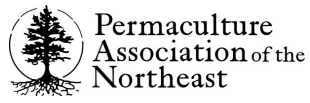


# Unlawful Action Toolkit

Version 2



# This toolkit is under construction

We are working hard to complete this document in stages from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023.

[Donate to PAN](#) to support the Unlawful Campaign and the development of this toolkit.

[Apply to volunteer](#) with the Unlawful team and you could help us to write this toolkit!

[Please fill out this Google Form with your comments and suggestions.](#)

# Welcome To Unlawnful!

The PAN team is excited to announce the Unlawnful Action Toolkit as a major milestone of the Unlawnful Project. Unlawnful is a campaign to inspire people to reimagine what their yards can be, how they can be used, and bring them into alignment with ecological, spiritual, and community-building goals. Through a webinar series, online resources, and on-the-ground work days, we are supporting people across the Northeast Region to rethink their relationship with lawns. This campaign is part of a multi-year journey honoring our ethical commitment to people and the planet through decolonizing and uncolonizing the practice of permaculture.

We are also excited to share that we are partnering with the [Resilience Hub](#) (RH) and [ORGO](#) in order to build an inspirational online resource that includes in-person demonstrations for people who want to start down this path. In this toolkit, we will share some examples of what people are doing with their yards, discuss why lawns are a historical footprint of colonization, and what rewilding our yards can look like.

Join us in Unlawning. We are leading by example to restore the land and restore justice at the same time. If you are interested in learning more about the Unlawnful campaign or volunteering with the team, please visit our website at [www.northeastpermaculture.org/Unlawnful](http://www.northeastpermaculture.org/Unlawnful)

Thank you for your passion and commitment to making the world a better place!

Joe Nisbett  
PAN Board Treasurer

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# Introduction

## How to Use This Toolkit

The purpose of this Toolkit is to help PAN and Unlawful participants translate theory into action. This Toolkit is for anyone who wants to take part in the Unlawful campaign: those who want to learn more about lawns, those who want to change their own lawns, and those who want to help others become Unlawful citizens in their communities. .

The Toolkit is organized into three main sections: 1) the theory behind our campaign is outlined in this introduction; 2) how to apply this theory in the following 3 parts – Hosting and Planning an Unlawful Work Day, Other Ways to Participate, and Coalition Building; and 3) resources for further reading on the topics of lawn maintenance, rewilding, and ecological restoration.

The Toolkit includes design and planning support for communities to host their own Unlawful projects. There's even information about grants, PAN's fiscal sponsorship program, work day coordination tutorials, and links to external books and articles that we've found helpful.

## Overview of PAN's Unlawful Campaign

The Unlawful campaign will evolve seasonally from summer 2022 to winter 2023: Summer and fall 2022 we started developing an app to track participation, as well as this toolkit. We created a [Map of Unlawful People, Partners, and Projects](#) which shows Unlawning hosts, volunteers, and sites. Through the winter and into the spring, we are hosting online and in-person workshops focused on teaching participants how to use these tools. In the spring and summer of 2023, our app and [Facebook page](#) will feature Unlawning work days and installations led by community members who are also practicing these techniques.

### Why Unlawful?

The number one goal of this project is to inspire environmental and cultural change. We are making a change in peoples' minds and hearts about the aesthetic, cultural, and environmental value of lawns as a symbol of oppression. For Unlawning to be successful we must remove the stigma around ecologically active space and "overgrown" lawns.

In the seventeenth century, lawns rose in importance as a social signal of affluence and wealth in England. Today they are a dominant feature of ongoing settler-colonialism, exemplifying the desire for control, domination over others, and conformity. Lawns cover 60 million acres in the United States alone.

Consistent with wider patterns of colonial violence, maintaining lawns harms the earth through excessive use of water, fertilizer, and pesticides. But a better way is possible! Using rainwater

harvesting systems, planting native species, and other permaculture practices, people can maintain their yards without tearing up ecosystems and depleting fossil fuels.

## **Rough Timeline of Activities**

### Summer 2022

- PAN launches first webinar "Why Unlawful."
- PAN enlists Resilience Hub and ORGO to host an Unlawning demonstration and work day at a site in 2023, as well as a mobile phone application that would give citizens the ability to document their own lawn replacements
- Initial outreach to BIPOC community leaders, initial call for volunteers
- The Map of Unlawful is published, which lists the offers and needs available in your area

### Fall 2022

- Version 1 of the Unlawful Action Toolkit
- Continued outreach to invite partners and volunteers to the campaign

### Winter 2022

- Outreach to community partners and other organizations
- Targeted outreach to marginalized communities, including a survey and focus group
- "How To" webinar by PAN
- Version 2 of the Unlawful Action Toolkit to include best practices from "How To" webinar

### Spring 2023

- Online information session hosted by PAN for organizers of community-led Unlawnings
- Unlawning demonstration and work day hosted by Resilience Hub in Greater Portland area
- Version 3 of the Unlawful Action Toolkit to include best practices from the demonstration day

### Summer 2023

- Organizers plan and coordinate work parties for community-led Unlawful installations
- Ongoing site maintenance and tracking of Resilience Hub demonstration site

### Fall 2023

- Unlawful Awards submissions open to community-led Unlawnings
- Disbursement of Unlawful Awards funds
- Webinars hosted by PAN featuring guest teachers from marginalized communities and Unlawful Award winners
- Version 4 of the Unlawful Action Toolkit to include best practices and case studies from community-led installations as well as feedback from marginalized communities

## FAQ

### **Where and how much lawn space do I need to convert to be Unlawful?**

You can do any section, big or small, of the lawn to which you have legal access or permission. Backyard, front yard, side yard, neighbor's yard, community center, courtyard, along a roadside—wherever you can convert lawn, do it!

### **Is it actually unlawful?**

It is not illegal or *unlawful*. But it is certainly *Unlawful* and against colonially established norms. Many government organizations are actually supporting conservation and gardening efforts like this. Some areas have bylaws around management and care of yards, so it is helpful to put up signage, like an Unlawful sign or a Pollinator Pathways/Garden sign, so people know you are not neglecting your space should you choose a more wild Unlawning option. Sharing your design and plans with your neighbors or better yet—including them in the process—is another way to ensure your Unlawning project is celebrated.

### **How much does this cost?**

This depends on the scale of your Unlawning, what you can find through thrifting and donation, and the free resources available in your area. In the [Hosting and Planning an Unlawful Project](#) section of this Toolkit, we've outlined the types of items to budget for as you create your plan.

### **Can I do this without gardening experience, a “green thumb”, or a deeper knowledge of permaculture?**

You can absolutely participate without experience! Some Unlawning work days will offer training and direction and PAN is offering webinars as part of the campaign. If you want to host an Unlawning, check out this Toolkit and the list of resources in the final section; there is plenty of information online, in libraries, and likely in your community. As another tool to connect you to your community, PAN created a [Map of Unlawful People, Partners, and Projects](#) which shows Unlawning hosts, volunteers, and sites. Every permaculturist and master gardener started without knowing much either. You can expect a trial-and-error process in a new space and you'll learn as you go. Take your time. Observe before you act—take slow small steps and you should have lots of fun. Fortunately, there is a large community of people, plants, animals, fungi, and insects here to support you!

