



ORIOLE GARDEN FACT SHEET

About the Oriole Garden

In May 2016, the National Wildlife Federation, the Baltimore Orioles, and the Maryland Stadium Authority partnered to install an “Oriole Garden” featuring native plants that will attract orioles, butterflies and other local birds. With bird populations in decline due to fragmented landscapes and urbanization, this native plant garden will provide orioles and other species the food and shelter they need to survive.

- Located behind the Veteran’s Memorial Plaza at the Eutaw Street entrance to Camden Yards
- Encompasses 10,311 ft²
- Includes approximately 12,000 native plants, comprising 26 different species, including: *Asclepias tuberosa*, the milkweed known commonly as butterfly weed, which has striking orange flowers through the summer for pollinators. Its foliage is critical for the Monarch butterfly. Baltimore orioles use the stalks and fibers from milkweed to create their unique basket-shaped nests.
- Plants provided by [North Creek Nurseries](#)
- Coincides with orioles’ natural migratory pattern
- Can help reduce polluted runoff from entering local waters and the Chesapeake Bay

About the Baltimore Oriole Bird

- Scientific Name: *Icterus galbula*
- 6 to 8 inches in length with a wingspan of 9 to 12 inches
- Eats a wide variety of insects during summer months, including beetles, crickets, grasshoppers, moths and flies, as well as spiders, snails and other small invertebrates; fruit and nectar are important fall food sources
- Seen in the eastern U.S. and as far west as Montana
- Migrating populations head south during the late summer to early fall and stay in the Southeast or Central and South America until April
- Forages in the treetops and commonly build nests in American elms, cottonwoods, and maples
- Named for the English Baltimore family, whose crest is colored similarly to the bird



How to Attract Baltimore Oriole Birds to Your Backyard

- **Use the right food:** Plant native fruit and nectar-producing plants or hang cut/halved oranges from trees. You can also buy special oriole feeders filled with sugar water that supplement the flower nectar that Baltimore Orioles gather.

- ***Plant a good nesting tree:*** In the past, Baltimore orioles raised their young mostly in elms, but today they may also use the more common maples, sycamores and willows.
- ***Provide nest-building materials:*** Construction materials can include grass, strips of grapevine bark, wool and horsehair, as well as artificial fibers such as twine.
- ***Avoid pesticides:*** Spraying insecticides onto trees not only kills off Baltimore Orioles' insect food, but may poison the birds directly.

About *Grow Together Baltimore*

The National Wildlife Federation's *Grow Together Baltimore* project works with communities to grow vibrant green spaces that benefit Baltimore's residents in many ways.

- The National Wildlife Federation and the National Aquarium are leading an effort to help Baltimore "Grow Together" by certifying the City as the largest Community Wildlife Habitat™ in the Chesapeake Bay region.
- *Grow Together Baltimore* will create backyard habitat, beautify neighborhoods and schools, reduce pollution and further a sense of community. Work has begun to certify 600 homes, 10 parks, and 6 schools, creating a network of oases for urban and suburban wildlife that will span the city.
- For 40 years, the National Wildlife Federation has engaged homeowners, businesses, schools, universities, places of worship and community organizations to create and improve wildlife-friendly landscapes through its *Certified Wildlife Habitat* program.
- The Oriole Garden is one significant portion of the program that will be a highly visible symbol of a much larger community partnership to provide vibrant green spaces and urban wildlife habitat in Baltimore.
- Other partners in the *Grow Together Baltimore* campaign include Audubon Maryland-DC, Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, Baltimore City Schools, Baltimore Office of Sustainability, Baltimore Orchard Project, Blue Water Baltimore, Greater Baltimore Children and Nature Collaborative, Maryland Institute College of Art, National Aquarium, Parks and People Foundation and Reservoir Hill Improvement Council.

The [National Wildlife Federation](#) is America's largest conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).