

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



Take this 5-minute quiz to see if your outdoor space supports wildlife.

This assessment framework is developed from the National Wildlife Federation's **science-based Certified Wildlife Habitat Program** - America's longest running conservation initiative designed to support and recognize people and places committed to planting native plants and providing essential habitat elements.

You too can make a positive impact regardless of expertise or the size of space. Join over 300,000 NWF wildlife gardeners and learn how to create habitat by starting with this quiz.

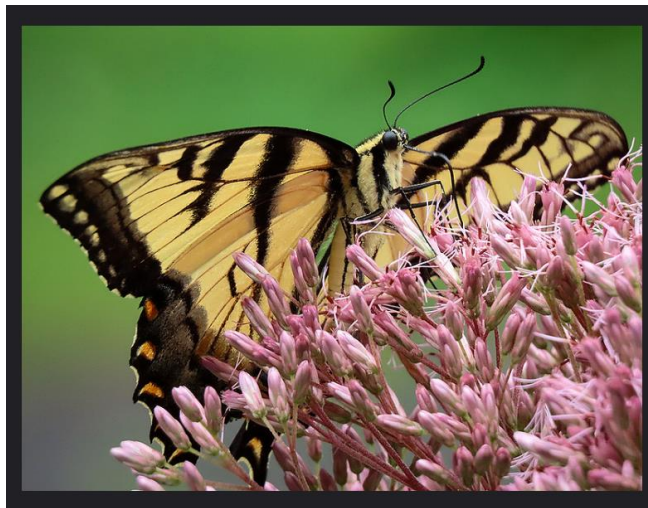
<https://www.nwf.org/Native-Plant-Habitats/Create-and-Certify/Habitat-Quiz>

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

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



Tiger Swallowtail on Joe Pye Weed Photo 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>

- 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

- 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
- 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
- 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>

For Parents:



GREENHOUR™
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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/>

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>