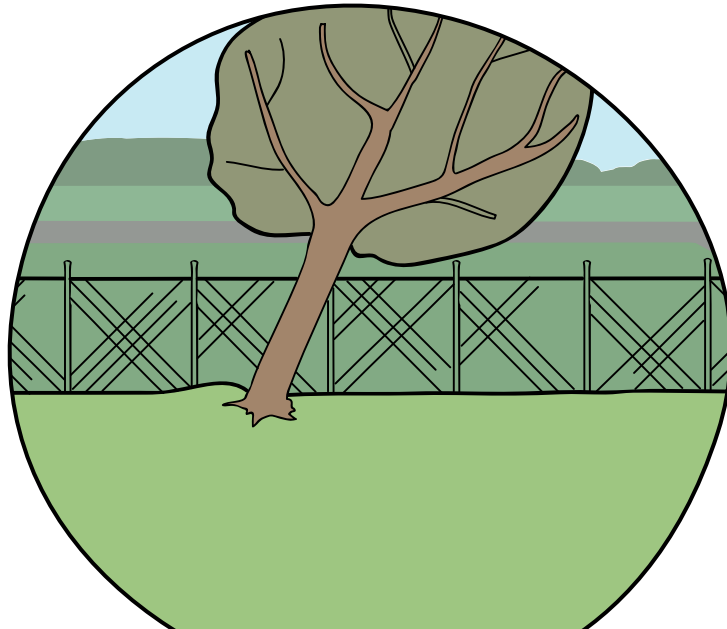
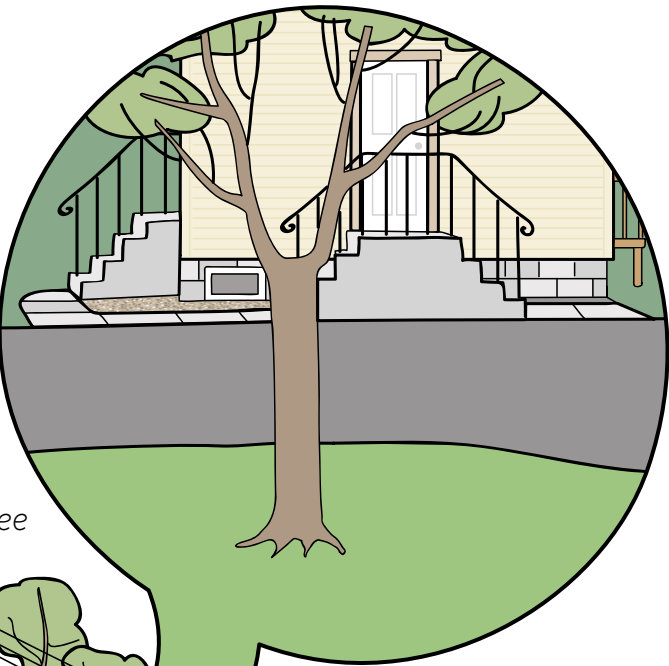


A TRADITIONAL YARD and its *problems*



Trees planted in the wrong place and the wrong way
Can lead to unhealthy tree and early death, which increase maintenance costs. Avoid planting trees too deep, too shallow, and near overhead and underground utility lines.

