

Application for Grand Island Habitat Certification

The Grand Island Nature Alliance, (GINA), and the Citizen Coalition for Wildlife & Environment encourage our fellow community members to help protect the unique environment of Grand Island by participating in the Grand Island Habitat Certification program.

Our community is fortunate to have large natural areas filled with important plant and animal species, some of which are threatened. We are surrounded by the Niagara River and are part of an international bird migratory path. Our responsible stewardship of this land is essential to its preservation for generations to come.

We invite all residents of Grand Island to participate in the Grand Island Habitat Certification program. You may choose your level of participation and expand it in the future.

Certification Levels:

1. **Niagara River Gold** – Full participation in the certification requirements
2. **Big Six Mile Silver** – Intermediate participation in the certification requirements
3. **Woods Creek Bronze** – Beginning participation in the certification requirements

Requirements for each level are found in the blue boxes under each category: **Food, Water & Shelter, Conservation Efforts, Education & Stewardship**. After you achieve each requirement for your intended level, mark the box next to it. Make sure to add the number of each plant in the box next to the plant name. Existing native plants, shrubs & trees on your property can count towards certification. Instructions on how to submit your application are on the last page.

Definition of Terms

- **Native plant** - Native plants are the indigenous terrestrial and aquatic species that have evolved and occur naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, and habitat.
- **Non-native plant** - Species that have not existed historically in one area but have been introduced due to human activities.
- **Invasive plants** - A non-native species that causes harm to the environment, economy, or human, animal, or plant health.
- **Cultivars** - A cultivar is a kind of cultivated plant that has been selected for desired traits and which retains those traits when propagated.
- **Pesticide** - A general term for chemicals that can kill or control pests, such as insects, weeds, rodents, diseases, and more. Pesticides can work by touch or ingestion, and death can occur immediately or over time.
- **Herbicide** – Chemicals used to manipulate or control undesirable vegetation.
- **Insecticide** – Chemicals used to control insects by killing them or preventing them from engaging in undesirable or destructive behaviors.
- **Fungicide** - Chemicals that kill or prevent the growth of fungi and their spores.

Contact Information:

Date	
Name	
Street	

Grand
Island
Nature Alliance



ZIP	
Email	
phone	

1. What type of dwelling are you certifying?

- House
- Farm
- Commercial
- School

2. Do you own or rent your property?

- Own
- Rent – if rent, do you have permission to plant on the property?

3. How large is the space where you will be certifying?

- < 0.25 acre
- 0.25 – 0.5 acre
- 0.51 – 1 acre
- 1.1 – 5 acres
- > 5 acre

4. Which level are you applying for with this application?

- Niagara River Gold** – Full participation in the certification requirements
- Big Six Mile Silver** – Intermediate participation in the certification requirements
- Woods Creek Bronze** – Beginning participation in the certification requirements

HABITAT REQUIREMENT # 1 - FOOD SOURCES

Most non-native plants or cultivars provide inadequate sustenance for wildlife. Follow these guidelines when planting native plants:

- Choose plants that provide pollen, nectar, seeds, or berries throughout the growing season, (early spring to late fall).
- Native trees and shrubs service host plants for caterpillars and insects that provide food for wildlife.
- Provide a variety of flower shapes, sizes and color
- Incorporate native grasses, shrubs, and trees. Biodiversity attracts different types of wildlife and improves ecosystems.
- Cluster perennials in groups of 3 – 5

Food requirements for each certification level:

Woods Creek Bronze	Big Six Mile Silver	Niagara River Gold
<input type="checkbox"/> At least 3 plants of one species from each season, for a total of 9 plants	<input type="checkbox"/> At least 3 plants of 2 species from each season, for a total of 18 plants <input type="checkbox"/> one native tree, shrub or grass	<input type="checkbox"/> A minimum of 3 plants of 3 different species from each season for a total of 27 plants <input type="checkbox"/> two of any native tree, shrub or grasses <input type="checkbox"/> 3 different species of host plants (can be part of the plants above)

PERENNIALS: ("H" beside a plant indicates it is also a host plant for butterfly or moth larva)

Early Season Bloom: Spring through mid-June. Please write the number of plants you have planted next to the name (make sure to match to the botanical name). Additional plants are listed [here](#)

Botanical Name	Common Name		Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild Columbine (H)		<i>Phlox divericata</i>	Wild Blue Phlox (H)
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Blue False Indigo (H)		<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Moss Phlox
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Wild Geranium (H)		<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	Jacob's Ladder
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag Iris		<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal
<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	False Solomon's Seal		<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Bloodroot
<i>Packera aurea</i>	Golden Ragwort (H)		<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Foamflower
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove beardtongue		<i>Viola spp.</i>	Violets (H)
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	Beardtongue (H)		<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexander (H)
Other natives (Please specify):				

