

# THE LEVELS OF LAWN REHABILITATION

## WHY CHANGE YOUR LAWN?

Lawns are a non-native, invasive habitat that support little to no local plants or animals. In America, lawns are actually the biggest 'crop' grown, despite providing no food or resources. This is land that could be used to support local animals that are struggling to find resources. With Iowa having the highest proportion of privately held land in the United States, we need homeowners like you to help native wildlife!

### LEVEL 1: CASUAL CONSERVATIONIST

FOR THE LAWN-OWNER WHO WANTS TO DO MORE FOR THE WORLD BY DOING LESS WORK

The easiest way to make your lawn better for the environment is to leave it alone! Mowing less, not spraying pesticides or fertilizer, and not raking leaves are all beneficial to the plants, animals, and soil. Letting the ecosystem do what it is made to do is not only more natural, but also saves time and money.



### LEVEL 2: ANTI-LAWN ACTIVIST

RETHINK WHAT A LAWN MEANS TO YOU AND THE BENEFITS OF ALTERNATIVES

Get rid of the old idea that your grass lawn has to consist of only one plant, and instead have a combination of native short vegetation and flowers that reduce/eliminate mowing. These alternatives still allow the lawn to be used recreationally, but also improve soil nutrition and provide food and shelter for a wider variety of animals.



### LEVEL 3: ECOLOGY EXPERT

USE YOUR LAND TO INCREASE BIODIVERSITY FOR BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Explore different ways to add both style and function to your yard, such as planting native wildflowers or starting a garden. Additional resources, such as a water dish, a compost pile, or a "bee hotel" are also great ways to support local wildlife.