### **What is the long-term maintenance work of having a garden vs. a lawn?**

Many Unlawning options are far less work than watering, fertilizing, and mowing a lawn. The time/work depends on the design you choose, the size, and the scale. In the [Design Approaches](#) section of this Toolkit, we talk about the maintenance requirements of different options, so you may choose the type of unawned space that works best for you

### **What is the timeline? Do I need to have a garden ready by spring 2023?**

While PAN's Unlawful campaign starts in summer of 2022, different projects will be on differing timelines. The idea is to create your Unlawful design this fall/winter and host work days and physical installations in the spring and summer of 2023.



## **How formal is the process? Do I need to throw an “event” or can it be as simple as a few friends and I getting together to unlawn?**

There is no requirement here. You do not even have to be a PAN member to host. Unlawning can be a big project involving many community groups or a handful of folks coming together when they have the time. The overall goal of the campaign is to inspire people to reimagine what their yards can be, how they can be used, and bring them into alignment with ecological, spiritual and community-building goals. Then double the fun by sharing our projects online!

## **Themes**

### **Permaculture Principles and Ethics**

PAN and our partners are guided in our work by the Permaculture Principles and Ethics; see the “Resources” section of this Toolkit for an overview.

### **Nature-Based Education**

We believe that nature-based education is vital to the health of future generations and the environment. Our campaign will provide opportunities for people to learn about ecology, permaculture, and other related subjects through hands-on activities.

### **Intersectionality and Oppression, Equity and Inclusion**

The systems of colonial power that exploit and destroy ecosystems are the same systems that oppress and do violence to BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color), low-income, non-heteronormative, and other marginalized communities. Access to food, medicine, and safety are important to everyone.

We understand that ecological restoration is a broad term and can encompass many different types of practices and philosophies. In the spirit of equity and inclusion, we aim to create a campaign that is accessible to people across the socioeconomic spectrum. Therefore, we are committed to providing resources for those whose access has been limited by their income or other factors of privilege.

Lawns have an inherently colonial, oppressive nature, and we find it imperative to focus a significant portion of our effort to center, involve, and uplift marginalized groups through our campaign. We are also specifically targeting BIPOC communities with our Unlawful Awards program to offer direct financial inclusion to those historically underrepresented in the permaculture community.

### **Leadership Development**

We are committed to providing leadership development opportunities for those who wish to become more involved in the campaign. We will provide opportunities to learn about ecological

restoration and the political landscape surrounding it, as well as opportunities for hands-on experience with gardening and community engagement.

## About PAN

The Northeast permaculture network is a decentralized body of people—farmers, teachers, designers, organizers, authors, researchers, extension agents, and other permaculture enthusiasts—who are working in diverse ways toward advancing a new cultural paradigm grounded in permaculture design principles and ethics. We apply and integrate permaculture-aligned skills and principles at home, in our communities, towns, cities, businesses, livelihoods, and relationships.

PAN exists to support the people in the Northeast permaculture network. Since January 2005, permaculture activists throughout the Northeast have been meeting and actively creating a network to support and advance permaculture solutions among the wider public in our region. We seek: to identify existing resources and create beneficial relationships among them; to envision and design ways to share experiences, information, and resources; to identify and meet each other's needs.

### **PAN's Mission and Values**

Our Mission is to increase the resilience of the Northeast region by strengthening the regional permaculture network and increasing access to relevant education and resources.

Our work is informed and guided by the following Values:

- Permaculture ethics of earth care, people care, and fair share
- Transparency
- Humility
- Being of service to the greater regional permaculture community
- Reflecting the needs/issues/opportunities of the network
- Supporting decentralization, local autonomy, and self-organizing across the network
- Encouraging symbiosis, cooperation, and collaboration
- Valuing ecological patterns of organization
- Commitment to social justice and liberation

### **PAN's Unlawful Partners**

PAN is partnering with the Resilience Hub and ORGO on the Unlawful project.

[Resilience Hub](#) (RH) has a wealth of knowledge and experience with mutual-aid practices including “permablitz” work days to carry out landscape restoration projects. RH brings in-person coordination, access to land and facilities, and a ready community of volunteers to launch the first official Unlawning in our campaign.

[ORGO](#) is a new startup with experience creating technological approaches to environmental restoration. ORGO brings citizen science and evidence-based data verification to the project, enabling a network of community-led Unlawnings to establish itself and grow around a common purpose.

# Hosting and Planning an Unlawful Project

One way to get involved in this campaign is to host or attend an Unlawning project. We encourage you to join with your neighbors and friends so that the planning and long term maintenance remains a light hearted affair.

If you'd like help overseeing and planning your Unlawning project, your first step could be to find a co-leader or group. A project of this nature can grow and become a large undertaking, so we encourage you to build relationships in your community. You can reach out to your personal networks, local gardening or permaculture groups, community groups, Facebook pages, the [PAN Facebook page](#), the [PAN directory](#), and the [Map of Unlawful People, Partners, and Projects](#) to find folks in your area to collaborate with!

From there, you can establish your goals and objectives, find your Unlawning site, and start dreaming of possibilities! We've broken the design process into sections below, including extra resources at the end of this Toolkit to help you on your way. Depending on your Unlawful project, you may wish to skip forward and backward through the sections.

## Establishing Your Goals and Objectives

By joining us, you are working towards the goal of the Unlawful campaign: to inspire environmental and cultural change. However, you will also have your own goals and objectives that will shape your design process, with whom, and where you work, so establishing them is a great place to start.

Start thinking about "yields". In permaculture, yields are tangible and intangible. Yields are not only physical crops from fields or a visible transformation of lawn to garden. They are the feeling of sun on your skin from a day outside, the hundreds of flowers that are blooming and supporting the insects, the soil you are building with perennial plants, the connection developed between community members, the skills that you learn, and/or an overall sense of well-being from participation. All yields are important and valuable to include and acknowledge in your project.

A goal is an achievable outcome that is generally broad and longer term while an objective is shorter term and defines measurable actions to achieve an overall goal. As ever, these will grow and change as your Unlawful project naturally grows and changes throughout your planning and implementation.

Consider the following questions with your community or co-leads when creating goals and objectives:

- What do you hope to create or achieve through your Unlawning?
- What is your purpose in starting this project?

- Who is this project for? Who is committed to helping?
- What do you envision? What do you hope the space will look and feel like?
- How much or little work do you want to do (at the beginning of installation and ongoing maintenance)?
- What resources do you have available? How do your goals match up with your resources?

## Land Access

Land ownership and access can be challenging and accentuate the imbalances of privilege in the colonial system. This can be a significant challenge to any ecological restoration project. You may have land to share or you may be seeking access. Whatever the case may be, we believe that cultivating healthy relationships and building community are as important a part of restoring social justice as restoring land.

