



proud to be a

National Wildlife
Federation

Certified Community Wildlife Habitat



In the early years of our community several neighbors accepted the responsibility to lead the effort for our community to be stewards for our flora and our wildlife. With the support and approval of our HOA Board, they coordinated a community-wide effort which resulted in Sweetwater in the Foothills becoming the first community in Arizona to be certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Community Wildlife Habitat. Our initial certification was attained in January 2007. We were the 22nd community in the country to achieve this status. Today there are nearly 100 communities across the country that have achieved this designation, and many more are seeking certification.

This certification brings pride and value to our community. Our continued efforts to preserve the delicate balance of residential living and a desert environment have made our neighborhood very desirable.

We invite all residents to participate, either formally or informally, in this important ongoing community project. Your thoughtful consideration for our wildlife is important to the sustainability of our wonderful desert environment.

We encourage you to learn more about certifying your property as a “Certified Wildlife Habitat”. Please visit the National Wildlife Federation’s website at:

www.nwf.org/certify

There is an application processing fee of \$20. This supports the National Wildlife Federation's programs to inspire others to make a difference and address declining habitat for bees, butterflies, birds, amphibians and other wildlife nationwide.

If you have questions about this initiative, please contact:

Guy Brunt

Sweetwater in the Foothills
Community Wildlife Habitat Coordinator
guybrunt@comcast.net

Please Note - if you do choose to become certified and are approved, you will receive a certification number. We ask that you communicate that number to our Coordinator.

Thank you for your consideration.



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Sweetwater in the Foothills resides on the rolling bajada of the Tucson Mountains, one of the most biologically diverse desert mountain ranges of its size in the world. Our community was designed to be harmonious with its unique natural upper Sonoran desert setting.

Our riparian areas and arroyos (washes) provide drainage from the Tucson Mountains to the Santa Cruz River about two miles to the east. While these washes run infrequently, they provide critical habitat for desert flora and fauna and serve as corridors for native wildlife. The washes in the community are all considered “common areas” and have been retained in their natural state. They are well used by the resident birds, reptiles, rabbits, javelina, bobcats, coyote and other indigenous wildlife.

Our landscape emphasizes compatibility with the existing upper Sonoran desert, sensitivity to its fragile ecosystems, and a commitment to low water usage vegetation. Existing natural features, such as stands of saguaros, unique vegetative groups, rock outcroppings, and washes have been preserved. The majority of introduced plant materials are indigenous, arid, or semi-arid plants ensuring minimal water usage and compatibility with the built and natural environments.



We encourage residents to supply that most critical element in a desert setting, water, in their yards through simple bird baths or more elaborate water stations and water features. While some choose to



use supplemental

bird seed or hummingbird feeders, residents are also encouraged to plant additional desert vegetation that can provide nectar, fruits, and seeds for our unique and abundant Sonoran wildlife. Rock piles are suggested to provide homes for lizards and dense shrubs offer protection for the thousands of clutches of eggs laid by Gambel’s quail each year. By working with the natural environment that is so much a part of Sweetwater in the Foothills, residents of all kinds (humans and other species) can reap the rewards of the unique and stunningly beautiful environment of the Sonoran desert.