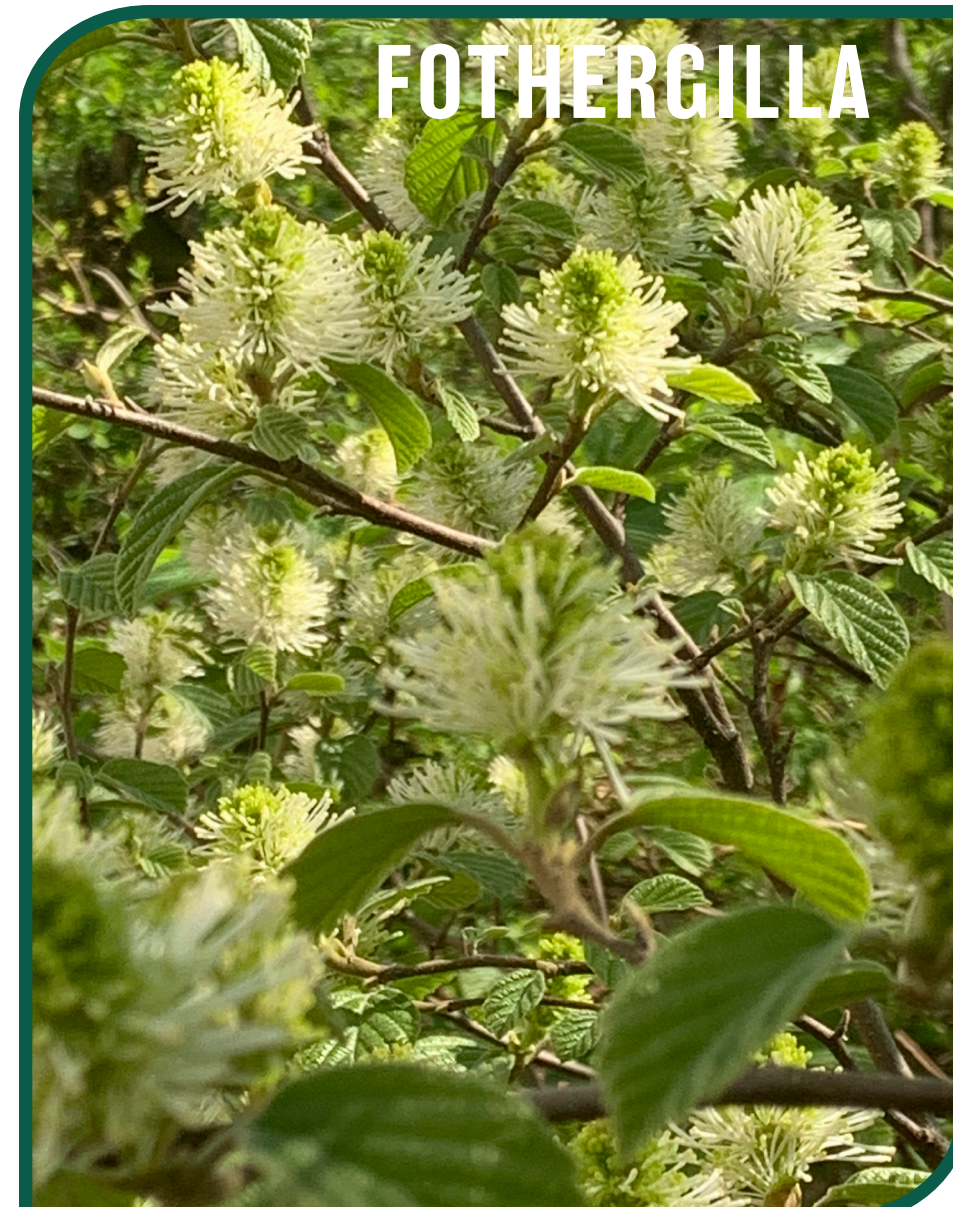




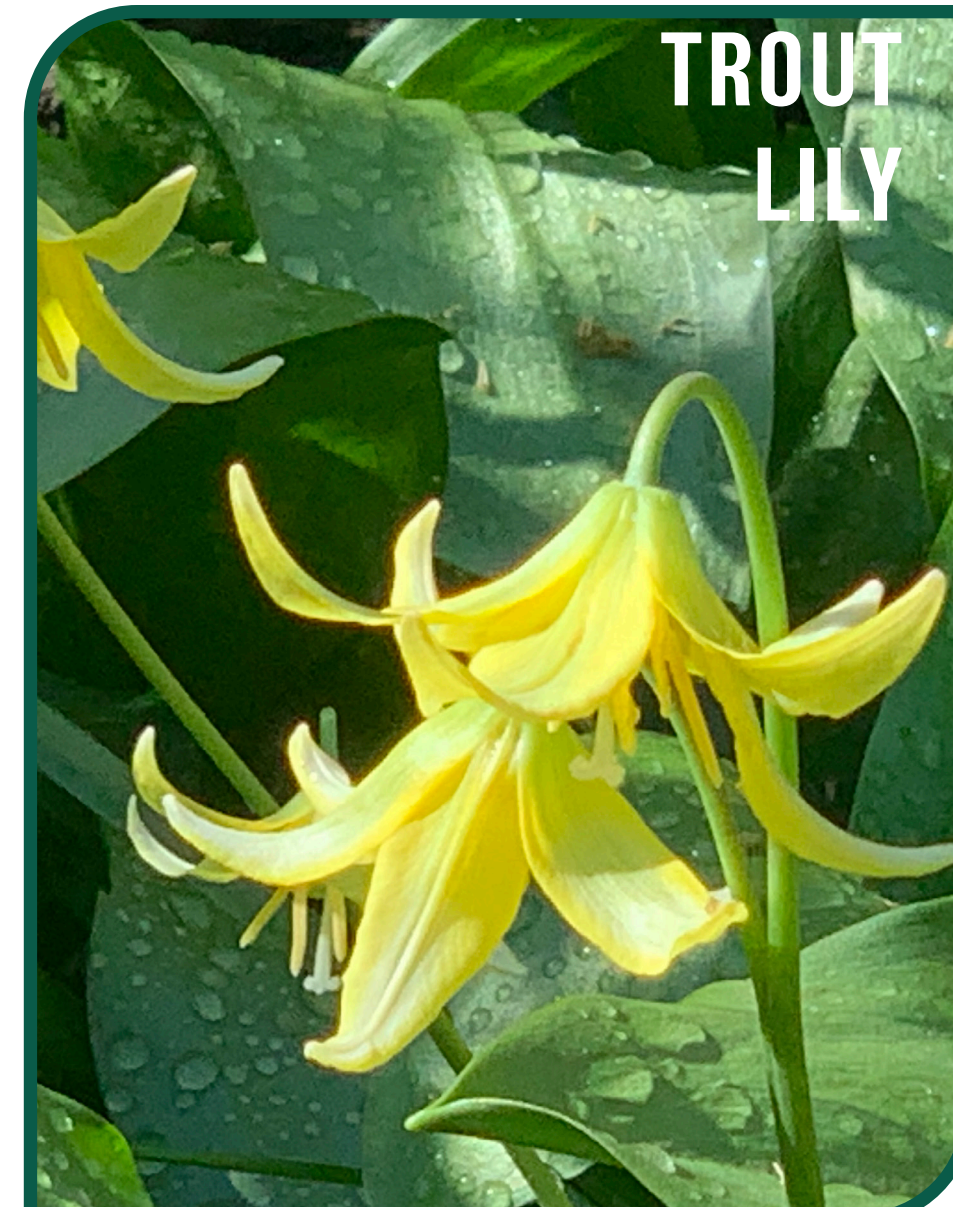
REDBUD & MAYAPPLE



FOTHERGILLA



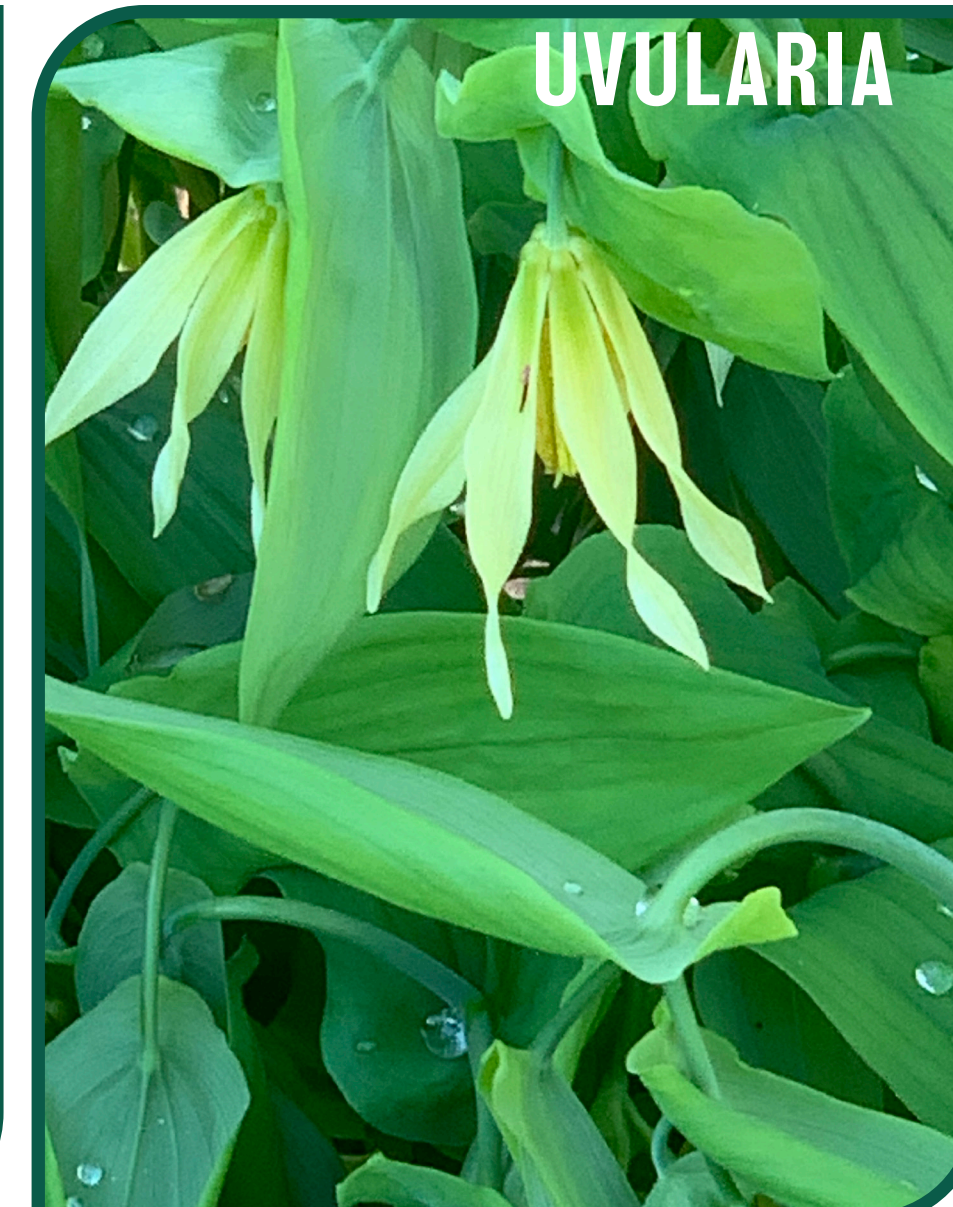
VIRGINIA BLUEBELLS



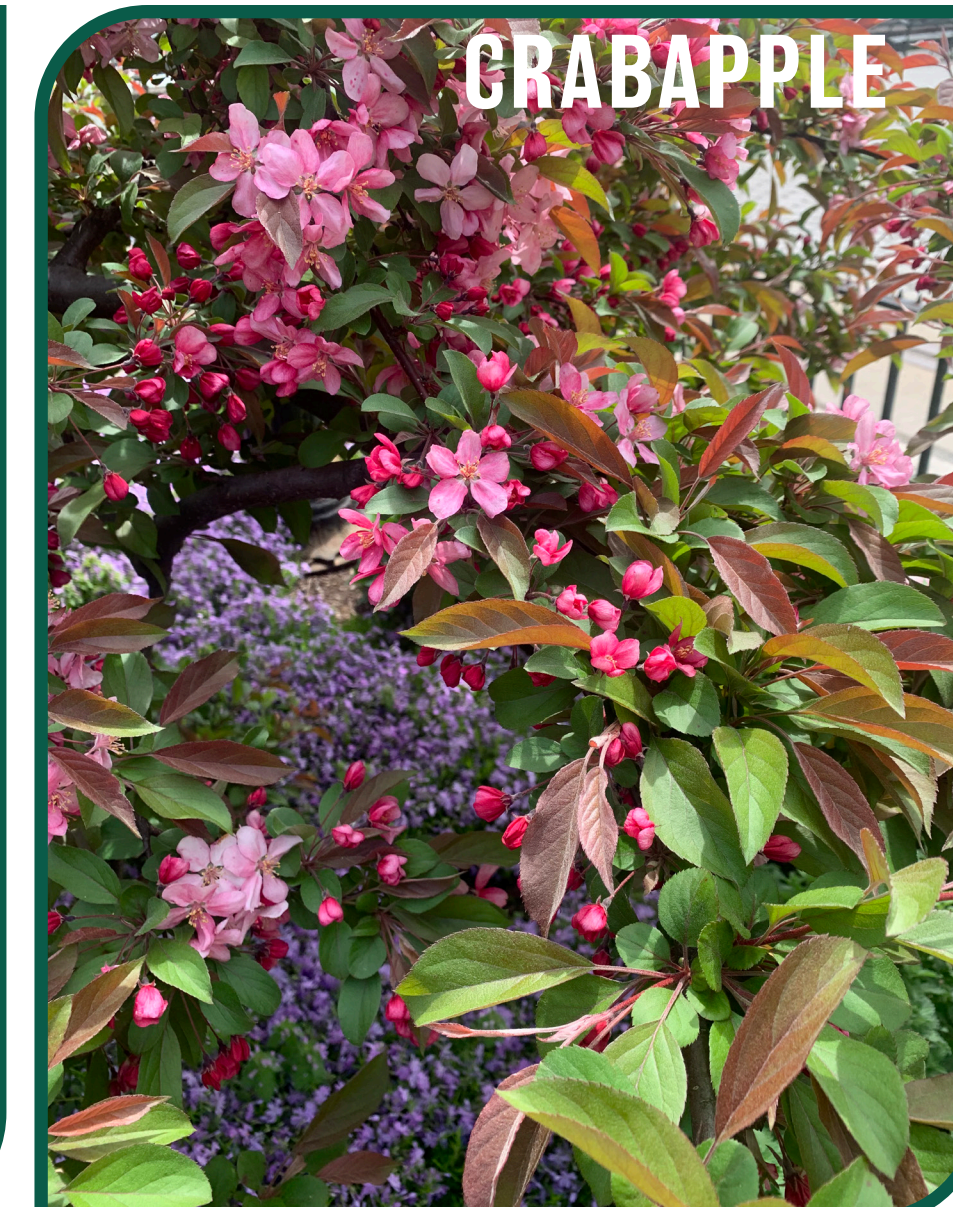
TROUT LILY



ASTER



UVULARIA



CRABAPPLE

PLANTING FOR BIODIVERSITY

FACTS

Biodiversity supports a complex and ancient web of connections between plants, animals and fungi. Human development is rapidly tearing apart that web, causing some species to become vulnerable or even disappear.



Reintroducing native plants to the landscape gives the web its best chance of recovery. Living creatures depend on access to the native plants that have co-evolved with them over thousands of years.

- Native plants provide the fruit, nuts, or seeds that are most nutritious for birds and animals.
