

BUILDING NATIVE HABITATS AT FEDERAL FACILITIES ACT



A Bicameral, Bipartisan Bill to Bolster the Federal Government's Role in Supporting Native Habitats

Background:

[Native plants](#) are crucial to food supply chains and provide habitat for [native fauna](#) and mitigate, filter, and retain [stormwater](#) that otherwise floods neighborhoods and causes polluted rivers. Additionally, native plants [do not need to be routinely](#), if at all, watered once established and come back year after year. This reduces landscaping maintenance, including fertilization and pest control, therefore cutting down on long-term costs and seasonal efforts to maintain Federal landscapes.

Currently, there are no US Government-wide statutes requiring Federal entities to incorporate native plants in their building or landscaping projects. According to the General Services Administration (GSA), NASA, Departments of Interior, Defense, State, and Veterans Administration, and GSA each have native plant standards in their property management plans.

Bill Summary:

- Mandates that Federal entities prioritize native plants, where feasible and in consideration of the positive benefits of the project, when engaging in landscaping work, excluding lawns.
- Codifies the prioritization of native plants in existing agency-specific facility design standards.
- Requests the Council on Environmental Quality produce public, informational, non-regulatory guidance every two years via a report, which will include any newfound best practices, analytic findings, and a general description of how the Federal Government is promoting native habitats.

Supporting Organizations:

The Building Native Habitats with Federal Facilities has been endorsed by the Sierra Club, Environment America, Nature Conservancy, Center for Plant Conservation, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, Pollinator Friendly Alliance, National Native Plant Month, Homegrown National Park, Native Plant Conservation Campaign, Native Plant Society of New Mexico, Colorado Native Plant Society, Arizona Native Plant Society, Native Plant Society of New Jersey, Audubon Society - New Jersey, Nature Conservancy – NJ, Ohio Native Plant Month, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Nature Conservancy – Indiana, Indiana Native Plant Society, and the Indiana Wildlife Federation.