

WATER DISTRICT SITES RECOGNIZED AS CERTIFIED WILDLIFE HABITAT



Two red-breasted sapsuckers tap on signs in the parking lot.

Five sites within the Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District were recently recognized as official Certified Wildlife Habitats by the National Wildlife Federation. The District headquarters office site, Wells 1, 2 and 4, and the 3 MG (million gallon) tank site have all been approved for certification.

In order to receive this certification, sites must provide the four basic necessary elements for wildlife: food, water, cover and places to raise young. In addition, site managers of certified habitats employ sustainable resource practices by conserving water and minimizing the use of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides.



certification criteria,” said Janet Sailer, Conservation and Public Information Specialist for the District. “The five certified sites combine for a total of close to 20 acres of wildlife habitat for the certification program.”

The District has designed its landscapes for water conservation. There are no irrigation systems installed at the District office site, Wells 1 and 2 or the 3 MG tank site. A temporary system is being utilized at Well 4 which will only be used until the recent plantings from the well

“We are very fortunate here in Sammamish to have habitats that support a great variety of wildlife. The District is pleased to have larger sites that meet the



Standing, left to right, with certificates: District Commissioners Lloyd Warren, Tom Harman, Bob Brady, Mary Shustov and Bob Abbott. In front with sign: Janet Sailer, District Conservation Specialist

renovation project are established, at which time the temporary system will be removed. All of the certified sites are planted with native and drought tolerant species. The District office site uses two rain barrels to collect and store water for use on indoor and outdoor plants. The District sites at Wells, 1, 2 and 4 are maintained using Integrated Pest Management, or IPM, practices. IPM programs use an ecological approach and employ a variety of strategies including physical, mechanical, and biological pest and weed controls. No herbicides or pesticides are used on the well sites to protect water quality.



A black-tailed doe strolls by the office.

Wildlife seen at the District office site include black-tailed deer, coyotes and a variety of bird visitors such as mallards, California quail, red-breasted sapsuckers, pileated woodpeckers, rufous-sided towhees, juncos and chickadees, as well as reptiles, amphibians, butterflies and other insects.



A young buck patrols the District office site.

For more information about the District's Certified Wildlife Habitat sites or water conservation programs, please contact Janet Sailer, Conservation and Public Information Specialist at (425) 392-4931 x 204 or janet.sailer@sammplat.wa.org. You can also visit the District's website at www.sammplat.wa.org.

The certification is part of a larger project known as the Sammamish Community Wildlife Habitat Project (SCWHP). A volunteer group of local residents is working to help Sammamish become a certified Community Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife

Federation by Spring 2010. To date, only 35 communities nationwide are certified as Community Wildlife Habitats. The structured program requires that Sammamish has at least 150 residences, 5 schools and 5 businesses or

common areas as certified wildlife habitats. As of February 2, 2010, the SCWHP has 89 homes, 1 farm, and 5 schools already certified, as well as the District's 5 sites and 6 City of Sammamish park sites. Only 61 more homes need to be certified as Backyard Wildlife Habitats in order for the community of Sammamish to become certified. If you live within the 98074 and 98075 zip code zones and are interested in participating in this program and certifying your own backyard as a wildlife habitat, visit www.nwf.org/certify to complete the online application. For further information and resources relating to the SCWHP, visit <http://sammamishwildlifehabitatproject.blogspot.com>.