- Lack of native plant diversity allows non-nutritious invasive species to take over.
- Native plants provide the pollen and nectar that support pollinators.
- Native plants improve soil and are the foundation of resilient underground networks of roots, fungi, and bacteria.

Did you know?

For millennia, nature has been a vital source of medications. Biodiversity loss is jeopardizing the life-saving drugs of the future.



WATCH "LIVE FROM CARL SCHURZ PARK":

FOCUS

In recent years, the Conservancy has added an abundance of native plants to the park's landscape. The result has been a significant increase in the number and variety of birds and insects. Here are two especially beneficial plants that can be found in the park.

JOE PYE WEED (*Eutrochium*)

This perennial blooms throughout the summer into fall. The pink clustered flower domes attract all sorts of pollinators including bees, moths, and butterflies. The seeds produced in the fall are eaten by Goldfinches, Wrens, Tufted Titmice and Juncos. Seeds that are not eaten produce new plants the following year.



SERVICEBERRY/SHAD (*Amelanchier*)

In early spring, this large shrub produces white flowers that are visited by native bees. Thanks to the bees, the fertilized flowers evolve into nutritional purple berries in summer that birds eat. Serviceberries also have beautiful fall foliage, making them ideal native plants for gardens large and small.

FUTURE

The loss of native plants due to urbanization and development threatens the balance of nature. Pests and diseases from abroad are destroying native plant populations. The prevalence of non-native, imported and invasive species hampers biodiversity and creates food scarcity for all creatures.



To address these challenges, the Conservancy is:

- replacing non-native plants with native plants.
- using more than 30 species of plants that produce fruit, nuts or seeds for birds.
- creating and expanding gardens with native perennials and beneficial annuals to attract pollinators.
- improving and increasing habitat for insects and earthworms.
- fertilizing only with organic compost.

Steps you can take to join in the effort:

- Remember that no space is too small for diversity.
- Even tree pits, window boxes, and terraces can promote nature.
- Use native plants for your outdoor spaces.
- Keep lawns to a minimum as they do not provide beneficial habitat.
- Leave fallen leaves in your garden to support insect and earthworm habitat and improve soil.
- Remove any invasive species from your landscape.

DISCOVER MORE:

