

## 6 Cover/Shelter



Various kinds of man-made or manipulated cover are used by wildlife and provide excellent recreational viewing spots for wildlife. The brushpile, which serves as a natural home for many species of wildlife, can be easily established in anyone's backyard. Although decomposition makes it

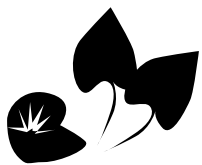
less appealing, new brush is continuously added to the pile whenever trees or shrubs are trimmed thereby maintaining its attractiveness. The dogwood trees planted near the brushpile are not only for beauty, but for their berry producing ability which attracts many types of birds.

The "living" fencerow has been erected to provide cover, but it is also aesthetically pleasing from a landscaping point of view. To create your own living fencerow, it is recommended that vegetation be allowed to grow wild within a minimum of 10' along either side of the fence to provide adequate shelter. Plant cedar trees at 50' intervals along the fence for winter cover. When the trees reach a height of 8', cut the trunk half way through and bend the tree over to create a living brushpile.

Even a small plantation of evergreens can provide excellent shelter for wildlife. Shortleaf, Virginia, and loblolly pine, species suitable to northwest Tennessee, provide warmth and an excellent wind block for those species of birds that spend the winter in this area.

Birdhouses, certainly falling into the category of "man-made", are scattered throughout the Showcase to provide additional nesting habitat for the flicker, purple martin, American kestrel, bluebird, and prothonotary warbler. The bathhouses provide daytime shelter for big and little brown bats.

## 7 Aquatic Plants



The garden located at this corner of the pond contains a mixture of aquatic species such as alligator weed, copper iris, primrose willow, swamp milkweed, arrowhead, water parsnip, and creeping burhead. Some of these plants provide food for wildlife and can serve as a host for some insects.

Many aquatic plant species tend to colonize and may overtake a small pond. It is essential to monitor their growth and use manual control if needed. Aquatic plants can be beneficial to wildlife as well as man and can be aesthetically pleasing.

## 8 Native Grasses



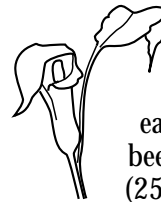
It has been estimated that pristine America contained 250 million acres of native grassland. Less than 2 percent remain today, due to agricultural expansion. This grass plot contains four varieties of grasses that were once native to northwest Tennessee. The species located

farthest to your left is little bluestem followed by switch grass, indiagrass, and finally big bluestem. These species produce rank stands that are attractive for cover and food.

## 9 Grassland Habitat

Grasslands provide shelter for small animals such as the eastern cottontail rabbit and gamebirds like the bobwhite quail and food usable by a variety of wildlife. Grazing animals, such as white-tailed deer, can consume the plants. Grasslands are most efficiently managed through controlled burning techniques or mowing which prevent the establishment of undesirable vegetation and maintain the site at an early successional stage. Mowed areas offer an open space, but are surrounded by thicker vegetation to ensure nearby shelter when needed. Species diversity is highest along these transitional zones which are known as ecotones.

## 10 Deer/Turkey Food Plot and Tennessee Wildflowers



This food plot has been planted especially for the benefit of deer and turkey. It is located in a concealed place for the comfort of the wildlife. The most probable time for viewing these magnificent animals is early in the morning and late in the evening. The area has been planted with ladino clover (3 lbs/acre) and rye grass (25 lbs/acre) at a depth of 1/4" between September 1 and November 1.

Nestled along the trail adjacent to the food plot are several shady gardens. The species (native to Tennessee) present in these small gardens require at least some protection from the sun, especially in the afternoon. They are primarily woodland wildflowers that bloom in the spring. Some of the species located in the small gardens include: bluebells, wild columbine, wild geranium, bloodroot, May apples, and jack-in-the-pulpit.

