

Backyard Certification

Certification programs for outdoor spaces, from a balcony in an apartment building to a 10-acre yard, can provide a helpful framework for transforming your space into a haven for wildlife. While each program has a primary focus, each offers a very similar path to sustainable and wildlife-friendly yard. Explore the different programs to find one that best suits your yard and personal objectives.

Program Name	Organization	Description
Watershed Friendly Property Certification	Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards	Certify a property of any size that is managed with best practices to reduce stormwater runoff, reduce water pollution, conserve water, and support wildlife.
Certified Pollinator Friendly Garden	Penn State Extension Master Gardeners	Complete an application to certify your garden contains necessary features for pollinator health, including food and water sources, shelter, and reduced pesticide use.
Pollinator Protection Pledge	Xerces Society	Sign an online pledge to manage your garden according to four main principles.
Pollinator Pathway	Pollinator Pathway	Apply pollinator-friendly principles to any size property, including container gardens, with a goal of creating interconnected pollinator-friendly spaces.
Certified Wildlife Habitat	National Wildlife Federation	Complete a checklist to certify your yard provides food, water, cover, and places to raise young for wildlife with a minimum goal of 70% native plants and no pesticide usage.
Homegrown National Park	Homegrown National Park, Doug Tallamy	Plant native plants, remove invasive plants, and add your property to a national map.