

Wildlife Habitat in Washington Park:

One Neighbor's Experience

Presented by

Maureen Hanrahan(mpventur@gmail.com)

To the

Climate and Sustainability Committee

June 2023





 Audubon


Plants for Birds

The native plants in my garden provide food and shelter for our beautiful birds, and they contribute to a healthier world for all of us.

[Audubon.org/PlantsForBirds](https://www.audubon.org/PlantsForBirds)

A program of Audubon's Coleman and Susan Burke Center for Native Plants





NWF Backyard Certification Process

Creating a wildlife habitat garden to attract birds/ bees, butterflies, and other neighborhood wildlife is fun, rewarding, and makes a big difference. It's easier than you might think. Here is what your wildlife garden should include:

Food: Native plants provide food eaten by a variety of wildlife. Feeders can supplement natural food sources.

Water: All animals need water to survive, and some need it for bathing or breeding as well.

Cover: Wildlife need places to take shelter from bad weather and places to hide from predators or hunt for prey.

Places to Raise Young: Wildlife need resources to reproduce, and to protect and nourish their young.

Sustainable Practices: Maintain your yard or garden in natural ways to ensure soil, air, and water stay healthy and clean.

Preparing the Space

- Soil with compost enhancement
- Water – trickle or drip best
- Eliminate the non native/noxious plants
- Organics- always
- Layout by yourself or with assistance (see references)



Flowering Perennials and
Shrubs Native to Colorado
are vital to attracting native
birds, insects, animals



Examples of Native Colorado Plants

Perennial Flowers

woods rose, veronica, coneflower (echinacea), milkweed, monarda (bee balm), sunflower, yarrow, blue flax, penstemon, globemallow, hyssop, blanket flower, salvia

Shrubs/ Bushes- yellow currant, chokecherry, Apache grass, serviceberry, rabbitbush, yucca, sumac



Water Source for drink and bathing

(should be non
stagnant water, use
solar fountain pump in
birdbath)



Protection of young (birdhouses, bee hotels)



Protection fence

(Not required but
keeps people and dogs out)



Cover/Shelter

(slash pile, snag tree, leaving dried plants standing over winter, “wildscape”)





Sustainable Practices

- **Soil and water conservation**
(xeriscape, drip or soaker irrigation, mulch)
- **Controlling exotic species**
(non native plants, pest management)
- **Organic practices**
(eliminate chemical pesticides and fertilizers, use compost)



Why certify?

It's a fun
experience for
young and old

Researching and
planning teaches
you a lot about
local habitats

It gets you
outside in great
Colorado weather

You meet
neighbors as they
walk by and
inquire

You are
supporting native
birds, bees and
other creatures

You become
more aware of
activity in your
own yard

It supports
national efforts to
protect natural
species

It enriches our
neighborhood



How to Obtain Certification

- Trust-based NWF process yet very adaptable to a variety of settings (home, school, organizations)
- Obtain the requirements through the organization's website
- NWF offers a certification walk through checklist on their website in the 4 required elements plus sustainable practice requirements. You have a variety of choices.

For example:

- **Food:** need 3 of elements such as seeds from a plant, berries, nectar, foliage/twigs, fruits, sap, Pollen, Suet, bird feeder, squirrel feeder, hummingbird feeder, butterfly feeder, nuts

**Submit your application, pay your fee
and celebrate your commitment**

Resources

Certification/ Information guide options

- Wildlife Habitat-National Wildlife Federation (<https://www.nwf.org/certify>)
checklist at their web site
- Planting for Birds- Audubon (<https://www.audubon.org/news/how-make-your-yard-bird-friendly-0>)

Information Sources

- Colorado Extension Services for Colorado native shrub and herbaceous perennial charts (<https://extension.colostate.edu/p2/?s=native+plants&submit>)
- Colorado Native Plant Society (hosts great garden tours) <https://conps.org/>
- Harlequin Gardens (Boulder), High Country Gardens (on line) to purchase native plants or list at CSU site
- Colorado Wildscapes book by Audubon at Home (on Amazon for \$20)
- Denver Botanic Gardens Library; Native Plants Demonstration Garden in Loveland