There are some opportunities for public land access, such as easements and open space agreements, but these take time to organize and obtain.

If you are looking for land to organize an Unlawning project, here are some ideas:

- Check PAN's Facebook group and [Map of Unlawful People, Partners, and Projects](#) for communities that offer access to land
- Ask local government agencies if they have any land available or under their jurisdiction that would be suitable for an ecological restoration project
- Check with local conservation groups, wildlife agencies, community centers, schools, and churches to see if they have any land that could be used for restoration
- Explore the possibility of working with a private landowner who might be interested in supporting your project by donating or providing access to their land

## Designing an Unlawful site

There are many ways to be Unlawful, and PAN doesn't believe in one "best" way to do it. As with other permaculture processes, the design and vision will be unique and specific to your project. Here we outline some Unlawning practices that we find useful.

If you need more direction, we encourage you to check out our Unlawning webinars and use the [Map of Unlawful People, Partners, and Projects](#) to connect with others in your area who offer design services.

## Design Approaches

Here is a broad view of four approaches to a landscape that do not center lawns. This list is not exhaustive and you don't have to pick just one; your design could include a blend of approaches.

Factors to consider include:

- hardiness zone – what will grow here?
- soil quality – a soil test for ph and micronutrients will help identify what will grow here.
- sunlight - where and how much sun do you get throughout the year?
- Water - general wetness of area, drainage, as well as what resources you have to water it?
- cost – what is your budget?
- maintenance - what amount of time and resources do you have for long term maintenance?
- native ecology – what plants already exist here that you could work with?
- “pests” - what local animals and bugs may you have to contend with?

Food forest: This is a complex, long-term design approach that involves selecting plants to fill each of the seven layers in a mature forest ecosystem: tall tree canopy, small tree, shrub, herbaceous perennial, ground cover, vine, and root layers. Installing a forest garden in your yard creates an abundance of yields for human and non-human communities and will continue providing abundance for generations to come.

*E.g. A row of chestnuts growing with apples and pears interspersed, with berry bushes and medicinal herbs clustered among the trees, grape vines trailing from the lowest branches, and sunchokes planted on the northwestern edge.*

Vegetable and perennial garden: Think of this as the “food forest lite” option, the no-trees version; this garden is designed with lower-intensity installation and maintenance in mind. Perennials provide different ecological niches and familiar annual vegetables diversify yields. Many of the elements of a food forest can be used, but rather than focusing on filling all seven layers and creating a living forest ecosystem, plants can be arranged in beneficial guilds depending on your needs and design goals.

*E.g. Blueberries are planted along the front of the southern side of the yard, with a small kitchen garden filled with culinary herbs and vegetables bordered by perennial kales and wildflowers.*

Native meadow and perennial garden: Instead of focusing on providing food for human communities, a native meadow garden typically includes a diversity of flowers and native perennials that tend to the needs of non-human communities. Many native plants have been displaced by non-native grass lawns and, if given the space to return, a flourishing of wildlife diversity can be expected. Lower maintenance than lawns or annual vegetables, a native meadow garden will generate ecological health and climate resiliency while providing incredible beauty and wildlife habitat.

*E.g. The strip between the sidewalk and the street is Unlawned and replanted with a seed mix of anise hyssop, yarrow, and native milkweed. Monarch butterflies come from miles around to drink the nectar.*

E.g. One simple but effective practice is to plant a “clover lawn”. This is a simple application of a meadow-style approach which utilizes the permaculture principle “least change, greatest effect”. White clover (*trifolium repens*) can be planted in place of grass with significant benefit to local pollinators while changing very little in terms of appearance and upkeep. Needing less mowing and irrigation than grass, clover is a more sustainable green ground cover. Additionally, clover is a plant that naturally adds fertility to the soil through a process called ‘nitrogen fixing’. This means the plant increases soil nitrogen through biological means, eliminating a major chemical input need. While still a monoculture, and not as hardy to foot traffic as turf, this is a simple, approachable way to make an impact in your yard.

Xeriscaping: Specifically designed to reduce water inputs, a xeriscaped lawn centers on native plants which can survive and thrive with little to no irrigation. Popularized in the Western United States, xeriscapes typically feature more succulents and drought-tolerant plants.

*E.g. Native, drought-tolerant perennials like wild geranium, foamflower, and lowbush blueberry are installed to replace the chemical and water-intensive lawn.*

*Check out our Resources section near the end of the Toolkit for further reference material.*

## **Sod Removal and Soil Building**

There are a few ways to remove grass. You may want to start this step early in the day or plan multiple work days, as this could take some time depending on the approach and size of the project. Consider these factors to select a method:

- How many people will be helping?
- What kind of tools are accessible?
- How large is the area?
- What is the project’s timeline?

Here are some common methods (again, not exhaustive) from slowest to fastest:

Solarization: One low-labor input method for removing grass is called solarization, or put simply: cover it! By covering the grass with a plastic tarp and trapping as much solar heat as possible, high temperatures will eventually kill most everything under the tarp. Clear plastic works best with adequate sunlight, black plastic is useful in some conditions. Remember to weigh the tarp down with something heavy or bury it along the edges so it doesn’t blow away.

*Benefits*: Low effort, effective.

*Disadvantages*: Very slow, no ability to be selective, takes weeks to a month, or more, to get full effects.

Removal by hand: This is a very labor-intensive process, but many hands make light work. Sod can be cut with shovels, hoes, or mattocks and removed by hand in wheelbarrows. Using a broadfork to aerate and loosen the soil and roots makes for lighter work. Roots should be thoroughly shaken to leave behind as much soil as possible. Once the sod is removed it is recommended to apply a layer of compost, roughly ½-inch thick, to replace fertility lost from the topsoil.

*Benefits:* Faster than solarization, able to selectively keep beneficial plants.

*Disadvantages:* Labor-intensive, topsoil loss.

Sheet Mulching: This method is a trusty go-to in a permaculturist's toolbox. Cardboard, compost, and mulch are placed in consecutive layers on top of the project area to smother the grass. Sometimes called the 'lasagna' method, the layers can be repeated to increase weed suppression and soil depth. This is left in place and, as the materials decompose, the result is a rich, thick topsoil. Note that mulch doesn't have to be a store-bought product: It can be as simple as dried leaves, straw, wood chips, pine needles, or other organic materials that will suppress weeds and break down to contribute to the soil.

*Benefits:* Faster than solarization or hand removal, builds soil quickly, and reuses waste (cardboard).

*Disadvantages:* More materials needed, can be less effective if layers aren't thick enough to suffocate grasses, tape or staples from cardboard can end up in soil if not meticulously removed.

