

The Theme of Earth Day 2019 is Protect Our Species!

LET'S MAKE BROOKLINE BIODIVERSITY FRIENDLY

Many of the world's most challenging environmental issues require solutions carried out by local and state communities. Earth Day 2019 provides a forum to communicate the importance of protecting all species by creating spaces and executing plans that allow species to live and thrive in urban areas.

Green spaces greatly benefit community health. Green space provides opportunities for outdoor activities and has a measurably positive impact on psychological well-being. It increases resiliency to flooding and climate change, provides habitat. Trees reduce air pollution and offset emissions, helping meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and also reduce the heat island effect. Community gardens feed people!

Comprehensive biodiversity plans incorporate species protection, green space conservation and creation, green infrastructure development, water resource management and conservation, and other initiatives.

Pollinator protection plans prioritize native pollinator species, such as bees and butterflies, while also incorporating guidelines for urban beekeeping. Planting native plant species, creating habitat, and properly maintaining public lands allow pollinators to thrive. Guidelines and education campaigns can also teach the public how to grow pollinator-friendly gardens and maintain their property in non-harmful ways.

Green infrastructure and green spaces can include parks, trails, gardens, urban farms, waterfront revitalization, and green roofs. Planting native species should be a priority for all green space projects as they are best suited to host and feed native wildlife.

Green corridor plans enable the movement of species through-out the city and to surrounding areas by linking together green spaces. These links can be green roofs, tree- and plant-lined streets, and new parks or gardens.

Communities and the private sector can get engaged by partnering on specific projects or by following guidelines when developing or renovating privately-owned land and buildings.

Individuals can support legislation against harmful practices and use of chemicals, standards and priorities with an aim to protect species.