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## **Landscape for Life: Make a difference in your own backyard**

**Chapel Hill, NC** – Residents can learn how to improve the ecology, economy, and health of their gardens, their communities, and beyond through Landscape for Life, a nationally-acclaimed course offered at the North Carolina Botanical Garden (NCBG) this fall.

Landscape for Life, developed by the United States Botanical Garden and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas, shows participants how to work with nature in their garden, no matter where they live.

Population growth places pressure on soils, waters, forests, and other natural resources. Sustainable gardens work with nature to alleviate some of this pressure and provide clean air and water, fertile soils, wildlife habitat, and other essential benefits. Residential land makes up a significant portion of our urban environment, and if handled sustainably, can impact the health and well-being of an entire region. Landscape for Life provides the information and skills to make changes necessary to be stewards of our lands with future generations in mind.

“Every home landscape has the potential to help clean air and water, protect biodiversity and combat climate change,” said Damon Waitt, director of the NCBG. “Conventional gardening practices often work against nature, damaging the environment’s ability to provide these benefits. Landscape For Life shows you how to work with nature, no matter where you live, whether you garden in the city, a suburban lot or a 20- acre farm.”

Participants will meet on Saturdays from September 26 – October 24, 9:30 a.m.-noon at the NCBG’s Allen Education Center. The course costs \$150; \$140 for NCBG members. For more information and to register, go to <http://tinyurl.com/landscape4life>.

The NCBG, part of the University of North Carolina, is a 1,000-acre assemblage of display gardens and natural areas. It is nationally known as a center for the study, display, interpretation, and conservation of plants. Through its educational, recreational, therapeutic horticulture, and research programs, it extends opportunities for connection with nature to people of all abilities and backgrounds. The Garden is open seven days a week and admission is free. Find out more at <http://ncbg.unc.edu>.