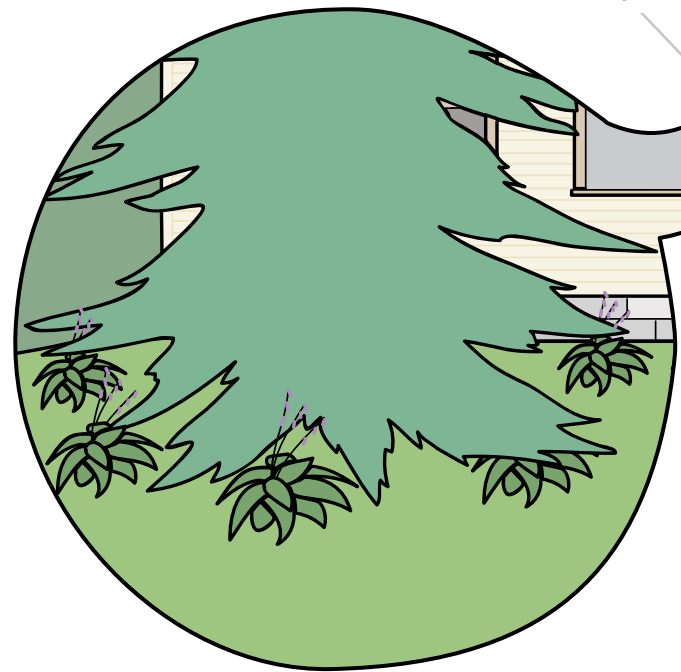


Few vertical vegetative layers

- Provide no habitat for wildlife that need layers such as leaf litter, herbaceous plants, shrubs, understory trees, and tree canopies.
- Lead to soil erosion and pollution runoff, which can cause poor water quality.

Few native plants and trees

Is expensive. Nonnative plants and trees are more costly to maintain; can attract nonnative, opportunistic wildlife; and are more likely to drive away beneficial wildlife.



Compacted soils

- Provide no space for water, oxygen, nutrients, and room for roots to grow, which decreases a tree's health.
- Increase runoff and flooding potential because water can't infiltrate the soil.

Impervious surfaces such as asphalt and concrete

Can collect pollutants, increase runoff, and raise the potential for flooding by preventing water from infiltrating soils, which leads to poor water quality.

Ground covered mostly by lawn

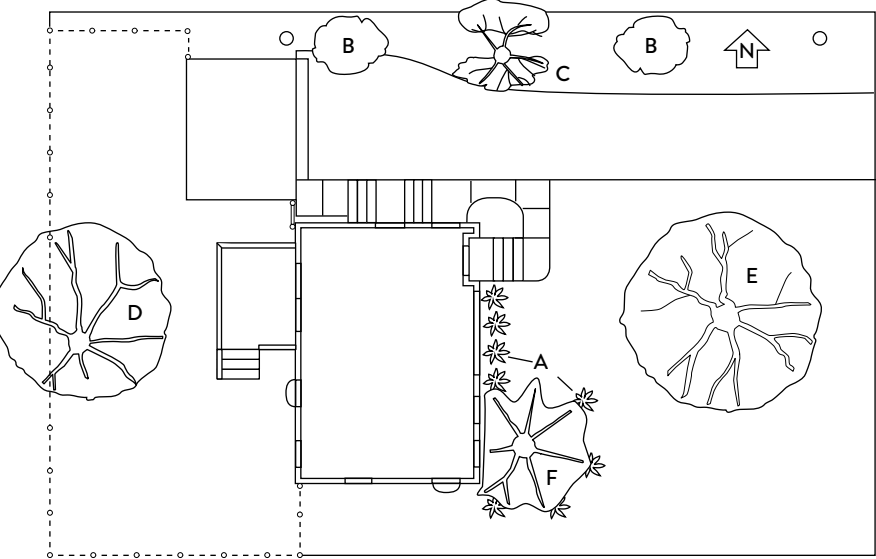
- Is time consuming and expensive—requires mowing, watering, fertilizing, and more.
- Provides minimal food and shelter for wildlife.
- Competes with trees for water and nutrients.

Trees all the same age

Die around the same time and leave big gaps. Removing and replacing trees all at once may be costly.

