



How can we share land with other species?

- **Restore layers**
 - shrubs (in hedges, thickets, wet areas)
 - understory trees (fill gaps between large trees and open areas)
 - “matrix” plants (creeping below and around other plants)
 - canopy trees (even if we won’t live to see them mature)
- **Increase biodiversity**
 - not specimens but communities
 - replace some hardscape with plants
- **Encourage connections**
 - plant-eating insects
 - insect predators
 - perches and cover
 - overwintering sites
- **Complete the cycle**
 - soil food web
 - fungi and decomposition
 - organic matter (compost, leaves, grass clippings, dead wood)
 - remove unwanted plants without harming soil
- **Deliberately reduce our control**
 - “inside-out” design
 - more care in areas of intense use
 - self-sustaining landscapes patterned after natural communities
- **Lure people outdoors**
 - exploring and observing
 - relaxing and “pond”ering
 - playing, swimming, socializing
 - foraging and tending useful plants

Visit www.LessLawn.com for more ideas!

RESOURCES FOR DESIGNING “LESSLAWN” LANDSCAPES IN THE UPPER MIDWEST

Bardgett, Richard. *The Biology of Soil: A Community and Ecosystem Approach*

Dannenmaier, Molly. *A Child's Garden: Enchanting Outdoor Spaces for Children and Parents*

Darke, Rick. *The American Woodland Garden: Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest*

Hadden, Evelyn J. *Shrink Your Lawn: Design ideas for any landscape*

Hemenway, Toby. *Gaia's Garden: A Guide to Home-Scale Permaculture*

Henderson, Carrol. *Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality*

Hightshoe, Gary L. *Native Trees Shrubs, and Vines for Urban and Rural America: A Planting Design Manual for Environmental Designers*

Jacke, Dave with Eric Toensmeier. *Edible Forest Gardens, Vol I and II*

Lowenfels, Jeff and Wayne Lewis. *Teaming with Microbes: A Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web*

Primeau, Liz. *Front Yard Gardens: Growing More Than Grass*

Stein, Sara. *Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Back Yards and Planting Noah's Garden: Further Adventures in Backyard Ecology*

Tallamy, Douglas. *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*

Tester, John R. *Minnesota's Natural Heritage: An Ecological Perspective*

Wasowski, Sally. *Gardening with Prairie Plants: How to Create Beautiful Native Landscapes*

Annotated book lists and in-depth book reviews at www.LessLawn.com.