



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

County Toolbox

Services that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service can offer local governments to assist in management of SPRAWL

BayScapes

BayScapes is a conservation education program that promotes the development of environmentally-sound landscapes that benefit people, wildlife, and Chesapeake Bay. The program teaches homeowners, communities and businesses how to create low-maintenance landscapes that require less mowing and watering, reduce nutrient runoff and the need for fertilizers and pesticides, and enhance wildlife habitat by using native plants. *BayScapes* provide diverse habitats for songbirds, butterflies, insects, small mammals, and other creatures.

The *BayScapes* program is currently working with communities and watershed organizations to develop projects that involve local citizens, educating them through training workshops/seminars and installing demonstration gardens in highly accessible and visible public sites. This educational outreach program also is looking to expand work with commercial business parks. Local governments, communities and private organizations are being sought as partners.

To help encourage participation in the program, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service also offers informational materials on the principles of *BayScaping*, information on native plants, and a list of nurseries that specialize in native plants. For those needing individual assistance with landscaping on their property, the Service can provide a list of landscape professionals offering native plants in their landscaping services.

By restoring our native ecosystems and preventing pollution, even on a small scale, *BayScapes* works toward enriching the diversity and quality of the Bay region's natural resources. The program serves to demonstrate that everyone can play a role in natural resource management. For more information on *BayScaping*, please visit our website at www.fws.gov/r5cbfo/bayscapes.

Schoolyard Habitat

The Schoolyard Habitat program helps teachers and students create wildlife habitat on school grounds. Habitat is the collective term for the food, water, shelter, and nursery areas that all wildlife need to survive. The loss of habitat is one of the greatest threats facing wildlife today. Creation or restoration of habitat ensures a future for wildlife. Schoolyard habitat projects benefit migratory birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects, small mammals, and our most important resource – children.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supplies technical assistance and project guidance; provides teacher training; develops written resources; and works with the state Departments of Education to incorporate habitat issues into new school construction and renovation projects. Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is developing an intensified program that will focus on schoolyard projects on a watershed basis. The Service is looking for local sponsors to partner with on this endeavor. For more information, visit our website at www.fws.gov/r5cbfo/schoolyard.htm.

Cell Towers

Communications towers (cellular, radio, television, digital, and microwave) are spreading across our area at an ever increasing rate. Migratory bird deaths resulting from collisions with towers is a major concern of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As a result, The Service had identified measures that communications tower builders should implement to reduce avian mortality. The Chesapeake Bay Field Office can provide technical assistance to local governments to minimize the impacts of communications towers on bird populations.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Although originally designed to restore degraded wetlands, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program now includes uplands and riparian areas. By 1997, the Chesapeake Bay Field Office's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program restored 1,054 acres of wetlands, 4 miles of riparian habitat, and 232 acres of uplands in Delaware and Maryland.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program priority areas include: farmed or drained wetlands, drained vernal ponds, riparian habitats, native grasslands, salt marshes and upland communities.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will consider any non-federal land for inclusion in the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, regardless of size, provided the project meets the goals and guidelines of the program. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program can provide interested landowners with biological expertise and funding. In return, landowners sign an agreement (with an attached site management plan) that the habitat will remain in its restored condition for at least 10 years (agreements for 20 years or longer are preferred). For more information on the Partners program, visit our website at www.fws.gov/r5cbfo/Partners.htm.

Invasive Species (future incentive)

The Chesapeake Bay Field Office may assist in maintaining the quality of remaining wildlife areas by controlling invasive species such as (but not limited to) phragmites, mute swans, resident Canada geese, kudzu, multiflora rose, purple loosestrife, and Japanese honeysuckle. Assistance may be given through management assistance, habitat assessments, possible financial support, and defining wildlife use areas.

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