Few tree species

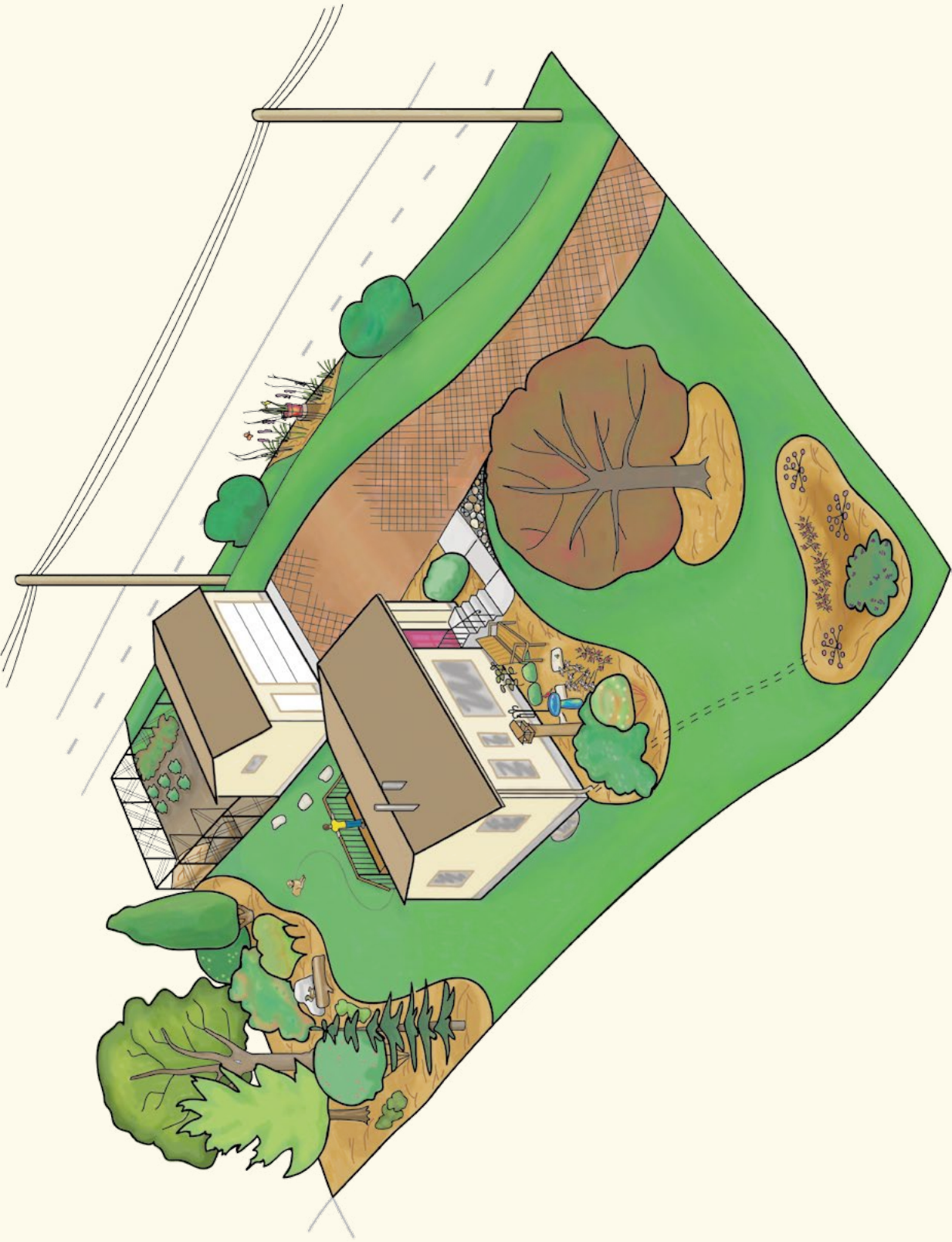
Can be wiped out by pests such as budworms, emerald ash borer, and fungi that target one kind of tree. Wiping out many yard trees at once increases maintenance costs.



Plant List

- Herbaceous Plants
A. Hosta
- Shrubs
B. Lilac
- Canopy Trees
C. Green ash
D. Norway maple
E. Red maple
F. Colorado blue spruce

A HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE to Creating a Healthy Yard



Steps to creating a healthy yard

- Ask yourself: How diverse is my yard?**
- ☐ Are there two or more layers (mulch, herbaceous plants, shrubs, understory trees, canopy trees)?
 - ☐ Do I have a mix of young, old, and middle-aged trees?
 - ☐ Are my trees native to my area?

- Learn about native trees, shrubs, and perennials**
- ☐ Take a community education class about native plants
 - ☐ Visit an arboretum

Draw up a long-term plan to transform your yard slowly over time and add diversity

- ☐ Choose plants that will create layers
- ☐ Create groupings of plants, shrubs, and trees along edges, corners, and hard-to-mow areas
- ☐ Work with neighbors to create large plant groupings across property lines
- ☐ Stagger plantings over many years to achieve age diversity
- ☐ Plant several different native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants
- ☐ Incorporate less-common native species
- ☐ Plant species that mimic nearby natural ecosystems

Create a healthy growing environment

- ☐ Plant the right tree/shrub in the right place, considering the plant's height and spacing needs, along with soils and sunlight requirements
- ☐ Check your soil for type, compaction, drainage, pH
- ☐ Properly plant your trees and shrubs (not too deep)
- ☐ Maintain your trees and shrubs each season
- ☐ Properly mulch around trees by keeping mulch off trunk
- ☐ Avoid trees and shrubs that have insect and disease problems such as ash, which are subject to the deadly emerald ash borer

Control invasive plants and pests such as buckthorn, garlic mustard, Dutch elm disease, and oak wilt.