*The Backyard/Watchable Wildlife Showcase has been funded, in part, by Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, The Woodmen of the World, Sterling Plumbing Group-Kinkead Division, Roberson Brothers Sawmill, and Ford Construction Company.*



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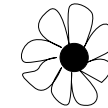


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# BACKYARD WATCHABLE WILDLIFE HABITAT SHOWCASE

*This Wildlife Showcase demonstrates recreational and educational concepts that can be incorporated into private backyards. Scattered throughout are living exhibits, numbered to coincide with this brochure, which display a variety of habitats which provide the essentials for wildlife: food, water, shelter and space.*

## 1 Sunny Upland Garden



The sunny upland garden, located at the beginning of the trail, consists of species which require or can tolerate a full day of sunlight. Some of these wildlife attractive plants can also be used for human consumption. For example, the passion flower, Tennessee's state wildflower, bears a fruit called maypop which is edible and rich in Vitamin C. The yarrow plant was once used by early Americans to make a healing soup tonic. Other plants, such as the black-eyed susan and the blazing star are present for their nectar producing ability.

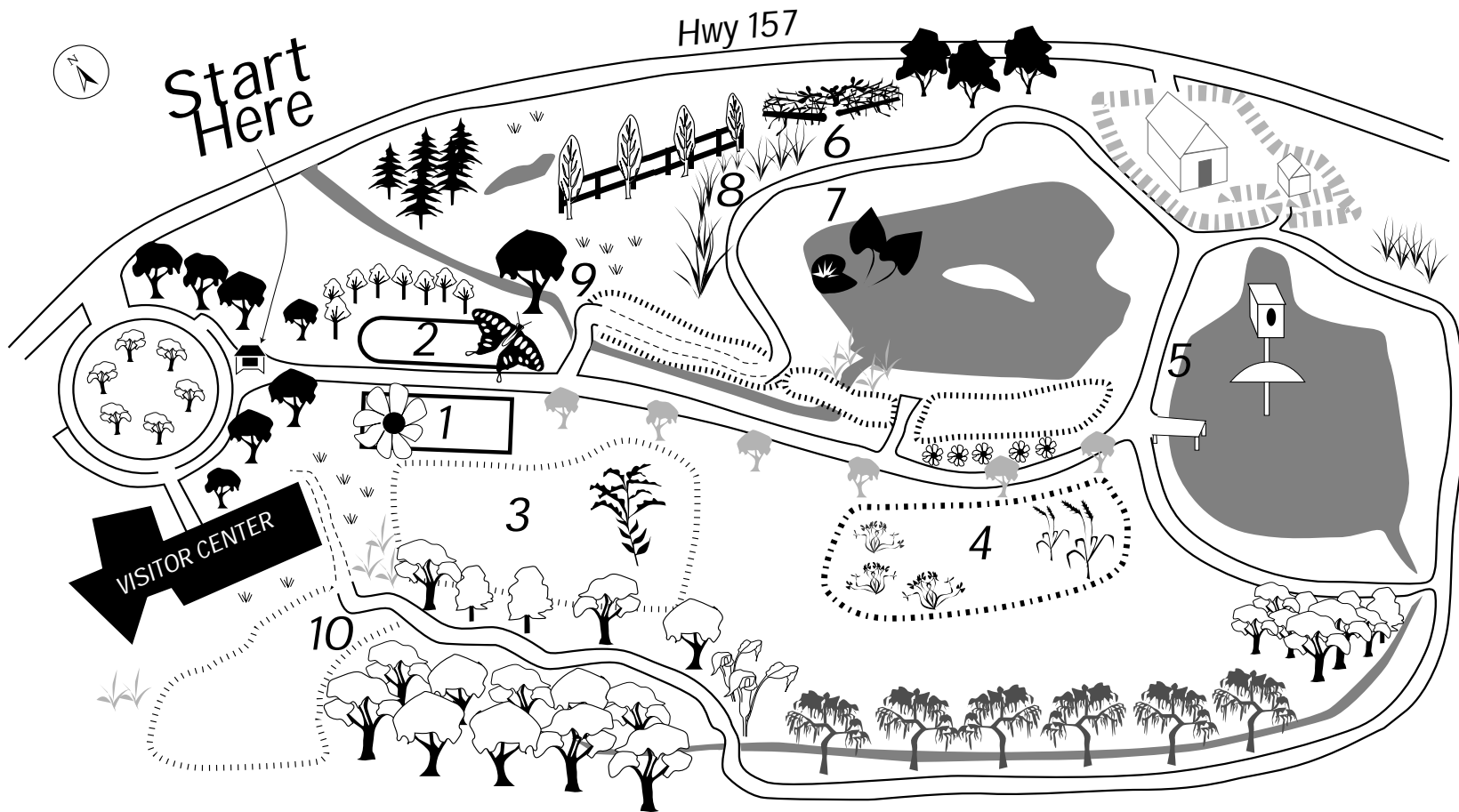
## 2 Butterfly Garden



The most successful way of attracting butterflies is by protecting, restoring, and/or managing their natural habitats. This butterfly habitat has been prepared to meet the needs of all four stages of the life cycle: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and adult.

