

HABITAT LOSS IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF BOTH SPECIES EXTINCTION AND ECOSYSTEM DECLINE

There are many reasons to restore ecosystems by gardening for wildlife:

- Mitigates climate change (e.g. through carbon sequestration);
- Restores natural capital such as drinkable water, clean air and wildlife populations and helps threatened or endangered species;
- Provides aesthetic benefits: unparalleled beauty, connection to nature, relaxing sounds, fresh air, mental and emotional well-being;
- Fulfills a moral duty: Human intervention has unnaturally destroyed many habitats, and there exists an innate obligation to restore these destroyed habitats and ecosystems; and
- For practical reasons: low cost and low maintenance. Sustainable landscaping on all scales contributes to environmental capitalism" as evidenced by the growing native plant nurseries, green industries and organizations. *Ecology is profitable!!*

The goal of the Ewing Community Wildlife Habitat Project is to encourage the creation of landscape habitats using the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat Certification Program.



CERTIFY YOUR YARD!
Go to
nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife

6 easy steps to create a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat



PROVIDE FOOD

Plant native plants that have nectar, fruits and seeds. Supplement natural food sources with bird feeders. This provides diverse food supplies throughout the year. Ask us for suggestions and sources.



PROVIDE PLACES TO RAISE YOUNG

Many of the places wildlife use for cover, like trees or shrubs, are also ideal locations to reproduce and raise the next generation. Try to offer habitat that meets the needs of all phases of the lifecycle.



SUPPLY WATER

Wildlife needs clean drinking water to survive. Backyard ponds, bird baths, and puddles have immense value to creatures always looking for a clean, reliable source of water. Be sure to provide year round.



GARDEN SUSTAINABLY

Use wildlife-friendly landscaping methods. Reduce the amount of lawn. Don't use chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Compost. Save water on your property with a rain garden/barrels..



CREATE COVER

Harsh weather and predators are constant threats to wildlife. Cover, such as rock or brush piles, evergreens, snags, and even man-made birdhouses, all provide needed protection.



GET CERTIFIED

Certify your garden with the National Wildlife Federation and spread the word! Share your certification success with the GT and EC and help us encourage other Ewing gardeners to do the same.



*"Bringing Nature Home
one backyard at a time"*

Ewing Community Wildlife Habitat Project



The Ewing Community Wildlife Habit Project Team would be delighted to work with you to help you get your property certified!
Our team consists of wildlife gardeners and volunteers from Ewing's Green Team (EGT) and Environmental Commission (EEC) who are passionate about gardening and want to promote habitat creation and living in harmony with the natural world.

- Joanne Mallowney – EGT Chair
- Joe Mirabella -EEC Chair
- Eileen Antolino
- Dan Burke – EEC member
- Mary Corrigan – EGT member
- Heidi Furman
- Karen Kissel
- Glenn Steinberg
- Jocelyn Wallace

Contact Us - ewinggreenteam@gmail.com

ewingwildlifegardens.com

EGT/EEC Sustainable Landscaping Series



Bert H. Steinmann
Mayor

Sustainable Ewing Green Team (EGT)
Ewing Environmental Commission (EEC)
Ewing Township Municipal Complex
2 Jake Garzio Drive
Ewing, NJ 08628

Gardening for Wildlife Habitat is important because...



You can't just talk about "gardening" for wildlife without discussing the wildlife itself. WHAT visits our urban gardens, HOW can we coexist with the visitors, and WHY they will come. And WHY isn't just because we've planted trees, shrubs, and pretty flowers that attract them. It's because we are filling in the holes of depleted contiguous forests, fields, and flyways that all these critters have historically traversed for eons long before humans appeared and took it away from them.

Aesthetically, the most obvious benefit is the natural beauty and serenity we come to enjoy and appreciate as we drive around our town... but deep beneath all that, the less obvious but even more significant advantages are the restoration and healing of our collective human psyche when we contribute to and enhance Earth's biosphere. Even the smallest reconnection to nature will be expressed in our emotional well being.

In recognizing the importance of ECOSYSTEMS, we can use THAT as the guidance for recreating them in our gardens. The wildlife knows what should be there to make them happy. It's our job to understand the wildlife FIRST and then recreate their habitat one backyard at a time into a NETWORK of backyard habitats that fills in the gaps along their devastated historic migration paths ... forests, fields, and flyways. Our backyards are small, but together we can provide what they need to complete their long migrations and life cycles.