Welcome your neighbors and show off your yard!

Additional Information

Visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Tree Planting and Care webpage at mndnr.gov/treecare/residential.html for information on:

- Prepare and plan for tree planting
- Planting trees and seedlings
- Caring for and pruning trees
- Storm damage correction and prevention to trees
- Tree value and use
- Tree health
- Tree diseases and pests

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Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4040, 651-296-6157 (Metro Area) or 888-MINNDNR (646-6367) (MN Toll-Free) mndnr.gov

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A HEALTHY YARD and its *benefits*



Multiple vegetative layers (canopy, understory, shrubs, herbaceous plants, and leaf litter)

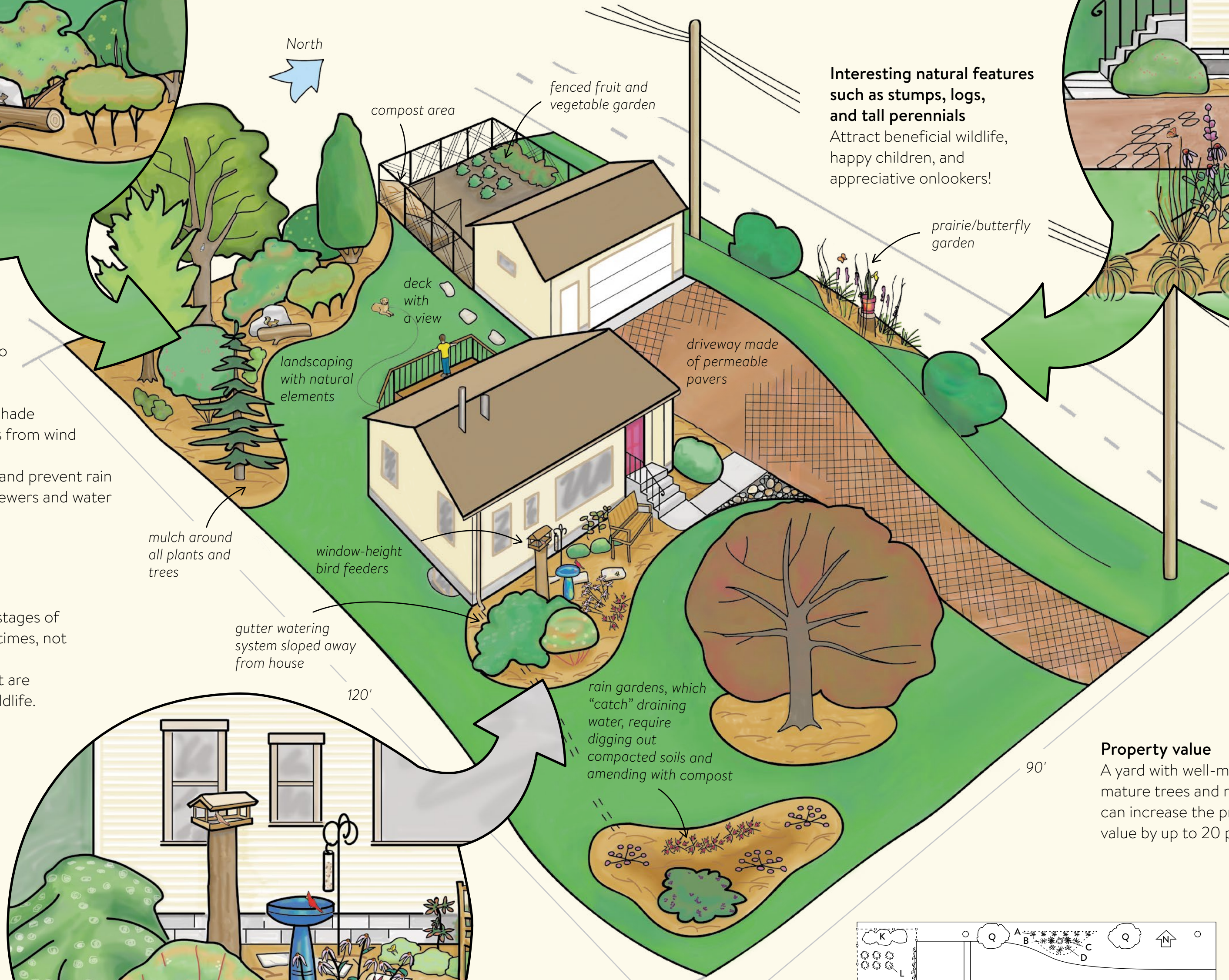
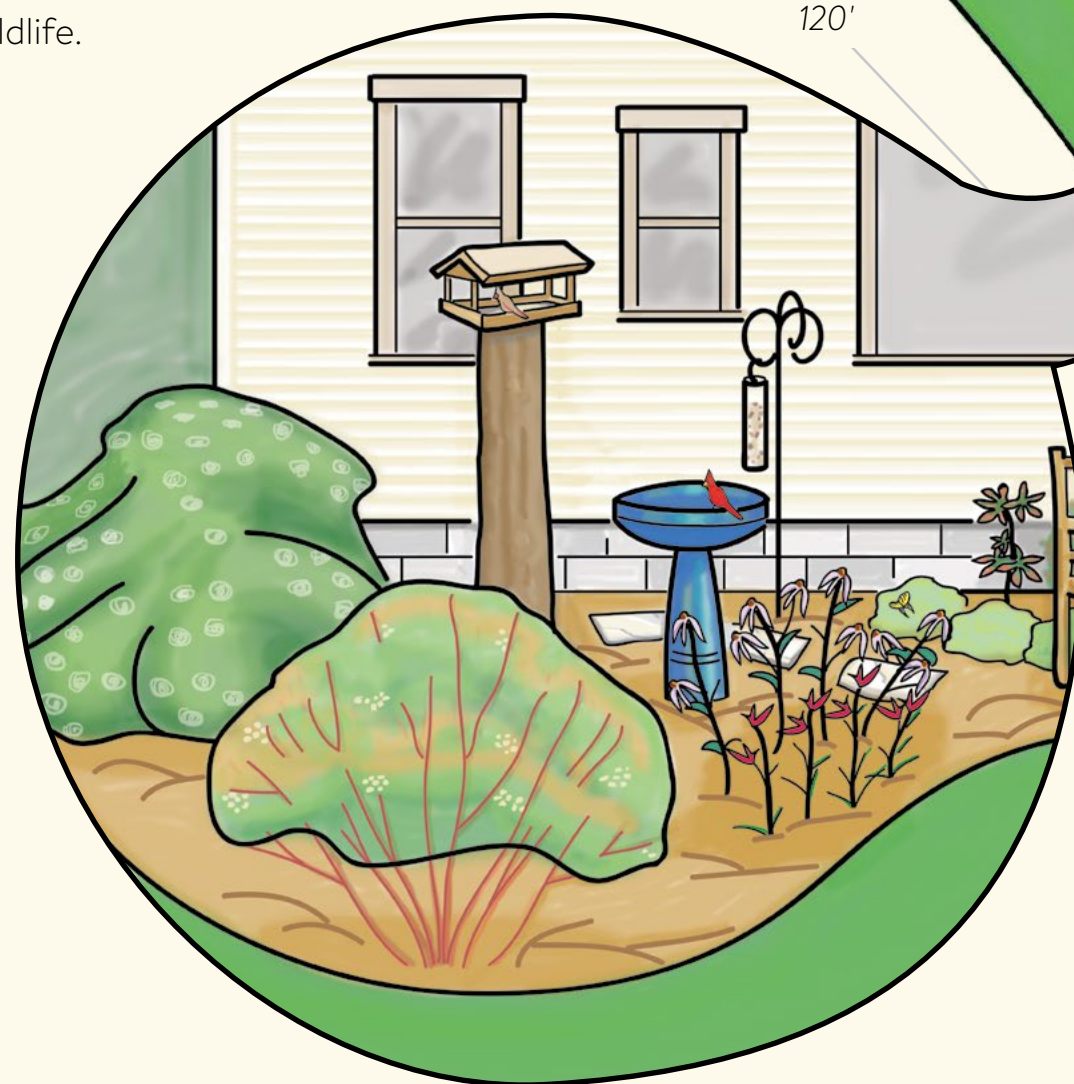
- Save money. Keeping leaves means no costly trips to the compost site, free fertilizer for you, and less water use.
- Save money. Layers provide cooling shade and protection to buildings and roads from wind and snow.
- Clean water. Layers intercept rainfall and prevent rain and pollutants from entering storm sewers and water treatment plants.

Young, old, and “middle-aged” trees

- Are more resilient. Trees in different stages of life bloom, seed, and die at different times, not all at once.
- Create multiple vegetative layers that are habitat for a diversity of beneficial wildlife.
- Provide a more visually interesting landscape.

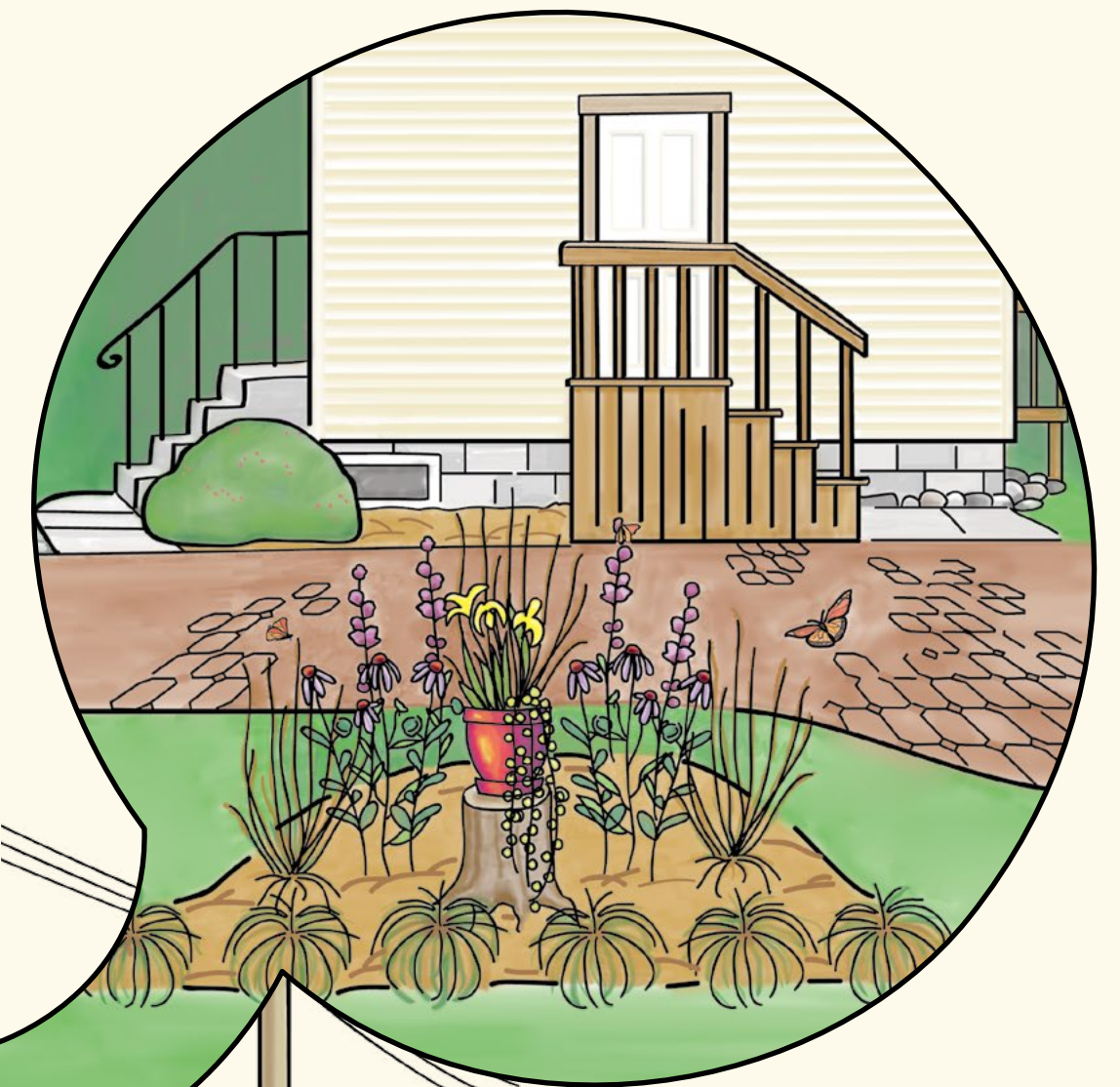
A variety of native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants

