

HELP MAKE EVANSTON GO WILD



Join *Natural Habitat Evanston's* effort to make Evanston a better home for our pollinators.

We envision an Evanston of green spaces welcoming to birds and pollinators, and a community culture that nurtures them and creates, restores and conserves the habitats on which they depend.

What is NATURAL HABITAT EVANSTON about?

We plan to accomplish our vision by engaging our diverse community and collaborating among all community partners — residents, government, businesses, schools, nonprofits, places of worship, clubs and others — to:

- Certify Evanston as a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) community habitat;
- Create, restore and conserve habitat that birds and pollinators need to thrive;
- Educate the community regarding the needs of birds and pollinators, such as reducing pesticides and chemical fertilizers and encouraging native plants; and
- Create bird and pollinator friendly habitat corridors that reach across the borders of Evanston to our neighboring communities because creatures like butterflies don't stop at city borders.

Our work is critical because human beings are part of our ecosystem and we need a healthy environment. If Evanston is safe for birds and pollinators, it is also safe for us. We rely on bees, butterflies and other insects to pollinate our food and gardens. We need birds to disperse seeds and to keep nuisance bugs at bay in a manner gentle to the environment. Right now, many birds and pollinators are in decline worldwide from pesticides and other chemicals, habitat loss, a changing environment and other threats. Many species that need our help, such as monarch butterflies and Canada warblers, use Evanston habitats in summer or on spring and fall migration. We can help them, and help Evanston.

Who can help, and how?

To certify Evanston as an NWF Community Habitat, individual backyards, school grounds and public areas like parks, community gardens, places of worship and businesses must earn National Wildlife Federation certification, showing they provide four basic elements all living things need: food, water, cover and places to raise young, as well as reduce or eliminate chemical pesticides and herbicides on their property. Evanston needs at least 200 residences, six community properties and five schools to certify their properties as pollinator habitats to qualify.

The Evanston community must also raise awareness and educate residents about sustainable gardening steps, such as reducing or eliminating chemical

fertilizers and pesticides, conserving water, planting native plants and trees, composting through workshops, garden walks, park cleanups and more.

What can you do?

- **Certify your property.** Go to www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create-a-Habitat.aspx.
- **Spread the word.** Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/CitizensGreenerEvanstonHabitat/](https://www.facebook.com/CitizensGreenerEvanstonHabitat/) or email Habitat@GreenerEvanston.org.
- **Be a partner.** Your business, club, nonprofit or place of worship can partner to spread the word, assist with education or fill other needs. To become a partner, please email Habitat@GreenerEvanston.org.

Our Partners