Mid-Season Bloom: mid-June through mid-August. Please write the number of plants you have planted next to the name. (make sure to match to the botanical name). Additional plants are listed [here](#)

Botanical Name	Common Name		Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Common Yarrow (H)		<i>Lilium superbum</i>	Turk's Cap Lily
<i>Actaea racemosa</i>	Bugbane		<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Pearly Everlasting (H)		<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Trumpet Honeysuckle (H)
<i>Asclepias spp.</i>	Milkweeds (H)		<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Bee Balm
<i>Coreopsis rosea</i>	Pink Tickseed		<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Garden Phlox
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower (H)		<i>Pycnanthemum spp.</i>	Mountain Mint
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Boneset (H)		<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Cutleaf Coneflower (H)
<i>Eutrochium spp.</i>	Joe Pye Weed (H)		<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's Root
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Blazing Star		<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	Brown-eyed Susan
Other natives (Please specify):				

Late Season Bloom: mid-August through frost. Please write the number of plants you have planted next to the name. (make sure to match to the botanical name). Additional plants are listed [here](#)

Botanical Name	Common Name		Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Agastache scrophulariifolia</i>	Purple Giant Hyssop		<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Ox-Eye Sunflower

	<i>Ageratina altissima</i>	White Snakeroot (H)		<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	Obedient Plant
	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	White Turtlehead (H)		<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan (H)
	<i>Doellingeria umbellata</i>	Flat-top White Aster (H)		<i>Salvia azurea</i> var. <i>grandiflora</i>	Blue Sage
	<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>	Big-leaf Aster (H)		<i>Solidago</i> spp.	Goldenrods (H)
	<i>Gentiana clausa</i>	Bottle Gentian		<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster (H)
	<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	Woodland Sunflower (H)		<i>Symphyotrichum novibelgii</i>	New York Aster (H)
	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Sneezeweed		<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	New York Ironweed (H)
	Other natives (Please specify):				

SHRUBS: ("H" beside a plant indicates it is also a host plant for butterfly or moth larva)

	Botanical Name	Common Name		Botanical Name	Common Name
	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry		<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry Holly
	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry (H)		<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush (H)
	<i>Ceanothus americana</i>	Sweet Shrub (H)		<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain Laurel (H)
	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush		<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Ninebark (H)
	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summersweet (H)		<i>Rhus</i> spp.	Sumac (H)
	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Pagoda Dogwood (H)		<i>Rosa palustris</i>	Swamp Rose (H)
	<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood (H)		<i>Rosa carolina</i>	Carolina Rose (H)
	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood (H)		<i>Viburnum acerfolium</i>	Mapleleaf Viburnum (H)
	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red Twig Dogwood (H)		<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood Viburnum (H)
	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch Hazel (H)		<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.	Blueberry (H)
	Other natives (Please specify):				

TREES: ("H" beside a plant indicates it is also a host plant for butterfly or moth larva)

	Botanical Name	Common Name		Botanical Name	Common Name
	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple (H)		<i>Ostrya virginica</i>	American Hophornbeam (H)
	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple (H)		<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Eastern Sycamore (H)
	<i>Amelanchier</i> spp.	Serviceberry (H)		<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry (H)
	<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch (H)		<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry (H)
	<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shag-bark Hickory (H)		<i>Quercus</i> spp.	Pin, White & Red Oak (H)
	<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood (H)		<i>Salix nigra</i> , <i>S. discolor</i>	Black & Pussy Willow (H)
	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Poplar (H)		<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras (H)
	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black Gum (H)		<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood (H)
	Other natives (Please specify):				

NATIVE GRASSES

	Botanical Name	Common Name		Botanical Name	Common Name
	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Bluestem (H)		<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada Wild Rye
	<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	Broom Sedge		<i>Elymus hystrix</i>	Bottlebrush Grass
	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Sideoats Grama		<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia Wild Rye

	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Blue Joint Grass		<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass (H)
	<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	Pennsylvania Sedge		<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem (H)
	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Inland Sea Oats		<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian Grass (H)
	Other natives (Please specify):				

HABITAT REQUIREMENT #2 - Water & Shelter

All living things need water to survive and places to nest and overwinter. Mark each element you have in your yard.