- Saves money. Native plants need less water and maintenance because they are adapted to local conditions and rainfall.
- Is resilient. A variety of native plants protects against large-scale devastation from tree pests such as emerald ash borer.
- Provides habitat for beneficial wildlife such as songbirds, butterflies, and mosquito-eating bats, frogs, and toads.



Interesting natural features such as stumps, logs, and tall perennials

Attract beneficial wildlife,
happy children, and
appreciative onlookers!

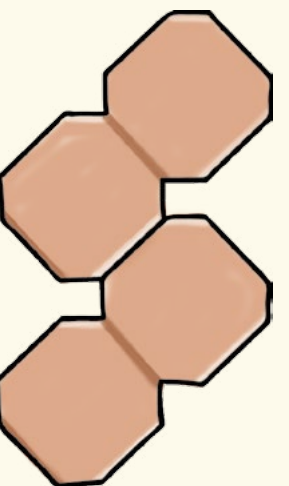


Mulch to protect the soil

Saves money. Mulch—whether wood chips or leaves chopped with the lawn mower—helps cool soil and roots, retains moisture, and prevents erosion from raindrop impact and sediment from entering water systems.

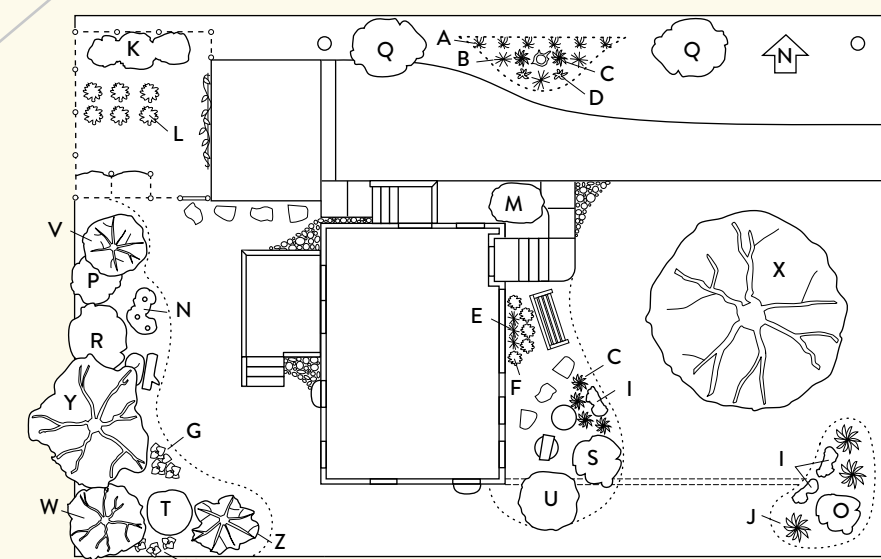
Permeable surfaces

Reduce rainwater
runoff and trap
pollutants.



Property value

A yard with well-maintained
mature trees and native plants
can increase the property's
value by up to 20 percent.



Plant List

Herbaceous Plants

- A. Prairie dropseed
- B. Little bluestem
- C. Purple coneflower
- D. Rough blazing star
- E. Wild geranium
- F. Jacob's ladder
- G. Bloodroot
- H. Wild ginger
- I. Cardinal flower
- J. Swamp milkweed

Low Shrubs

- K. Wild red raspberry
- L. Sweet lowbush blueberry
- M. Snowberry
- N. Low serviceberry
- O. Black chokeberry

High Shrubs

- P. American hazel
- Q. Lilacs
- R. Nannyberry
- S. Red-osier dogwood
- T. American highbush cranberry
- U. Ninebark

Understory Trees

- V. Northern white cedar
- W. Blue beech

Canopy Trees

- X. Red maple
- Y. White oak
- Z. White spruce