

Natural Habitat Program

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our discussion of National Wildlife Federation's [Natural Habitats Certification](#) program and to Leslie Shad, co-founder of Evanston's successful National Habitat Evanston initiative, for the informative presentation. If you missed the presentation, you can watch it on GGHP's brand new [YouTube Channel](#).

On October 5, Go Green Highland Park and the [League of Women Voters Highland Park/Highwood](#) co-hosted a meeting to discuss the National Wildlife Federation's Wildlife Habitat Certification program and its possible adoption in Highland Park. Our speaker, Leslie Shad, was instrumental in establishing "Natural Habitat Evanston," the first city-wide program in Illinois to be certified by NWF as a community natural habitat sponsor. Leslie shared the Evanston game plan and background information on NWF, and she invited our community to consult her as a resource and guide as we get started.

The October 5 meeting generated a lot of enthusiasm, and this email is to invite anyone who would like to help establish a community natural habitat program in Highland Park to contact [Candice Dalrymple](#) about your interest. We have two immediate needs:

- 1) a small steering group to develop program goals, concrete steps for implementing our program, resources needed, and a timetable for accomplishing our goals and
- 2) a broader group of volunteers who would be willing to help implement some of the specific tasks identified by the steering group.

The National Wildlife Federation provides [background information and checklists](#) to help us get started. You can find a brief vision statement describing our program [here](#). When we formally apply to the community certification program, NWF will provide brochures and flyers to help us educate our neighbors about the importance of pollinators and natural landscaping and raise awareness of our local habitat program and how to participate in it.

If you are interested in participating in this exciting new initiative, please respond via the contact information below. We need volunteers for both an ongoing steering committee and a "go-to" core of helpers for specific events and tasks.

We hope to hear from you soon!

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More information on invasive plant species is available [here](#).