



Stewarding God's Creation by ... Supporting Biodiversity in Your Yard

What is a Biodiverse Ecosystem?

- **Ecosystem:** network of organisms working together in the same environment. Need many types of creatures because every plant and animal has a job to do.
- **Monoculture = vulnerability**
 - One life-line holding a connection; limited options for pollination, food and habitat creating a more fragile ecosystem
- **Biodiversity = resilience**
 - Biodiversity increases the points of connection and relationship strengthening in nature.
 - Areas that support multiple native insects, moths, butterflies, birds promote resiliency to stressors

Genetic Diversity:

- **Biodiversity is about more than the number of species. It's about genetic diversity, too. Genetic variety is what makes us different. In plants, genes determine things like:**
 - How much a plant will flower
 - When the plant will flower
 - The plant's defenses against insects
 - The plant's defenses against parasites and pathogens

By building up biodiversity, pests are kept at bay. Lawns should be area rugs, not wall to wall carpet. *(Rebecca McMackin)*

Increasing Biodiversity in your Yard:

- **Think about making HABITATS, not gardens**
- **Habitats such as ponds, rock piles, and log piles, native plant groupings dispersed throughout your yard, bird feeders, etc. This is "habitat heterogeneity" in science talk**
- **By creating a bunch of habitats, diverse life will come**

