

Nature Index

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Among the benefits of having birds as part of the environment include increased wildlife populations, soil conservation, natural beauty enhancement, bird-watching activity promotion, natural insect control, contributing in the food production and most importantly, property value increase. The basic considerations when designing the outdoor environment to attract birds includes sufficient food, water, shelter, diversity in the plants, the arrangement of the spaces and, provide protection from predators. The basic design principles may be applied when creating good bird habitat: 1- having structural vegetation 2- species diversity to encourage habitat for birds 3-the use of long grasses in certain areas to attract the birds to come to open spaces like parks 4-creating natural succession such as in the plantings' height will attract different species of birds to live in the different sections of the succession 5- placing trees in a close spacing and thus create tree clumps in order to minimize the traveling time of the birds from a tree to another for resources 6-the space should be vast in nature 7- the open area should be planned with physical continuity such as walkways to provide spaces for birds to move 8- the inclusion of water such as ponds, streams or canals in the design will create habitat and food resources for the birds. These design principles serve as a 'Nature Index' which may give an indication of an area rich with natural characteristics and thus, increasing the property value to potential buyers.