Removal by machine: As a last resort, if a project is happening at a scale that makes other methods impractical with the accessible tools and labor available, machines can be used to drastically increase the speed of this step. This will likely increase the budget of the project significantly, but consider asking a local farmer or homesteader if they might be willing to share machinery for a neighbor's discount. There is a range of options from small walk-behind rototillers or sod removers to larger-scale tractors or skid-steers. Often, machinery can be rented from local businesses and delivered for a day's work. If this approach is chosen, be sure to include a skilled machine operator in your work day to operate tools safely.

*Benefits:* Very fast. (A tractor or a rototiller can prepare a large area of grass for planting in a matter of hours.)

*Disadvantages:* Burns fossil fuels, can be very expensive, tough on soil, loud, and potentially dangerous during the work day.

## **Plant Selection**

Since this campaign spans the Northeastern region, plant selection will vary based on location and site-specific conditions. This part of the design process can be informed by a skilled local designer (check our [Map of Unlawful People, Partners, and Projects](#) to connect with one in



your area) or undertaken by a home gardener as a research and learning process. Another way to approach plant selection is to ask for help from local nurseries and garden centers; some are staffed by knowledgeable people who can help select plants for your project. Be sure to check your plants or ask about disease and potential pesticides before you purchase them.

Factors to consider include:

- plant sourcing – where will I get the seeds or plants?
- hardiness zone – how will they grow in my climate?
- site conditions – how will they grow on my site?
- soil quality – how will they grow in this soil?
- visual appeal – how will they look together?
- yields – what will they provide for my needs?
- cost – how will they affect the budget?
- native ecology – how will they fit into the ecosystem around them?

Overall, think “Right plant, right place”: match your plants to the environment/climate reduces needs for fertilizers and maintenance. And plan for the long term; plant perennials and allow self-seeding plants space to grow and flourish in the years to come. Wherever possible, mulch around your plants – mulch is a material such as decaying leaves, bark, paper, or cardboard spread over the soil. This can enrich your soil, protect microorganisms, protects your soil from erosion, holds in water, and saves you weeding.

*Check out our Resources section near the end of the Toolkit for further reference material.*

## Tools

The tool requirement will vary based on the scale of the project and the chosen design approaches. For a small-scale vegetable garden or meadow flowerbed, count on using a good digging shovel and a few hand trowels. If you’re installing a large-scale food forest, you may be thinking about renting some heavy machinery. There’s a wide range in between. Here are a few of the most common tools you may need.

- Long Handle Tools: Shovel, rake, broadfork, scythe, hoe, ax, mattock,
- Short Handle Tools: Trowel, pruners, Loppers, machete
- Light Machinery: Rototiller, Sod cutter, wood chipper
- Heavy Machinery: Skid steer, tractor, truck

## Materials and Thrifting

As with all aspects of a permaculture project, the materials needed will vary greatly depending on scale and goals. But thriftiness fulfills two of our permaculture design principles: *use and value renewable resources and services, and produce no waste*. In our experience, you also get to meet quite interesting characters along the way. Many folks will be happy to support your

project. And once you start thrifting... you will always have one eye out for materials in your day-to-day life!

Some of the materials you may be able to obtain through waste channels, others can be reused or repurposed materials. Consider making a materials list well in advance and brainstorming which materials can be acquired through thrifty channels before making a budget. This can significantly reduce the costs of an installation. We suggest looking on local garden pages (Facebook, etc.) for materials and tools, and posting asks for things you need!

Converting lawns is becoming more popular, so look for charities, not-for-profits, and even municipal governments that are giving away or subsidizing plants, starts and seeds, tools, materials, and other resources!

Some essential materials and thrifting options:

Wood/Structural materials for your design: Look at local buy/sell/giveaway groups. People often have leftover wood, stones, rebar, chicken wire, etc. from construction projects (decks usually have wood to spare). For structures for your climbing plants, consider using fallen logs or tree branches. Cut up rags make great ties to secure climbing plants. Scrap wood or cut up plastic food containers make great plant labels and markers. Old hoses with holes in them can be great for irrigation! Old barrels and cubes of any kind can be used for rain catchment!

Compost: Some places will drop off compost for free or a fee (in which case splitting on the delivery fee with neighbors who also want it might be helpful!) Others may require you to pick it up. We've seen people use recycle and garbage bins to load up wood chips, borrow someone's truck, and all kinds of creative ways to move it on their own!

- Manure - This is great because it is high in nitrogen. But you will want to make sure it is "aged". "Aged" means it has sat for at least six months to decompose in a pile. Fresh manure (with the exception of alpaca) when added to a garden with plants can actually burn the plants because it is so acidic. Farmers with free or cheap animal manure may post on Social media, kijiji or craig's list. Contact horse stables, alpaca/chicken/rabbit farms, large scale farms and hobby farms to see if they have any for you.
- Mushroom compost - Contact local mushroom farms for their compost, often free!
- Leaf/Garden Waste - Check around to see if your municipal centers have free compost! Oftentimes city-owned and private landscaping companies drop off their waste to recycle centers to be composted.

Mulch and Organic Materials for Building Soil: When using organic materials, look for pesticide-free and be mindful of your soil needs when using acidic materials like coniferous tree (pine, spruce, fir) needles. When using cardboard, try to get it without a lot of ink/printing on it and remove tape and staples.

- Leaf mulch - You can use leaves from your own lawn, ask your neighbors and friends to save theirs, make an online ask, or go around the neighborhood when everyone puts out their leaf recycling. Municipal drop-off centers are another option.
- Wood Chips - Contact local arborists (tree trimmers) and see if they will give you their wood chips. Some will drop them off to you! Be sure to avoid chips from chemically-treated lumber.
- Cardboard - Electronics and furniture stores are the best options as they have large boxes that will cover greater areas with less work for you! Any local grocery store should have extra cardboard boxes - the produce department is a good place to ask! Liquor and beer stores are another source.
- Straw - Preferable to hay, which is often more full of seed. After Halloween, harvest and thanksgiving feasts, or rural community events, many decorative straw bales go to waste! Put up posts around this time asking people to save them for you or scour the neighborhoods for folks leaving them outside for waste disposal.
- Tarps & Plastics - Ask garden centers, construction stores, camp stores or even friends for old tarps with holes in them that they aren't using! Look in your area for old tarps from Billboards (yes, billboards!) that can be reused.

*Check out our Resources section near the end of the Toolkit for further reference material.*

## **Creating a Budget**

Once you've created a list of materials you need and looked into ways to thrift and acquire them, you can create a budget for the project. Include everything you'll need from design to installation to maintenance stages of the project. Remember to consider tools and tool rentals, material deliveries, any promotional materials or signage, resources for work day volunteers, and ongoing care of the Unlawnful site. Another item to consider to improve accessibility is compensation for volunteers. (You might also skip ahead to the [How to Plan and Run an Unlawnful Work Day](#) section to get more ideas on what you may have to acquire.)

