

Habitat Certification Application

Use this form to certify a wildlife-friendly space in your yard, school, or anywhere in your community. If your habitat meets the requirements, you'll receive a personalized certificate suitable for framing and become a member of National Wildlife Federation, receiving our award-winning National Wildlife® magazine and a 10% discount on all NWF catalog merchandise. For Delaware residents, Delaware Nature Society can provide one free consultation from a trained Habitat Steward volunteer (see below). For questions please call (302) 239-2334 ext. 142.



Property owner or organization _____
If you are filling out this application for someone else, please write their name in the space provided above.

If organization, contact person _____

Name(s) to Appear on Certificate _____
Maximum 30 characters, spaces included.

Address of Habitat _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

Mailing Address (if different from above) _____

I would like a free site visit and consultation from a trained Habitat Steward (*optional*)

In what type of area is your property?

Urban Suburban Rural

What watershed to you live in (if known)?

How big is your property? _____ acres

Check the option that best describes your habitat.

- Home
- Apartment
- Business/ Corporation
- Park/Community Garden
- Farm
- Place of Worship
- School/ University/ College
- Nature Center/ Educational Setting

FOOD SOURCES: Plants provide the basic foods for wildlife. Feeders can be used as a supplemental source of food. Remember that some creatures will become food for others in a balanced habitat. Encourage a natural diversity of wildlife in your yard to ensure a healthy ecosystem. How do you provide food for wildlife? **(Minimum requirement: 3)**

Plant Foods: ___ Seeds ___ Nuts ___ Pollen
 ___ Berries ___ Fruits ___ Nectar
 ___ Sap ___ Foliage/Twigs

Supplemental Feeders: ___ Seed ___ Suet
 ___ Squirrel ___ Butterfly
 ___ Hummingbird

WATER SOURCES: Wildlife need a clean water source for drinking and bathing. How do you provide water for wildlife? **(Minimum requirement: 1)**

___ Birdbath ___ Water Garden/Pond
 ___ Spring ___ Butterfly Puddling Area
 ___ Lake ___ Rain Garden
 ___ Ocean ___ Stream/River
 ___ Seasonal Pool ___ Shallow Dish

PLACES FOR COVER: Wildlife need shelter from bad weather and hiding places-for both predators and prey. How do you provide cover for wildlife? **(Minimum requirement: 2)**

___ Wooded Area ___ Dense Shurbs/Thicket
 ___ Bramble Patch ___ Evergreens
 ___ Rock Pile/Wall ___ Burrow
 ___ Cave ___ Meadow/Prairie
 ___ Roosting Box ___ Water Garden/Pond

PLACES TO RAISE YOUNG: In order to provide complete habitat. you must provide places for wildlife to engage in courtship behavior and to mate, and then to bear and raise their young. How do you provide places to raise young for wildlife? **(Minimum requirement: 2)**

___ Mature Trees ___ Dead Trees/Snags
 ___ Meadow/Prairie ___ Dense Shrubs/Thicket
 ___ Nesting Box ___ Water Garden/Pond
 ___ Wetland ___ Burrow
 ___ Host Plants ___ Cave
 for Caterpillars

To apply, please send:

- Completed application (incl. Sustainable Gardening Checklist) - REQUIRED
- \$20 non-refundable application fee **payable to NWF** -REQUIRED
- \$10 check or money order **payable to DNS** for each requested Backyard Wildlife Habitat sign - OPTIONAL



DELAWARE NATURE SOCIETY
 ATTN: LoriAthey
 (loria@delawarenaturesociety.org)
 PO Box 700, Hockessin, DE 19707



Allow 4-6 weeks for processing.
 Please keep a copy of this application for your records.

SUSTAINABLE GARDENING CHECKLIST

Please complete and return with your Habitat Certification Application



Sustainable gardening practices are an important part of your home landscape. There are many ways to promote healthy soil and water quality while providing habitats for wildlife on your property. Certified properties are asked to implement a **minimum of 8 conservation techniques** throughout any of the following categories. Check (✓) the practices that you implement.

Water Quality & Conservation

- Use a rain barrel with a mosquito-proof cover to capture roof runoff
- Maintain a rain garden
- Water your lawn or garden areas only during the early morning or evening hours without excessive watering that leads to unnecessary runoff
- Allow vegetated buffers of at least 10 feet around natural water features including ponds, streams and wetlands
- Direct roof downspouts away from impervious surfaces onto lawn, garden, gravel areas or rock beds
- Limit paved surfaces to favor more porous options such as wooden decks and gravel paths
- Wash your car away from paved surfaces so that soap does not flow directly into the sewer, wash your car with low phosphorous soaps, use a professional car wash where they recycle the water, or never wash your car
- Never apply chemicals within 15 feet of a waterway
- Other— explain _____

Fertilizer

- Conduct a soil test (every 3 years for lawns) to see how much if any fertilizer is needed. (The University of Delaware Cooperative Extension can provide this service at a nominal cost)
- Never apply more than the recommended amount of fertilizer according to label directions or results of soil test
- Create and/or use compost
- Use only organic fertilizers such as:
 - Nitrogen (N) – grass clippings, compost, blood meal, cotton seed meal, fish emulsion
 - Phosphorous (P) – compost, bone meal,
 - Potassium (K) – compost, aged manure, fire wood ash, green sand, seaweed
 - Minerals (magnesium, zinc, iron, sulfur) – kelp meal
- Reduce nutrients and bacteria by removing pet waste from your yard
- Keep fertilizer, grass clippings, leaves and other debris off of paved surfaces including walks, driveways, streets & stormdrains
- Other— explain _____

Lawns

- Only fertilize in fall
- Never remove grass clippings
- Allow clover to grow in your lawn
- Use controlled-release, slow-releasing (coated fertilizer) or insoluble organic sources of nitrogen (bloodmeal, compost)
- Use a Livable Lawn landscaper or took the Liveable Lawns Pledge (www.delawarelivablelawns.org)

Pesticide & Herbicide

- Eliminate use of chemical pesticides (including Herbicide, Insecticide and Rodenticide)
- Practice Integrated Pest Management (1PM), which involves implementing a variety of strategies to control pests, while causing minimal impact to the environment
- Choose the least toxic control methods available, explain _____
- When applying chemicals, read the entire label and follow directions carefully, wear protective clothing, and dispose of excess materials appropriately (reuse or bring to a hazardous waste drop-off site)
- Other, explain _____

Soil Conservation

- Prevent erosion by stabilizing steep slopes with plants, rocks, or terraces, protect exposed soil during construction projects with a tarp, or simply inspect your property for signs of erosion and manage as needed
- Use groundcovers or natural materials such as leaves, twigs and pine needles as mulch on garden beds to protect soil and discourage weeds
- Other, explain _____

Promote Native Species Diversity

- Plant native plants
- Remove invasive plants
- Reduce lawn areas to incorporate more natural landscapes
- Keep cats indoors or closely monitored outside and never feed feral cats
- Install a deer fence or use natural repellents to promote diverse growth of native plants
- Allow fallen leaves and perennial stems & seedheads to remain until mid-spring
- Other, explain _____

Estimate what % of your property is naturalized (meadow, woods, wetland) or in gardens _____ %

Name _____ **Phone#** _____

Address _____

How did you hear about this program? Friend/Neighbor DelNature website NWF
 Facebook Brochure Sign Program Presentation Habitat Steward
 Other (please describe) _____

I am interested in learning about Delaware Nature Society Membership

Thank you for helping to improve Delaware's environment!