

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



5 Components of a Wildlife Habitat:

- Food
- Water
- Cover
- Places to Raise Young
- Sustainable Gardening Practices (includes removal of invasive plants)



Need a unique holiday gift?

Certify your property as a Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation and purchase a habitat sign. This will help Colchester stay certified with the points of each new certified habitat property in town.

For details go to: <https://www.nwf.org/CERTIFY>

Are you planning to have a live tree for Christmas?

- *Which type of evergreen tree is right for you?*
https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/choosing_the_right_christmas_tree
- Care and tips from the CT Christmas Tree Growers Assn.
<https://ctchristmastree.org/tree-care-tips/>
- What you can do with your live Christmas tree after the holidays to help birds and other wildlife. <https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/good-growing/2019-12-24-christmas-trees-after-holidays> AND <https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/flowers-fruits-and-frass/2020-12-25-what-do-live-christmas-tree-after-holidays>
- Caring for a live Christmas tree that is balled and burlaped for later planting in your landscape and creating a lasting memory: <https://extension.psu.edu/caring-for-a-living-christmas-tree> AND <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/10/HO-211.pdf>
- **Insects - What you may see and what to do.** *"Real Christmas trees are living trees grown outdoors and, like other living outdoor trees, they can harbor overwintering insects and other arthropods. Some of these arthropods can remain on a tree when it is brought indoors and can become active when exposed to warm indoor temperatures"* <https://extension.psu.edu/insects-on-real-christmas-trees>



Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester



Are you planning to feed the birds this winter? Learn more...

- The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is offering a free, downloadable booklet titled **“Winter Bird Feeding.”** Go to the web site below and fill in the requested information in right margin
https://dl.allaboutbirds.org/birdcams-winter-bird-feeding?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA3ZC6BhBaEiwAeqfvypjJwsnedEbtIJ7JOA7v8oIBmOVKGoQKh3SoZSwxN_QY8yeg5N9GMhoCOWEQAvD_BwE
- The Audubon Society has an article **“How to Welcome Winter Birds”**
https://www.audubon.org/news/how-welcome-winter-birds?ms=digital-eng-paid_search-google-x-20240100-google_grant&utm_source=google&utm_medium=paid_search&utm_campaign=20240100_google_grant&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA3ZC6BhBaEiwAeqfvymWsmo-CsAPrbgkXk7Y06QmWuyLK8Ckjb7Mc8afaAmQ8Tpz58DusLBoCmtYQAvD_BwE
- To 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 Picon, at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/wildlife/pdf_files/habitat/enhancingbackyardhabitatpdf.pdf?rev=3d8348190eeb43f89fb79d9d1639b43f&hash=01EEF170617904DF440B6E84F02B4314

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/>

- For ideas to garden with children go to Kids Gardening at <https://kidsgardening.org/>



- Check out the holiday craft ideas using natural materials from Project Learning Tree https://www.plt.org/educator-tips/holiday-craft-ideas-natural-materials/?campaignid=21747489088&adgroupid=167572957843&adid=714651931626&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA3ZC6BhBaEiwAeqfvypZk7UsfaGIRIILXobr0E4hr3gZfCMGV8CUYQ1D6bbrkuW1mujGHhhoC_QgQAvD_BwE

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 for pollinators 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, see brochure: <https://www.colchesterct.gov/parks-facilities/files/storywalk-brochure>

A new book for the winter season will be installed soon.

Colchester's StoryWalk® is a partnership project of the Cragin Memorial Library, C3—the Collaborative for Colchester's Children, Colchester Garden Club, Colchester Land Trust, and the Community Wildlife Habitat of Colchester.