



MARCH TIP SAVINGS: Up to \$400/YR
Avoided Emissions of CO₂: Up to 1,200 lbs./YR

\$USTAINABILITY \$AVINGS TIP

INVITING WILDLIFE TO YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Create a wildlife-friendly landscape to help restore lost habitat

You hear about Monarch butterfly populations being on the decline and bees disappearing due to colony collapse disorder. Even many of our songbirds are experiencing downward trends in population. Is there anything you can do to help? Fortunately, yes! Pollinators and birds worldwide are in decline due to habitat loss, invasive species, parasites, and pesticides. Whether you have an apartment patio, a residential yard, a school garden, golf course, or common area, you can create a wildlife-friendly garden or landscape that helps restore habitat. (Note: If viewing a paper copy, Google search the titles mentioned below to find online resources)



✦ BASICS

Provide food such as native plants and flowers, shallow water sources, protective cover such as trees and shrubs, and a place for wildlife to raise their young. For butterflies, as an example, this would mean specific plants, such as milkweed for caterpillars to feed upon and nectar plants for adults.

✦ LEARN WILDLIFE NEEDS

Many local organizations (see below) provide assistance. Also, watch for plant sales at Desert Botanical Garden and Boyce Thompson Arboretum. Glendale offers a great booklet, [Welcome Wildlife to Your Garden](#).

✦ EASE UP ON CLEANUP

Allow plants to grow naturally to help create nesting places. Leave flowers to dry so birds can find the seeds. Leave a little litter. It is good for your plants and for insect-eating birds. Reduce or eliminate pesticide use and welcome beneficial bugs.



✦ GET CERTIFIED

The National Wildlife Federation certifies Backyard Wildlife Habitats. Find this and other certifications below:

✦ EVENTS & CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

EVENT: Sat. March 16, 10 am to Noon. [Spring Equinox in the Monarch Garden](#). SW Monarch Study will be at this fun program. Participate in craft activities, talk to experts, tour the garden.

MONARCH WAYSTATION: [SW Monarch Study](#) has great information, including how to create waystations (a place for Monarchs to rest and feed during migration).

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION: How to create a [wildlife-friendly garden](#) and how to get certified.

AUDUBON SOCIETY:

- [Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center](#): Learn about location & programs.
- [Desert Rivers Audubon](#): Offers education programs and bird habitat recognition.

MILLION POLLINATOR GARDEN CHALLENGE: Register gardens that [support pollinators](#).

\$START \$AVING

Start saving on your water bill while doing your part to support wildlife and for *building a sustainable community*. Visit our [website](#) for more sustainability savings tips.

Learn to live Green



mesaaz.gov/sustainability