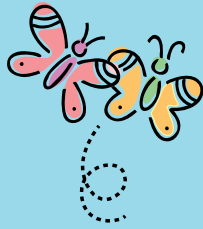


LIVE LAUGH LOVE...  
NATURE

# NATURE POCKET PROJECT



## Organizer's Guide



For more Live Laugh Love Projects visit us @ [LiveLaughLove.com](http://LiveLaughLove.com)

# LIVE LAUGH LOVE...NATURE NATURE POCKET PROJECT

## THE NATURE POCKET PROJECT

### What are Live Laugh Love® Projects?

Live Laugh Love® was founded on the core philosophy that life should be lived with heart! What you live for...what makes you laugh... what you love... can be different for each person, but when you put your heart and soul into them, it makes life worth living. Every day becomes an adventure that brings more excitement, more joy, more satisfaction. We've created Live Laugh Love Projects to help you do that. They are fun, easy ways for you to get involved with something you care about and bring positive changes to your community. So if you want to live a life that is inspired and that inspires others, then Live Laugh Love projects are made for you.

### Life is better when you really live, laugh and love.

When you embrace life, you appreciate it and you want it to be the best it can be -- not only for you, but for everyone. And the best life is one that is lived to the full, one filled with laughter and love. Whether you live laugh love nature and animals, or people and community, these projects offer something that will speak to your heart.

### Change starts with you.

We give you all the information you need to organize and successfully carry out great initiatives that will not only benefit the wildlife and community around you, but will give you the opportunity to have fun as you build and grow relationships with your friends, family and neighbors. So don't sit around and wait for someone else to do it. Every person is unique and has something important to contribute. Each of us can make choices that bring beauty, love and good into the world we live in. Will you?

**So jump in. Have fun.  
Make a difference.**

For more Live Laugh Love Projects visit us @ [LiveLaughLove.com](http://LiveLaughLove.com)

# LIVE LAUGH LOVE ... NATURE: NATURE POCKET PROJECT

We at LIVE LAUGH LOVE have a heart for NATURE...Do you?

Maybe you've bought some energy-saving light bulbs, or purchased a hybrid car, or have really gotten serious about recycling. There are so many ways you can get involved right where you live to "go green" and make a difference, but here's one way that will be sure to add a little color to your world. If you've got time, energy and a talent for leadership, then you're a perfect candidate to spearhead a Nature Pocket Program in your neighborhood.

Nature pockets are little left-over scraps of land that exist due to setback or open space requirements or excess space not used during development and too small for a building pad. Designating these small pockets of land a Nature Pocket Ordinance will not only help to keep your town green and beautiful, but it will also protect the natural spaces for wildlife. It's simple, it's cost-free, and the benefits to your community are priceless!

We LIVE LAUGH LOVE Nature!

It's fun. It's beautiful! And we invite you to help us keep it that way!  
So get started now and do something good for you, your community and  
your world...one pocket at a time!

Introduction

# LIVE LAUGH LOVE ... NATURE: NATURE POCKET PROJECT

Green space is an integral part of any city or town. It provides a natural home for plants and animals and helps keep our neighborhoods cooler and more beautiful. Nature Pocket Programs are a way to promote green spaces in your community.

## The neighbors

Do you love to see butterflies? Do fireflies tickle your imagination? We enjoy birds, butterflies, fireflies, and creatures, but it's hard for them to keep a place to live amidst the crush of our human presence. Now we can help them out well beyond a few concentrated large areas, which are mostly developed for recreational use.

The solution: create a way for a habitat to be left undisturbed. For example, fireflies lay eggs just under the ground's surface, and it must not be sprayed or disturbed in order for them to hatch.

## The Landowners

Landowners have unused patches of land that they are required to maintain by local code enforcement boards. If not, they can be fined and forced to maintain them.

The solution: free up landowners from maintenance costs and the threat of fines and give them an almost cost-free opportunity to make their neighbors proud.

## Time commitment

Time commitment varies on this project as the work involves speaking with landowners and government leaders.

## Special skills/Limitations

Someone who is with strong leadership skills and a passion for nature will find this an amazing and exciting project to work on.

## Group Size

You can work on this project alone or with a group. It's a great opportunity to get together with other like-minded individuals and work together to build relationships and community.

## All Over Benefits

In this project, everyone wins; the landowner, the community, the wildlife. Nature Programs foster a beautiful, healthy environment and a neighborhood that people will be proud to live in.

