

# TOOLBOOK FOR SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING CONVERSATIONS

Discussion points for  
you to share with your  
landscaper

**GO NATIVE.** Beauty and fitness wrapped up into one.



☐ **I want to add native plants to my property.** Native plants filter water, attract butterflies, and reduce the need for fertilizers.



☐ **I want to remove invasive plants from my property.** Invasive plants outcompete native species and create “food deserts” for local birds.

**PLANT A TREE.** Add a native tree and you'll get so many benefits for free.



☐ **I want to plant a native tree or bush.** Check Princeton's Native Tree list and avoid trees and bushes on the Do Not Plant list.



☐ **I don't want mulch volcanoes.** To prevent rot, mulch should not be piled up like a volcano. It should be spread around a tree like a donut.



☐ **I want to leave my leaves.** Instead of piling them by the curb, create a compost pile, use them as mulch, or mulch them with a mower.

**GREEN YOUR LAWN.** Your yard is a part of the local ecosystem.



☐ **I want to reduce the use of fertilizers on my lawn.** Synthetic fertilizers contribute to algal blooms, threaten wildlife, and pose a health risk to workers.



☐ **I want to use more natural products to treat my lawn.** Compost reduces fertilizer run-off and feeds plants naturally.



☐ **I want to support a healthy & sustainable lawn.** For example, mow at 3-4", overseed, and water both infrequently & deeply.



## SOAK UP SOME STORMWATER. Don't let it wash away.



☐ **I want to investigate a rain garden.** A shallow depression with native plants can add beauty and filter stormwater.



☐ **I want to capture water.** Use a rain barrel or downspout planters to collect water for use on lawns or cars.



☐ **I want to explore permeable options.** Use gravel or pervious pavement for driveways or sidewalks.

## CONSIDER EQUIPMENT ALTERNATIVES. So we can all breathe a little easier.



☐ **I want to discuss electric options.** Battery-powered machines are quieter, reduce air pollution, and improve conditions for lawn workers.



☐ **Can we skip the blower?** To protect your health and mine, let's grind our leaves with a mulching mower, rake them, or just leave them.



☐ **I want to convert some lawn to a meadow.** A field of native flowers reduces mowing, soaks up water, and attracts pollinators.

### Questions to ask your landscaper:

- ☐ Do your workers use gloves, masks, goggles, and ear protection? Please protect them.
- ☐ Are you registered with the Municipality? All landscapers are required to register.

**Find resources and additional information about each of these actions.**

**[www.sustainableprinceton.org/yard/](http://www.sustainableprinceton.org/yard/)**

### PROJECT PARTNERS



This publication is part of an internship project through the Rutgers Environmental Stewards program.



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