

DIY Seed Balls for Pollinators

Did you know that agriculture, forestry, and other land use-changes are the second largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in the world? These impacts are negatively affecting the climate, natural resources, wildlife, and potentially most importantly, pollinators.

TN State Parks are stepping up to protect our pollinators through installation of native grass and wildflower fields and pollinator gardens. Native plants are more tolerant to the local landscape and require less maintenance, therefore have less impact. Using native perennials in pollinator gardens and meadows provide critical habitat and food sources for pollinators, and provide improved soil health and erosion control.

At home activities for pollinator health:

Support your local pollinators –such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds – by planting your own wildflowers or pollinator garden. Pollinators are important because they help 80% of the world’s plants reproduce – including 90 different food crops.



1. Make your own seed bomb of wildflowers to scatter in your yard, landscaping, or neighborhood to attract pollinators and provide a food source in urban areas.
DIY Paper Seed Bomb: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3tbZguBzG8>
DIY Clay Seed Bomb: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuBYZO7F-No>
2. Replace high-maintenance landscaping with water-tolerant and flowering perennials and enjoy the birds, butterflies, and pollinators that will come! You can also choose an area of your lawn to sow native wildflower seeds and save yourself some time by reducing your mowing space!
DIY pollinator garden: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuLsUoLC48g>

DIY Bird Feeders and Houses for Wildlife

One of the highest priorities of TN State Parks is habitat and species protection. TN State Parks do this through invasive species management, rare species monitoring and protection, native grass restoration, and enhancement of wildlife habitat. For example, Indian Mountain State Park in Campbell County installed and maintains 10 Bluebird houses and Purple Martin houses. Other parks across the state monitor Wood Duck, bats, and other habitat boxes to provide safe homes for these important critters.

At home activities for wildlife enhancement:

Give your local birds and other wildlife a safe place to live and a great source of food! By providing local wildlife with a safe and nutritious food source, we encourage healthy ecosystems and habitats within our own neighborhoods.



1. The tried and true method of spreading peanut butter on a pine cone, then rolling it in seeds is an excellent, cost-effective way to make your own bird and wildlife feeder. This is a great way to observe local wildlife and learn about the different species of birds you have at your home! If peanut allergies are a concern, honey makes an excellent alternative.
Here is a great DIY video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-uVugH7eaUU>
2. Another great way to make a cheap and easy bird feeder is to repurpose a plastic bottle. All you will need is a plastic bottle, some string, two sticks or pencils, and some scissors.
DIY plastic bottle feeder video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yV6V6rtpyc>
3. Here is an inspiring video with 100 ideas for building your own birdhouse! Many of these houses can be built with items we already have laying around the house. With a little creativity and a lot of fun, you can recreate your very own bird house too!
Upcycled bird house video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-uVugH7eaUU>
4. Lastly, keep an eye out for all of the native Tennessee birds you attract with your new birdfeeders and houses! Common native birds include the Red Bird, the Blue Jay, and the Goldfinch. Here you can find a list of the 10 most beautiful species of Tennessee birds:
<https://patriotgetaways.com/blog/10-most-beautiful-species-of-tennessee-birds/>

