

# What are Natural Lands?

Philadelphia's forests, waterways, and meadows make up our natural lands. The City of Philadelphia has almost 6,000 acres of natural lands spread throughout our watershed parks (Fairmount Park, Wissahickon Valley Park, Pennypack Creek Park, Tacony Creek Park, Cobbs Creek Park, Poquessing Creek Park), and other parks like FDR Park. These areas make up 60% of our city's 10,200 acres of parkland.

The Natural Lands team is a very small but dedicated group within Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and the Fairmount Park Conservancy. They work to restore and protect our natural lands by planting native species and removing non-native and invasive species.

## Get Involved!

01

To see a forest restoration project in process, head to the Fairmount Park Horticulture Center in West Fairmount Park. You'll find trails that meander through the forest and along the grounds.

02

Volunteer with the Natural Lands team by lending a hand at a cleanup on the second Saturday of every month. Volunteers help remove debris and invasive species, plant trees, and more.

[www.volunteerphillyparks.ticketleap.com](http://www.volunteerphillyparks.ticketleap.com)

03

Do you Love Your Park? Participate in Love Your Park cleanup days in May and November. Thousands of volunteers come out to clean, green, and celebrate more than 100 Philly parks each year.

[loveyourpark.org](http://loveyourpark.org)

*To learn more, visit [myphillypark.org](http://myphillypark.org).*

### NATURAL LANDS

The Natural Lands team works all throughout the city. They even have their own nursery in West Fairmount Park called Greenland Nursery. Each year, thousands of native plants and shrubs are propagated from seeds, then eventually planted all throughout Philadelphia's parks.

Natural lands have a huge impact on the city. They not only provide habitat for wildlife, but they create an opportunity for Philadelphians to escape into nature. Natural lands prevent erosion, provide us with clean water, purify the air we breathe, and help combat climate change.

### FOREST RESTORATION AT FAIRMOUNT PARK HORTICULTURE CENTER

The Natural Lands team recently **planted more than 5,000 native trees and shrubs** as part of a multi-year forest restoration project in West Fairmount Park. At the start of the project, this 30-acre forest was filled with invasive and non-native trees and plants that provided few, if any, ecological benefits to the site. The forests and Lansdowne and Montgomery creeks were also heavily degraded due to deer, erosion, and illegal dumping.

The first phase of the project involved the removal of thousands of non-native and invasive species, such as Norway Maple, Devil's Walking Stick, and invasive vines such as porcelain berry. Virtually no insects and other wildlife benefited from these species as they slowly took over the forest.

