



# WILD BACK YARDS

## PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



At Summit Metro Parks, our mission is to conserve, sustainably manage and value natural resources for the health and enjoyment of our community, and inspire people to connect with nature through clean and safe parks. We started the [Wild Back Yards](#) (WBV) initiative in 2022 to take this mission beyond park borders.

Through the Wild Back Yards initiative, we are encouraging residents to join us in our mission to support native biodiversity. Wild Back Yards allows our community to work together to help wildlife and counteract the effects of habitat loss and fragmentation.

We all share a common interest in protecting our world for future generations. Because of this shared interest, we invite Summit County businesses, nonprofit organizations, municipalities and other groups to join us in protecting biodiversity by becoming a Wild Back Yards Partner. This partnership comes with a few requirements and numerous benefits.

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### TO QUALIFY, WILD BACK YARDS PARTNERS WILL BE ASKED TO:

- Promote [Wild Back Yards](#) to their audience (e.g. citizens, stakeholders, residents, customers, clients, congregation, etc.).
- Commit to cease all planting, distribution and/or promotion of [invasive plants](#).
- Develop a plan for phasing out the planting, distribution and promotion of non-native plants, and plan for a shift to use exclusively native plants.
- Install a native (indigenous to the eastern United States) demonstration garden.
- Report on initiative progress by annually completing the WBV Partner Questionnaire.

### IN ADDITION, MUNICIPAL PARTNERS WILL BE ASKED TO:

- Consider offering incentives to residents (incentives in addition to WBV rewards to be managed by municipality)
- Commit to addressing zoning ordinances that prevent or are barriers to full participation in WBV.
- Attend a series of technical workshops hosted by Summit Metro Parks to deepen understanding of the purpose and goals of WBV.



### YOUR BENEFITS:

- You'll contribute to a healthier environment and enhance the value of your products, services, ministries or governance.
- Obtain access to consultation with SMP biologists as well as Wild Back Yards promotional materials such as window clings, stickers, yard signs, locally sourced wild plants and seed packets.
- Partners will be provided with social media templates and the WBV style guide to aid in discussing and promoting the program.
- WBV Partners will be listed on the Summit Metro Parks website and/or highlighted on social media.