

Sacred Grounds™ Activities During COVID-19

Safety Guidelines & Tips

The National Wildlife Federation advises following the latest government and local policies regarding coronavirus (COVID-19). Follow your state’s latest mandated guidelines for specific area updates concerning outdoor activity and remember a Sacred Ground can be established in a communal space or at your home. Please find your state or territorial health department [here](#).

Below is a listing of Sacred Grounds action items from the [Actions Reported Checklist](#), along with suggestions for how they can be completed. Note that these are merely suggestions and there are different ways the program requirements can be satisfied.

Program Action Items	Suggestions
I. Connecting Faith and Environmental Stewardship	
Faith leader(s) speaks about restoring wildlife habitat and connection to faith to full congregation	<input type="checkbox"/> Live stream or record services, or share a video of faith leader(s) specifically speaking about connecting faith and environmental stewardship
Use religious education programs (youth and/or adult) to educate about wildlife habitat stewardship and the environment	<input type="checkbox"/> Make use of any existing structures for virtual religious education that your congregation may have created or consider <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct independent virtual workshops specifically about wildlife habitat stewardship and the environment
Use wildlife habitat area as a sacred space (worship service, religious school lessons, self-guided prayer walk, celebration service, or prayer garden)	<input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging congregants to use the sacred space on their own time for prayer, reflection and connecting to nature <input type="checkbox"/> Organize windows of time for use to limit capacity while ensuring congregants have the opportunity to use the space
II. Engaging the Congregation	
Host an informational table, or create a	<input type="checkbox"/> Place a banner on your congregation

display which highlights the projects	<p>website or social media profiles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create an online photo display of your congregation's wildlife habitat, including photos of specific plants used
Invite congregants to attend green team meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Host virtual meetings and maintain regular communication. Use programs such as Google Hangouts Meet, Zoom, Skype, WebEx or other virtual meeting software to hold meetings.
Host a planting day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Share resources and information regarding at-home planting. Refer to the National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife program for more information and resources. <input type="checkbox"/> Any planting should comply with national, state, and local guidance related to COVID-19 response
Host a celebration, dedication, or blessing for the habitat/garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Write an article about habitat work for the congregation's newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Share photos of the best at-home gardens
III. Reaching Beyond the Congregation	
Give a presentation on your Sacred Grounds™ and the certification process at a local, state, or national event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Write an article or blog about your Sacred Grounds™ project for a faith-based population, local newspaper, newsletter, or magazine <input type="checkbox"/> Host a webinar on your Sacred Grounds™ and the certification process
Host a garden tour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Host a virtual garden tour, live-streaming or posting a recording of the tour <input type="checkbox"/> Create a self-guided tour with educational signage to inform community members as they visit your natural space on their own
Host a volunteer workday to plant, sustain, and or/improve the habitat/garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Any planting should comply with national, state, and local guidance

	<p>related to COVID-19 response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Operate in shifts to limit numbers of people and to facilitate social distancing <input type="checkbox"/> Share resources and information regarding at-home planting. Refer to the National Wildlife Federation’s Garden for Wildlife program for more information and resources.
<p>Host a community workshop to share how to create a Certified Wildlife Habitat at area homes and businesses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Use Facebook Live, Zoom, or other platforms to present a native plant garden workshop for residents and homeowners
<p>Engage other organizations at your facility (e.g. Scouts, daycare/preschool, social service organizations) through service projects, activities, or events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Any gathering should comply with national, state, and local guidance related to COVID-19 response
<p>Host or support a native plant sale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Develop procedures to host your event safely through designated pick-up times and online ordering to ensure social distancing. <input type="checkbox"/> Watch NWF’s webinar, Native Plant Sales and Giveaways during COVID-19 to hear about ways that other communities are continuing their events while adhering to social distancing and local regulations around COVID-19.
<p>Earn recognition for being a wildlife-friendly community by expanding your action plan to include other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts through a program like the National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Please refer to the Community Wildlife Habitat program page for more information on the National Wildlife Federation program
<p>Maintaining your Sacred Ground</p>	
<p>Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats and support reduced use of pesticides and insecticides</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Please limit outreach to local officials responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, but do consider using this time to work with appropriate departments to review your community’s ordinances to get organized for future revisions to improve them