Before plowing forward, take a step back and think about the resources available to you, including people, materials, and finances. Do your plans match up with your resources? If you're biting off more than you can chew right now, try to follow the principle of "start small and slow". Could your project be simplified, or do you need more support to get started? You might ask for donations of materials, labor, or money from the community, and even explore collaborations with existing groups/organizations in your community. Or, if you're serious about a project that requires more resources than you currently have access to, your next step might be to look for a source of funding. Identifying the support you need (financial and otherwise) can help you plan the possible scale and timeline of your project.

## Case Studies

**\*\*This section is in development for future versions of the Toolkit. If you have a unlawful plan you want to document installing and submit as a case study, please let us know! We want to include case studies from our participants in this toolkit.\*\***

## Securing Grants for Your Unlawning Project

Grant funding can be a great way to fund your Unlawning project because it allows for long-term planning and investment in your work. However, with so many grant programs out there and so many different application processes, it can be difficult to know where to start. The biggest thing to be aware of is the timeline. Grant programs have strict deadlines for application and specific terms for when payment is distributed. To get prepared for your Unlawning in spring/summer 2023, you can start working on grants now. If you're new to grants, again: start small.

### Researching Grant Opportunities

The first thing you need to do is research grant opportunities. There are many different types of grants available and they're often tailored toward specific industries or niches, including supporting permaculture design projects.

Grant funding may be from federal, state, local governments, or private foundations. The best place to start is by contacting a local environmental group to get an idea of local grant programs that exist, how much money is available, who the funders are, and the kinds of projects they fund. You can also check with your local library or county extension office for other resources that might be helpful.

Questions to get your research started:

- What kind of grants are available?
- What are their deadlines?
- Who is eligible, and who isn't?
- What are the grant's requirements for eligibility, application length, and other specifications?

### Build Partnerships Before you Need Them

Find local organizations/foundations that you're interested in and reach out to them—even if they don't have funding available right now. They might be able to introduce you to other organizations that do have funding available or to help you learn about what it takes to get a grant so that, when it comes time for you to apply, you're better prepared.

We invite you to reach out to PAN and ask if we have experience with that funder or if we know anyone who might be interested in partnering on your grant proposal. You can also check the Map of Unlawful to see if there are any local Unlawful projects you could partner with or volunteers to offer grant-writing support.

One of the services that PAN offers is fiscal sponsorship so that tax-deductible donations and grants can be applied to your work. Some funders require that you are a registered 501(c)3 non-profit, and our fiscal sponsorship service allows you to submit grants using PAN's tax-deductible non-profit status. PAN providing fiscal sponsorship means that we process and disperse the funds that you receive through a grant or donor. However, PAN does not offer a comprehensive list of grant opportunities in the region nor write grants for those who receive fiscal sponsorship. <https://northeastpermaculture.org/fiscal-sponsorship/>

## **Get to Know the People You're Pitching To**

Before you start writing proposals, it's important to do a little research and get to know some of the funders in your area. You might want to look at their websites (or if they don't have one, find out what information they do share) or read their annual reports so you can get acquainted with their missions and goals. This will help you identify where your project fits into their work.

Once you've done some initial research on potential funders, it's time to take a closer look at each one individually. Look up their websites again and see what kinds of projects they tend to support through grants or other forms of funding. Also, keep an eye out for any deadlines coming up soon. This will help ensure that you don't miss out on any opportunities because of an impending deadline or last-minute changes in funding availability.

Grants panels often consist of people who have worked in fields similar to yours for decades. It's important that when these experts review your application, they recognize your value as an expert and take your ideas seriously. Remember their mission and the types of projects they support. Look for a good fit between your project and their grant program, so that when you write your proposal, it will clearly align with their goals. For example, some foundations may only provide financial support for environmental projects while others may give grants for more general community development efforts such as housing or education programs.

## **Tell a Story in Your Application**

The most important aspect of any grant application is to tell a compelling story. This is your opportunity to describe why you need the money and how it will be used.

When writing your narrative, think about how you want to position yourself in relation to the funder. Do you want to position yourself as an expert in your field? Are you seeking funding for a project that will help others? Or do you simply want support for something you believe in and that will help make your part of the community healthier? Whatever your narrative is, make sure

it also aligns with what the funder wants to hear. If they support community-based projects, then talk about how this project will benefit the community. If they are interested in sustainable agriculture, then discuss how this project will help increase food yields while protecting land and water resources.

One way to ensure that your application is successful is to get feedback from people who have applied before and failed. Find out what they did wrong and what they did right so that you can improve upon their mistakes and avoid making them yourself!

Develop a proposal that meets the criteria set forth by the granting agency along with any additional requirements that have been set by them (such as matching funds). You may want to go through their criteria several times before submitting your proposal so that you can refine things to meet all of their criteria perfectly.

Be sure to address the following elements:

- What problem is your Unlawning trying to solve (and how)?
- Why is this solution unique and innovative?
- Who else is working on similar solutions?
- What have you already done to try solving the problem yourself without funding (if any)?
- How much money do you need from this particular funder?

## **Time to Apply**

Once you've found a suitable grant opportunity and prepared your proposal, it's time to apply! This can be done through the grant provider's website or by mailing them directly (details will be provided). Make sure you read through all the guidelines before applying so that you don't miss anything important.

You'll want to make sure that everything is in order before submitting—make sure that any attachments are formatted correctly and you have the correct attachments—and then send it off!

## **How to Plan and Run an Unlawful Work Day**

Once you've dreamed up your design and taken a look at what materials and grants are available, you can plan your work day! The scale and organization will depend on the size of your Unlawning project, who you want involved (organizations, individuals, etc.), and other factors. As with everything, your plan may change along the way. Here are some things to think about and suggestions on each stage, from planning to wrap-up.

### **Planning Your Work Day**

Define the Objectives of the Work Day: Both qualitative and quantitative objectives of the day. Have fun with the more specific qualitative and quantitative objectives, knowing that this may change depending on your volunteer's goals and capacity.

*E.g. The purpose of the event is to create the physical structure of the garden, enjoy the day together, share some knowledge about garden building as well as colonial history of lawns. By the end of the day we'd like to have built raised bed structures, laid cardboard, straw, and compost inside and mulched, make new connections in the community, have everyone try a new skill.*

*OR: For this first work day, we plan to get to know our volunteers, remove the sod, and find out who wants to be involved in the committee for ongoing installation and maintenance.*

Volunteer Considerations: This will inform your specific ask (to neighbors or community members), the promotional materials you put out, and help you organize folks on the day. PAN ascribes to the permaculture ethics of earth care, people care and fair share, as well as a commitment to social justice and liberation. This means that we value inclusivity and access in all stages.

When we hold inclusion and accessibility as part of planning an event, it is important to remind ourselves that not everyone is able to volunteer. Having free time is a privilege, so if you have access to funding, you could provide incentives to participants such as gifts or compensation (e.g. a gift certificate for a grocery store) or reimbursements (e.g. for transportation costs). Additionally, to welcome folks from marginalized communities, it helps to build one-on-one relationships and to imagine how a newcomer might feel entering an unfamiliar space. If you invite a special guest/group to your event, what would they appreciate to feel welcomed? Check out the tips in this document [“35+ Things to Create More Inclusion & Diversity at Your Permaculture Event”](#).

