



Nature At Home

We hope to inspire kids of all ages to learn about the natural world and discover new connections to nature.



Owls and Apples

View the video at DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home

Have you ever seen a Great Horned Owl in the wild? Seeing one in the daytime is a special treat. Owls, hawks and other birds of prey are helpful to us in this world because they help keep down rodent populations. Some of the smaller raptors even eat insects. They can be helpful to farmers. They are also beautiful to watch fly.



What can we do to help birds of prey? One easy thing everyone can do is don't let anyone throw litter out their car windows!

Some people may think tossing an apple core or other piece of food out the window is OK to do because "it's not really trash, it's biodegradable and will break down and turn into soil." But that isn't what happens. An apple core thrown out the window of a car onto the side of a road may cause a very different reaction. A mouse could be attracted to the apple core and start eating it. An owl sees the mouse on the side of the road and swoops down to try and catch the mouse. At the same time, another car drives down the road, hits the owl and it's left dead on the side of the road.



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If the person in the car had kept the apple core in the car and waited to throw it out at the first available trash can or even better, took it home to compost, the owl or other small raptor wouldn't have died.

During your day to day life, speak up and educate your family or friends if they accidentally throw food, and certainly not fast food wrappers or other trash, out car windows! You might be saving a birds of prey life!



If you have any questions, e-mail us at Education@DishmanHills.org