laurel and scarlet oak can contribute to an inviting natural entrance.

Planting canopy trees such as oak, red maple, sweet gum and black gum provides shade and natural cooling.

Minimizing areas covered by lawns and using native, warm-season grasses and sedge species reduces the need for irrigation and the use of fertilizers, lime and pesticides that tend to adversely affect water quality.

Using fire resistant, low-growing plants around home foundations and maintaining a “defensible space” between your home and the trees, bushes and shrubs in your yard reduces wildfire risks.

For more information please contact the New Jersey Pinelands Commission
P.O. Box 359, New Lisbon, NJ 08064
609.894.7300
Or log on to www.nj.gov/pinelands

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Water Gardens Add Visual Interest

Water gardens attract a wide variety of native Pinelands wildlife such as birds and amphibians. They also provide options for increasing plant diversity in the landscape, offer an unusual alternative to large expanses of lawn, create a focal point in the garden and add serenity to your backyard environment.

6 Reasons to Landscape with Native Pinelands Plants

1. Conserves precious water
2. Reduces the need for costly and potentially toxic fertilizers
3. Provides food and shelter for birds, butterflies and other wildlife
4. Local plants are locally adapted, so they are healthier
5. Maintains the Pinelands’ special biodiversity
6. Increases understanding and appreciation of our natural areas

One of the keys to successful native landscaping in the Pinelands is controlling the animals, especially deer, that want to eat your plants. Since deer will eat virtually any plant, native or otherwise, the most effective strategy is to exclude them from the portions of your yard that you want to cultivate. You can effectively discourage deer either by setting up electric fencing or by installing a high fence. Various types of deer fencing are commercially available. Black plastic mesh is relatively easy to install and virtually disappears when viewed from a distance. It effectively excludes deer while maintaining an open, natural-looking landscape.

Consider A Rain Garden in Your Landscape Design

Rain gardens act like native forests by collecting, absorbing, and filtering stormwater runoff from roof tops, driveways, patios, and other areas that don’t allow water to soak in. Rain gardens are simply shallow depressions that: can be shaped and sized to fit your yard, are constructed with soil mixes that allow water to soak in rapidly and support healthy plant growth, and can be landscaped with a variety of native Pinelands plants to fit the surroundings.

Rain gardens are versatile and effective tools in a new approach to managing stormwater called low impact development (LID). A LID project may incorporate several tools to soak up rain water, reduce stormwater runoff, and filter pollutants. Some examples of these tools include permeable paving, compost-amended soils, vegetated roofs, rainwater collection systems, and rain gardens.

Consider the environmental benefits or just think about all the time, money and effort you could save and you’ll probably agree that it’s worth going native. There is a broad array of Pinelands plants that are well suited to the gardens around your home. Use them in your landscaping plans and contribute to the protection and preservation of the Pinelands and the natural environment in which you live.

Wildlife Will Love Your Garden

The Pinelands provides habitat for 144 different birds. In addition, 34 kinds of mammals and 30 kinds of reptiles and 24 types of amphibians live here. By using native plants you can attract some of these animals to your backyard and help them survive.