

# Get Growing with Native Plants



## THE PROBLEM:

Every year, **24,000** acres of natural land are converted to development in New England, and native plant habitat is lost, reducing critical food and shelter for wildlife and pollinators. Without suitable habitat, wildlife and pollinators cannot survive.



## Why Not Lawn?

Turf grass is a **monoculture**, where a single species dominates the environment. Reducing lawn and increasing native plants in your yard brings diversity to our landscape and helps counter habitat loss.

**Diverse landscapes** bring stability and resilience to our environment, and offer nutrition, shelter, and habitat for wildlife. In the face of climate change, we need to do everything we can to maximize diverse, natural habitats.



## THE SOLUTION: *Native Plants*

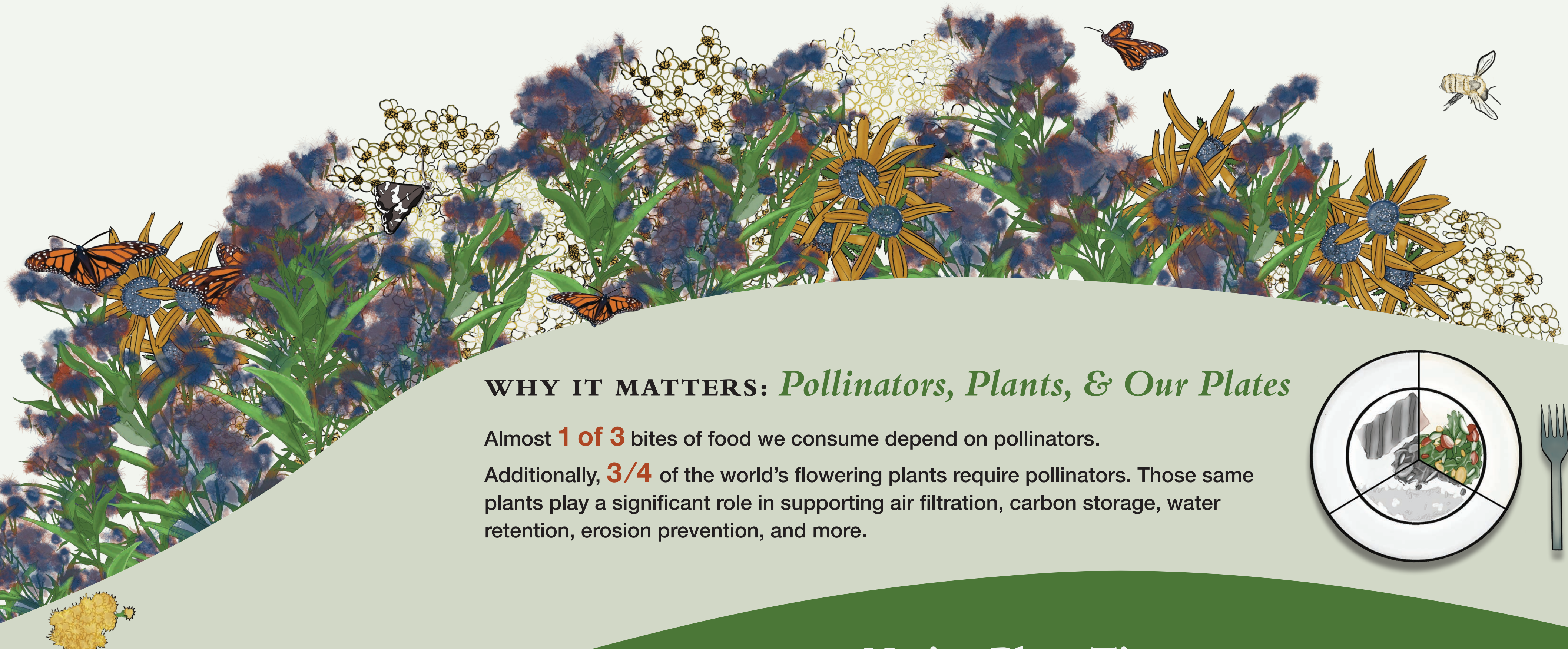
You can help reverse habitat loss and promote biodiversity, increase climate resiliency as well as support local ecosystems by growing native plants.

Native plants occur naturally within a defined range without human introduction and are naturally adapted to our environment. Native plants require less fertilizer and pesticides to grow. They enhance the local ecosystem, improve biodiversity, and maintain our unique sense of place.

## Benefits of Native Plants

### NATIVE PLANTS:

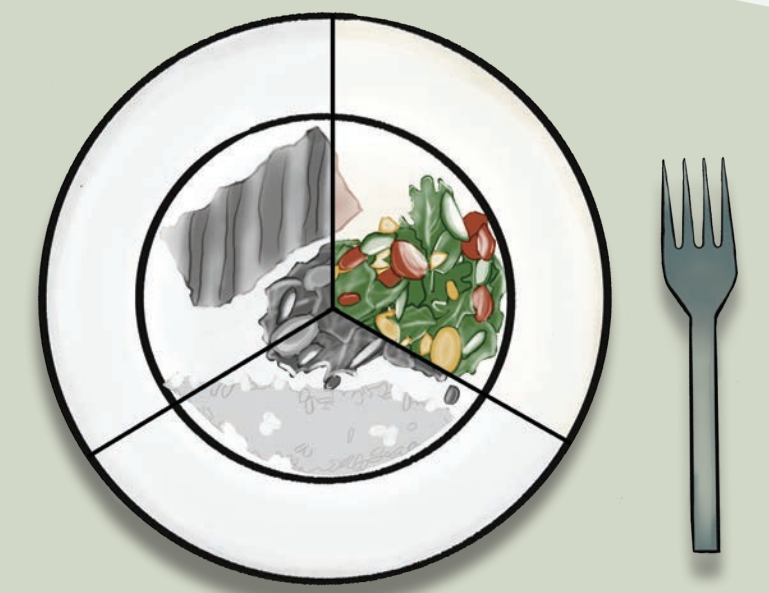
- don't require harmful pesticides and chemical fertilizers
- need less water than lawns
- provide food and habitat for fauna and pollinators
- help prevent soil erosion
- help reduce air pollution and remove carbon from the air
- don't require weekly mowing
- augment soil water storage and can reduce water runoff and flooding
- are beautiful and often provide aesthetic rewards!



## WHY IT MATTERS: *Pollinators, Plants, & Our Plates*

Almost **1 of 3** bites of food we consume depend on pollinators.

Additionally, **3/4** of the world's flowering plants require pollinators. Those same plants play a significant role in supporting air filtration, carbon storage, water retention, erosion prevention, and more.



## Native Plant Tips

- Support pollinators and wildlife by growing a variety of plants for a succession of blooms throughout the seasons.
- Look at nearby natural areas to get a sense of what plants may grow best in your yard.
- Visit the page linked at the QR code below to find native plants and resources for your specific ecoregion:



An example of native plants used for landscaping.

