



# DOWLING COMMUNITY GARDEN

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## Gardening for Wildlife

*Dowling Community Garden has committed to improving wildlife habitat within the garden space by installing several bird nesting boxes and a bat house. Please keep your eyes open for them in the garden, and respect any occupants.*

### References

- Pyle, Robert Michael. *Handbook for Butterfly Watchers*. Houghton Mifflin, 1992.
- Editors of Sunset Books. *An Illustrated Guide to Attracting Birds*. Sunset Publishing Corp. 1991.
- Stokes, Donald; Stokes, Lillian; Williams, Ernest. *The butterfly book: an easy guide to butterfly gardening, identification and behavior*. Little Brown and Co., 1991.
- Tekulsky, Matthew. *The butterfly garden*. Harvard Common Press, 1985.
- For more information**
- Wetherbee, Kris. "Blooms for Beneficials." *Organic Gardening*. April-May 2004, p32-35.
- Henderson, Carrol. *Landscaping for Wildlife*. State of Minnesota, Dept. of Natural Resources, 1995.
- Herzog, David Alan. *How to Invite Wildlife into your Backyard*. Greatlakes Living Press, 1977.

### Useful web sites

- <http://www.thebutterflysite.com/gardening.shtml>
- <http://www.monarchwatch.org/garden/>
- <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/butterfly/>
- <http://www.howtoattractbirds.com/>
- <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/AttractingBirds/Landscaping/>

### What does Urban Wildlife Need?

Just like us, they want water, food, shelter, warmth, and a suitable place for a family. Here are a few things you can do to create a garden habitat that is a safe haven for wildlife:

- Set aside a place to grow larval and nectar plants for butterflies (*They particularly like plants that have flat pads, umbels, cones or spikes. The flower heads of all these plants are made up of tiny flowerlets. A butterfly can probe each one without moving about very much and using unnecessary energy*);
- grow seed and fruit bearing plants for birds;
- build a rock pile for small mammals;
- create a spot for toads; provide a shallow water dish which you clean and refill regularly;
- provide clean water for bathing and drinking.

The possibilities are endless, and the wildlife will thank you.

### Plants for Butterflies

**Nectar sources** (\* best; A=annual; P=perennial; B=biennial; Sh=shrub)

- Achillea – yarrow (P)  
Agastache – hyssop (P)  
Ageratum – floss flower (A)  
Allium schoenoprasum – chives (P)  
Anaphalis margaritacea – pearly everlasting (P)  
\*Anethum graveolens – dill (A)  
\*Arabis (P)  
\*Asclepias incarnata -- swamp milkweed (P)  
\*Asclepias tuberosa – butterfly weed (P)  
\*Aster (P)  
Aubretia – rock cress (P)  
\*Buddleia – butterfly bush (Sh)  
Centaurea montana – perennial cornflower (P)  
Centranthus ruber – red valerian (P)  
Chrysanthemum – daisy (P)  
Coreopsis (P)  
Cosmos (A)  
\*Daucus carota – Queen Anne's Lace (P)  
Dianthus – pinks, Sweet William (P)  
\*Echinacea – coneflower (P)  
Echinops – globe thistle (P)  
\*Eupatorium – boneset, Joe Pye weed (P)  
\*Euphorbia marginata – snow-on-the-mountain (A)  
\*Foeniculum vulgare – fennel (A)  
Heliopsis (P)  
Heliotropium arborescens – heliotrope, cherry pie (A)  
\*Hesperis matronalis – dame's rocket, sweet rocket (P)  
\*Iberis umbellata – candytuft (A)  
\*Lantana (A)

