

15 Ways to be a Good Neighbour in your NatureHood



Here are a few ways you can connect with nature in your NatureHood!



1 Help get kids into nature

Get kids connected to nature by taking them outdoors and letting them explore the natural world around them. This can be as simple as going to your backyard or local park. You don't have to go far to explore nature.

Being in nature promotes awareness of our natural world and increases our health and overall wellbeing.

NatureHood is about connecting urban Canadians to Nearby Nature—nature found right where they live. There is a growing disconnect between urban Canadians and nature, and kids in particular are spending less time outdoors in nature.



2 Welcome Wildlife

Help local wildlife to create habitat by leaving fallen leaves in your yard, and providing and maintaining a source of clean water and a fully-stocked, regularly cleaned bird feeder.



3 Prevent window collisions

Reflections confuse birds and cause them to fly into the glass. Collisions can be prevented by putting up window decals or strips of tape in the window to break up the reflection.

4 Rein in your pets

Have pets on a leash outside or keep them indoors—both cats and dogs can harm migrating or young birds.



5 Put up a birdhouse

Birdhouses provide nesting options for birds, especially in urban or only lightly wooded areas. Make sure not to paint or apply finish to your birdhouse, and clean it out in the fall to ensure your feathered friends stay happy and healthy.

6 Feed the birds all year long

Hang up a bird feeder! Fill it with sunflower seeds, or suet and seed mixes, but never bread or baked goods—these are not healthy for the birds!

7

Hang nesting material

Fill a mesh vegetable bag with burlap, wood shavings, yarn, wool or even hedge trimmings and hanging it up in your yard for nesting birds to use to create a cozy nest.

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Create a healthy yard for wildlife

Avoid using pesticides or herbicides in your yard, as these are harmful to wildlife. A good rule of thumb: if it says "-cide" on it, avoid it!

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Plant (and save) native plants

Native plants make your yard more attractive to local wildlife as they provide habitat and food sources. Some good choices are Aster, Goldenrod, Yarrow, Willow, Dogwood, or even Juniper.

10

Put waste in its place

Plastic and other waste is harmful to wildlife, so be sure to dispose of it or recycle it. Leaving garbage lying around can result in injury to an animal, or even death.

11

Slow down when driving

Driving within the speed limit gives you more time to respond to any animals that make their way onto the road. Sound your horn if you see wildlife on the road to alert them and give them time to get out of your way!



12

Make your city nature-friendly

City parks, ravines, and open spaces are natural places for birds and native wildlife. Work with your community to restore these habitats.

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Learn and respect Canada's wildlife laws

The federal Migratory Bird Convention Act protects birds, their nests, and their eggs from harm or capture in Canada. Other provincial wildlife laws protect other species in the same way. Purchasing, keeping, or trading a threatened species of wildlife from other countries is also illegal without a permit.

14

Buy bird-friendly products

Support bird conservation by buying shade-grown coffee and chocolate from Latin America. Shade-grown farms mimic natural forests and support bird habitat better than sun coffee farms.

15

Leave fledglings where you find them

If you see a baby bird, leave it where it is! Fledglings can spend several days on the ground after leaving the nest, and their parents still care for them.



Nature Canada's mission is to protect and conserve nature by engaging Canadians and by advocating on behalf of nature.

Learn more at www.naturecanada.ca