



“Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs”

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**For Immediate Release**

**Colchester Recognized as First Certified Community in Connecticut**

Dateline: March 23, 2010, Colchester, CT

At a ceremony on February 24, 2010 Colchester was officially recognized as the first community in the state, and just the 36<sup>th</sup> in the country, to be certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation. The celebration was the culmination of a year and a half of work led by a volunteer committee in town, in partnership with town staff, public schools and many other community organizations.

This certification signifies that Colchester has ensured that a vast number of public and private properties provide adequate habitat for wildlife by providing the four basic elements that all wildlife need: food, water, cover and places to raise young. Additionally, numerous workshops and programs were offered throughout the year in order to meet the education requirements of the certification.

The effort was led by co-chairs Katherine Kosiba and Ellen Falbowski, both of the Colchester Garden Club. While achieving certification is a daunting enough task alone, they also did it in record time, far ahead of the two to three years that it typically takes.

Going forward, the certification must be maintained through ongoing program and education credits. This effort will be carried on by the Parks & Recreation Department, which was an partner in the original certification.

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