Questions to ask when planning your Unlawful Work Day:

- How many volunteers are necessary and/or will be coming? If you are organizing with a group, how many people can you expect through their networks?
- What roles for volunteers are necessary/available? Will you provide training or will you reach out into your network for these skills?
- Is there a schedule for the work day? Can people arrive at any time, or is it necessary to attend a particular portion (e.g. learning how to plant)?
- How accessible is your site? Can it be more accessible? How?
- Will someone be present to help with translation?
- How much physical strength is necessary? How much skill/education is necessary?
- Can you accommodate kids on site?
- Are dogs allowed on site?
- Do you want someone to take photos on the day?
- Do you need volunteers for the continual care (e.g. weeding, watering) of the site?

Identify Yields/Benefits/Rewards for Volunteers: This will shape how you will organize volunteers, the balance of work vs. education, and how you promote your work day.

Questions to ask:

- What are you offering and what is available?
- If you have a group already organized, what are their expectations?
- Are your volunteers coming to learn about gardening?
- Will they receive volunteer hours? A gift or compensation?
- Will they receive a meal or perhaps reimbursement for public transit costs?
- Are they looking for community and connection?
- Are they activists who want to learn a lot more about decolonization through acts like this?
- Are they your neighbors or friends who will likely be unavailable to help regularly (who may have four hours in total and want to eat some of your tomatoes in the fall)?

Identify Funds Available for Materials: See “Creating a Budget” and “Securing Grants for your Unlawning Project” above.

Determine the Date of the Work Day(s): The dates and number of work days will depend on your design, who is helping, and where you live. For planting dates, check online resources for relevant forums or local gardening groups. Speak with other gardeners in your area or folks at local garden centers to find out when is the best time to plant what and when you can get started. When choosing dates, be mindful of religious and cultural holidays for the communities you are working with, work and school times, as well as public transit times to your site. Consider seasonal schedules too (e.g. teachers and students may help with a garden during the school year, but are often unavailable in the summer).

*E.g. Choose a day in March to do the structural parts of the gardening, add soil and seed trays; choose another day in April to do some direct seeding or seedling planting.*

## **Promoting Your Work Day and Recruiting Volunteers**

Put your site on the PAN [Map of Unlawful People, Partners, and Projects](#) which will allow volunteers to reach out to you and show the location of other Unlawning hosts, volunteers, and sites. Once you’ve made your design and plan, you can create and promote your work day. The timing and detail of your invites depends on who is participating: A larger organization may need months of notice and coordination, whereas your local networks might do well with an ask in the fall, another in winter, and then a final ask a few weeks before the project. Throughout the fall/winter, you can share photos, links, and updates of your Unlawning on social media with the hashtags #Unlawful and #rewild and include any requests for resources or materials. These posts will be for both promotion and community support. Feel free to share other Unlawning projects as well to get folks inspired!

### Groups to Invite:

- Volunteers listed on PAN’s [Map of Unlawful People, Partners, and Projects](#)



- Family and friends
- Local community leaders
- Neighbors near the Unlawning site
- Local permaculture and gardening groups (On Facebook, Meetups, through the library or other channels)
- Schools, classes, or students looking for community engagement, who want to learn about gardening, or who may be looking to fulfill community service hours.
- Community groups
- Activist and environmental groups
- Groups that serve or represent marginalized communities

### Promotion Methods:

- Facebook Event: Create an event on Facebook. Share this event by inviting friends from the event page or directly through Messenger. Share it on the [PAN Facebook page](#), the [Northeast Permaculture Network group](#), and specific community groups you'd like to include. Share the link via email, WhatsApp groups or other Messenger apps.
- Eventbrite Event: You are able to create events and have people RSVP through this website as well. Share the link via email and social media.
- Email: For a smaller group, you might prefer to send a simple email out to friends and neighbors, asking them to pass it on. (PAN also provides [a listserv](#) for members to connect with regional groups.)
- Paper Notes: If you want to do something personal in the neighborhood you are working in, print out notes and drop them in mailboxes or strategically place them on porches with a flower or something to catch their eye! Think of your group. Some neighbors you can ask in person. Others would love the low-pressure and fun surprise of a note.
- Flyers: PAN has created an Unlawful poster, which you can personalize by hand with your work day's information to post on local notice boards, or cut into chops (a ¼-page sized flier) to leave beside cash registers at local shops or public spaces. You can download the posters here: <https://northeastpermaculture.org/unlawful/>

*\*See the [Social Media Promotion And Networking](#) section for more ideas.*

### Information to Include in Your Invitation

- Date, time, and location. \*Triple-check these!\*
- What you are most excited about and why you are doing this.
- If it is an electronic invite, include the link to the [Unlawful campaign](#) and [PAN Facebook page](#).
- Specific skills you are looking for.
- An invitation to folks with no gardening experience.
- Information on training sessions if you are offering them.
- Rewards, offers, or compensation available to volunteers.
- Your contact information for any questions.

- A request for an RSVP and their contact information with a date to do so.
- Make an inclusive invite for an inclusive event
  - Welcome all abilities, ages, genders, races, cultures, and sexual orientations.
  - Be mindful of language, use phrases like “Everyone is welcome”, “An inclusive space”, and “All abilities, ages, and experiences welcome”.
  - Avoid using gendered terms or phrases like “Guys,” “Ladies and Gentleman,” etc.
  - Address Covid safety protocol. Will there be space for social distancing? Are masks preferred, encouraged, welcomed, or required? Will food or water be shared?
  - Invite anyone with questions about accessibility, site access, personal, or other specific needs to contact you directly with their accessibility needs.
  - If you plan to have a volunteer present to help with translation (e.g. Spanish or French), mention that in the invitation.
  - To make your invitation more welcoming, consider reaching out directly to a friend or acquaintance who has connections to marginalized groups. Eg. a friend who volunteers with an English-as-a-second-language practice group or is a member of a local LGBTQ group.

*You can send these invites to folks outside of your area as a way to promote the campaign. This might inspire them to join an Unlawning wherever they are!*

### **Preparing for the Work Day Checklist**

- Gather necessary tools and equipment.
- Include a first aid kit.
- Check the site for any safety hazards and have an emergency action plan if someone is injured on site.
- Do any site prep, and organize materials, and work area.
  - a. Provide enough tools for the number of volunteers.
  - b. Complete any design-specific, pre-installation tasks (sod removal, physical groundwork, etc.)
  - c. Have materials ordered and available for pickup or dropoff.
- Host training meetings or calls with volunteers or volunteer leads. (If applicable.)
- Confirm logistics with the site owner. (Unlocked and parking available etc.)
- Make your plan B for weather, cancellations, etc.
- Confirm that attendees are RSVP'd, have rides to the site, and have a list of what to bring (water, snacks, comfortable and appropriate clothing, etc.)
  - a. Make a note if you can help provide access to any of these things if attendees don't have access to them.
- Organize any supplies and amenities for volunteers (food and drink, tent/shelter, music, coffee, sunscreen and bug spray, gender-neutral bathrooms).
- Follow up with any attendees who have specific needs on the day.
- Send a map, instructions, and a contact number for the day if possible.
- Create necessary signage so they can find your work area.