Butterfly species such as the yellow tiger swallowtail, black swallowtail, and monarch are common here.

The large stones located in the middle of the garden are an important necessity to butterflies because they store heat throughout the day. If temperatures drop, the cold-blooded



butterflies use the stones to bask and absorb the flight-enabling heat. They fly best when their body temperatures range between 85 and 100 degrees and the surrounding air is 60 degrees or above.

Butterflies cannot drink from open water sources. They can only get water from moisture-bearing things such as soil, vegetation, or animal feces. A fiberglass bowl filled with soil has been buried on the inside of the stone "horseshoe" for this purpose. Rock salt added to the soil helps to retain moisture and supplements sodium to the butterfly diet.

The butterfly life cycle begins as the female searches for specific plants on which to lay her eggs. This garden supplies host plants such as dill, butterfly bush, spicebush, and rum cherry trees which surround the garden. The eggs soon hatch into caterpillars and they begin to voraciously eat the host plants. When the caterpillars are fully grown, they shed their skins and change into chrysalises. A

remarkable metamorphosis occurs inside the chrysalis and the adult butterfly is formed. After emergence, the adult butterflies begin to search for nectar-producing flowers such as lilac, butterfly bush, spirea, and vervain.

The oak trees adjacent to the trail and the cherry trees behind the garden provide, in addition to a wind barrier for the butterflies, large quantities of food for other species of wildlife.

### 3 Weeds for Wildlife



This area contains a volunteer stand of native weeds that can be easily established in your own backyard. A weed garden may not be an eye pleaser, but it is definitely a wildlife pleaser. The thick stand makes ideal homes for small animals such as rabbits, quail, and small rodents and provides food for many species. A variety of wildlife attractive

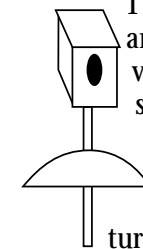
plants such as johnsongrass, pokeweed, goldenrod, asters, ragweed, partridge pea, foxtail, smartweeds, orchard grass, evening primrose, and curly dock are found here. Most of these weeds are annuals, therefore, the stand must be occasionally burned or disked to promote their growth. Kudzu, imported to this country to control soil erosion, provides an excellent cover for small animals. However, this species will quickly dominate a stand if not kept closely in check.

### 4 Food plots



This garden has been planted especially for the production of food for wildlife. It is perhaps better suited for larger-scale landowners. The plot located to the left of the marker is an annual food plot. Cultivated grain crops such as sunflowers, millet, sorghum, milo, wheat, or game food mixtures, when fully mature, produce an abundance of wildlife attractive seeds. The disadvantage of using these species is that they must be planted every year. The garden is divided by Japanese lespedeza which is also a great food producer and provides plenty of shrubby cover when mature. The plot located to the right of the marker is a perennial food plot, meaning it will return every year without reseeding. It contains a mixture of bicolor lespedeza, iron clay cowpeas, and Lee soybeans. The only maintenance needed for this plot is periodic burning.

### 5 Aquatic Habitat



The pond located at the end of the trail provides food, water, and shelter for numerous types of wildlife. Various types of vegetation such as willow, buttonbush, and pondweed supply food and, more importantly, oxygen for the wildlife species that live in or around the pond. The pond is inhabited by fish such as largemouth bass, bream, and crappie. It is also a host to reptiles such as the red-eared turtle and the broad-banded water snake. These plants and animals make up an efficient ecosystem.

Artificial structures can be beneficial to wildlife especially in areas lacking natural features. The wood duck nest box located at the northern end of the pond is an artificial structure which supplements natural cavities for nesting female wood ducks. The metal shield underneath prevents predators from entering the box and eating the eggs. Used tires attached together in a variety of shapes and submerged in the middle of the pond provide habitat for aquatic insects which, in turn, provide food for larval fish. A floating platform provides a sunny site for turtle basking.