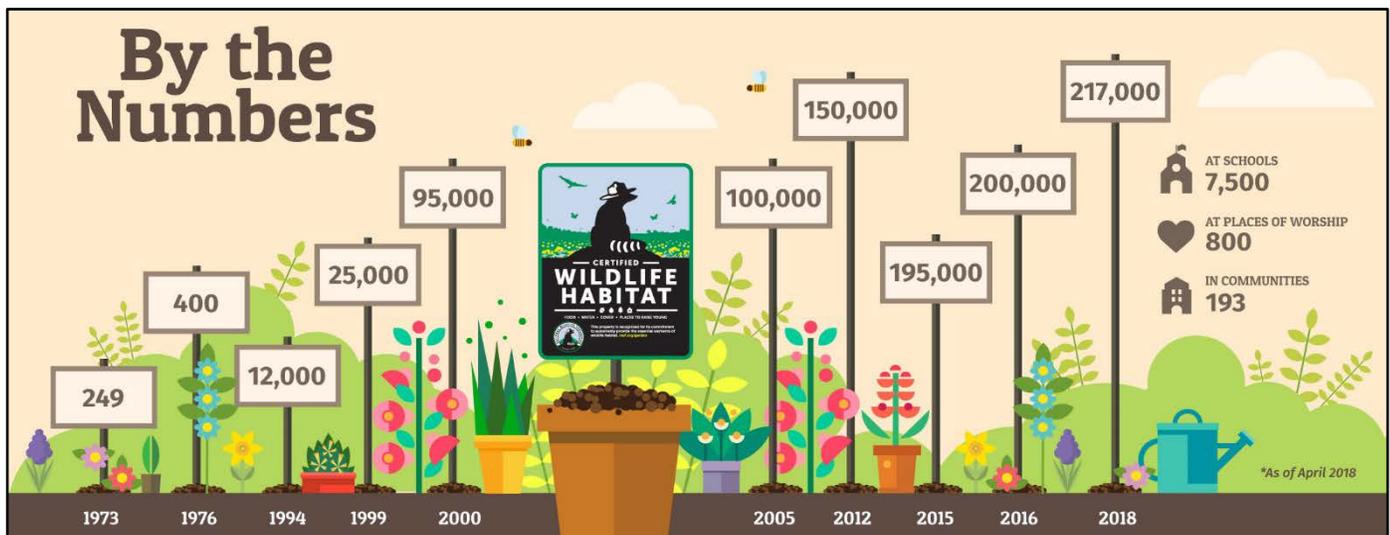


MISSOULA

The Garden for Wildlife City

The National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat certification program recognizes and supports community-wide efforts to green landscapes and buildings, improve air and water quality, restore vital wildlife habitat and improve the well-being of all community members. Certified spaces can include homes, schools, and common areas such as parks and greenways.

In partnership with the City of Missoula, the National Wildlife Federation seeks to recognize Missoula as Montana's first certified **Community Wildlife Habitat**: an opportunity to celebrate and communicate our commitment to enhancing the natural assets of the Garden City, from elk wintering on City conservation lands to butterflies sheltering and finding food in balcony garden boxes. Learn more and join us!



Did You Know that Missoula Parks and Recreation:

Cares for 29,000 trees in city rights-of-way and parks? These trees provide critical habitat for butterflies, songbirds, small mammals and other pollinators, refresh and clean our air and water, and cool our environment!

Manages 4,000 acres of open space and conservation lands which provide recreational areas for our enjoyment and are home to diverse native plants and wildlife!

Manages 400+ acres of riparian habitat along the Clark Fork River and Rattlesnake Creek which provide high quality wildlife habitat, water filtration services, and recreation opportunities!

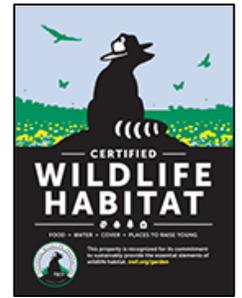
Visit our **Missoula Community Wildlife Habitat Initiative** page

www.ci.missoula.mt.us/1908/Missoula-Community-Wildlife-Habitat-Init



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Certified Wildlife Habitats



Does this mean I'm gardening for deer?

Nope! When gardening for wildlife we make an effort to attract wildlife that is appropriate for urban areas (e.g. pollinators, songbirds and amphibians) and avoid undesirable wildlife such as deer and bears by planting species that may attract desirable wildlife while deterring those that cause problems. This is consistent with Missoula's wildlife feeding ordinance, which states that it is unlawful to feed wildlife within the city limits, excluding ornamental plants and properly hung feeders.

Does gardening for wildlife mean using only native plants?

Nope! We encourage using native plants when possible because they often require less water, less maintenance, and serve an important role in the local ecosystem, but it's not necessary that a certified habitat consist exclusively of native plants. Non-native plants may have attributes that are more desirable than natives, while still providing ample wildlife habitat. For example, many of our parks and boulevards are planted with non-native tree or grass species for safety, functional and aesthetic purposes.

Do I have to remove my lawn?

Nope! Landscapes with lawns can provide valuable wildlife habitat. Just make sure the landscape includes the four elements of a habitat—food, water, shelter, and a place to raise young—to qualify for certification. In some spaces, grass turf is essential to provide opportunities for youth and adult recreation, such as soccer and softball.

Are fertilizers and herbicides off limits?

Nope! NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat program encourages the elimination of chemical substances to protect sensitive pollinators, other wildlife and to prevent water pollution. In some cases the use of chemicals as part of an integrated pest management program can address invasive weeds, insect pests, and other threats to landscape health. Certified habitats are maintained with sustainable practices, which emphasize alternatives to artificial fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides when possible and practical.

Do I have to let my garden dry up in the summer?

Nope! NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat program aims to promote awareness and education of sustainable gardening practices, encouraging gardeners to adopt water conservation measures such as using native plants, collecting rainwater, targeted irrigation methods and using natural mulch to retain soil moisture. Watering our lawns and gardens is necessary during hot summer months, but minimizing irrigation saves money and keeps water in our aquifer and streams to protect fish and wildlife.

Please note: Before planting anything in the Public Right of Way or on any public land, please visit the City of Missoula website and Missoula Municipal Code Chapters 12:32 and 12:48 for regulations at www.ci.missoula.mt.us/.



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