## *Gardening for Wildlife* continued

Liatis – gayfeather, blazing star (P)  
Ligustrum amurense – amur privet (Sh)  
Lonicera tatarica – honeysuckle (Sh)  
Lupinus – lupine (P)  
Malva – mallow (P)  
Monarda – bee balm, bergamot (P)  
Myosotis – forget-me-not (P)  
Nepeta mussinii – catmint (P)  
\*Petroselinum crispum – parsley (P)  
Phlox paniculata, P. maculata (P)  
Rudbeckia – black-eyed Susan (P)  
Salvia farinacea (A)  
\*Scabiosa caucasica – pincushion flower (P)  
\*Sedum spectabile (P)  
Silene armeria – catchfly (A)  
\*Solidago – goldenrod (P)  
Syringa – lilac (Sh)  
Tagetes patula – French marigold (A)  
Tithonia – Mexican sunflower (A)  
\*Verbena bonariensis (A)  
Veronica (P)  
Viola – Johnny-jump-ups, violets, (P)  
Zinnia (A)

### **Plants for Birds** (A=annual; P=perennial; B=biennial; Sh=shrub)

A number of wildflowers produce seeds that are relished by birds, particularly in late fall and early winter when other natural supplies are decreasing. Curly dock, dandelion, burdock, goldenrod, and ragweed are particularly attractive to birds. Leave them standing throughout winter.

### **Shrubs and woody plants for food and habitat**

Amelanchier – serviceberry  
Berberis – barberry  
Cornus – dogwood  
Cotoneaster  
Lonicera - honeysuckle  
Malus – crab apple  
Ribes – currant, gooseberry  
Rosa – rose  
Rubus – raspberry  
Sambucus – elderberry  
Vaccinium – blueberry  
Viburnum  
Vitis – grape

### **Plants for seed-eating birds**

Ageratum (A)  
Amaranth (A)  
Bachelor's buttons (A)  
Calendula (A)  
Columbine (P)  
Coneflower (P)  
Coreopsis (A, P)  
Cosmos (A)

### **Host plants for larvae**

Admiral, Red – nettle  
Admiral, White – birch, willow, poplar, hawthorn  
Azure, Spring – dogwood, viburnum, blueberry, meadowsweet  
Blue, Silvery – lupine, vetch  
Brown, Eyed – sedge  
Fritillary, Great Spangled – violet  
Hairstreak, Banded – oak, walnut, hickory  
Monarch – milkweed  
Mourning Cloak – willow, meadowsweet, elm, poplar  
Painted Lady – thistle, aster, mallow  
Painted Lady, American – pearly everlasting, pussytoes  
Question Mark – nettle, elm, hops, hackberry  
Skipper, European – timothy  
Skipper, Peck's – grasses  
Skipper, Least – grasses  
Sulphur, Common – clover, alfalfa  
Sulphur, Orange – alfalfa, clover  
Swallowtail, Black – wild carrot family, rue  
Swallowtail, Tiger – birch, willow, ash, prunus species  
Tortoiseshell, Compton's – birch, willow  
Viceroy – willow, poplar, apple, prunus sp.  
White, Cabbage – mustard, brassicas, nasturtium  
Wood Nymph, Large – grasses

Forget-me-not (A)  
Goldenrod (P)  
Marigold (A)  
Mexican sunflower (A)  
Mullein (B)  
Nasturtium (A)  
Snapdragon (A)  
Sunflower (A)  
Sweet alyssum (A)  
Zinnia (A)

### **Nectar plants for hummingbirds**

Alcea rosea – hollyhock (P)  
Aquilegia – columbine (P)  
Campsis radicans – trumpet creeper (Sh/vine)  
Delphinium (P)  
Digitalis – foxglove (P)  
Gladiolus (tender corm)  
Heucera – coral bells (P)  
Lobelia cardinalis – cardinal flower (P)  
Lonicera - honeysuckle (Sh)  
Lychnis chaldedonica – maltese cross (P)  
Monarda – bee balm (P)  
Nicotiana – flowering tobacco (A)  
Penstemon – beard tongue (P)  
Petunia (A)  
Phlox (P)  
Salvia (A, P)  
Scarlet runner bean (A)