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**Fourth Annual Bowie Certified Wildlife Habitat Tour
*Bowie is Gardening for Wildlife***

The Bowie Gardens for Wildlife Habitat Team is hosting the Fourth Annual Bowie Certified Habitat Tour on Saturday, June 13, 2015 from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. Four homes and one community site are open, at designated times, for visitors to see first-hand how these habitat owners provide food, water, shelter, and cover—and use sustainable gardening practices—to improve the environment for wildlife and for humans. For a complete listing of tour sites and times, visit www.cityofbowie.org/habitat.

This year's tour sites feature a variety of options for providing the basic elements of habitat. See how tour hosts reduced their lawn area while creating an attractively landscaped habitat. Learn how native plants are used to increase plant diversity and attract pollinators and birds. Get tips about using sustainable gardening practices; hear about pond installation and maintenance; and ask how tour hosts modified their properties following BGE tree trimming. Visit the Monarch Waystation Rain Garden, a community site behind City Hall, to learn about the value of rain gardens.

The tour is part of a larger effort for Bowie to become a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) certified Community Wildlife Habitat™. To achieve this goal, Bowie must meet education and certification goal targets based on our population size including numbers of certified homes, schools, and community sites, such as places of worship or homeowner association properties. Learn more at www.cityofbowie.org/habitat and certify your property at <http://www.nwf.org>. The \$20 certification application fee supports NWF's wildlife habitat program. Once certified, NWF provides habitat owners a certificate and 1-year NWF membership, which includes the *National Wildlife* magazine.

The Bowie Gardens for Wildlife Habitat Team, in conjunction with the City's Environmental Advisory Committee, provides support to the City for this project. The Habitat Team also supports the City's Animal Control and Code Compliance Offices, in the Department of Community Services, and promotes full compliance with all City codes and regulations (specifically Chapters 5 and 15). To learn more about this project or become a Habitat Team member, contact the Habitat Team at bowiegardens4wildlife@yahoo.com or visit the "Bowie Gardens for Wildlife" Facebook page where you can join a community of habitat gardeners.

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