

# Homegrown National Parks

## What We Can Do

These are ten concrete steps Douglas Tallamy outlines that each of us can take to make Homegrown National Park a successful reality.



1. Shrink The Lawn - Think of a lawn as an area rug, not wall-to-wall carpeting.
2. Remove Invasive Species – Consider native plants first. Some non-native plants are invasive and take over our natural areas.
3. Plant Keystone Genera - Native Oaks, Cherries, Goldenrods, Asters and others are the foundation of our food webs.
4. Be Generous With Your Plantings - We can all increase the abundance and diversity of our plantings! Will encourage a healthier ecosystem.
5. Plant for Specialist Pollinators - Generalists will use the plants needed by specialists, so if you plant for specialists in your region you have planted for all species.
6. Network With Neighbors - The best way to have a big impact is to team up with likeminded neighbors.
7. Build a Conservation Hardscape -
  - Use window well covers to protect frogs, toads, and other small creatures from being trapped
  - Use motion sensor lights to reduce the impact of light pollution on moths
  - Set your mower height to 3-4 inches
  - Install a small water feature – birds love them!
  - Build several small bee houses
8. Create Caterpillar Pupation Sites Under Your Trees - Leave the leaves! Try to create space with uncompacted soil, and add rocks or logs
9. Do Not Spray or Fertilize - Insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers can damage food webs. Consider alternative options.
10. Educate Your Neighborhood Civic Association - Rules regulating landscapes were created by people and can be changed by people!

### Links

- Homegrown National Parks: <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>
- Native Plant Finder: <https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants>
- Missouri Invasives: <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/invasive-nuisance-species>

# Homegrown National Parks

*The concept for the Homegrown National Park: a national challenge to homeowners, property owners, land managers, farmers and anyone with some soil to plant in – to extend our national parks into our yards, communities, and surrounding lands by planting native and removing invasive species.*



## HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK® MAP



The MAP enables anyone who plants natives and/or removes invasives to report their accomplishments by State, County and Zip Code. A gauge shows progress towards the goal of 20 million acres of native plantings in the U.S.

Scan the code or visit: <https://homegrownnationalpark.org>

