



My Home Is Your Home – Making Habitat for Wildlife

While PVPLC works hard to make habitat for wildlife in local nature preserves there are many ways you can provide habitat for wildlife around your home. Below are a few suggestions for you to consider. Plan one way you could help wildlife. Remember to check with your parents and use proper safety precautions before you put any plans into action!

FOOD

All animals need to find food to be able to survive. There are many ways you can help the habitat around your home produce the food that wildlife relies on. Plants are the foundation of food production and can even be grown in a container on a window ledge!

- **Native plants are the best food source for local wildlife.** You can learn more about local native plants here and make a plan for which ones you might want to plant around your home. https://pvplc.org/education/native_plants.asp
- **You can start a vegetable garden from kitchen scraps** <https://www.ruralsprout.com/regrow-vegetables/>
- **Start a compost pile to feed the decomposers** <http://pw.lacounty.gov/epd/sg/bc.cfm>

WATER

You don't have to have a lake or stream in your yard to help provide water for wildlife. Even a small saucer of water on a window ledge can help wildlife out.

- **Make your own birdbath** <https://www.audubon.org/news/how-make-birdbath> or allaboutbirds.org/news/attract-birds-with-birdbaths/
- **Make a water station for pollinators** <https://www.gardensthatmatter.com/make-bee-waterer/>
- **Make a water dish for bees** <https://gumbootkids.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/bee-bath-printable-new-font.pdf>

SHELTER

- **Help give pollinators the shelter they need to nest** <https://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/nesting-resources>
<https://www.xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/nests-for-native-bees>
- **Reptile Rockery** <https://www.discoverwildlife.com/how-to/make-things/how-to-make-a-reptile-rockery/>
- **Log Pile Hotel** <https://www.discoverwildlife.com/how-to/wildlife-gardening/how-to-create-dead-wood-habitat/>
- **Build a bat house** http://www.batcon.org/resources/getting-involved/bat-houses?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIsbDG1YXz6AIVhK_sCh0rZAJ8EAAYASABEgLSIfD_BwE
- **Build a birdhouse** <https://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/>

SAFETY

Decorate your windows to protect birds from colliding with the glass

- **How to make window decals for birds using school glue and markers**
<https://ny.audubon.org/conservation/how-create-window-decals-prevent-bird-collisions>
- **How to make window decals for birds using puffy paint**
<https://www.audubon.org/news/make-migration-friendly-window-decorations>

Keep your home poison free! Rat poisons frequently kill the owls and hawks that feed on rats and mice. Other pesticides kill insects and other small animals around your home. You can help protect local wildlife by choosing nontoxic methods for controlling pests.

- **Here is a great resource to learn about nontoxic rodent control techniques**
<https://www.hungryowls.org/nontoxic-rodent-control>
- **Read this brochure that includes alternatives to using rat poison like calling on local birds of prey to help.**
https://www.raptorsarethesolution.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/RATS_brochure_2018_HomePrint.pdf
- **This brochure teaches you about how to avoid using pesticides around your home.**
https://www.xerces.org/sites/default/files/2019-09/19-034_01_Protecting%20Pollinators%20at%20Home_web.pdf

If you have a pool or other deep water around your home you might consider ways of keeping wildlife safe around the water. Remember, even many bird baths are too deep for small animals if they don't have a way to climb out!

- **Water Safety** <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/pool-safety-wild-animals>

Keep your cat indoors! Cats kill billions of birds annually here in the USA. Here are some suggestions about how to move your furry friend indoors. <https://abcbirds.org/catio-solutions-cats/>

What would you like to do to make habitat for wildlife around your home?
