



IN THE ZONE: GARDENS THAT HELP NATIVE SPECIES THRIVE

Nature Works!

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The State of Canada's Wildlife
Between 1970 and 2014, for 50% of monitored wildlife with declining populations, the average decline was 83% (Living Planet Report Canada 2017)

Carolinian Zone

- >1% of Canada's landmass yet home to 25% of Canadians
- Biodiversity hotspot with highest number of rare and at-risk species
- 95% of land privately owned





CAROLINIAN ZONE

● Goderich

● Guelph

● Toronto

Lake Huron

● Kitchener

Lake Ontario

● London

● Hamilton

● St. Catharines

● Sarnia

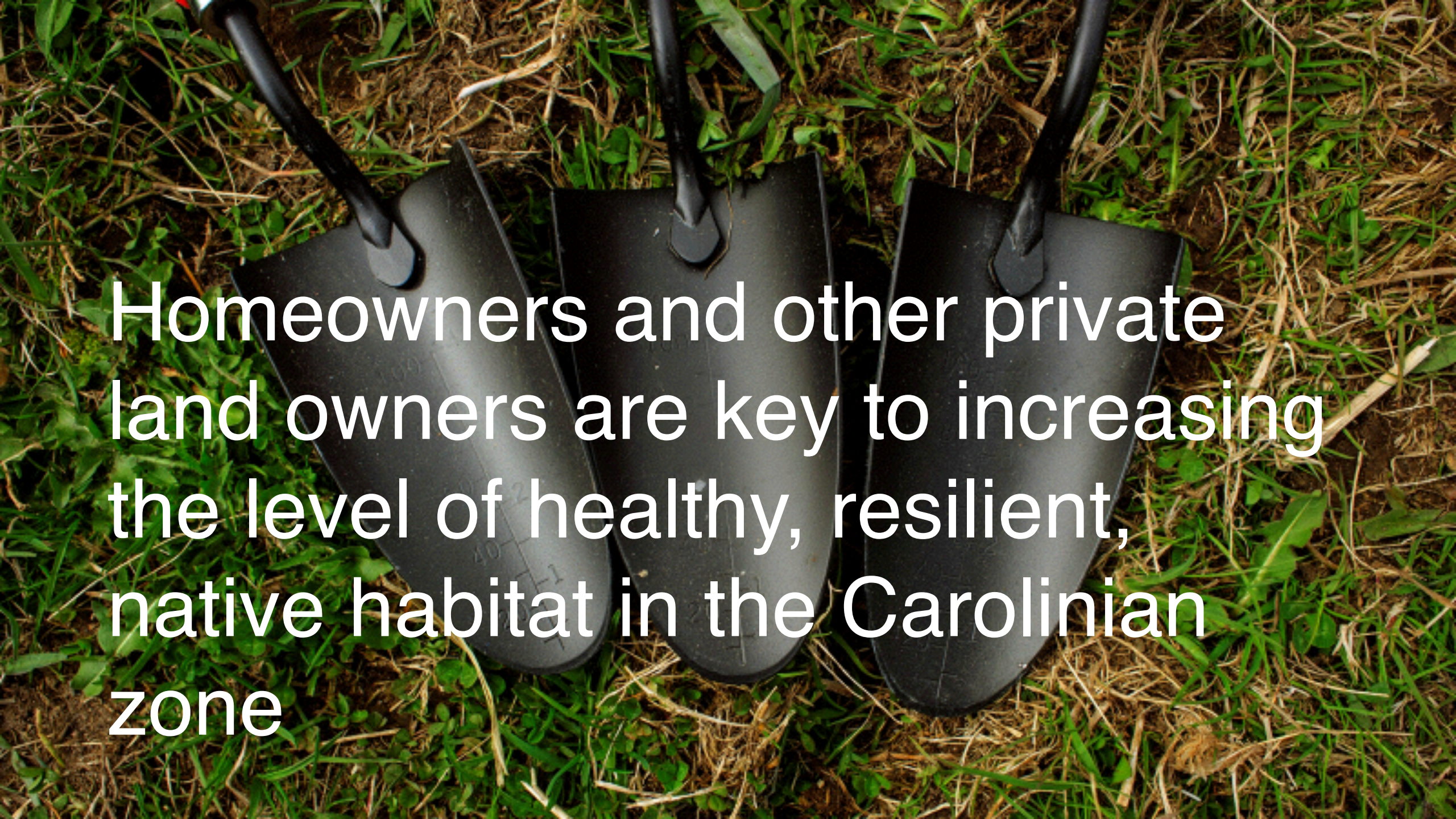
● Chatham

Lake Erie

● Windsor

APPROXIMATE LIMIT OF THE CAROLINIAN ZONE

APPROXIMATE LIMIT OF THE CAROLINIAN ZONE

Three black shovels are lying on a patch of green grass and dry straw. The shovels are arranged in a row, with their handles pointing towards the top of the frame. The blades of the shovels are facing downwards. The background is a mix of vibrant green grass and dry, brownish straw, suggesting a natural, outdoor setting.

