



# Backyard Wildlife Habitat

Forest County Potawatomi Community Wildlife Resources

3 steps for helping wildlife in your own backyard!

## Provide Water



Wildlife need clean water sources for many purposes, including drinking, bathing, and in some cases, reproduction. Water sources can be natural, such as ponds, lakes, and streams, or they can be human-made including bird baths, artificial ponds, or rain gardens.

Established water sources will attract waterfowl, amphibians, birds, and more. Bird baths will help several species of songbirds as well as squirrels. To make use of natural water bodies, plant food sources (native shrubs, flowers, etc.) near existing water bodies.



When using bird baths, be sure to change the water approximately every 2 weeks to provide a clean source and discourage mosquito hatchings.

## Provide Food

Everyone needs to eat! Providing food and water is a sure way to attract wildlife to your yard. Planting native shrubs, forbs, and trees is an easy way to provide the foliage, nectar, pollen, berries and seeds that many species of wildlife need to survive and thrive. You can also incorporate supplemental feeders.



There are many (beautiful!) options to increase wildlife presence in your yard or on your property including:

- Native flowering plants, shrubs, and trees provide foliage, nectar, pollen, berries, seeds, and nuts that many wildlife need to survive.
- Prairie flowers will attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators.
- Berry bushes and fruit trees will attract several species of birds, small mammals, and deer.
- Native shrubs and trees are often naturally resistant to deer and hardy in long winters.



## Provide Cover

Wildlife need places to hide in order to be safe from people, predators and inclement weather. Several species also need a sheltered place to raise their offspring. Many places for cover can double as locations where wildlife can raise young, from wildflower meadows and bushes where many butterflies and moths lay their eggs, or caves where bats roost and form colonies.



Use materials like native vegetation, shrubs, thickets and brush piles for cover. Retain dead and dying trees that don't pose a threat to human habitations for use as dens for anything from birds to black bears. Some ducks need tree cavities or nest boxes, and many species of song birds will use bird houses.



For more information, contact your FCPC Wildlife Resources Program at: 478-4196