

Sit back, enjoy our garden, and watch nature take its course. Try replacing grassy areas in your yard to make your own habitat at home. You will be amazed after one season as you see various butterflies and birds attracted to it.



“As gardeners and stewards of our land, we have never been so empowered to help save biodiversity from extinction, and the need to do so has never been so great. All we need to do is plant native plants!”

-Doug Tallamy, Bringing Nature Home



Above: Monarch caterpillar and egg



*“Garden as if life depended on it.”
-Doug Tallamy*

Have more questions?

**VB Master Gardener Help Desk
(757) 385-8156
vbmghelp@vbgov.com**

**National Wildlife Foundation
nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/plants**

askHRgreen.org

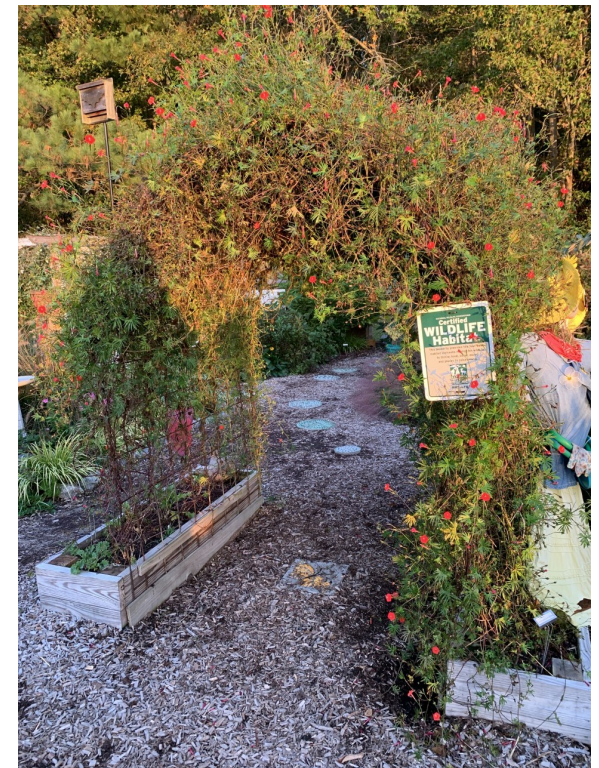
To schedule a
“Fun on the Farm” Tour
at VB Farmers Market,
call (757) 385-4388



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Children’s Wildlife Habitat

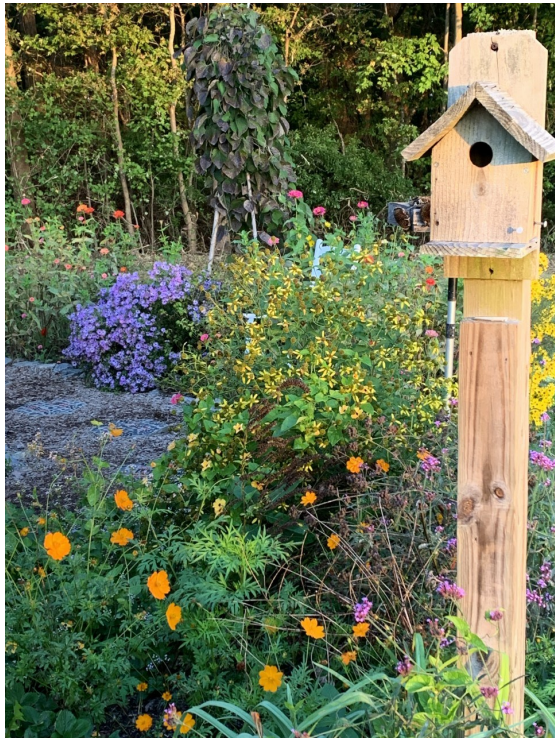
Established 2017
by
Virginia Beach
Master Gardeners



Above: Entrance to the Wildlife Habitat

“It is now within the power of individual gardeners to do something that we all dream of doing: to make a difference.”

-Doug Tallamy, Bringing Nature Home



To add a habitat to the Children's Garden, we covered grass with layers of thick cardboard, newspaper, grass, and leaves in the fall. By early spring, the grass was dead, and many worms were working hard under the cardboard. We added top soil and mulch. After the weather warmed up, we selected native plants that provide insects a place to lay eggs and for the larva to grow. Native plants require less care than non-natives because they have adjusted to our area.

We picked specific host plants to attract butterflies. They enjoy our plants, and we enjoy seeing them!

Look for the following plants, eggs, caterpillars, and butterflies in our garden.

- Milkweed—Monarch
- Fennel—Black Swallowtail
- Pipevine—Pipevine Swallowtail
- Spicebush—Spicebush Swallowtail

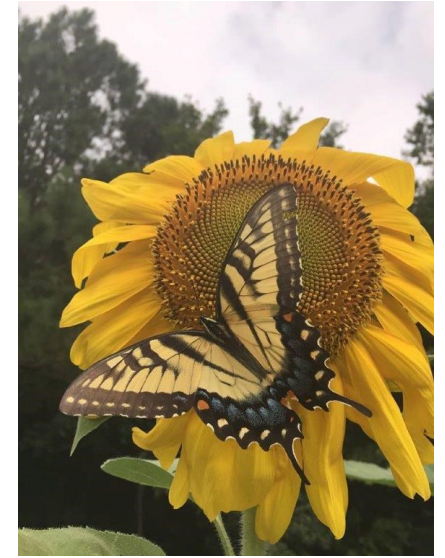


Top left: Spicebush Swallowtail Caterpillar
 Bottom left: Pipevine Swallowtail Caterpillars
 Center: Easter Black Swallowtail Butterfly
 Right: Monarch Butterfly

To add nectar for the butterflies, we chose Joe Pye Weed (bottom right), sunflowers (left), butterfly weed, milkweed (top right), bee balm, coneflowers, asters, and more.



The Eastern Tiger Swallowtail is our Virginia state insect. They host on Tulip Poplar, Sweet Bay Magnolia, and Cherry trees, some of which are found in the wood behind the habitat. They frequently visit our garden for nectar.



Insects and birds need to drink, so we supply them with water in bird baths.

