

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN A CITY FOR THE BIRDS

BALTIMORE



For years Baltimore has been known as Birdland and now, thanks to the National Wildlife Federation, we can make it official. Our city plans to **B'More Wild** by becoming certified as an NWF **Community Wildlife Habitat**[®] — the largest along the Chesapeake Bay.

So what does this mean? It means Baltimore is committed to greening up our streets, backyards, schools, businesses and places of worship in a way that's wildlife friendly.

It's all about providing the four basic elements all wildlife need —



FOOD



WATER



COVER



PLACES TO RAISE YOUNG

Becoming a Community Wildlife Habitat[®] benefits Baltimore in so many ways:

Beautification There's a reason why when the movies show a pleasant neighborhood there are birds chirping in the background. Our wildlife friends make our days a bit brighter, and the native plants, trees and bushes we use to attract them also make our neighborhoods more beautiful.

Community Creating inviting urban green spaces brings neighbors together to tackle community projects. Plus, these outdoor havens encourage people to be outside, promoting even more contact among neighbors. Did you know some studies even have shown that greening neighborhoods may be associated with lower crime rates?

Conservation The Community Wildlife Habitat[®] program opens the door for discussions about sustainable gardening practices designed to increase native plantings, conserve water and eliminate pesticide use. It also provides a platform for our city to address important challenges like stormwater pollution, pollinator decline and invasive species.

Health Any time you green up a city for wildlife, you have the potential to improve both air and water quality. The more native plantings are used to attract wildlife, the greater potential we have of reaching the city's Healthy Harbor goals and helping to clean the Chesapeake Bay.

And, in an ever-crowded world you will have made a place where a migrating ruby-throated hummingbird can take a much-needed break. Where a Baltimore checkerspot butterfly can find a flower. Or where an Eastern box turtle can find a home.



You're the key to Baltimore becoming certified as a **Community Wildlife Habitat®**.



Schools, backyards, community and business sites each certify the same way. All must include the four elements of habitat – food, water, cover and places for wildlife to raise their young – so we just need your help to make it happen.



CERTIFY YOUR BACKYARD

It all starts at home. Certify your backyard and then enjoy the show the birds and butterflies provide, as well as the beauty native plants, trees and shrubs offer. If you've got children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, you'll be amazed by the looks of wonder you'll see when your yard comes to life.

Don't forget to get your neighbors involved, too. One yard certified is great, but it's even better when several adjacent yards provide the resources wildlife need. Many species need areas larger than a single lot can provide.



CERTIFY YOUR SCHOOL

All schools, from preschools to high schools, benefit from becoming a certified wildlife habitat. These wildlife habitats become outdoor classrooms where students learn about wildlife species and ecosystems, while unleashing their curiosity and creativity.

Plus, schools receive the unmatched support of the National Wildlife Federation. From webinars, how-to guides and curriculum support, NWF is your guide through the process and can connect you with nationwide peers through its Eco-Schools USA program.



CERTIFY YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP OR BUSINESS

Businesses find that creating wildlife habitat provides a welcome outdoor respite for employees, as well as a wonderful conservation-minded program to execute. This is much the same for places of worship, where certifying the grounds offer teachable moments on stewardship, as well as an outdoor space for learning and spiritual fulfillment.

All public certifications, whether at businesses, places of worship, hospitals or parks, offer experiential learning opportunities for the greater community.

Baltimore's always been a city for the birds, so let's make it official!
Certify your yard today at nwf.org/gardenforwildlife.



National Wildlife Federation is America's oldest and largest member-based conservation organization. From educating millions of kids through iconic publications like Ranger Rick® magazine to leading national campaigns to protect endangered species, NWF has a successful history of confronting America's biggest threats to wildlife and wild places. Here in

Maryland NWF hosts the Choose Clean Water Coalition, bringing together more than 200 organizations around the mission of restoring the health of the thousands of rivers and streams that feed the Chesapeake Bay. We also work hand-in-hand with our state affiliate, and partner in conservation, the National Aquarium.

Community Wildlife Habitat®

Advisory Committee
Audubon Maryland-DC
Baltimore City Dept. of Recreation & Parks
Baltimore Office of Sustainability
Blue Water Baltimore
Greater Baltimore Children & Nature
National Aquarium
National Wildlife Federation
Parks & People Foundation
Reservoir Hill Improvement Council

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