



Denver Community Wildlife Habitat

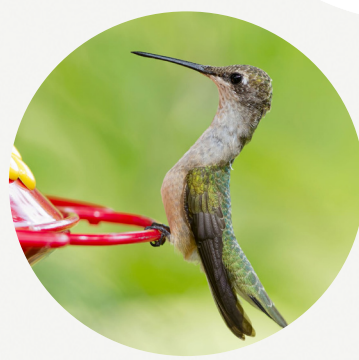
NEARBY NATURE: CONNECTING PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

The City and County of Denver has announced its intention to certify as a Community Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation.

The process of certifying as a National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat will result in the creation of habitat gardens throughout the City while elevating citizens' awareness of their multiple benefits for Denver's people, wildlife and water. These efforts, spearheaded by the Department of Parks and Recreation, are in partnership with The National Wildlife Federation, Denver Water, Denver Public Schools, Denver Botanic Gardens and the Colorado Wildlife Federation. This coalition will collectively engage and partner with residents, businesses, schools and other stakeholders to beautify and enhance the places where Denverites spend most of their time.

Existing between the more highly-valued built spaces such as parks, open space and rivers, in-between spaces have enormous potential because they are spaces we interact with on a daily basis. Creating nearby nature where people are every day can lead to broad-scale connections with nature, water conservation, pollinator habitats, beautification and a myriad of other benefits for Denver's communities. By engaging Denver's residents and businesses to create green space at multiple scales, we can address Denver's sustainability issues while strengthening the community across the City.

To successfully certify the City, partners will encourage and support the creation of water and pollinator-friendly habitat gardens in yards, businesses, schools, universities, places of worship, parks and other community spaces. The Community Wildlife Habitat program empowers resident leaders to take action for wildlife throughout their communities. The program provides these leaders with a framework to restore wildlife habitat and educate and engage community members while working to attain The National Wildlife Federation's esteemed certification as a wildlife-friendly community. Furthermore, it is designed to be collaborative, fostering civic engagement and increasing equitable access to nature by creating small green spaces for residents of all ages and backgrounds. The City and County of Denver and its partners have chosen this framework to advance their collective goals of improving the city's livability, enhancing habitats for wildlife and improving water quality and quantity.





Benefits of Certifying Denver as a Community Wildlife Habitat

- Connect people with the natural world and support biodiversity conservation.
- Reduce environmental health risks associated with urban living and facilitate human health and well-being by improving physical, mental, and emotional health.
- Promote pollinators, reduce stormwater runoff, and encourage water conservation.
- Build equitable access to high-quality green spaces.
- Complement and build on existing work to create and enhance green spaces in Denver.
- Provide important areas of wildlife connectivity throughout the city and beyond.

Denver seeks to become the largest Community Wildlife Habitat in the West with this endeavor, hoping to join such large cities as Houston and Baltimore that have achieved full certification. In total, 116 other communities have been certified across the nation.

The National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat program has been helping people take personal action on behalf of wildlife for more than 40 years. The program engages homeowners, businesses, schools, churches, parks and other institutions that want to make their communities wildlife-friendly. The Community Wildlife Habitat project is part of The National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife program. Since 1973, The National Wildlife Federation has provided millions of people with the basic guidelines for making their landscapes more wildlife-friendly. There are more than 200,000 certified habitats nationwide. For more information, please go to: www.nwf.org/garden.

Learn more at NWF.org/Community and get more updates at NWF.org/DenverCoWH.

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WWW.NWF.ORG/COMMUNITY

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PHOTO CREDITS

Page 1: Certified Courtyard (Sally Vance), Ruby Throated Hummingbird (George Brehm), Monarch Butterfly (Marie Serrazina), Carpenter Bee (Robin Lee-Thorp)

Page 2: Birdbath (David Mizejewski), Ruby Throated Hummingbird (Mark Brinegar), Bumblebee (Jeff Maslin)

Page 3: Habitat Cover (Jenni Lopez), Sunflower and Goldfinch (Olga Sobko)