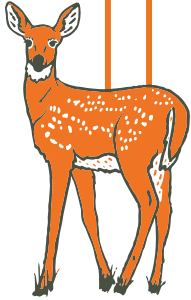# 6 THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR WILDLIFE

1 LET WILDLIFE BE WILD

Springtime means wildlife like rabbit kits, nestling songbirds, and deer fawns are born! If you spot newborn or young wildlife, please do not disturb them. While some young animals might appear to be abandoned, many wildlife parents will leave their young alone and hidden to avoid attracting predators, only coming back to nurse them a few times a day.
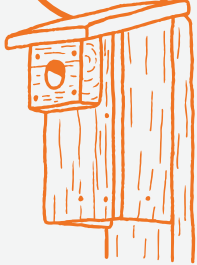
2 PLANT NATIVE PLANTS

Planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers provides both food and cover, for many wildlife species. Native plants benefit birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, and small mammals, which play an important role in sustaining healthy ecosystems. Non-native or invasive plants can have harmful ecological impacts because they outcompete native plant species and do not provide nearly as many benefits to wildlife.

3 INSTALL A NEST BOX

Placing a nest box on your property can provide safe nesting areas for many species of birds and small mammals to raise their young. Properly managed nest boxes can be critically important to cavity-nesting species like blue birds, prothonotary warblers, and purple martins.

4 CREATE LEAF & BRUSH PILES FOR HABITAT

Songbirds, small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, will use brush piles for nesting, resting, escaping from predators, and sheltering from harsh weather conditions.

5 SECURE FOOD, GARBAGE & RECYCLING

Once a bear finds easy access to food, they are likely to come back for more. To limit human-bear interactions, be sure to bring pet food containers and bird feeders inside at night; keep trash cans and recycle bins inside until collection day; and regularly clean and remove grease from outside grills.

6 SLOW THE MOW

Wait until after nesting season to begin mowing fallow fields and large yards to benefit a variety of grassland-nesting bird species and support pollinators like bees, moths, and bats. Being a lazy lawnmower and only cutting grass every 2-3 weeks can also lead to more lawn flowers that attract a diversity of pollinators to boost wildlife habitat.