NATURAL areas in suburban and urban areas are oases for wildlife as development continues. These areas provide food, shelter and space need-ed for animals to survive. They also

ed for animals to survive. They also provide suitable places for various plants — which are often scorned by homeowners — to grow. Walking the trails is one way of getting some exercise, breathing fresh air, and traversing an area to see wildlife and various habitats.



But if you really want to see wildlife, one of the most effective ways is to remain still.

Pick a comfortable place along the border between a field and the forest, or along a stream running through the woods or a meadow. By remaining still, movements made by the stream of the str

makes it difficult to observe mution of animals.

Motion is one of the main ways that predators detect their prey.
Frogs that remain motionless can often go undetected by a snake. Well-

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camouflaged moths can avoid the scanning eye of a bird.

WILDLIFE watchers can use this same technique to see more creatures when they take the time to visit these natural areas. But people

\$5.00 Minimum

who walk the trails at their local city parks or the metro parks know that there is more to these natural areas. Observing widtle is one of the reasons people go to these places, but the change of scenery, so to speak, is just as important. Visiting a natural area can be very therapeutic after a busy week. Looking at trees that are not perfectly spaced, belief remove the vision that everything is controlled by man. The very lack of manmade objects keeps one from thinking about things they should be doing, could be doing, or should have done.

Sitting in one place and watching

or should have done.
Sitting in one place and watching the branches sway, clouds drift by, or a woodpecker search for food, love the simple things in file. Those times when you are alone with yourself and the natural world provide moments of deep reflection.

It does not take long to enjoy the peace of the natural world, but there has to be a place where you can enjoy it.

Tim Nowickt is a naturalist at dependence-Oaks Park in Oak-nd County. He lives in Livonia



Natural areas in suburban and urban areas are oases for wildlife as development continues. They provide food, shelter and space needed for animals to survive.



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