

Living with Natural Areas in our Neighborhood

Natural areas are valuable features of our landscape. Many homeowners, however, may not be aware of these treasures and the need to protect them. What can you do - as a property owner /tenant- to minimize your impact on our Natural Areas?

- **Can I dump my yard & garden waste in a natural area?**

No. Dumped yard waste is bad news for any natural area. Dumped material smothers natural vegetation, may contain harmful chemicals, and often has plant seeds not found normally in the wild. If these materials are dumped in a natural area, the introduced seeds may grow where they fall. Native plants and the wildlife that depends on them are constantly under threat from invading non-native plants.

- **Won't the yard debris just turn into soil after a while, becoming a natural part of the forest?**

No. Diverse communities of bacteria, fungi, soil insects and earthworms living on the forest floor can only process the amount of leaves created within that forest. Piles of additional waste from your yard can overwhelm the fragile system. This results in no growth. A pile of leaves and waste lasts for years and smothers existing plants and prevents new growth.

Short Term Damage:

Ferns, wildflowers and tree seedlings are smothered and killed. Even mature trees can be damaged when debris is piled against their trunks. Piles of debris remove vital food and shelter for the many creatures that live in natural areas.

Long Term Damage:

Natural areas that cannot maintain and regenerate a diverse plant community are more vulnerable to stresses, such as erosion, disease, insect pests, fire and invasive exotic plants.

- **What should I do with yard & garden waste?**

The best solution is to reduce and recycle as much as possible, by composting leaves, grass clippings, weeds and other materials on your own property. You reduce the amount of garbage going to landfills and create rich soil for your lawn and garden. If you can't use all your grass clippings, leaves and brush, ask your neighbors if they need more material for their home composters.

- **Other Options for your yard waste**

Your Waste Removal Provider: Contact your provider for specific details. These companies do offer a yard waste pickup. Call for specific details regarding your account. They will happily direct you as to what you are allowed to put in your trash and how they wish to receive it (bagged, bundle, etc.)

Places to take your debris: There are also other options for your waste if you have the ability to deliver it. Call them for specifics.

Noblesville Landfill: 317-770-8155
1801 S 8th St
Noblesville, IN 46060

GreenCycle : 317-773-3350
2695 Cicero Road (S.R. 19)
Noblesville, Indiana 46060