



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 may have heard about **monarch butterfly populations declining**, **bees struggling due to colony collapse disorder**, and **songbirds experiencing long-term population drops**. It's easy to wonder: *Is there anything I can do to help?* Fortunately, the answer is **yes!** Pollinators and birds around the world are under pressure from habitat loss, invasive species, parasites, and pesticide use. But even small changes can make a meaningful difference. Whether you have an **apartment patio, home landscape, school garden, golf course, or shared community space**, you can create a wildlife-friendly garden that provides food, shelter, and safe places to thrive. Every plant choice matters—and together, our landscapes can become part of the solution.



✂ BASICS

Provide essentials wildlife needs to survive. **Food** (native plants and flowers), **water** (shallow, reliable water sources), **cover** (trees, shrubs, and dense plantings for protection), and **places to raise young** (undisturbed areas for nesting and shelter). For butterflies, this means planting **specific host plants** (such as milkweed for caterpillars) along with **nectar plants** for adult butterflies.

✂ LEARN WILDLIFE NEEDS

Many organizations (see below) offer guidance, classes, and resources to help you get started. Watch for native plant sales at **Desert Botanical Garden** and **Boyce Thompson Arboretum**. The City of Glendale offers a great booklet, [Welcome Wildlife to Your Garden](#).



✂ EASE UP ON CLEANUP

A slightly “messier” landscape is better for wildlife. **Allow plants to grow naturally** to create nesting places. **Leave flowers to dry** so birds can access seeds. **Leave some leaf litter** – it is good for insect-eating birds. **Reduce or eliminate pesticides** and welcome beneficial bugs.

✂ GET CERTIFIED

The **National Wildlife Federation** certifies **Backyard Wildlife Habitats**. Find this and others below:

✂ EVENTS & CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

EVENT: Sat. March 21, 10 am to Noon. [Spring Equinox in the Monarch Garden](#). Butterfly and nature experts will be at this fun program. Participate in craft activities, celebrate spring, 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.

\$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