Homeowners and other private
land owners are key to increasing
the level of healthy, resilient,
native habitat in the Carolinian
zone

WHAT IS IN THE ZONE?

In the Zone gardens help create a healthy and resilient future for native species and people living in the Carolinian zone



IN THE ZONE OFFERS:

- Specialized resources: Garden Guides, how-to guides, native plant lists, native plant tag, sourcing guides
- Expert conservation and gardening advice
- Neighbourhood-level engagement
- Impact assessment through Garden Tracker

IN THE ZONE GARDEN TRACKER



Register your garden to:

- Set your baseline
- Earn Healthy Garden Points
- Access experts, materials, resources, perks
- Count your garden towards improving Carolinian habitats



THE GARDEN TRACKER IS:

Voluntary, Private, Science-based

GROW WILD

Habitat, Connectivity, Wildlife

**GET CLIMATE
SMART**

Trees, Water, Energy

**COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS**

Health, Economy, Sharing,
Eco-literacy



In The Zone – Program

The majority of In the Zone participants are interested in taking deliberate action to 'Dig In' and grow healthy habitat. A significant number want to undertake major projects. In the Zone resources are built to guide participants to successfully add a few plants, grow a wildlife garden or plan a yard makeover at their own pace.

Healthy Gardeners

4807

Growing Canada's Biggest
Wildlife Garden

Sites Registered

2913

That save, steward and expand
healthy habitat

Hectares

27,900

Managed by people who care



Growing for Wildlife

Habitat Level	Habitat Quality	Habitat Connectivity	Plant Diversity	Wildlife Sightings
Average % per site covered with habitat	Average % of plants that are native per site	Average % per site connected to surrounding habitat	Average # native plant species per site	Average # species seen per site
31%	31%	68%	32	6
Good Start	Good Start	Great Start	Good Start	Good Start



Climate -
Smart



Water -
Smart

Growing for a Green Future

Saving Energy

Average % of property with tree canopy (shade) per site

45%

Good Start

Clean Water

Average % per site managed organically

82%

Great Start

Safe Water

Average % per site that has buffers and/or rain gardens

53%

Good Start

Saving Water

Average % of plants that are drought resistant per site

46%

Good Start



Healthy and Beautiful
Neighborhoods

Growing a Way of Life

Green Health

% of respondents who feel
connected to nature

91%

Great Start

Eco-Literacy

Average % of plant species respondents can
identify in their gardens

56%

Good Start

Green Economy

Average % of garden budget spent
on native plants per site

39%

Room to Grow

Who is a Healthy Gardener?

The majority of In the Zone participants are interested in taking deliberate action to 'Dig In' and grow healthy habitat. A significant number want to undertake major projects. In the Zone resources are built to guide participants to successfully add a few plants, grow a wildlife garden or plan a yard makeover at their own pace.

My Garden Project is to:

1% Explore – Participate in the In the Zone community but no planting

27% Simple Start – Add a few plants (e.g. in a pot, garden, lawn)

39% Dig in – Grow a wildlife garden (e.g. wildflower garden, water garden, woodland garden)

28% Connect – plan a yard makeover that supports and connects to local ecosystems

What I Like About Native Plants

Better for wildlife	90%
Climate-friendly / drought-tolerant	77%
Better survival	57%
Lower maintenance	52%
Natural Beauty	53%
Less expensive	16%

What Are Healthy Gardeners Doing?

In the Zone gardeners are growing Canada's Biggest Wildlife Garden. Through their positive habitat actions, the In the Zone community is growing a culture for nature that values biodiversity and protection. Together we are restoring habitat across Southern Ontario to protect wildlife, clean drinking water and a healthier way of life.

Habitat Features Reported

Leaf litter	763
Stones	564
Brush piles	562
Logs	510
Bird boxes	410
Standing dead trees (snags)	368
Water feature	335
Bee hotels	311
Pits and mounds	162
Bat houses	153
Citizen Science	77

Number of Native Plants Planted

60,902

Estimated number of people directly influenced by participants

157,352

Municipalities can use the Tracker data to track the progress and benefits of many gardens including:

- Private home gardens
- Condo gardens
- Schoolyard gardens
- Campus gardens
- BIA/street plantings
- Municipal Park restoration
- Boulevards
- Etc.

All in the same database



IN THE ZONE NATIVE PLANT TAG



Find participating
nurseries at:
inthezonegardens.ca

THANK YOU!



InTheZoneGardens.ca