# LIVE LAUGH LOVE ... NATURE: NATURE POCKET PROJECT

## PROGRAM GUIDE

### Step 1: Adopt a Nature Pocket Ordinance

You don't need a lawyer, and you can do it yourself. This is your chance to have an adventure. Are you up for it?

- A. If you find that the Nature Pocket Program ordinance has already been put in place in your community, you can simply skip to Step 2.
- B. Depending on the politics of your City, there are two manner of getting it done: either starting with your city planning department, or the member of the City council representing the area of the City in which you live. If you have friends helping you, then you can each meet with your local members, which will help pave the way.
  - Starting with your local council members is often a good approach, because they know how things flow through the relevant departments and where the best place and persons are to start with. For instance, it might have to be started in the planning and zoning departments, and maybe also from the parks department.
  - Show them and the City Attorney the model ordinance language that is included in the appendix and have it matched to work with your city's specific code sections and structure.

Now it is ready to be brought before the City Council to be adopted. This usually takes two meetings, comprising a first reading and a second reading.

#### C. Bring Ordinance Up before the City Council

- Prepare a statement explaining the benefits of Nature Pockets to all members of the community. A Nature Pocket is simply a scrap parcel which the owner voluntarily demarks as a Nature Pocket under the ordinance without a lot of formalities or transfer of any rights. By doing so, he helps protect the land for the benefit of people and wildlife.
- What's in it for the Landowner?
  - Freedom from maintenance costs. The property owner no longer has to maintain the parcel, except to initially have someone walk through it and pick up any human debris, and put up the Nature Pocket notice signs.

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- Freedom from the threat of citation by code enforcement for maintenance obligation of the land.
- Free positive public relations benefits for the landowner who will be recognized by the community via the posted Nature Pocket signage as publicly providing a service.
- Continued ownership and full rights of the Nature Pocket land. The property owner does not lose any of his rights. It is simple modification of the maintenance duties from other city codes.
- Should the owner later want to develop the parcel the owner is free to do so. The Nature Pocket land does not become public or create any right of public access.
- The owner is not giving the city any additional regulatory rights of control or interest in the property. In fact, the government lessens some of its control in exchange for participation in the voluntary project. Local government gives up code enforcement rights for anything beyond the pickup of human debris. Only human trash removal is required. No mowing is necessary, nor the pickup of fallen trees, trimming the foliage or manicuring the grounds.
- What's in it for the Local Government?
  - Enhanced natural quality of life at no cost.
  - Environmental pockets throughout city at no cost.
  - Less regulatory cost.
  - Increased civic pride.
  - Taxes are not increased, yet benefits are gained.
  - Citizen-administered project not involving city personnel. After adoption of project, landowners simply acquire and post signs. The city can either have an address registry, or it can simply rely on the presence of the signs to indicate to code staff that that location is a Nature Pocket (such as a "no trespassing" sign which indicates to police that non-owners ought not be there, but does not need to be registered in advance for people to know the situation on the parcel).
  - The Nature Pocket sign art is available on the [www.LiveLaughLove.com](http://www.LiveLaughLove.com) website, and any local sign shop can easily produce the signage for participants. The city does not need to produce or stock signage.
  - Implementation is cost-free to the city. No taxes are required. No additional work by city personnel is required. Yet benefit to the community results.
- What's in it for the public?
  - Better quality of life for people and animals.
  - Wildlife gets places to hide, to live, to sleep, to nest, to lay eggs
  - More butterflies.

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- More birds.
- More fireflies.
- An easy community service project for kids, families, clubs, scouts, schools, etc.
- Have visuals available to display to the council. Include:
  - Nature Pocket sign that landowners would put on the designated parcel of land.
  - Stand-alone PDF of model ordinance.
  - Diagram or photo of a site that could be used as a Nature Pocket
  - Your first Nature Pocket participant landowner

D. Once adopted, the Nature Pocket Ordinance will then stand in place to be taken advantage of by the landowners within your City.

