Certified Wildlife Habitat® Checklist

Use this walk-through checklist to confirm you have all the elements necessary to be certified:

*Note: this checklist is only a tool to prepare your garden, please certify online at www.nwf.org/certifiedwildlifehabitat

FOOD: Your habitat should provide a minimum of three of the following types of food. Supplemental feeders are optional.

☐ Native Plants  ☐ Berries/Seeds  ☐ Nectar  ☐ Foliage/Twigs
☐ Fruits  ☐ Sap  ☐ Pollen  ☐ Suet
☐ Bird Feeder  ☐ Squirrel Feeder  ☐ Hummingbird Feeder  ☐ Fallen Leaf Layer

National Wildlife Federation recommends a habitat garden space strive for a minimum of 50-70% native plants.

WATER: Your habitat needs one of the following sources to provide clean water for wildlife to drink and bathe:

☐ Birdbath  ☐ Seasonal Pool  ☐ River  ☐ Bird Feeder
☐ Lake  ☐ Ocean  ☐ Butterfly Puddling Area  ☐ Squirrel Feeder
☐ Stream  ☐ Spring  ☐ Fallen Leaf Layer  ☐ Fallen Leaf Debris

COVER: Wildlife needs at least two places to find shelter from the weather and predators:

☐ Wooded Area  ☐ Roosting Box  ☐ Meadow or Prairie
☐ Bramble Patch  ☐ Evergreens  ☐ Dense Shrubs/Thicket
☐ Ground Cover  ☐ Brush or Log Pile  ☐ Water Garden or Pond
☐ Rock Pile or Wall  ☐ Burrow

PLACES TO RAISE YOUNG: You need at least two places for wildlife to engage in courtship behavior, mate and then bear and raise their young:

☐ Mature Trees  ☐ Wetland  ☐ Dead Trees or Snags  ☐ Water Garden/Pond
☐ Meadow or Prairie  ☐ Cave  ☐ Dense Shrubs/Thicket  ☐ Host Plants for Caterpillars
☐ Nesting Box  ☐ Burrow  ☐ Fallen Leaf Debris

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES: You need to employ practices from at least two of the three categories below to help manage your habitat in a sustainable way- to better help wildlife, we advocate employing one or more practices from each category:

☐ Soil and Water Conservation:
  - Riparian Buffer
  - Capture Rain Water from Roof
  - Xeriscape (water-wise landscaping)
  - Drip or Soaker Hose for Irrigation
  - Limit Water Use
  - Reduce Erosion
  - Use Mulch
  - Rain Garden
  - Leave the leaves in garden beds and around the base of trees and shrubs.

☐ Controlling Exotic Species:
  - Practice Integrated Pest Management
  - Remove Non-Native Plants and Animals
  - Use Native Plants
  - Reduce Lawn Areas

☐ Organic Practices:
  - Eliminate Chemical Pesticides
  - Eliminate Chemical Fertilizers
  - Compost