Wildlife live in even the most developed areas by using back yards, street trees, bridges, building ledges, utility poles, gardens and parks. From neighborhoods through downtown you can see bald eagles, great blue herons, peregrine falcons, and coyotes. At least seven species of bats thrive in Portland. You can add habitat by protecting or planting native trees, shrubs, and groundcover that provide seeds, berries and nectar for wildlife. Use several kinds of plants for flowers of different shapes and colors that bloom at different times.

Portland is home to over 300 species of fish and wildlife, and untold numbers of invertebrates. That’s an amazing amount of wildlife for an urban area, and it’s a testament to the city’s diversity of habitats and the commitment of Portland’s citizens to protect natural resources. Your actions can make a difference in protecting our wildlife and watersheds.

**urban habitat**

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**grassland habitat**

- The rarest of city habitats in Portland supports the streaked horned lark and the Western meadowlark, Oregon’s state bird. Watch for the colorful American kestrel hovering over a field hunting for its next meal. You may see deer where the grassland meets forest areas.

**forest habitat**

- Some of the city’s most beautiful and interesting birds live in Forest Park and similar habitats. Listen for the song of the varied thrush or the hammering of pileated woodpeckers. You may even see a bobcat, elk, cougar, or black bear.

- You can protect existing trees and plant new ones for your yard or street. Evergreen trees and shrubs are critical for bird survival in cold winters. Help control invasive plants that compromise diverse natural habitats.

**aquatic habitat**

- Water and nearby habitats teem with frogs, salamanders, and migratory birds in the spring, including willow flycatchers, Bullock’s orioles and Pacific chorus frogs. Look for Western painted turtles basking on logs and dragonflies darting above the water. Use natural alternatives to pesticides and fertilizers, keep dogs on a leash in natural areas and near streams and wetlands, and always scoop pet poop and throw it in the trash to control harmful bacteria and pollution.
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Help Wildlife and Watersheds

Your actions make a difference
- Remove fences, roads, impervious surfaces and other barriers to wildlife movement and access to water, food, and nesting and hiding areas.
- Build a small water feature or pond.
- Identify and control invasive plants.
- Protect or plant native trees, shrubs, and groundcover that provide seeds, berries and nectar for wildlife. Use several kinds of plants and include flowers of different shapes and colors that bloom at different times.
- Install bird nest boxes and bat boxes, nesting platforms, rock piles, and water features.
- Leave dead trees as standing snags if possible. Birds perch to hide from predators. Mammals to provide shelter, nesting habitat, and places to rear their young. Shapes and colors that bloom at different times.
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