

# Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary

*A backyard sanctuary has trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses and features like water, shelter and space that attract and sustain wildlife in urban areas.*

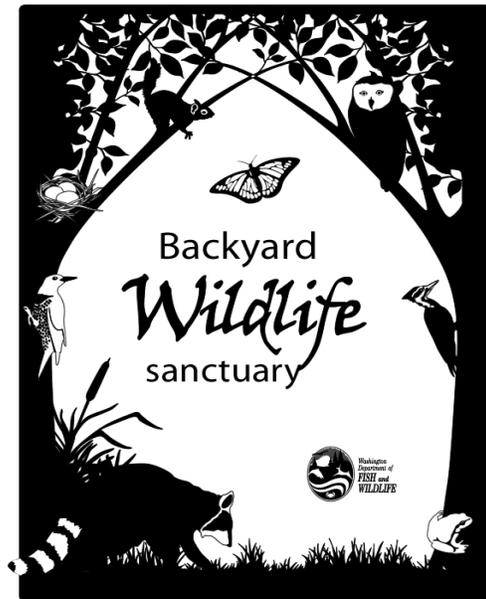
## What is Backyard Habitat?

- Food** – seeds, berries, nuts, flower nectar, insects, other animals
- Water** – birdbaths, drip faucets, sprinklers, ponds, puddles, streams
- Shelter** – trees, shrubs, brush piles, rock walls, rock piles, hollow logs, snags (dead standing trees)
- Space** – travel corridors, open space

**Food** – Having a variety of food sources in your yard attracts many kinds of wildlife. Provide a good mix of plants that produce seeds or fruits at different times of the year. Insects are a very important part of the diet of songbirds, so try to avoid insecticides.

**Water** – Animals will walk, fly or crawl great distances for a drink because water is essential. Water is also needed for bathing so animals can keep clean and thus warm or cool. A birdbath or other form of water will serve as a magnet to many kinds of wildlife.

**Shelter** – Wildlife must have safe places to rest, escape danger, get out of bad weather and raise offspring. Most animals find shelter in trees or shrubs. Put in buffers of dense vegetation between wildlife areas and busy areas like driveways.



**Space** – Most birds and mammals need more area than the average backyard provides. That doesn't mean they won't visit or nest in your yard. An animal's space requirements may be less if the resources are abundant and concentrated in a good backyard habitat. Encourage your neighbors to provide wildlife habitat and increase the space available.

The Green Zone map is on page 2.

*Original funding for this brochure was provided by a Public Participation Grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology. These materials were reviewed for consistency with the purposes of the grant only; grant funding does not constitute endorsement of opinions or recommendations expressed herein. Web update December 2012.*

## Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Plants

### Wild Rose (*Rosa spp.*)

This native rose grows in dense, invasive thickets 3' to 10' high, providing excellent cover. Flower color varies in showy clusters June to September. Rose hips are eaten by thrushes, grosbeaks, quail, pheasants, rabbits, coyotes, deer, bear and others.

### Yarrow (*Achillea spp.*)

A perennial that ranges from low ground cover to 3-foot high, yarrow is fast-spreading but easily divided. The flat flower heads, that range from the native white to other species' yellows and reds, are perfect platforms for pollinating insects, including butterflies.

### Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)

This native perennial spreads by rhizomes on dry, sunny sites. Each tiny flower head is wrapped in layers of papery, pearl-colored bracts that lend a dried-flower appearance. Many butterflies use the flowers and painted lady larvae feed on the foliage.

### Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)

A native, twiggy shrub that spreads 3' to 5' wide and tall, snowberry blooms in pink to white flowers that provide its namesake white berries. Although not the first choice of many birds, these berries persist through the winter and are eaten when other food is scarce. Deer browse on leaves and stems.

*plant listing continued on page 2*

The Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary is #9 on The Green Zone map. The Green Zone is located at the Spokane County Conservation District and WSU/Spokane County Extension, 210 & 222 N. Havana, Spokane WA 99202. (509) 535-7274 (SCCD) (509) 477-2048 (WSU)

# Backyard Wildlife Plants Sanctuary (continued)

## Penstemon (*Penstemon spp.*)

Penstemons vary from perennials to ground covers to small shrubs. All have tubular flowers, usually bright red or blue, that attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and bumblebees.

## Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)

Chokecherry is a native openly branched shrub or small tree that grows 8' to 20' tall and wide in dense thickets. Its white May blossoms are used by butterflies and give way to dark reddish-purple fruit eaten by everything from jays to woodpeckers.

## Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

Also called "Saskatoon," this native large shrub or small tree grows 8' to 20' tall and wide. Early spring white flowers are used by butterflies and are followed by purple berries eaten by many birds from chickadees to quail, plus squirrels, marmots, raccoons, and bear. Deer and elk browse leaves and twigs.

## Sedum (*Sedum spp.*)

This native perennial ground cover usually grows to just 6" although some non-native species can be up to 2'. Flower clusters of yellow to pink last all summer, and are used by butterflies and bees.

