

National Wildlife Federation

National Wildlife Federation has been uniting Americans in our work to protect wildlife since 1936. We give voice to the wildlife conservation values that are part of our country's heritage. Our initiatives insure that wildlife will be part of our children's and grandchildren's lives.

NWF focuses its conservation work in the three areas that will have the biggest impact on the future of America's wildlife: confronting global warming, protecting and restoring wildlife habitat, and connecting people to nature.

NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat™ program registers gardens like this one where people can connect with nature. A habitat garden offers wildlife food, water, shelter and places to raise their young. It is maintained through sustainable gardening practices that can help reduce the effects of global warming. Is your garden a wildlife habitat? To learn more about certifying your garden, visit www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife.



11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston, Virginia 20190

National Wildlife Federation would like to thank the following partners whose generosity helped make this exhibit possible: American Beauties™ Native Plant Collection' from North Creek Nurseries, Prides Corner Farms and Riverbend Nursery, Gardeners' Supply Company®, Savio®, Wild Birds Unlimited®, Belgard® Pavers, and Katrina Kime, AIA.

Food



Native plants provide nectar, pollen, foliage, roots, seeds and berries that attract an exciting variety of wildlife to your garden. Plant native wildflowers, bushes, vines, and trees as sources of food for wildlife—instead of lawn grass—and you'll have a healthier, natural ecosystem. Feeders can supplement natural food sources, but native plants are best! [Learn more at **www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife**.](http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife)

Water



All animals need water to survive, and some need it for bathing or breeding as well. Even small water features such as bird baths will be used by wildlife. **Learn more at www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife.**

Cover



Animals need shelter from bad weather and predators. Dense shrubs, wildflower gardens, rock walls and evergreens provide wildlife with cover. **Learn more at www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife.**

Places to Raise Young



Wildlife need special areas for bearing and raising young. Hang a birdhouse, plant host plants for butterfly and moth caterpillars, or install a pond to provide places for wildlife to raise their young.

Learn more at www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife.

Sustainable Gardening



Eliminate chemicals from your garden. It's better for wildlife, our soils and water, for our planet, and for you, too. Gardeners who conserve water and soil and practice other sustainable, environmentally-friendly techniques in their gardens are helping to confront the problem of global warming. **Learn more at www.nwf.org/gardenersguide.**

GREEN HOUR®

Discover the Wonder of Nature...



Planning and caring for your Certified Wildlife Habitat™ is an activity the whole family can enjoy. Unplug your kids and show them how to spend time outdoors each day. **Learn more at www.greenhour.org.**



National Wildlife Federation® Certified Wildlife Habitat™ Demonstration Garden

The **National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat** demonstration garden helps illustrate what people can do in their own yards to provide habitat for wildlife. The four main habitat elements that all animals need are **food, water, cover, and places to raise young**. All of these elements are easily found in the demonstration garden.

Food is provided by bird feeders and native plants in the garden. In fact, every plant in the garden, besides the turf grass, is native to the Washington Metropolitan area and provide some type of wildlife benefit. For example, the Flowering Dogwood tree, *Cornus florida*, has berries that are eaten by birds and small mammals in the late fall and winter when food is scarce. The Trumpet Honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*, has trumpet-shaped flowers whose nectar is sipped by hummingbirds. Virginia Sweetspire, *Itea virginiana*, has flowers with nectar to attract butterflies and other pollinators.

The easiest way to provide **water** is a bird bath. It is important to change the water in the bird bath twice a week to prevent mosquito larvae from hatching. Some homeowners will put a small pond or other water feature in their yards, such as the one in the corner of the NWF demonstration habitat. Since the water is circulating, mosquito eggs won't likely be able to hatch in it. Many birds are attracted to the sound of the moving water, while others prefer the still water of the bird bath. Butterflies prefer a shallow tray or puddle of water in sand or dirt.

Cover is important to animals to protect them from the weather and for hiding (whether an animal is prey or predator). Dense bushes like the Inkberry, *Ilex glabra*, are a good way to provide cover as well as food for wildlife. Evergreen trees like the Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana* and the Eastern White Pine, *Pinus strobus*, are great for cover year-round. Although not present in the demonstration garden, a brush pile in a corner of a backyard is a place where birds and small mammals can hide. A pond is considered to be cover for amphibians and fish.

Animals also need **places to raise young**. A pond is a great place for fish and amphibians to raise their young. Mature trees provide nesting sites for birds, as do dead standing trees, called snags. Nesting boxes are another alternative. Host plants for caterpillars are where butterflies and moths lay their eggs. The Spicebush, *Lindera benzoin*, is a host plant for the Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly. Almost all of the milkweeds, such as Swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*, are host plants for Monarch butterflies.

In addition to the four elements listed above, a Certified Wildlife Habitat needs to employ at least two **sustainable gardening practices**, or environmentally-friendly ways to garden that include conserving water, promoting native species, eliminating chemical pesticides or fertilizers, and reducing runoff. In this garden, water is captured from the roof of the house and collected in a rain barrel. The water can then be used to water the plants within the garden. Because the plants here are native species that are adapted to local soils and climate, they should not need additional chemical fertilizers or watering. The compost bin in the corner will produce organic fertilizer when grass clippings, leaves and kitchen scraps such as vegetables and fruits are allowed to compost in it. The pavers for the patio are made of porous cement, so that water will run right into the soil beneath, instead running off into storm drains. The circular stepping stones are made of recycled rubber.

Any yard, no matter how small, can become a Certified Wildlife Habitat. With native plants and a clean water source, you can attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife to your yard. Over 103,000 sites across the country have been certified by the National Wildlife Federation. For more information, go to www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife or call 1-800-822-9919.

**National Wildlife Federation's
Demonstration Garden**

was made possible by the generous support
of these partners and friends

**American Beauties™ Native Plant Collection
North Creek Nurseries, Prides Corner Farms and Riverbend Nursery**

Available at local garden centers
www.abnativeplants.com

**Gardeners' Supply Company®
Rain barrel and adapter, self-watering planters, watering can,
recycled rubber stepping stones and compost bin
www.gardeners.com**

**Savio®
Pond package and installation
www.savio.cc**

**Wild Birds Unlimited®
Bird houses, bird feeders, bat house and bird bath
www.wbu.com**

**Belgard® Pavers
Permeable pavers
www.belgardpavers.com**

**Katrina Kime, Architect
House facade design**