

LEAVE YOUR LEAVES



At New Hope Audubon our mission is to promote environmental conservation and the enjoyment of birds, wildlife and ecosystems.

The Leave Your Leaves campaign is one of our many programs making a difference in our local communities.

Our campaign sounds simple, but it's a complex undertaking and often requires people like you to change some habits. Leaving your leaves is one habit that will benefit our community and the planet!

Join us as we work together to build a stronger more diverse environment in our local communities.

**EASTERN BLUEBIRDS NEED
CATERPILLARS THAT OVERWINTER IN
THE LEAVES TO FEED THEIR YOUNG IN
THE SPRING. WILL YOU HELP?**



**MAKE THE PLEDGE to Leave
Your Leaves & learn more at
LeaveYourLeaves.org**

To learn more about New Hope Audubon, read our blogs and learn about our other conservation programs, visit us at newhopeaudubon.org.

New Hope Audubon Society appreciates the support others contributed to make this effort possible.

*A special thank you to Triangle Community Foundation's
Fund for the Triangle (trianglecf.org) and
Keep Durham Beautiful (keepdurhambeautiful.org)*



**NEW HOPE
AUDUBON**

A local chapter of the National Audubon Society serving Durham, Orange, and Chatham Counties in North Carolina.

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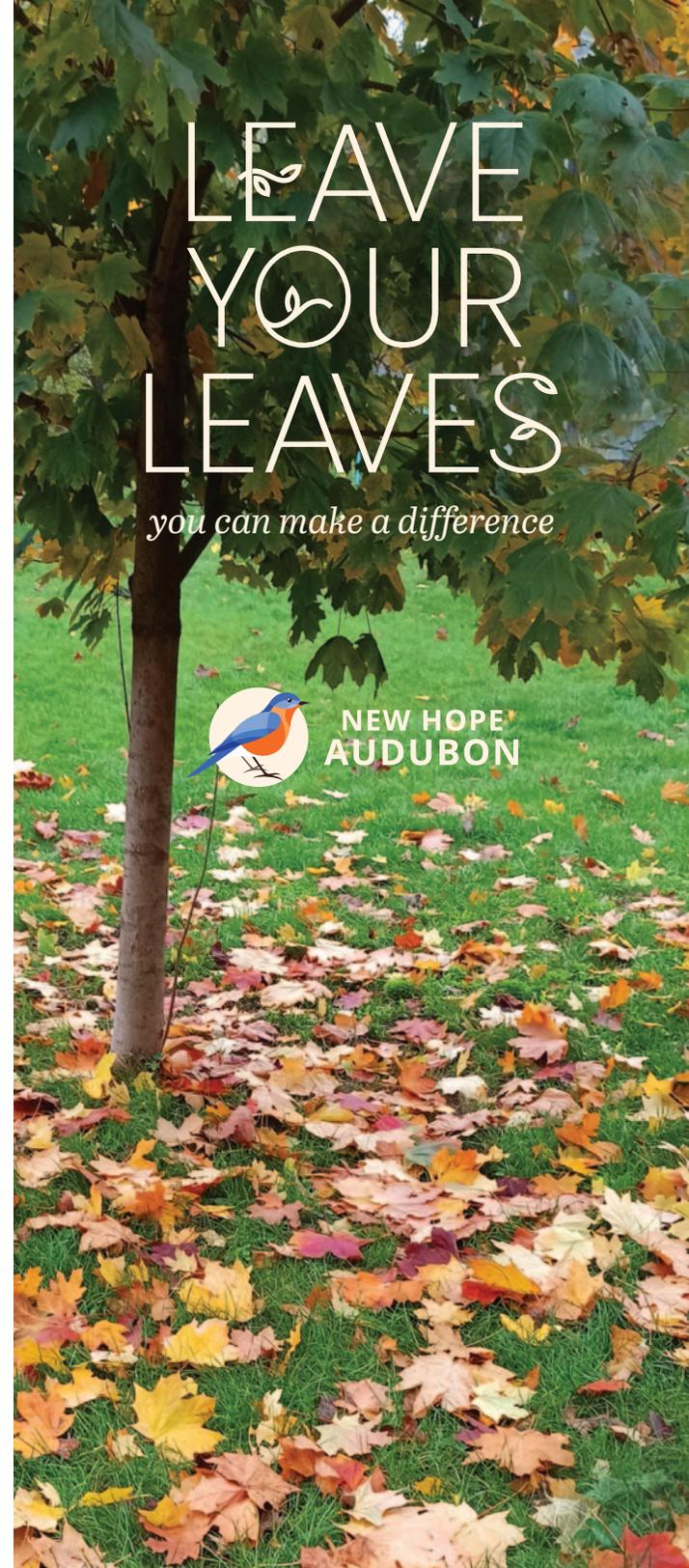
Website: www.newhopeaudubon.org

LEAVE YOUR LEAVES

you can make a difference



**NEW HOPE
AUDUBON**



Climate change has brought more extreme weather conditions like flooding and drought. A bed of leaves acts like a sponge, soaking up water during rain. This means less water leaves your yard to flood downstream into our streams, rivers and even our drinking water.

In addition, the benefits of leaving leaves will be proportionally greater in low-lying areas that are more prone to flooding. Leaves are a crucial component of a healthy ecosystem.

LEAVE YOUR LEAVES AND YOU WILL SEE MORE FIREFLIES OR LIGHTNING BUGS IN YOUR YARD

Leaving your leaves is one way to change some of the forces at work behind the crises of climate change and loss of biodiversity. Decomposing leaves generate habitat that is important to supporting biodiversity in your neighborhood. Leaves on the ground directly support fireflies and beneficial insects. Allowing the leaves to decompose where they fall or gently placing them in a specific area in your yard has a multitude of benefits.

LEAVES PROVIDE HABITAT FOR MANY POLLINATORS AND 94% OF CATERpillARS – THE TWO CLASSES OF INSECTS WE NEED THE MOST FOR A STRONG ECOSYSTEM

Reasons to Leave Your Leaves

Aside from increasing biodiversity and climate resiliency, leaving your leaves also offers these environmental benefits:

- Leaves help fireflies, insects, bees, birds, turtles, frogs, and wildlife thrive
- Leaves will decompose over the winter creating healthier trees and soil
- Leaving your leaves reduces air, water and noise pollution
- Leaving your leaves saves homeowners, businesses, and our city government money



What Can You Do with Your Leaves?

Leaving your leaves increases biodiversity and climate resiliency. Here are a few ways you can use your leaves to benefit the ecosystem in your own yard and throughout your community.

- Do nothing!
- Use them as protective mulch
- Rake them around the base of trees and shrubs
- Rake them into perennial borders
- Compost them and then use them as mulch

PLEDGE TO LEAVE YOUR LEAVES AT LEAVEYOURLEAVES.ORG

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