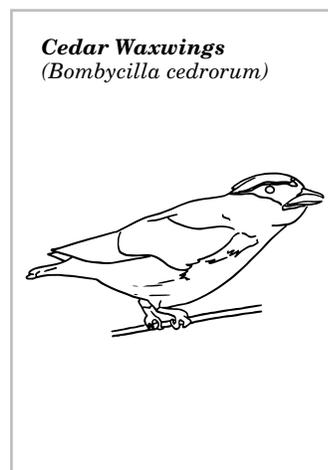
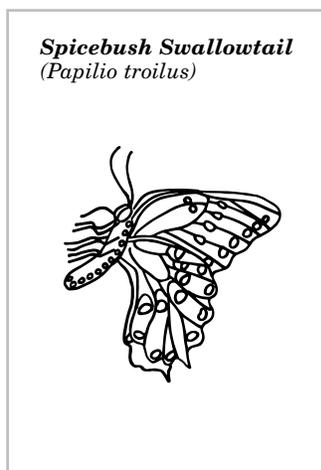
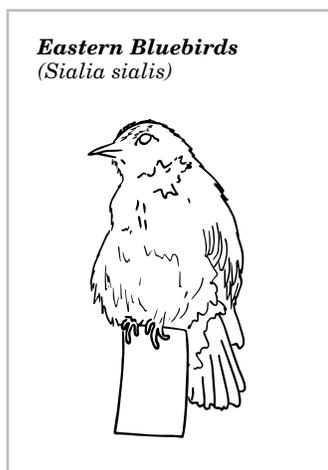
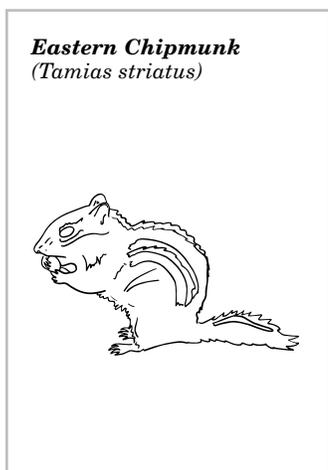
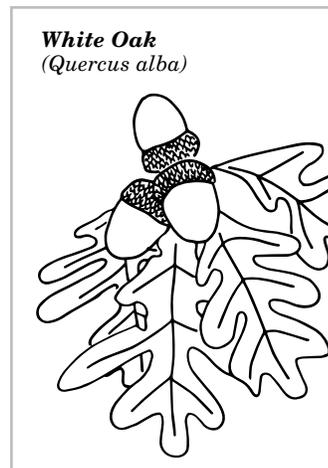
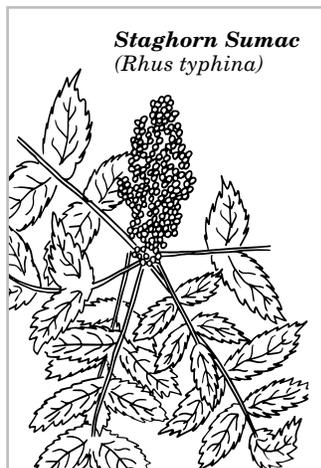
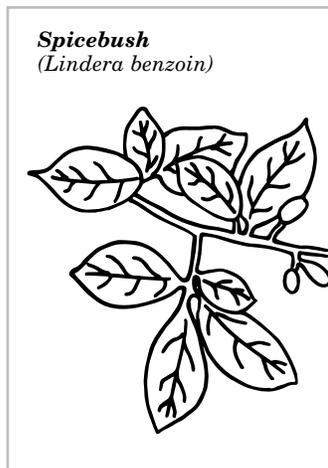
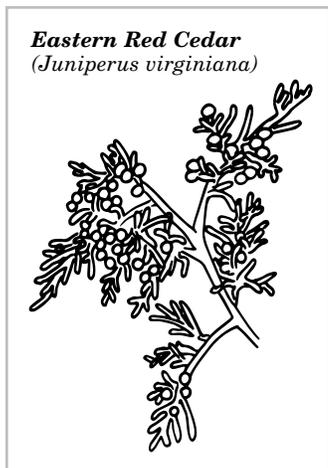
The team then planted the area with thousands of native trees and shrubs, such as oak and hickory, beech, ironwood, hornbeam, and holly, just to name a few. Not only are these species native to the area, but they're much more beneficial to insects, birds, and mammals than the non-native plants.

## Connect the Native Plant to an Animal it Supports

Did you know that native plants provide much-needed habitat to birds, mammals, and other organisms? The following native plant species can be found at the Forest Restoration site at the Fairmount Park Horticulture Center. Can you connect the native plant to the animal it supports?

### DIRECTIONS

Draw a line to connect the native plant to the bird or mammal it sustains.



**ANSWERS** 1. Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*) and Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) 2. Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) 3. Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*) 4. White Oak (*Quercus alba*) and Eastern Chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*)



Sometimes the name of the species can help you make the match.

**ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ ON PAGE 30** **Question 1:** Three! SEPTA, New Jersey Transit, and PATCO. **Question 2:** 1968. **Question 3:** The Market-Frankford line. **Question 4:** Bus. **Question 5:** 6th **Question 6:** SEPTA bus routes running 24 hours a day are called Night Owl bus routes. Night Owl bus routes are Route 6, 14, 17, 20, 23, 33, 37, 42, 47, 52, 56, 60, 66, 73, 79, 108, 109, G, and R. **Question 7:** With a SEPTA Key, one ride costs \$2. If paying in cash the fare increases to \$2.50 unless you have a weekly or monthly pass. **Question 8:** Although service on the northern half of the Broad Street Line (BSL) began in 1928, the BSL reached its current length in 1973 with the opening of Pattison Station (now NRG Station) in South Philly. **Question 9:** SEPTA currently operates 25 electric buses, with at least 10 more on the way later this year. **Question 10:** SEPTA has estimated that transit usage in Philadelphia cuts our carbon footprint one million metric tons, the equivalent of taking more than 200,000 passenger vehicles off the road in a year.