



Start Your Own Backyard Nature Movement



**Simple & Affordable Guides from
Whiskered Garden**

Small actions create big change. These simple guides will help you turn the space you already have into a sanctuary for pollinators, wildlife, and neighborhood animals.

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GUIDE 1

Subdivision Homes (Small to Medium Yards)

Start a Backyard Nature Movement in Your Neighborhood

Even in a typical neighborhood yard, you can create a powerful sanctuary for pollinators and wildlife.

Simple First Steps

Plant One Pollinator Patch

Choose a small sunny spot and plant a few pollinator favorites:

- Coneflowers
- Black-eyed Susans
- Bee balm
- Milkweed
- Native asters

These plants support bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects.

Add a Bird-Friendly Corner

Place:

- A simple bird feeder
- A shallow water dish
- A small shrub for cover

Birds need food, water, and safety.

Leave a Small “Wild Corner”

Nature thrives when everything isn’t perfectly tidy.

Allow one small area to include:

- fallen leaves
- sticks
- natural ground cover

This becomes habitat for beneficial insects and pollinators. Keep this space wild and do not clean it up. Vital pollinators may be sleeping here over the winter and cleanup will destroy them.

Help Neighborhood Cats Safely

Many neighborhoods have feral or community cats.

Simple acts of kindness include:

- supporting local trap-neuter-return programs
- providing insulated winter shelters
- ensuring food stations are clean and discreet

Compassion helps both animals and communities.

Eliminate Chemicals

Avoid pesticides and herbicides whenever possible. There are healthy nontoxic options to any chemical you may have used in the past.

Healthy ecosystems depend on insects.

Inspire Your Neighbors

Your small garden can inspire others.

Pollinator gardens spread — one yard at a time.

Notes:



GUIDE 2

Large Yard / Acreage Homes

Turn Your Property into a Wildlife Sanctuary

If you have space, you can create an incredible haven for nature.

Easy Ways to Start



Plant Native Habitat Areas

Instead of traditional lawns, consider sections of:

- native wildflowers
- pollinator meadows
- flowering shrubs

These areas provide food and shelter.



Add a Water Source

Wildlife needs water.

Options include:

- birdbaths
- small ponds
- shallow dishes for insects

Moving water attracts even more species.



Create Natural Habitat

Brush piles and natural wood provide homes for:

- birds
- insects

- amphibians
- small mammals

Nature loves complexity.

Eliminate Chemicals

Avoid pesticides and herbicides whenever possible. There are healthy nontoxic options to any chemical you may have used in the past.

Healthy ecosystems depend on insects.

Support Community Animals

Large properties often become safe spaces for animals.

Consider:

- outdoor shelters for community cats
- freshwater stations
- planting food sources for wildlife

Kindness creates coexistence.

Notes:

GUIDE 3

Townhome Living

Small Spaces Can Make Big Differences

Townhome yards may be smaller, but they can still support pollinators and wildlife.

Start Here

Container Pollinator Gardens

Use pots with plants like:

- lavender
- salvia
- zinnias
- native flowers

Even a few containers can feed bees and butterflies.

Add a Small Bird Feeder

Compact feeders attract:

- finches
- chickadees
- sparrows

Birds adapt well to townhome environments.

Provide Fresh Water

A shallow bowl refreshed daily helps birds and pollinators.


 **Eliminate Chemicals**

Avoid pesticides and herbicides whenever possible. There are healthy nontoxic options to any chemical you may have used in the past.

Healthy ecosystems depend on insects.

 **Plant Climbing Plants or Shrubs**

These provide shelter and food for wildlife.

 **Show Kindness to Community Cats**

Many townhome communities have shared animal populations.

Support humane programs like TNR and provide safe shelters when possible.

Notes:



GUIDE 4

Apartment & Balcony Living

Even a Balcony Can Support Wildlife

You don't need a yard to help nature.

Try These Simple Ideas

Balcony Pollinator Pots

Great balcony plants include:

- herbs (thyme, basil, oregano)
- marigolds
- lavender
- native flowers

Pollinators love balcony gardens.

Create a Bee Rest Stop

Place:

- a shallow dish with water
 - small stones for bees to land on
-

Plant Nectar Plants

Butterflies and bees will visit if flowers are available.

Avoid Chemicals

Use natural methods to protect your plants.

Pollinators are sensitive to pesticides.

 **Share the Movement**

Your balcony garden may inspire neighbors to do the same.

Even the smallest space can support life.

Notes:

Every Backyard and Human Effort Matters

You don't need a large property or perfect garden to help nature.

Small steps create powerful changes when many people *Join the Movement*.

Together, we can create a network of backyard sanctuaries that support pollinators, wildlife, and compassionate communities.



Welcome to the Whiskered Garden movement.
