

Community Assessment – NWF Community Wildlife Habitat Program

The purpose of this document is to help NWF Community Wildlife Habitats map out key information about their own community. Answering these questions will ensure communities have through key questions to effectively meet certification and education/outreach goals!

We encourage you to use this document with your team to set goals for the coming year(s). This form is intended to be a starting place.

Part I – The Basics

- A. Community Demographics – Race, Gender, Income, Other
 - 1) For General Population
 - 2) For Schools
- B. What do you hope to achieve by becoming certified as an NWF Community Wildlife Habitat?
- C. What name (if any) do you wish to give to your NWF Community Wildlife Habitat project?

Part II – Certification Goals – Creating Habitat

- A. Schools In Your Community
 - a. Name of Public School District(s):
 - i. Number of Elementary Schools:
 - ii. Number of Middle Schools:
 - iii. Number of High Schools:
 - b. Number of Private or Parochial Schools
 - c. Other Educational Sites Where Kids Learn Outdoors on a Regular Basis
- B. “Common Areas” In Your Community
 - a. Neighborhood, City, County, Municipal or Other Parks
 - b. Neighborhood & HOA Common Areas
 - c. High-visibility, high-traffic community sites that may include government buildings, businesses, museums or nature centers, etc.
- C. Homes And Other Properties in Your Community:
 - a. Number of Households:
 - b. Number of Neighborhoods:
 - c. Number of Businesses:
- D. What are your certification goals for your first year?

Part III – Program Goals - Community Partners, Allies & Assets

Partnerships are critical to the success of your community meeting the goals of the NWF Community Wildlife Habitat program. Think about the following

- A. What partners in your community could assist with the project? Could they help spread the word? Host an educational event or workshop? Host a demonstration habitat site? Provide other support?
Consider creating a list of the following types of partners and think about what role each could play.
 - a. Experts, Research Professionals (Universities)
 - b. Community Foundations
 - c. Federal, State or Local Government (County, City, etc.)
 - d. Neighborhoods & HOAs (neighborhood & civic associations, listservs)
 - e. Non-profit Organizations (museums, nature centers, 4-H, YMCAs, scouts, MANY others)
 - f. Local Media Outlets (newspapers, radio stations, TV stations)
- B. What local events or projects could you participate in to get the word out about the project? (earth day, national migratory bird day, national wildlife week, great outdoors month, etc.)
- C. Where could you potentially host educational events or workshops? What types of workshops might you and/or your partners' host?
- D. Have you identified any potential sites for a demonstration habitat (to provide hands-on education for community members on how to create and maintain a habitat)?
- E. What are your program (community education and outreach) goals for your first year?

Part IV – Wildlife, Environment and Policy Goals

- A. What environmental issues or needs does your community have that this project can help to address?
- B. Describe some of the ecosystems in your community. Do you know what ecoregion you are part of?
- C. Do you have any endangered, threatened, rare or migratory species within your community? If yes, what are those species? Do your project goals include efforts to help any of those species?
- D. What watershed is your community located within? How will your efforts impact your local watershed?
- E. What are your local landscape / weed ordinances (or HOA policy)? Are they friendly to gardening for wildlife and ensuring the use of native plants?
- F. Does your community have a Park Master Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan, Sustainability Plan or other municipality-wide plan related to the environment? How do your efforts fit in?