

# Chadwick Arboretum

## Backyard Wildlife Certification Plan

*This document has been adapted from Doug Tallamy's book, Nature's Best Hope, the National Wildlife Federation's Wildlife Checklist, and the Audubon Society's Backyard Wildlife's Certification Checklist.*

### START HERE:

Draw a bird's-eye view of your yard or the area that you want to certify. This does not need to be well-drawn - you are the only one who will see this. Knowing your square footage and drawing your picture to-scale is helpful. *Tip: Use Google Maps to print out an aerial shot of your property!*

### CONDUCT A SITE ANALYSIS:

A site analysis for wildlife is a way to evaluate your existing landscape for its wildlife value. Please see page 2 for details and resources on how to begin.

### FORM YOUR PLAN:

Use the following checklist to identify the top 5 ways your backyard can improve for wildlife knowing that your budget, size of property, and your interests should inform the ones you choose. Each item below has been expanded upon and explained in the following pages.

- Shrink the lawn**
- Remove invasive species**
- Plant keystone genera**
- Be generous with your plantings: increase diversity, abundance, and natives**
- Create or enhance natural layers**
- Plant for birds (caterpillars) and for pollinators (pollen and nectar)**
- Plant for specialist pollinators**
- Build a conservation hardscape**
- Welcome all life stages: eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults**
- Use Integrated Pest Management to manage pests**

### TAKE ACTION:

Write up your plan of action to add the elements above to your landscape. Include a timeframe and be as specific as possible. When you have finished, use this form to send in your plan to Chadwick Arboretum's Review Team: [go.osu.edu/wildlifecertificate](https://go.osu.edu/wildlifecertificate)

### GO ONE STEP FURTHER:

- Network with neighbors**
- Educate your neighborhood**
- Add your square footage to the map: <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>**