## Maple (*Acer spp.*)

Maple trees of many varieties provide seeds for lots of birds, from finches to quail. Moth larvae use the leaves and deer and beaver eat the wood. Most maples suitable for small yards grow to heights of 25' to 30', so their branches also make good bird nesting spots.

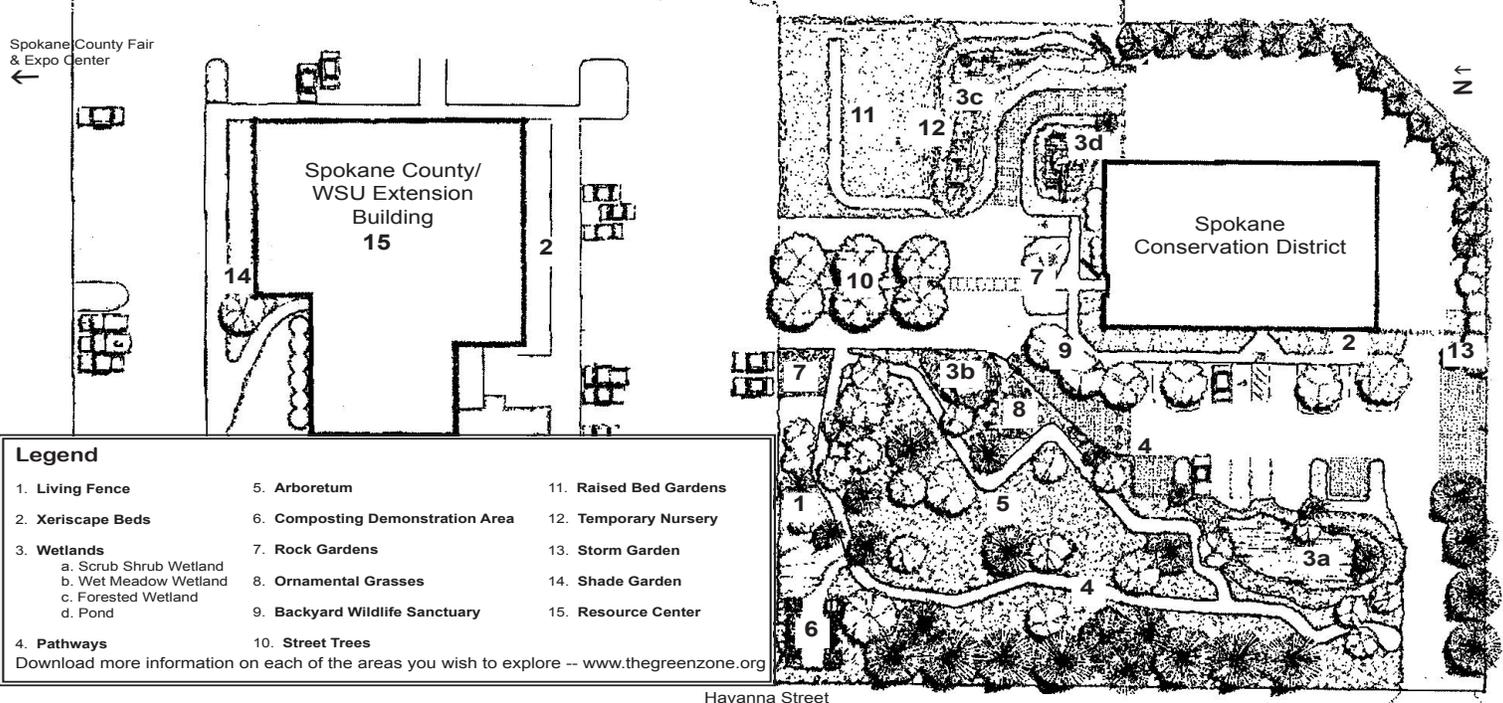
## Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*)

Hummingbirds and butterflies love this perennial's tight clusters of long-tubed scarlet flowers. This 2' to 3' high plant spreads easily in clumps.

This informational pamphlet is one of a series.

# THE GREEN ZONE

Spokane County Fair & Expo Center



Havanna Street

- Legend**
- 1. Living Fence
  - 2. Xeriscape Beds
  - 3. Wetlands
    - a. Scrub Shrub Wetland
    - b. Wet Meadow Wetland
    - c. Forested Wetland
    - d. Pond
  - 4. Pathways
  - 5. Arboretum
  - 6. Composting Demonstration Area
  - 7. Rock Gardens
  - 8. Ornamental Grasses
  - 9. Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary
  - 10. Street Trees
  - 11. Raised Bed Gardens
  - 12. Temporary Nursery
  - 13. Storm Garden
  - 14. Shade Garden
  - 15. Resource Center
- Download more information on each of the areas you wish to explore -- [www.thegreenzone.org](http://www.thegreenzone.org)