



CITY OF BILLINGS

BILL COLE, MAYOR

**P.O. BOX 1178
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59103
(406) 657-8296
FAX (406) 657-8390
coleb@ci.billings.mt.us**

March 20, 2019

Montana Wildlife Federation
Attn: Liz Bronson
Education and Outreach Assistant
2822 Third Avenue North, Ste. 204
Billings, MT 59101

Re: Letter of Support for Billings Gardening for Wildlife Project

Dear Liz,

Wildlife is all around us here in Montana, including in urban areas such as Billings. We enrich our lives when we appreciate and nurture the wildlife that is right under our noses. That is why I want to indicate my support for the Billings Gardening for Wildlife project led by the Montana Wildlife Federation. Billings is the second community in Montana to register under the program and is on the way to becoming a certified Community Wildlife Habitat under the National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife program.

Under this program, homeowners, businesses, schools, and other properties can receive recognition for landscaping practices that provide quality habitat for desirable wildlife, such as native birds, amphibians, and pollinators like bees and butterflies. These practices include reducing the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, conserving water, installing native plants, removing invasive weeds, and composting. The goal is to enhance and restore wildlife corridors in urban and suburban areas, improve resistance to drought and other climate changes, conserve water, and make the environment healthier for everyone – outcomes that benefit people and wildlife.

The Billings Gardening for Wildlife program is a natural fit for the city and consistent with the high value our residents place on the community and the outdoors. Montana Wildlife Federation's work will not only create healthy habitats for wildlife but offer benefits for Billings residents and visitors now and for future generations..

Respectfully,

William A. Cole, Mayor
City of Billings

*Billings Pride:
City-wide*