- Post updates (photos of you collecting cardboard in the grocery store, a big pile of dirt on the driveway) on social media with hashtags #Unlawful and #rewild or send them to your community members to build the hype and excitement!
- Send reminders a month before, a week before, and a day before.

## Running Your Work Day

Team huddle at beginning of the day: The “how you do it” is as important as what you do. Have fun, and welcome the team! Introduce and share the big picture of the project and what you are excited about. Offer yourself and any volunteer leads as allies and support if they need anything throughout the day. Emphasize that this is an inclusive space. Give people a chance to introduce themselves, and their pronouns, and share why they joined the day. Do an outline of the day/work, tool safety reminders or demos, and show everyone where the amenities are. This can be a time when you assign roles for the day, putting people in the right place for success. Consider inviting people to create small teams and helping the experts and beginners, regulars and newcomers, friends and strangers to mix and support one another. Also, get consent for any photo sharing.

Monitor throughout the day: Keep in mind the qualitative and quantitative objectives of your day you listed, as well as what the volunteer’s goals/desires are. You may need to modify these as the day unfolds. Plans might change, and people may go slower or faster than you think. You’ll want to keep one step ahead of each task group, so that once they are finished you’ll know what they are doing next and have tools or resources prepared. In a larger group, volunteer leads can help you do the rounds checking in on task coordination, helping people who are learning new skills, ensuring the safe use of tools, watching for any safety hazards, and volunteering energy and well-being. Surprise snacks are always a good idea! And an encouraging attitude is contagious!

Conclude: Aim to meet your wrap-up time. Give time to pick up trash and store materials and do a final walk-through with volunteers and the site owner. Have your closing group huddle. Thank your group for all that was accomplished and celebrate the day. Have them each share a highlight. This is also a good time for reminders for the next work day or to take volunteers for maintenance of the space, giving folks a place or sheet to sign up. If you have time after work, hang out! Break out some snacks, go have a drink or go out and get some food!

## Post-Work Day Checklist

- Email or post a recap on your Event Page with Thank You’s and photos for your volunteers. Include any follow-up dates or tasks.
- Share photos on the [PAN Facebook page](#) and other social media with the hashtags #Unlawful #rewild
- Follow up with funders/reimbursements, receipts
- Log hours/sign off on community service if applicable

# Other Ways to Participate

## Volunteer at an Unlawning

Everyone is welcome. You do not need permaculture or gardening knowledge or experience to join an Unlawful Work Day. Depending on the size of the project, there are many different areas to help. Hosts will need physical help on the Work Day(s), but might also need help promoting or organizing their Work Day, aftercare for the Unlawful site, or other tasks! If you'd like to volunteer, PAN has created a [Map of Unlawful People, Partners, and Projects](#). You can put your name on the map and/or contact a host directly to see where you can join in.

## Social Media Promotion And Networking

PAN Website Unlawful page: <https://northeastpermaculture.org/Unlawful/>

PAN Facebook Page: [https://www.facebook.com/NEPermaculture/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/NEPermaculture/?ref=page_internal)

PAN Youtube Account: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbxffKUCFWgj6WN6JD8ZuFQ>

Map of Unlawful People, Partners, and Projects:

<https://kumu.io/northeast-permaculture/map-of-Unlawful>

If you'd like to promote the campaign and Unlawning projects, thank you! Here are a few ideas:

- Share any Unlawning posts from the [PAN Facebook page](#) to your Facebook page, Local Gardening, Activist, Conservation, and Neighborhood Facebook groups.
  - Create a challenge: Can we do ONE of these in our neighborhood?
  - Ask if anyone has done this or is planning to Unlawn.
- Have fun with creative ways to encourage Unlawning on other social media (Link the PAN Facebook or Unlawning campaign in your bio)
  - Create TikTok videos touring beautiful Unlawning projects in your neighbourhood
  - Create an Instagram story/post of your favourite wildflower gardens in your city
  - Interview a lawn and have it respond to your questions about it's environmental impact or colonial history.
  - Find an existing Unlawful site on the [Map of Unlawful People, Partners, and Projects](#) and see if you can visit it and take inspirational photos or videos.
- Share the PAN Unlawful website link or Youtube link via email or social media (Including What's app, Signal, etc.)
- Display an [#Unlawful](#) Poster on your lawn! Download a print or support PAN by purchasing special edition laminated Unlawful posters for yourself and your neighbors: <https://northeastpermaculture.org/Unlawful>

## Advocacy and Policy

There are many, many levels to work at when creating change. Another way to contribute to the Unlawful Campaign is to work to create change on a policy level or doing advocacy work. The beginning of our [Hosting and Planning an Unlawful Project](#) section still applies to you and will be helpful. You can pull a team together (There may even be people in your area who are doing it already!). You will have goals and a plan. The work will often be creative and may involve writing letters, making phone calls, creating social media posts, organizing your own local campaigns, and doing research.

Some areas for advocacy work:

- Contacting local homeowners associations to change rules around lawns
- Addressing local development guidelines around topsoil removal and native species restoration
- Getting involved with other associations or work around wider-spanning government bills (like the [Healthy Soils Program](#) in Massachusetts)
- Garnering support for ongoing advocacy/policy work by showcasing local alternatives to lawns and unlawful projects or getting guest-speakers online or in-person to inspire your community.
- Advocating and grant writing for specific groups and/or neighborhoods to receive funding for unlawful and unlawful-type projects
- Putting yourself on the [Map of Unlawful People, Partners, and Projects](#) as someone who is available to help with advocacy and policy work!

Another option is to join the Unlawning Campaign subcommittee at PAN. Contact us at [admin@northeastpermaculture.org](mailto:admin@northeastpermaculture.org).

# Coalition Building

## Meta Level Campaign View

How we ran this campaign

Strategy

Learning from Successes and Failures

**\*This section will be completed in future versions of the Toolkit\*\***

## How To Partner With PAN's Unlawful Campaign

PAN has a commitment to working with marginalized groups in this campaign. We recognize the impacts of oppression in the permaculture community, and are actively pursuing strategies to include and elevate the voices of marginalized people in our work and decision making. One way we are doing this is by offering to partner with organizations who share values of decolonizing and uncolonizing. If you know of or are a part of an organization focused on BIPOC, Latinx, LGBTQUIA2S+ communities, we are interested in partnering! Please send an email to [info@northeastpermaculture.org](mailto:info@northeastpermaculture.org) to start the conversation.

# Acknowledgements

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To ORGO and Resilience Hub, our partners in the Unlawful Campaign so far.

