



“Creatures are not just resources but have value in and of themselves and give glory to God.”

(Laudato Si, 33)

On the sixth day...sharing the wild.

After the sixth day, after God had created all the wild things – all the plants and animals of Earth, God told the man and woman they had dominion over them all. God saw that it was very good. Many believe that mankind was to go out and subdue the wild. But to have dominion means more. It means we are given a gift and we are meant to take care of that gift and cherish it. God saw that it was very good as he created it. We are called to preserve the natural world as God’s gift to us all.

The reality is that we bend the natural world to our needs. We see the wild places only in terms of what value they bring to us. What is truly wild and natural has been reduced to a small percentage of the world land mass and the ecosystems of our oceans and water ways are challenged as well.

Check out this [USDA sponsored website](#) that details how land is used in the United States. There are many articles, charts, and references. You might be surprised.

PRAY/LEARN

Study the charts and information at the above website.

Check out these organizations considered among the most effective at saving the natural environment worldwide:

- [Environmental Defense Fund](#)
- The [Nature Conservancy](#)
- [Natural Resources Defense Council](#)
- American Rivers <https://www.americanrivers.org/>
- [Black Swamp Conservancy](#) (local)
- [Sierra Club Foundation](#)

Say the following [prayer from the Thoughts About God](#) website: Loving Father and Creator of all, we come to you today deeply grateful for your creation. As we look around us, we are amazed at the greatness and majesty of all that you have made. Nature around us speaks of your greatness – the vast expanse of the sky, the mountains, trees, lakes and streams speak of your great design. You have given us such beauty in the colors of the rainbow, the beauty of flowers and fields and the wild creatures. Words cannot adequately express the magnificence of all you have created. We join in praise with the writer of the psalms when he says, “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.” May we show our love and reverence to you, our Lord, by caring for all that you have created. We humbly give you praise and thanks. Amen.



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FAST/CHANGE

Visit one of the [Wood County Parks](#). They are striving to return the land to its natural state by reintroducing native species. Enjoy the beauty.

Check out [Simpson Park and St. John’s Preserve](#) on Wintergarden Road in Bowling Green.

Talk with local farmers about their efforts to maintain wood lots and fence rows and protect their land through conservation easements with the local land trust, Black Swamp Conservancy.

Plant native species around your home and in your gardens to attract pollinator species such as butterflies and native bees. Use environmentally safe practices in caring for your lawn and garden. Check with [Wood county extension office](#) for advice.

GIVE/VOLUNTEER

Donate to one of the organizations in this article in support of their mission.

Become a [Master Gardener](#) and learn about practical actions you can do to maintain the land.

Become an [Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist](#)

Be a [volunteer at Nature’s Nursery](#), a wildlife conservation and rescue facility in Lucas County.