## Step 2: Choosing a Nature Pocket Site

### A. Identify potential Nature Pocket Sites

- Drive around and look for un-manicured patches of property between buildings, adjacent to intersections, next to a bank, gas station, behind a warehouse, near an apartment building, etc in your neighborhood, town or city. They are usually overgrown. They might have vines, fallen trees, or peripheral human trash like cans, bottles, and plastics. Check out commercial properties such as:
  - Banks
  - Gas stations
  - Strip malls/Large malls
  - Shopping centers
  - Movie theaters
  - Apartment complexes
  - Roadway intersections
  - Industrial areas
  - Schools and colleges
  - Churches/Temples
  - Government parcels
- These un-manicured spaces of land are usually ignored and not used. They are often a burden for the landowner who must pay to maintain them under city codes or face fines.

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- These patches or parcels of land can be as small as fifty feet by fifty feet, or twenty five feet by twenty five feet. It doesn't matter. Wildlife can use it to survive.
- B. Make Landowners Aware of the Ordinance and Encourage Their Participation
- Print out the attached flyers and post them on bulletin boards of restaurants and shops where landowners can see them at lunch or dinner.
  - Drop off the attached flyer to a business you frequent which has adjoining land suitable for this project.
  - Talk about the ordinance and its benefits with your local radio stations or on university stations.
  - Ask to speak with actual landowners regarding the ordinance and their potential participation.
    - Be polite. Be positive. Remember it is their land. They paid the money to build there and they have every right to say no and to do with it as they wish. Simply outline the mutual benefits that the landowner and the overall community will enjoy because of their participation.
    - Be patient. Don't expect an immediate yes. If you speak to a manager, he or she will have to then discuss with the owner. The owner may have to talk to his lawyers. The process may take a while.

## Step 3: Create the nature pocket

- A. Get Landowner Participation
- Once you've identified a potential nature pocket, the next step is to talk to the Landowner about benefits of participation. See Step 2 for outline of benefits to the Landowner.
  - Have the landowner register the location with the city as a Nature Pocket.
- B. Mark the designated land as an official Nature Pocket
- Order Nature Pocket notice signs or download them at [www.LiveLaughLove.com](http://www.LiveLaughLove.com) and have them produced by a local sign shop.
  - Post the signs on each side against the tree line.
- C. Recruit Volunteers to clean the area.
- Remove any human debris or trash from the internal area.
  - Consider seeding with any native flower or plant species recommended by knowledgeable locals to attract or establish native critters.
  - After the initial cleaning, cease maintenance. Nature is natural, not maintained.



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## APPENDIX:

The following is a model of an ordinance that can be adapted by your city, town, or county.

### Nature Pocket Ordinance

Whereas, the City finds that the enhancement of the presence of wildlife is important for the benefit, enjoyment and welfare of the public; and

Whereas, the City finds that the preservation of wildlife habitat is critical for the survival of wildlife; and

Whereas, large tracts of unspoiled native habit are not sufficiently available with the City limits to assure the survival of wildlife with the limits of the City; and

Whereas, there exist numerous small tracts of unimproved land scattered throughout the City which together add up to a large area of land which if keep in a natural state can provide large amounts of unspoiled native habitat and corridors for wildlife; and

Whereas, it is the intent of the City to offer owners substantial relief from code enforcement on property in exchange for designating same as a nature pocket;

Now Therefore, the City of [city name] proudly creates the [city name] Nature Pocket Program:

Manner of Designation. A property owner may designate a parcel as a Nature Pocket under this project. Any portion of a parcel or piece of property may be designated, and a designation need not comprise and entire platted or otherwise recorded parcel. The owner does so by

Submitting form #\_\_\_\_\_ to the City Building Department to provide notice of the location of the Nature Pocket

--OR--

# LIVE LAUGH LOVE ... NATURE: NATURE POCKET PROJECT

By placing official Nature Pocket signage on each side of the perimeter of the property being so designated, which signage shall provide notice of the existence of the Nature Pocket.

Affirmative Permission of the City Not Required. This voluntary project poses no threat of harm or impact to the City. Substantial use of the parcel does not change. Therefore no affirmative approval of the City is required to designate a piece of property as a Nature Pocket.

Marking of Property. The owner designating a Nature Pocket shall mark each side of the perimeter of same at the foliage line with official Nature Pocket signage.

