



# Missoula Certified Wildlife Habitat™ Self-Guided Tour



Looking to explore Missoula's Certified Wildlife Habitats™ and the best management practices they display to help improve our watershed? Join in on this tour to learn about the importance of gardening for wildlife, what can be done to help reduce the number of pollutants entering our river, and how you can improve your wildlife habitats.

A Certified Wildlife Habitat™ is a step toward replenishing resources for wildlife—both locally and along migratory corridors – and we want to show you some great Missoula examples.



Photo courtesy of Naomi Alhadeff

TO CERTIFY YOUR OWN WILDLIFE HABITAT, VISIT:  
<https://www.nwf.org/CERTIFY>

## Honorable Mentions

- **Pocket Park on 8<sup>th</sup> St.** 1900 S 8th St W, Missoula, MT 59801
- **Ethnobotany Garden** surrounding the University of Montana's Payne Family Native American Center
- **WaterWise Garden** near S 5th St E & Gerald Ave

### Western Cider

### Ogren Park at Allegiance Field

### Montana Natural History Center

### Soil Cycle



### Missoula Urban Demonstration Project (MUD)



This project was brought to you by  
MACD Education & Outreach  
Water Quality Mini-Grant Funding

## TOUR STOPS

A. Western Cider: 501 N California St, Missoula, MT 59802

B. MUD: 1527 Wyoming St, Missoula, MT 59801

C. Soil Cycle: 736 S 1st St W C, Missoula, MT 59801

D. Montana Natural History Center: 120 Hickory St #A, Missoula, MT 59801

E. Ogren Stadium: 700 Cregg Ln, Missoula, MT 59801

## THANK YOU FOR CERTIFYING YOUR HABITATS!







# ABOUT THE TOUR



Follow the map on the back of this brochure to read about each site below. The Missoula Urban Water Quality Experience Self-Guided Tour is as follows:

Time: 55 minutes

Steps: 5,000

Miles: 2.45

Elevation Change: 29ft

## STOP A: WESTERN CIDER

Certified: March of 2020

The idea behind Western Cider started in 2012 when the co-founder, Michael Billingsley, planted over 2,500 cider apple trees in the Bitterroot Valley. It wasn't until 2017 that the taproom opened and started to distribute tasty beverages to local Missoula residents and throughout Montana. They currently have over 5,000 trees in the Bitterroot Valley that depend on gravity-fed ditch irrigation to bring water to their trees. Looking from the outside, Western Cider's landscape has lots of shrubs and bushes, but the real excitement is in their outdoor seating area. Being so close to the Clark Fork River, they are providing a habitat for several pollinators and their vegetation acts as a natural filtration system for stormwater runoff in the area. They also have a large area covered in gravel that acts as a permeable surface for stormwater runoff filtration. This is an important best management practice for our watershed health because it allows rainwater to saturate into the ground, rather than sliding down a paved surface collecting pollutants such as oil, gas, or bacteria, where they eventually end up in the Clark Fork River. Not only do they serve as a great example in the community, but they also use best management practices for our wildlife and local water



sources.

Photos Courtesy of Kassie Robakiewicz

## STOP B: MISSOULA URBAN DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (MUD)

Certified: May of 2018

As we continue over Russell St., we approach a Missoula gem, the Missoula Urban Demonstration Project, also known as MUD. MUD is tucked behind Home ReSource, an organization empowering people to build a more sustainable community while believing education, demonstration, and celebration of urban sustainable living creates



equitable communities and healthy ecosystems. They have three main focuses for their organization including a tool library with over 2,700 tools you can access with an annual membership, workshops to learn skills such as building your own furniture or urban gardening, and demonstration sites displaying several earth-friendly projects you can replicate in your home or community.

MUD was started in 1981 by a group passionate about urban substantiality who eventually relocated to its current location in 2011. Some of their demonstration sites support providing resources for wildlife and the protection of our watershed. This includes a pollinator garden, rain garden, rain barrels, permeable surfaces, solar panels, urban garden, and much more! Each demonstration is considered a best management practice to restore habitat, preserve energy, or protect our watershed from pollutants and runoff. If you are looking for ideas to transform your yard into a wildlife haven, this is the place to be.

## STOP C: SOIL CYCLE

Certified: September of 2019



If you haven't heard about Soil Cycle, you're in for a treat. Soil Cycle aims to promote the natural food cycle by providing environmentally sustainable compost services and education. To have a more sustainable community, Soil Cycle wants to do its best to encourage community members to reduce their food waste and convert it into cured compost. This is then returned to grow

food and connect with the land. Composting is an amazing way for community members to play their part in conserving water, promoting healthier plant growth, and reducing waste. In addition to the decrease in landfill material, using compost improves the water dynamics of soil, meaning there is better water infiltration, percolation, and water-holding capacity. You can do the same for your wildlife habitat when you sign up for a membership! They even use bikes to transport their employees and materials efficiently, economically, and emission-free, setting a great example for the community.



## STOP D: MONTANA NATURAL HISTORY CENTER

Certified: July of 2015



Continuing, we are approaching the Montana Natural History Center and you are greeted by their beautiful pollinator and native plant garden. This is a perfect example of healthy wildlife habitat, providing all the elements needed for wildlife to thrive: food, water, shelter, and space.

The Montana Natural History Center was founded in 1991 to promote and cultivate the appreciation, understanding, and stewardship of nature through education. They accomplish these goals by providing several programs for the community. They even have two different sites here in Missoula, the Fort Missoula Native Plant Garden and the Nature Adventure Garden, displaying great examples of small improvements that help wildlife thrive. The Natural History Center's certification dates back to July of 2015 and they have worked hard to

keep their habitat improving and expanding. An important role for the Natural History Center is to invest in and educate the younger generations so they feel empowered to make a difference in their community and the world.



## STOP E: OGREN PARK AT ALLEGIANCE FIELD

Certified: Summer of 2017

Walking up to the Missoula Paddlehead Stadium, you wouldn't believe it was built on a reclaimed lumber mill site as an infill project in 2004. It seats 3,500 people but held 4,316 people as a record high in 2012 to watch the 4th of July fireworks. The stadium is an important stop on this tour because, in the Summer of 2018, they held the ceremony for Missoula's Community Wildlife Habitat™. To become a Community Wildlife Habitat™, a city must hold a certain number of homes, schools, and common spaces that have certified their wildlife habitats. Missoula was the first Community Wildlife Habitat™ in Montana,



what an accomplishment! The stadium itself made its contribution to the community by becoming certified in the summer of 2017 and continues to show its wildlife pride by housing the famous osprey nest in the outfield. Be sure and check out a game if you get the chance.