Creating a resilient ecosystem around your home doesn't have to mean sacrificing beauty or function. The beauty of Iowa's prairies can live right in your backyard with plenty of added benefits (including your wallet)!

With a changing climate, our communities are experiencing increased precipitation and runoff, changing growing seasons, more invasives, pests, and diseases. Take action now to protect Iowa's plant and animal communities for future generations.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

**START WITH...**

**INCORPORATING NATIVES**
As critical habitat disappears for native wildlife, a variety of native plants provides a source of food and shelter for pollinators, birds, and insects all year long.

**REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINT**
A native garden requires far less maintenance and use of power tools than a manicured lawn. The deep roots of native plants also sequester more carbon.

**REDUCE WATER USE**
Native flowers, grasses, and shrubs are adapted to Iowa climate and can withstand droughts and extreme heat. No frequent watering necessary!

**REDUCE/AVOID SPRAYING**
Native plants are tolerant/resistant against pests frequently found on non-native plants. By avoiding toxic chemicals, water and wildlife will suffer less contamination.

Check out the resources and planting guides on our website for more information on getting started.

BurOakLandTrust.org/Resources