Official Nature Pocket Signage. Nature Program signage shall be permitted under the City sign ordinance. The official project symbol was created by Martin C. Boire, of the Live Laugh Love® brand line and is available for use for free in connection with this project pursuant to notice posted at [www.LiveLaughLove.com](http://www.LiveLaughLove.com) and replicated in project literature. The project symbol is composed of two upright human hands framing a butterfly, printed on a rectangular sign in portrait orientation, using white lettering on a park brown field, not smaller than five inches (5") by seven inches (7") or larger than ten inches (10") by fourteen inches (14"). Pre-printed signage may be obtained from Live Laugh Love® or the art can be download and produced at any local sign shop in accordance with the standards set forth in this paragraph. The background need not be reflective. Signage shall be mounted on a metal or wood four-by-four (4"x4") post, not higher than four feet (4') at the top of the sign from ground level.

Who May Designate. No one other than the landowner can designate an area of land to be a Nature Pocket. No one can compel a landowner to create a Nature Pocket. Participation is wholly voluntary. And owner may un-designate a Nature Pocket at any time by:

Giving written notice to the City Building Department [if you used this option above]

--OR--

# LIVE LAUGH LOVE ... NATURE: NATURE POCKET PROJECT

Removing the signage [if you used this option above]

No City Solicitation for Participation. The City may not solicit landowners for participation. Only citizens may do so. This is a citizen initiative project, intended to be implemented in a meaningful, direct person-to person manner, and provide simple opportunities for individuals to participate in the betterment of the community.

Manner of Maintenance. The Nature Pocket shall be kept in a natural condition, or allowed to return to same over time. Natural condition means the following:

- No pesticides
- No mowing
- No clearing
- No or limited entry
- No clearing (except for hand removal of man-made objects like trash)
- No digging
- No removal of dead trees and foliage. While unsightly, they are critical habit for many species, just like in the wild.
- Bat houses can be installed to combat mosquitoes, gnats and such throughout the City.
- After initial seeding or feeding, the pocket is not further fed or maintained.



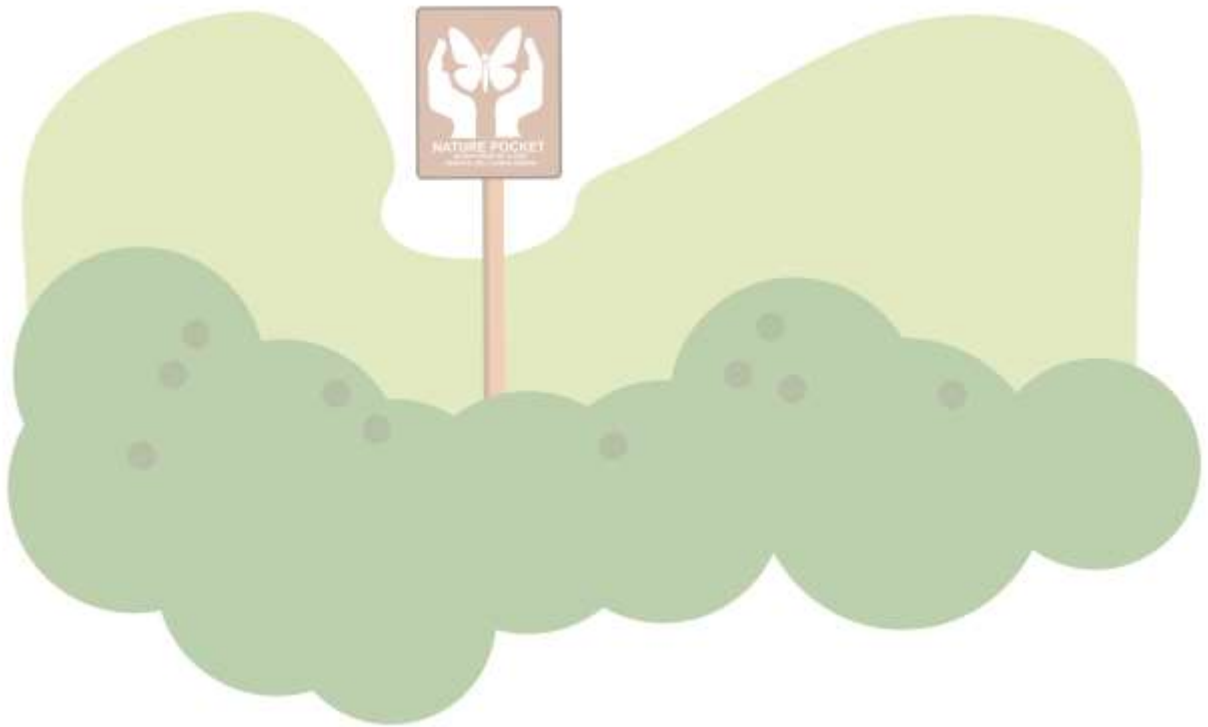
Preparation. Requirement of preparation or alteration would render the project ineffective by placing costs upon the voluntary owner. The costs of doing so also outweigh the benefits.

