

# Gardening in Unconventional Places

## Neighborhood Common Areas:

### Think Habitat, Not Grass

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#### The Road Map To Success

Involve the Homeowners

Develop a Master Plan

Outline the Benefits

- Cost Savings
- Improve Water Quality and Pond Health
- Eliminate Nuisance Geese
- Add Beauty to the Neighborhood
- Attract Desirable Wildlife

Discuss the Conversion Process and Drawbacks

#### Lower Maintenance Costs

##### The Ridgefield Experience

Cost to Mow/Maintain Turf Grass: \$6,200/year (\$1,550/acre)

##### Actual Maintenance Costs

2014: \$1,287	Savings: <b>\$4,913</b>	2013: \$1,250	Savings: <b>\$4,950</b>
2012: \$920	Savings: <b>\$5,280</b>	2011: \$1,670	Savings: <b>\$4,530</b>
2010: \$970	Savings: <b>\$5,230</b>	2009: \$320	Savings: <b>\$5,880</b>
2008: \$690	Savings: <b>\$5,510</b>	2007: \$920	Savings: <b>\$5,280</b>
	2006: \$420	Savings: <b>\$5,780</b>	

#### Healthier Retention Ponds

##### The Ridgefield Experience

Less Algae Growth and Improved Water Quality

Nitrogen / Nitrates: 59% lower

Phosphates: 17% lower

Dissolved Oxygen: 49% higher

Water Clarity / Turbidity - Secchi: 57% better