



Friends of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge

What can we do to make our own yards more wildlife friendly?

1. Provide habitat that is friendly by growing native flowers, and shrubs and trees that will provide food, and shelter for insects, birds, and other creepy crawlies. Learn more about habitat through the WA Department of Fish & Wildlife Habitat at Home program
2. Within the habitat make space and food for native bee populations by planting diversity of native, perennial wildflower to provide a succession of bloom that will ensure adults have access to nectar and pollen from early in the spring until late fall. (Penstemon, milkweed, wild bergamot, dotted mint, New England aster, and goldenrod)
3. Provide water source for birds and insects through water features, plant saucers or shallow bird baths.
4. Provide nesting habitat by leaving field borders and garden edges untilled and unmown, creating brush piles, maintaining snags, stumps, and rotting logs. Dead wood, such as hollow logs and tree stumps, provide nesting areas and shelter for bees, wasps, and beetles. Bee and insect houses also provide nesting sites- you can purchase or make your own.
5. Plant native pollinator plants in 3-foot clumps or pollinator patches which makes them more visible; spread the flowering season of the clumps to have food for the whole growing season, i.e., include 2-3 spring clumps and 2-3 summer clumps and 2-3 fall clumps in your pollinator garden. Encourage your neighbors, and local groups to plant also, and then use these gardens for educational demonstrations to educate others on the importance of pollinators and their habitat.
6. Choose a variety of flower colors, shapes and heights; flowers in shades of blue, purple, white, and yellow are better to attract bees. Red, yellow, orange, pink, and purple blooms are better for attracting butterflies.
7. Protect bees, caterpillars, butterflies and moths and dragonflies from pesticides. Avoid insecticides which have a lethal effect on bees, etc. and

avoid the indiscriminate use of herbicides that can reduce the abundance and diversity of flowers available as forage.

8. **Choose a sunny spot:** Collecting nectar and spreading pollen is arduous work. Locate your pollinator patch in a spot that gets ample sunlight, since many pollinators are energized by the warmth of the sun. Also provide rocks to serve as warming and resting spots.
9. Make room for host plants for larval species and expect that some of the leaves will get eaten and no longer be “perfect”.
10. Join the Friends of Turnbull and become an advocate for being wildlife friendly - <https://www.fotnwr.org/membership.html>
 - a. Create a Habitat at Home by certifying your yard with WA Fish & Wildlife - <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/backyard>
 - b. Join Sign the Pollinator Pledge of the Xerces Society - <https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/pollinator-protection-pledge> or
 - c. Join Audubon Society, or
 - d. look into “Homegrown National Park” - <https://homegrownnationalpark.org>
 - e. look up the National Wildlife Federation - <https://www.nwf.org/CERTIFY>