

Application for Wildlife Sanctuary Certification

Contact Information / Organization / Property Location					
Name					
Street Address					
City		County		Zip	
E-Mail Address		Phone		Mobile	

Type of Property:		Property Size:
Residence	(√)	Approximate size of the site (in acres):
HOA/Community Common Area		
School		Approximate size of habitat within the site to be certified (in square feet or acres):
Faith Community		
Business		
Government		
Parkland		
Other (specify)		

Thank you for taking the challenge to create a wildlife sanctuary. Here is your roadmap to success:

1. Review this application for required habitat practices and features. Filling in the application will help you identify gaps you will work on to attain certification. Use the resources on our website at NVBirdAlliance.org/Wildlife-Sanctuary-Program to learn about native plants and the insects, birds and other wildlife that depend on them.
2. Request a no-cost Wildlife Sanctuary Program visit if you need help getting started. Your AAH Ambassador will advise on habitat practices and native plants suitable for your property. Request a visit by clicking on the Request a Visit button on NVBirdAlliance.org/Wildlife-Sanctuary-Program
3. Take steps to improve your wildlife habitat and to attract at least 10 Sanctuary Species.
4. Complete this form and submit it. If you haven't yet had a visit, request one by clicking Request a Visit on NVBirdAlliance.org/Wildlife-Sanctuary-Program
5. Certification is not the end point, but the beginning of a journey of discovery as you observe and learn more about the behavior and needs of wildlife.

Habitat Features

Indicate the habitat features you have in your property now. **You must already have Native shrubs, trees, or vines, and at least one other bolded item, to qualify for certification.**

Habitat Features	(√)	Habitat Features	(√)
Native Shrubs/Trees/Vines		Snags (Standing dead trees)	
Native Pollinator Garden or Meadow		Exposed Soil	
Water Feature (Bird Bath, Stream, etc.)		Bird Feeders	
Rain Garden		Nest Boxes	
Brush Shelter		Leave leaf litter and large woody debris	

Healthy Yard Pledge

You must have **adopted at least two of these habitat best practices and have plans to adopt all of them** to qualify for AAH Wildlife Sanctuary Certification.

Wildlife Sanctuary Habitat Best Practices	Adopted (√)	I will adopt this (√)
Reduce pesticide and fertilizer use – No broad-spectrum spraying for mosquitoes		
Remove invasive non-native plants		
Conserve water and protect water quality		
Plant species native to our area		
Reduce lawn coverage area		
Leave the leaves in non-lawn areas		
Reduce hazards to birds and other wildlife, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping cats indoors • Guarding against human-made hazards like window collisions, light and noise pollution, poisonous and glue pest traps, and plastic netting 		

What plans, if any, do you have for creating additional wildlife habitat features and adopting habitat best practices?

Invasive plants are non-native plants that spread aggressively and displace the native plants upon which insects and other wildlife depend for food. They create food deserts, overwhelm natural areas, and destroy trees. Virginia’s list of invasive plants may be found [here](#). Complete this section after your visit with an Ambassador, who will help you identify the invasives on your property and recommend control measures.

Please list the invasive plants on your property and describe any steps you have taken or will take to remove them, and how you plan to monitor and control them.

Let the animals decide!

After all the work you have done preparing your habitat, the animals make the final decisions about whether they find habitat there to support themselves. Our Sanctuary Species list is comprised of 42 species/species groups that need our support here in Northern Virginia. Record your observations below. Information about each species/group and its habitat needs may be found on our website at NVBirdAlliance.org/Sanctuary-Species.

Sanctuary Species and Species Groups

Birds

- American Goldfinch
- Baltimore Oriole
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- Carolina Chickadee
- Carolina Wren
- Cedar Waxwing
- Eastern Bluebird
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Eastern Towhee
- Gray Catbird
- Green Heron
- Hawk Species
- Owl Species
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Tree Swallow
- Tufted Titmouse
- Warbler Species
- Woodpecker Species
- Wood Thrush

Butterflies & Moths

- Fritillary Butterfly Species
- Monarch Butterfly
- Swallowtail Butterfly Species
- Giant Silk Moth Species
- Clearwing Moth Species

Other Invertebrate Species

- Native Bees
- Dragonfly and Damselfly Species
- Hover Fly
- Lady Beetle Species
- Lightning Bugs
- Six-spotted Tiger Beetle
- Crab Spider Species
- Orb Spider Species
- Wolf Spider Species

Amphibians

- Frogs & Toads
- Salamanders

Reptiles

- Eastern Box Turtle
- Eastern Fence Lizard
- Five-lined Skink
- Snakes

Mammals

- Bats
- Short-tailed Shrew
- Southern Flying Squirrel

Wildlife Sanctuary Species Observed

- List any 10 species from the list above.
- If you observe more than one species in a species group (e.g., a Downy Woodpecker and a Red-Bellied Woodpecker) please list only one and include others in the Comments column.
- Flyovers do not count unless observed feeding. Hawks and bats may be observed feeding, for example.
- Species should be observed within a 3-year period.

	When Observed	Individual Species or Species Group	Comments (Behavior or Usage of Your Habitat, Other)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

Sign and date your completed application and email it to WildlifeSanctuary@NVBirdAlliance.org or mail it to **NVBA, Wildlife Sanctuary Program, 11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Suite 100, Reston, VA 20190.**

If you live in Loudoun County, please email your signed application to WildlifeSanctuary@LoudounWildlife.org or mail to **Loudoun Wildlife Coordinator, P.O. Box 1892, Leesburg, VA 20177.**

Applicant Signature (electronic accepted)	Date

After you are certified, we hope you will purchase a Wildlife Sanctuary yard sign to celebrate your achievement and to let others know about the program. Your official certification letter will provide instructions on how to order your sign. We will add your property - without your name or street address - to the Certified Sanctuary map on our website.

We encourage you to share your experience with your community. We will gladly give presentations on creating habitat. Contact us through your Ambassador or at a WildlifeSanctuary@NVBirdAlliance.org to learn more about how you can get involved.

Our work is delivered through critical partnerships with regional volunteer conservation organizations: Arlington Regional Master Naturalists, Fairfax Master Naturalists, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, the Prince William Master Gardeners, the Rappahannock and Fauquier Master Gardeners with the Clifton Institute. Our special thanks to the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign and to the National Audubon Society Plants for Birds Program.