## Legal

This brochure is provided for informational purposes only for your personal use and enjoyment. It's use and implementation are subject to application of your own personal judgment skills and attributes. Given today's predatory legal environment wherein everyone is taught to look to others rather than themselves, it is necessary that we offer this brochure without representation or warranty that it is fit for use for the specific purposes indicated. Any use and implementation of the matters contained this brochure, you are acting as an

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# ATTENTION BUSINESSOWNERS

A WIN-WIN SITUATION FOR YOU AND OUR COMMUNITY

Do you pay to maintain excess land space too small to build on or use?  
Are you tired of worrying about fines or letters if your outparcel or  
land scrap is not sufficiently maintained?



Here's a simple, cost-free solution that will benefit you, our  
community and our environment. For Free!

## DESIGNATE YOUR OUTPARCEL OR LAND SCRAP AS A NATURE POCKET

Nature Pockets are parcels of land temporarily designated by their owner to simply  
provide natural habitats across the local area for butterflies, fireflies, birds and  
other creatures to flourish and make the town a better place to live.

Step 1: Designate your outparcel or land scrap as a Nature Pocket with your local  
government.

Step 2: Arrange a one-time initial removal of human trash from the site and post  
Nature Pocket signs.

Step 3: Enjoy the benefits.

- ✓ No more maintenance costs
- ✓ No more mowing
- ✓ No more pickup of fallen trees
- ✓ No more trimming or manicuring the grounds
- ✓ No more worries of fines - less regulation.
- ✓ The land is still yours to do with as you please in the future.
- ✓ You provide a public service that benefits the entire community!

**SO GET STARTED NOW AND DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR YOU, YOUR BUSINESS,  
AND YOUR COMMUNITY . . . ONE NATURE POCKET AT A TIME!**



For more details contact \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
or visit [LiveLaughLove.com](http://LiveLaughLove.com) for more information on initiating a Nature  
Pocket Program in your community.

## **Read Me File for Signage Production**

### **Official Nature Pocket Signage.**

The official program symbol was created by Martin C. Boire of Florida, who is associated with the Live Laugh Love® brand line and is available for use for free in connection with the Live Laugh Love Nature Pocket Program pursuant to notice posted at [www.LiveLaughLove.com](http://www.LiveLaughLove.com) and replicated in program literature. The program symbol is composed of two upright human hands framing a butterfly, printed on a rectangular sign in portrait orientation, using white lettering on a park brown field, not smaller than five inches (5") by seven inches (7") or larger than ten inches (10") by fourteen inches (14"). Pre-printed signage may be obtained from Live Laugh Love® or the art can be download from [www.LiveLaughLove.com](http://www.LiveLaughLove.com) and produced without further permission at any local sign shop in accordance with the standards set forth in this paragraph. The background need not be reflective. Signage shall be mounted on a metal or wood four-by-four (4"x4") post, not higher than four feet (4') at the top of the sign from ground level. Where white is indicated in the attached chart file, it means either the white final showing through or the reflective surface showing through. Where Brown is used it means flat brown as this typically used on interstate park or historic signs and Park Service signs.

Round off the sign corners to avoid injury.

The font used in the signage is Arial and Myriad may be substituted.







- x How much time was involved?
- x Were any news articles written about your event? Can you include them for us to share or send us a link where people can read about it?
- x Did you get any support from your community or local government leaders?
- x Do you plan on doing this project again later on or perhaps a different one?
- x Was anyone inspired to do something similar because of your example?
- x How did the community respond?
- x What did you do to recruit volunteers?
- x What did you learn from the experience?
- x Pictures would be great to have so if you can, please include them after photos. Then everyone really get an understanding of what your team were able to do.
- x You can also write a short news article summarizing your event and its success. Hearing it from your perspective makes that much more meaningful!

SO TAKE SOME TIME, SHARE YOUR HEART, AND HELP US MAKE THE GREAT PLACE TO LIVE LAUGH LOVE.

Thanks!

*The LLL Team*

LiveLaughLove.com