

Native trees and shrubs are adapted to our climate.

Natives provide habitat and nesting sites.

Natives feed the caterpillars which “grow” the baby birds.

Natives soak up runoff and clean our water.



## CELEBRATING Native Trees

Native trees provide many benefits to people, wildlife, and our planet, including providing shade and beauty, cleaning air and water, preventing erosion, and providing food and shelter for animals.

**Whatever your priority, there is a reason why you should plant a native tree.**

### THAT'S NOT ALL!

Many native trees live a hundred years or longer, providing benefits and enjoyment now and well into the future. Plant now for future generations.



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Promoting Native Trees  
in Northern Virginia

plant   
NOVA  
TREES



## Native trees and shrubs provide food—for humans and animals

Native trees are very important sources of food and shelter in ecosystems. Trees feed insects like caterpillars, which in turn feed birds and other animals. Some native trees also provide edible fruit and nuts for people.

### Trees and shrubs with edible fruit

Serviceberry, PawPaw, American Persimmon, Highbush Blueberry, American Hazelnut

### Trees that feed birds berries

American Holly, Eastern Red Cedar, Black Cherry, Silky Dogwood, Staghorn Sumac

### Trees that feed caterpillars

White Oak, Black Cherry, Black Willow, Red Maple, Virginia Pine

**For more information** about creating habitat for birds and other wildlife in your yard, or to request a free consultation from an Audubon at Home Ambassador, visit Audubon at Home

[AudubonVA.org/audubon-at-home](http://AudubonVA.org/audubon-at-home)

## Native trees provide shade and keep us cool

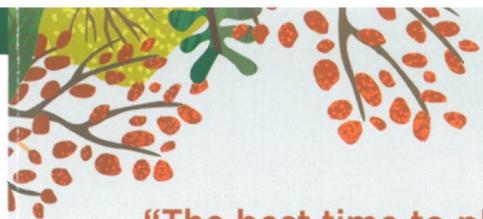
Trees provide relief from the sun in the heat of summer. Trees shading houses can reduce cooling costs in summer by 20-30%. In urban areas with lots of paved areas, trees can help reduce the effects of heat islands.

### Examples of native shade trees

Southern Red Oak, Tulip Tree, American Beech, Red Maple, Sweetgum

## Native trees come in all sizes!

Plant a beautiful native canopy tree in your front yard for shade and curb appeal. Bring color to your yard with small flowering trees. Working in a really small space? **Native shrubs provide the same benefits as trees and range in height from two to thirty feet!**



**“The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now.”**

*~Chinese proverb*

## Native trees reduce flooding and protect water quality

Forested buffer areas along streams help protect water quality from contaminants in stormwater runoff such as litter, fertilizer, pesticides, and soil. Trees act like a speed bump to slow down runoff and prevent stream bank erosion.

Trees and shrubs that tolerate flooding and droughts can be planted in rain gardens where their roots break up compacted soil, allowing more water to be absorbed.

### Trees for stream buffers

Sycamore, River Birch, Swamp Chestnut Oak, American Hornbeam, Witch Hazel

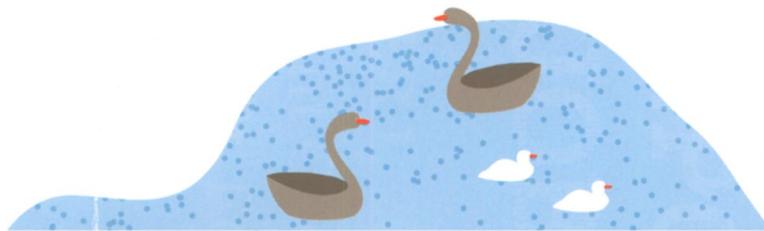
### Trees and shrubs for rain gardens

Silky Dogwood, Black Willow, American Elderberry, Buttonbush, Wild Hydrangea

### For more information

on creating rain gardens or fixing poor drainage or erosion, visit the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District

[FairfaxCounty.gov/soil-water-conservation](http://FairfaxCounty.gov/soil-water-conservation)



## Trees beautify our yards

Native trees increase home values.

### Flowering trees and shrubs

Rebud, Flowering Dogwood, Fringe Tree, Sweetbay Magnolia, Mountain Laurel

### Trees and shrubs with colorful fall foliage

Sassafras, Red Maple, Black Sour Gum, Northern Spicebush

## Native evergreen trees can provide privacy and block winter wind

Evergreen trees can provide privacy year round. Space trees the distance of half of the mature tree's spread. Evergreen trees can also serve as a windbreak in winter, reducing heating costs.

### Examples of native evergreen trees

Eastern Red Cedar, American Holly, Virginia Pine, Shortleaf Pine

## Rescuing Native Trees

Protect your trees from invasive vines and accidental damage to ensure their longevity:

### • INVASIVE VINES CAN STRANGLE OR SMOTHER TREES.

To rescue the tree from invasive vines, cut the vines at the base of the tree and dig up the vine by the roots when possible. Do not pull the vine down off the tree—that will damage the tree's bark and may cause branches to break and fall. *Do not disturb native vines.*

### • AVOID MULCH VOLCANOES.

A three inch layer of mulch under a tree is enough to prevent weeds and retain soil moisture, but a deeper mound of mulch against the tree trunk can cause the bark to rot.

### • AVOID ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE TO TREES FROM LAWN MOWERS/STRING TRIMMERS.

Protect trees from lawn mower damage by planting shade tolerant native groundcover plants rather than grass under trees.