

# 'Wildlife gardening' brochure to guide landscaping

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**Pune:** If you think that you are doing a great deal for the environment by developing a lawn on your terrace or balcony, think again.

To change the citizens' and builders' mindset that merely developing lawns is not the right way to do landscaping, Pune Tree Watch and Oikos ecological services have come up with a 'Gardening for wildlife' brochure, an informative guide for Eco-landscaping.

The brochure, named

'WildUrb', says that landscaping is not just about colouring your land green, it means making the land come alive — a living and functional unit of an ecosystem.

Speaking to TOI, Tasneem Balasinorwala of Pune Tree Watch, said that the idea behind developing this brochure was to educate citizens about the basics of eco-landscaping and why it is important, especially in urban set-ups.

"Unfortunately, natural habitats are disappearing at a very fast pace leaving behind

a ruin of seemingly green landscapes that are devoid of wildlife. These days, when people talk about landscaping, it is mostly about a bit of green here and there. The basis of eco-landscaping really is naturalness or wilderness," Balasinorwala said.

The brochure states the benefits of eco-landscaping come in the form of lower temperature, improved soil condition, providing nourishment and making homes for our visiting fauna. It states that planting a variety of indigenous plants and

hedges is the best way to attract birds and bees.

"A list of plant species have been given in the brochure, so that people know which plant will attract fauna. We have forgotten basic concepts like pollination, which are vital for our survival and eco-systems. A decline in pollination can have devastating results," Balasinorwala said.

She pointed out that people have a lot of misconceptions about what kind of trees to plant, they think trees create a lot of mess, but this is ac-

tually good for the eco-system.

The brochure also gives tips to people who live in apartments about how they can develop a small balcony which will attract small birds, like sparrows.

"We will be talking to builders to convince them that these concepts should be implemented at sites where they leave open spaces. By scaling up operation, a lot can be done in societies. We will also approach schools to educate students about these concepts," Balasinorwala said.