

# Colchester is certified as a **Community Wildlife Habitat** through the National Wildlife Federation since 2010; the first community in CT with this certification



Do you care about Wildlife locally to help Colchester remain certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat by certifying your own property through the National Wildlife Federation?

Cost: \$20 application fee complete online application  
<https://www.nwf.org/certifiedwildlifehabitat>



Components of a Wildlife Habitat:  
Food, Water, Cover, Place to Raise Young,  
Sustainable Practices

## Benefits to NWF Wildlife Habitat Certification

When you certify you will become a member of the National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife™ community and receive the following benefits:

- Personalized certificate
- A one-year membership in the National Wildlife Federation and subscription to National Wildlife® magazine
- 10% off the National Wildlife Federation catalog merchandise, including nesting boxes, feeders, birdbaths, and other items to enhance your wildlife garden
- Subscription to monthly Garden for Wildlife e-newsletter with gardening tips, wildlife stories, and other resources
- Exclusive option to purchase attractive garden signs designating your garden as a Certified Wildlife Habitat® with the National Wildlife Federation



Winter wildlife photos by Stan Malcolm <https://www.flickr.com/photos/stanmalcolm/albums>  
To view more photos by Stan Malcolm <https://www.performance-vision.com/airline/index.htm>

## Start thinking about Enhancing Your Gardens for Wildlife and Pollinators this Spring with Native Plants

- Learn more about enhancing your backyard habitat for wildlife. You can view and download **Enhancing Your Backyard Habitat for Wildlife Guide** written by CT DEEP Wildlife Biologist, Peter Picone, which includes tree, shrub and perennial plant lists at [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/wildlife/pdf\\_files/habitat/enhancingbackyardhabitatpdf.pdf?rev=3d8348190eeb43f89fb79d9d1639b43f&hash=01EEF170617904DF440B6E84F02B4314](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/wildlife/pdf_files/habitat/enhancingbackyardhabitatpdf.pdf?rev=3d8348190eeb43f89fb79d9d1639b43f&hash=01EEF170617904DF440B6E84F02B4314)
- Learn more about Keystone Plants and Soft Landing to benefit Caterpillars, Butterflies and Bees from Pollinator Pathways – CT <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/caterpillars-butterflies-and-bees>
- Pollinators – Learn how to create a garden that will attract native pollinators with seed saving in mind. Seed Savers <https://seedsavers.org/learn/pollinators/>
- Native Plants for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects (Plant List) Xeres Society [https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/22-026\\_01\\_NPPBI—Northeast\\_web.pdf](https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/22-026_01_NPPBI—Northeast_web.pdf)
- Monarch Butterfly Nectar Plants (Plant List and more) Monarch Watch [https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/18-003\\_02\\_Monarch-Nectar-Plant-Lists-FS\\_web%20-%20Jessa%20Kay%20Cruz.pdf](https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/18-003_02_Monarch-Nectar-Plant-Lists-FS_web%20-%20Jessa%20Kay%20Cruz.pdf)
- Learn more about Xeriscape Gardening – “*Xeriscape gardens rely on drought- tolerant and native plants and special gardening techniques for a more water- efficient landscape*”. [https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/files/ugd/507894\\_162b0370aa4142b594305af4e766fa79.pdf](https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/files/ugd/507894_162b0370aa4142b594305af4e766fa79.pdf)
- Consider adding Container plantings to your home landscape to benefit pollinators using the Proven Winners Complete Guide. The site has many facets worth exploring under categories of LEARN and GARDENING IDEAS <https://www.provenwinners.com/learn-0>
- Visit the Colchester Seed Library - In 2022, the Colchester Garden Club partnered with the Cragin Memorial Library to implement a source for free seeds and related educational material.
- Start your seeds early with easy winter seed sowing technique (see next page)



# plant native



## Winter Seed Sowing in Recycled Jugs



① Collect jugs. Wash thoroughly.



② Drill or cut 6-8 drainage holes in bottom.



③ Cut jug just below handle, leaving handle attached.



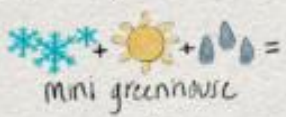
④ Fill jug with 3-4 inches of moist potting soil. Press firmly.



⑤ Sow seeds evenly on surface + cover lightly with soil. Grow one species per jug.



⑥ Seal shut with duct tape. Label with UV proof marker to prevent fading.



mini greenhouse



⑦ Place jug outside. Monitor moisture + add water if dry.



⑧ Open jug in spring + vent on warm days.



⑨ Transplant into garden + water regularly until established.



Pollinator Pathway

<https://www.lickingpollinatorpathway.org>

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## For Parents:



Encourage your children to spend time outdoors in nature every day; the National Wildlife Federation's Green Hour has an abundance of activity suggestions.

<https://thegreenhour.org/>



**Help children learn, play, grow through gardening.** See activities at

<https://kidsgardening.org/>

Consider nature crafts for Valentine's Day with your children



- **Nature Valentines Crafts for Kids** <https://thimbleandtwig.com/nature-valentines-crafts-for-kids-2/>
- **Beautiful Nature Valentine Craft For Kids** <https://ourdaysoutside.com/beautiful-nature-valentine-craft-for-kids/>
- **Nature Valentines** <https://sproutingwildones.com/nature-valentines/>
- **20 Gorgeous Valentine's Day Nature Crafts for Kids** <https://mothernatured.com/nature-crafts/valentines-day-nature-crafts/>
- **5 Easy, Earthy and Unique Valentine Crafts for Kids** <https://tinkergarten.com/blog/4-valentines-nature-craft-ideas-that-teach-the-love-to-kids>

## Visit Cohen Woodlands and Colchester's StoryWalk

Ruby and Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands is a 206 acre open space park with so much to offer to view and get close to nature and wildlife – two ponds, large fields, three hiking trails, picnic tables and demonstration gardens developed and maintained by members of the Colchester Garden Club with plants supporting pollinators through the seasons. For a map of the park and brochure about the pollinator garden: <https://www.colchesterct.gov/parks-facilities/pages/ruby-and-elizabeth-cohen-woodlands>. To learn more about the ColchesterStory Walk, see brochure:

<https://www.colchesterct.gov/parks-facilities/files/storywalk-brochure>