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**National Wildlife Federation Certifies New Schoolyard Habitat in Salisbury, Maryland**

***Local schools making a difference to protect wildlife***

SALISBURY, MARYLAND– (8/31/2020) – National Wildlife Federation (NWF), America’s largest wildlife conservation and education organization, is pleased to recognize that Parkside High in Salisbury, Maryland has successfully created a Certified Schoolyard Habitat® through its Garden for Wildlife program. Parkside High has joined with over 5,000 schools nationwide that have transformed their schoolyards into thriving wildlife habitats that provides essential elements needed by all wildlife – natural food sources, clean water, cover, and places to raise young. The habitat also serves as an outdoor education site where students can engage in cross-curricular learning in a hands-on way.

Certification also makes your Certified Wildlife Habitat® part of the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge, a national effort to restore critical habitat for pollinators.

“We are excited to have another school join our growing list of more than 5,000 certified Schoolyard Habitats. Kids can now personally experience nature through hands-on learning in an outdoor environment,” said Liz Soper, Director of K-12 Programs for National Wildlife Federation.

Parkside High Horticulture students are fortunate to have the support of the Ward Museum Education Dept., City of Salisbury, National FFA and the Youth Environmental Action Summit for this onsite schoolyard pocket meadow project. This 14-month project will be expanded in the coming years.

Meadow establishment provides food for wildlife, habitat for pollinators, increased water filtration,

lower maintenance costs, drought tolerance, carbon sequestration and home for beneficial insects that reduces need for harmful pesticides.

NWF’s Garden for Wildlife program encourages responsible gardening that helps pollinators and other wildlife thrive. It encourages planting with native species like milkweed and discouraging chemical pesticide use. With nearly 200,000 locations and growing, NWF’s Certified Wildlife Habitats and Community Wildlife Habitats recognize individuals, schools, groups, and whole communities committed to providing habitat for wildlife, including pollinators.

For more information on gardening for wildlife and details on how an entire community can become certified, visit www.nwf.org/habitat or call 1-800-822-9919. For more National Wildlife Federation news, visit: www.nwf.org/news.

*National Wildlife Federation is America’s largest conservation organization, inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children’s future.*

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A colorful flower surrounded by green grass

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