

**BOWIE GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT TEAM
BOWIE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Press Contact:

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**City of Bowie Promotes Certified Wildlife Habitats through Reimbursement Program
*Bowie Homeowners Eligible for Wildlife Certification Reimbursement***

BOWIE, MD—On July 30th, the City of Bowie launched a reimbursement program to encourage Bowie residents to certify their homes as wildlife habitats. This program supports Bowie's goal to become a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Community Wildlife Habitat.

The 2-step reimbursement program is available on a first-come, first-served basis for 50 Bowie homeowners within incorporated Bowie. The first step is for Bowie homeowners to certify their properties as NWF wildlife habitats. See www.cityofbowie.org/habitat for information about the Bowie Community Wildlife Habitat Project and tips for creating habitat, or go directly to <http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certify-Your-Wildlife-Garden.aspx> to apply for certification online. Step 2 is to forward the NWF email certifying your habitat and showing a \$20 receipt for the certification application fee to klarson@cityofbowie.org. Include your name, address, and phone number. Allow 2 to 4 weeks for the City of Bowie to send a \$20 reimbursement check to your home address.

This program is limited to residents of incorporated Bowie and is available until 50 reimbursements have been claimed or June 5, 2015. Electronic certification and reimbursement submissions are preferred for this program. If a resident needs assistance applying online, contact Kristin Larson, the City's Sustainability Planner, at 301.809.3044.

The Bowie Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) and the Bowie Gardens for Wildlife (BG4W) Habitat Team provide support to the City for the Bowie Community Wildlife Habitat Project, including promoting compliance with City codes and regulations. To date, more than 130 homes, 5 schools, and 5 community sites in Bowie have been certified by NWF. These habitats represent two-thirds of the 300 certification points needed to achieve the community goal. The reimbursement program will help Bowie reach the minimum number of certified homes required for community certification.

To learn more about habitats or the habitat project, email bowiegardens4wildlife@yahoo.com or visit the "Bowie Gardens for Wildlife" Facebook page where you can join a community of habitat gardeners.

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