



Community News

National Wildlife Federation Certifies New Wildlife Habitat Garden in Huntington Beach

by: Cait Fallon
Published: January 23, 2024

HUNTINGTON BEACH...The National Wildlife Federation (NWF), America's largest wildlife conservation and educational organization, is pleased that Christ Lutheran Huntington Church & School in Huntington Beach has successfully created a Certified Wildlife Habitat through its Garden for Wildlife movement.

NWF celebrates this effort to create a garden that supports birds, butterflies, bees, frogs, and other local wildlife. Every Certified Wildlife Habitat garden provides natural resources of food, water, and cover and places to raise young and is maintained in a sustainable way that incorporates native plants, conserves water and doesn't rely on pesticides.

Started in 1973, the Garden for Wildlife movement is the oldest and largest native plant/habitat program, recognizing over 289,000 Certified Wildlife Habitat gardens across the United States to date, encompassing an estimated 4 million acres that support wildlife locally. Backyards, urban gardens, school grounds, businesses, places of worship, campuses, parks, farms, zoos, and community landscapes can all be recognized as wildlife habitats through the program. "We are excited about this new Certified Wildlife Habitat, as it provides native plants and essential habitat elements. Research shows certified properties have the potential to support twice as much wildlife compared to non-certified properties." Said, Mary Phillips, Head of the Garden for Wildlife Certified Habitat. "Anyone, anywhere can restore wildlife habitat right in their own backyards and communities," said NWF Naturalist David Mizejewski. "Whether you garden in a suburban yard, an urban area or a rural plot of land, you can make a difference for local wildlife. Creating a Certified Wildlife Habitat garden is fun, easy and makes a real difference for neighborhood wildlife. It's the perfect grassroots way to think globally and act locally and help birds, butterflies, bees and other wildlife," he added.

"It is imperative that young students become citizens and stewards of their own environments. They need to have opportunities to build a connection to nature rooted in reciprocity. It deepens their innate ability to care for and become proactive citizens of our schools, our communities, the world," said Desiree Robles.

“The asphalt of the playscape needed to be repaired so we took the opportunity to create an environment where children can be immersed in nature. We want children to be able to observe the phenomena of birds swooping down from the old pine tree to eat, watch hummingbird enjoy the honeysuckle and to grow lavender, fruits and vegetables. This project took a village and many companies have helped to ensure our environment is rich with elements needed for both nature and children to thrive.”

Many of NWF’s state affiliate organizations are partners in the Garden for Wildlife movement. Habitats in partnering states have national and state certification.

Participants who have their wildlife habitat garden certified receives a personalized certificate with a unique habitat number, a one-year membership to NWF with a subscription to Nation Wildlife magazine, a subscription to the Garden for Wildlife e-newsletter, a 10 percent discount to National Wildlife catalog, the exclusive right to post a Certified Wildlife Habitat yard sign and \$5 off native plants at www.gardenforwildlife.com.

For more information on NWF’s Garden for Wildlife movement and how to qualify to have a garden space recognized as a Certified Wildlife Habitat, visit www.nwf.org/garden. To jump start creating your own Certified Wildlife Habitat order native plant collections for your zip code designed to provide three season bloom at www.gardenforwildlife.com. *Photo:NWF*