

FIREFLY CONSERVATION



A HOME IS WHERE WE LIVE

Fireflies live here:

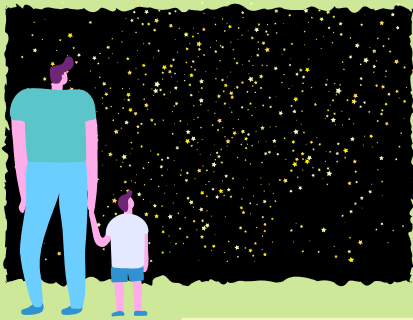


People live under a roof inside walls:



Our homes overlap & we live **together.**





Humans have been enchanted by
Fireflies for centuries.




Humans and fireflies thrive in safe, stable homes, yet we find that comfort and security in different ways.

What we call home

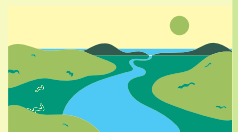


Humans need  **light** to see at night   

 ...but fireflies require **darkness** to communicate with their light signals.



While we rely on building **roads**, fireflies use **natural spaces** to get around.



We like tending and treating our **lawns** but fireflies prefer **long grass.**



START BY HELPING FIREFLIES IN YOUR YARD!



As our cities grow, we must make our **shared home** a place fireflies are be happy and healthy, too.



Avoid pesticides!

They make fireflies sick.

Make a rain garden!

This creates a moist environment for fireflies and filters stormwater.

Leave leaf litter & let the edge of your lawn grow long!

Mowing in highly trafficked areas is unavoidable; we don't want ticks, rodents, and insects to get too close to human homes, but letting low-use areas grow creates space for fireflies.

Turn off outdoor lights when not in use.

This helps fireflies find their mates more easily.



Plant native trees, flowers, and grasses for fireflies and their pollinator friends.

This can block out light pollution too!



Fireflies need our help.

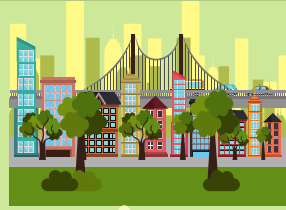


Our home is not being shared in a way that provides *both* humans and fireflies with comfort and security.

Fireflies are disappearing around the world.



Too much light at night, buildings, roads & pollution have caused fireflies to **lose their homes.**



We have time to act!

But they're not gone yet.



- **Walk or bike** when possible to reduce the effects of climate change



Keep outdoor areas **clean** by disposing of waste in trash, recycling, or compost

Tell others how they can help fireflies too!



Choose **energy-efficient, used, and/or reusable** options over plastic



Increase **green spaces** in your community by creating public gardens, planting trees, supporting local policy that helps the environment!

References

Mass Audubon Education Program. (25 May 2021) "Decoding Fireflies." Online Presentation.

Faust, L. F. (2017). Fireflies, glow-worms, and lightning bugs: identification and natural history of the fireflies of the eastern and central United States and Canada. University of Georgia Press.



Resources

Rain Garden

"How to Build a Rain Garden" by Jeanne Huber, "This Old House"

"Rain Garden Brochure" by Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Management Program

Native Plants

Georgia Native Plant Society (Information on the native plants of Georgia)

"Milkweed Information" by State Botanical Garden of Georgia

"Native Plants for Georgia" by UGA Cooperative Extension

"Native Plant Search Engine" by Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

"Captivating Containers with Native Plants" by Leigh Pickering, Audubon at Home Program

"Recommended Native Plant Nursery List" by State Botanical Garden of Georgia

Pest Control

"Alternative Pesticide Management for the Lawn and Garden" by Colorado State University Extension