To all of PAN's members for your support and solidarity in our work together!

To all of our teachers and peers in the realm of permaculture, inclusion and equity, decolonizing and uncolonizing, who we continue to learn from.

To you! Whoever you are, reading this toolkit and contributing to the campaign and your own community! Thank YOU!

# Resources and Additional Reading

## Decolonizing and Uncolonizing Articles

### [Is it time to decolonize your lawn?](#)

The Globe and Mail

- Includes information on the history of lawns
- Connects lawns with settler colonization
- Discusses relationship between lawns and indigenous rights and climate change

### [Decolonizing Regenerative Agriculture: An Indigenous Perspective](#)

Bioneers

- Interview with A-dae Romero-Briones (Cochiti/Kiowa) is the Director of Programs: Agriculture and Food Systems for the First Nations Development Institute. First Nations provides grants and technical assistance to strengthen native communities and economies. A-dae is a compelling voice against the injustices of colonization inflicted on Native People and for the acknowledgment of Indigenous People's land stewardship as a basis for regenerative agriculture.

### [Black Land Matters: An Interview with Leah Penniman of Soul Fire Farm](#)

Foundation for Intentional Community

- Leah Penniman is the cofounder of Soul Fire Farm ([www.soulfirefarm.org](http://www.soulfirefarm.org)). Started as a small family farm in Grafton, New York, Soul Fire has become a community farm run by a nonprofit, people-of-color-led organization (Soul Fire Farm Institute, Inc.) that works to dismantle racism in the food system by increasing farmland stewardship by people of color, promoting equity in food access, and training the next generation of activist farmers.

### [Dismantling Oppression Resources](#)

Resource list on Permaculture Association of the Northeast website

- Deconolonizing and uncolonizing articles, book recommendations, organizations, and websites.



## On Relationship to Land

[THE SERVICEBERRY An Economy of Abundance by Robin Wall Kimmerer](#)

Emergence Magazine

- As Robin Wall Kimmerer harvests serviceberries alongside the birds, she considers the ethic of reciprocity that lies at the heart of the gift economy. How, she asks, can we learn from Indigenous wisdom and ecological systems to reimagine currencies of exchange?

[Vandana Shiva](#) - Navdanya is an Earth Centric, Women centric and Farmer led movement for the protection of Biological and cultural Diversity. The website includes resources and reading on Earth Democracy, Living Seed, Living Soil, Living Food, Agroecology, Climate Change, and Eco Feminism.

[“Invitation” by Mary Oliver](#)

Words of the Year

- A poem.

## General Unlawful Resources

[Why Pollinator Gardens Matter](#)

Philadelphia Orchard Project

- Excellent summary of:
  - The importance of pollinator gardens
  - How our gardens and yards fit into a broader landscape ecology
  - Tips for designing pollinator gardens

[Edible Lawns](#)

South Side Permaculture Park

- An intro on lawn alternatives and step-by-step to unlawning
- Tips and tricks related to the permaculture principles

[Rethink your lawn](#)

Pollinator Pathways

- Resources on converting lawn to biodiverse habitat

[A primer on edible weeds and how to use them](#)

Free Permaculture

- ID'ing common edible wild weeds in our lawns, edges, yards, forests, etc.
- Recipes

[Native Ground Covers for Northeast Landscapes](#) Wild Seed Project

- A book-guide to 48 species of ground cover suited to the state of Maine
- Examples of beneficial guilds, or polycultures
- Printed by a mission-aligned organization focused on collecting, packing and distributing native seeds in the Northeast region.

[Lawns into Meadows](#) Stone Pier Press

- A book-guide describing native meadow restoration.
- Includes guidance for preparation, design, and planting.
- Identifies 21 plants commonly found in meadows.

[Nesting and Overwintering Habitat for Pollinators and Other Beneficial Insects](#)

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

- Explaining and identifying habitats and how to preserve/create/manage them (including stick piles, rock piles, mulch), redefining lawns, and a page of resources and references

[Free/By Donation Permaculture Courses](#) Heather Jo Flores and Ecosighive

- permaculture design training and related information about how to live more ecologically

[Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting](#) International Dark Sky Association

- IDA and the Illuminating Engineering Society have published the joint Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting - beautiful, healthy, and functional lighting that saves energy and money, reduces light pollution, and minimizes wildlife disruption.

[Unlawful Practices and Resources](#) Provided by a PAN volunteer

- How to Shrink a Lawn, How to Mow Minimally, Forgoing the Fall Clean, A Word about Pruning, Regenerative Values in Action, No Blow Letter for your Yard Caregiver, No Blow Agreement, No Blow Poster

## Seed and Material Sourcing

### [Wild Seed Project](#)

- a mission-aligned organization focused on collecting, packing and distributing native seeds in the Northeast region.

[Help Yourself Edibles](#) – Western-Massachusetts based non-profit organization that plants public access fruit trees in public places in Western Massachusetts, free for all to harvest from. Site includes plant/tree sale.

### [Finding Free Compost Materials](#)

Old World Garden Farms

- Includes information on sources of free materials with helpful tips
- Links to “composting 101”

## Other Organizations Unlawning

[Yardscape Maine](#) – Partnership organization promoting change in the way people think about their yards run through the Maine Board of Pesticides Control

[United States Department of Agriculture](#) – Resources provided by USDA & NRCS encouraging backyard conservation to protect the environment, includes additional resources

[Help Yourself Edibles](#) – Western-Massachusetts based non-profit organization that plants public access fruit trees in public places in Western Massachusetts, free for all to harvest from. Site includes plant/tree sale.

[Great Barrington Pollinator Action Plan](#) - Municipal Level Pollinator Action Plans

[DIY Landscape Design to Support Pollinators in Decline](#) - free designs (includes Municipal Level Pollinator Action Plans), plant lists and management guidelines to inspire others to take similar action on their landscapes and in their communities.

[Abenaki Land Link Project](#) - A project between NOFA VT and the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation providing indigenous seeds to gardeners and farmers in NH and VT who will grow these seeds and donate the produce and seed that was saved back to Abenaki tribe.

**\*\*This section will be added to in future versions of the Toolkit\*\***

# Printable Unlawful Posters

Display an Unlawful Poster on yours and your neighbor's NOT-lawn!

- Support PAN by purchasing special edition laminated Unlawful Posters [here](#).
- Or print your own Unlawful Posters:
  - Download [LANDSCAPE ORIENTATION](#)
  - Download [PORTRAIT ORIENTATION](#)
  - Download [1/4 PAGE FLIERS FOR DISTRIBUTION](#)

# Glossary

[Permaculture Principles and Ethics Defined](#)

**\*\*This section will be completed in future versions of the Toolkit. If you have feedback about which words should be defined in this glossary, PAN's Toolkit team would love to hear it so we can build this glossary in future versions of the Toolkit. [Please fill out this Google Form with your comments.](#)\*\***

# This toolkit is under construction

We are working hard to complete this document in stages from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023.

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