







Create Community Solutions

Evaluate the real-world challenges and solutions below. Then identify issues in your own community and propose solutions that use plants and plant experts.

COMMUNITY ISSUE	IMPACT	PLANT-BASED SOLUTION	PLANT PROFESSIONAL
 <p>Large amounts of rainfall within a short period of time cause flooding in low-lying communities.</p> <p>PROPAGULES are plant structures capable of growing a new plant, such as a seed, spore, or plant cutting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Disrupts drainage systems in cities. ▶ Overwhelms sewer systems. ▶ Stagnant pools of water become a breeding ground for insects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Plant trees, bushes, and propagules around vulnerable areas so the roots dig deep into the soil and act as a barrier to floodwater. ▶ Support healthy wetland systems to purify water, regulate water flow, and stabilize bank streams. 	<p>NATURAL LANDS MANAGER</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Specializes in maintenance and upkeep of land such as wetlands. ▶ Determines optimal conditions for dry and flooded soil to support propagation.
 <p>Suburbia is "carpeted" with grassy lawns. These landscapes create a grass monoculture due to an aesthetic preference for green, well-kept lawns.</p> <p>MONOCULTURE is the practice of growing a single type of crop or plant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Chemical runoff from lawn fertilizer is a major source of water pollution. ▶ Monoculture creates fewer opportunities for biodiversity. ▶ Keeping lawns watered can put pressure on our freshwater reserves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Add trees and shrubs to slow rainfall, create shade, and provide animal habitats. ▶ Plant wildflowers to attract pollinators, frogs, and worms and other invertebrates. ▶ Choose plants that will survive in climate and soil conditions without the need for additional watering and fertilization. 	<p>LANDSCAPE DESIGNER</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Designs a beautiful and functional outdoor space incorporating a variety of plants. ▶ Uses knowledge of horticulture to recommend plants suited to climate, amount of sunlight, and soil type.
 <p>Vacant lots in urban centers attract illegal dumping, are unsightly, and detract from the pride residents feel about their communities.</p> <p>FOOD INSECURITY is being without reliable or consistent access to affordable and nutritious food.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Dumping contaminates land with hazardous waste. ▶ Abandoned lots create an impression that a neighborhood is unsafe or not cared for. ▶ Untended lots can become breeding grounds for pests that carry bacteria and disease. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Reclaim the land and clear it of debris and hazards. ▶ Create an urban garden and green market with plants, flowers, and vegetables. 	<p>URBAN FARMER</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Helps to lessen food insecurity by growing fresh and healthy food choices in urban centers. ▶ Increases access to locally grown plants and foods that have been produced in environmentally sustainable ways.