

HABITAT MT IS LOOKING FOR INTERESTED VOLUNTEERS!!!

People who love to garden are important players in the management of our community's commitment to sustain the natural environment. On January 11, 2010, with the backing of the Manheim Township Parks and Recreation Board and the Overlook Community Foundation Board, the Manheim Township Commissioners unanimously approved the Sustainable Habitat Proposal.

Habitat MT is a new committee dedicated to enhancing the beauty of our environment by working with our community to increase native plant and animal species in the irreplaceable acres of park area in Manheim Township.



Native plants like Spiderwort provide nectar and pollen for bees, moths, and butterflies.

CALL TO ACTION: Habitat MT needs your help to plant and protect native species to create a "sense of place" for people and wildlife. Native species of oak, dogwood, chokeberry, Joe-pye weed, milkweed and black-eyed Susan feed the insects which in turn feed the birds and other living creatures. Invasive exotic plants such as multiflora rose, tree of heaven and Bradford pears outcompete and smother out regional native plants. Our mission is not only to protect and restore native plant and animal habitat, but to eliminate invasive species that offer little to no benefits to wildlife in our region.

Our first project will be at Destination Playground in the Overlook Community Campus. The native plants that have been planted there are losing the battle to invasive plants such as Canadian and bull thistle. Please join us as part of the *Great PA Cleanup* effort on **May 1** beginning at **9:00 AM** to weed out the invasive plants and to replace them with native plants. Our combined efforts will help children and adults learn how to take care of their local ecosystems. Habitat MT Team leaders will be present for guidance and to answer questions. Families are welcome to attend. Please contact Lorri Haney, Manheim Township Volunteer Coordinator, at (717) 290-7180 to register and learn more about Habitat MT.

Habitat MT is also planning sustainable habitat projects at Landis Woods, the Overlook Pool entrance - including a rain garden - and the environmental education garden at the new MT library when it opens this fall. Our goal is to have 400 volunteers to help with these projects within the next several years.

Join us in our efforts to create, sustain and maintain our local ecosystems within our community for many generations to come!!!

Many thanks,
Habitat MT



Wetlands offer habitat for wildlife like frogs and turtles.

"Let us celebrate and preserve native diversity of life in all its forms."