

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**NWF CERTIFIES WONDERLAB MUSEUM GARDEN AS WILDLIFE HABITAT**

Bloomington, IN—The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has recognized the WonderLab Museum's Lester P. Bushnell WonderGarden as an official Certified Wildlife Habitat. This means that the downtown Bloomington museum's nature area has met criteria for attracting a variety of birds, butterflies and other wildlife, while helping to protect the local environment. The elements that must be present for certification are that the property provides food, water, cover and places for wildlife to raise their young and that the owner employs sustainable gardening practices.

The WonderGarden, which is adjacent to the B-Line Trail, was created in 2004 with a generous gift from Vivien Bushnell in memory of her husband, Lester. It has been developed and maintained over the years by community Master Gardeners, with assistance from museum volunteers of all ages. The garden includes two exhibit installations and an amphitheater. It is also used for outdoor nature programs and activities, as well as for private events, such as weddings.

The WonderGarden recently was named the winner in the non-profit category of the Bloomington Board of Realtors Bloomington INBloom Curb Appeal Contest. WonderLab also received the Quality of Life Award (2005) for the WonderGarden from the Downtown Bloomington Commission.

According to the NWF, "creating habitats not only helps wildlife, it can help reduce global warming pollution and save energy costs" as compared to a traditional lawn. The NWF awarded WonderLab a certificate, now on display inside the museum.

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