Woods Creek Bronze	Big Six Mile Silver	Niagara River Gold
<input type="checkbox"/> At least one shelter option	<input type="checkbox"/> At least one water source and two shelter options	<input type="checkbox"/> At least one water source and three shelter options

Water sources:

- Bird bath
- Insect waterer (shallow ground water dish)
- Garden pond
- Stream
- Spring
- Vernal pools

Shelter options:

- Bird or bat box
- Bee house
- Rock pile or wall
- Dead logs or bundles of branches
- Piles of fallen leaves or dead plant stems

HABITAT REQUIREMENT #3 - Conservation Efforts

Maintaining a healthy, balanced habitat includes monitoring and removing invasive species that outcompete native plants. Eliminating the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizer applications that harm pollinators and other wildlife is also an essential step to achieving a healthy habitat.

Conservation Efforts requirements for each certification level:

Woods Creek Bronze	Big Six Mile Silver	Niagara River Gold
<input type="checkbox"/> Do not plant any of the listed invasive species on your property. <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce your use of pesticides and fertilizers and / or use natural organic methods to control unwanted plants or insects. <input type="checkbox"/> Do one of the Other Conservation Efforts listed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not plant any invasives species <input type="checkbox"/> Commit to controlling the spread of at least one invasives species on your property. <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Consider using natural alternatives. <input type="checkbox"/> Do two of the Other Conservation Efforts listed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not plant any invasive species <input type="checkbox"/> Commit to removing at least one of the invasive species on your property. <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers. <input type="checkbox"/> Do three of the Other Conservation Efforts listed.

Controlling Invasive Species: check each invasive species from this list that you are actively working to control or remove from your property.

	Botanical Name	Common Name		Botanical Name	Common Name
	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple		<i>Lonicera maackii</i>	Amur Honeysuckle
	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard		<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	Morrow's Honeysuckle
	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese Barberry		<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tartarian Honeysuckle
	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Oriental Bittersweet		<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Garden Loosestrife
	<i>Cynanchum louiseae</i>	Black Swallow-wort		<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife
	<i>Cynanchum rossicum</i>	Pale Swallow-wort		<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Chinese Silver Grass
	<i>Eleaegnus umbellata</i>	Autumn Olive		<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed Grass
	<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Burning Bush		<i>Reynoutria japonica</i>	Japanese Knotweed
	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris		<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Common Buckthorn
	<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i>	Border Privet		<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora Rose
Other natives (Please specify):					
Click here for a list of invasive plants in NY					

Reducing Pesticide, Herbicide and Fertilizer use: We recommend not using pesticides, however if you decide to occasionally use them please practice [Integrated Pest Management](#) or follow these steps:

- Clearly identify the pest before taking action
- Never apply pesticides unless necessary to maintain plant health
- Always follow label directions
- Use low impact pesticides such as horticultural oil or insecticidal soap
- Never spray plants in bloom
- Minimize pollinator impact by spraying at recommended times and avoiding spray drift
- Avoid fogging or spraying for mosquitoes or biting flies
- If lawn grub control is needed, mow to remove weed flowers prior to application

Other Conservation Efforts include:

- Mow less and keep lawn at 2.5 inches or more
- Reduce the size of your lawn by putting in more native plant areas
- Reduce or stop watering lawns
- Use grass clippings and leaves for mulch
- Start a compost pile
- Use a rain barrel
- Switch from gas mower and garden tools to electric

HABITAT REQUIREMENT #4 -Education & Stewardship

Educational workshops, events, and stewardship opportunities are part of our continuing growth as gardeners and caretakers of our environment. A complete listing of events, workshops and classes may be found at: <https://gi-naturealliance.org/>

Education & Stewardship requirements for each certification level:

Woods Creek Bronze	Big Six Mile Silver	Niagara River Gold
<input type="checkbox"/> Must attend 1 education class, workshop or walk (i.e. invasive or pollinator workshops)	<input type="checkbox"/> Must attend 2 education classes, workshops or walks (i.e. invasive or pollinator workshops) <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit 1 neighbor, family or friend to certify their yard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Must attend 2 education classes, workshops or walks (i.e. invasive or pollinator workshops) <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit 1 neighbor, family or friends to certify their yard. AND one other choice below <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Allow site to be showcased in a yard tour or GI Garden Walk <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer for a stewardship event with GINA or CCWE

How to Submit Application: Take a picture of all your habitat areas and email them along with your application to: ginaturealliance@gmail.com. We will review your application and pictures and notify you of your certification status. Once certified, we will award your certificate and you may purchase the appropriate habitat yard sign for the level you have achieved. The habitat certification signs are \$25. We will hold Certification nights where you can come share pictures of your work and talk about your process and ask any questions of our members. At this time, you can receive a certificate and your sign. We hope you will proudly display your sign and encourage interested friends and neighbors to participate.

Please visit our websites for more information, resources and current events:

<https://gi-naturealliance.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ginaturealliance>

<https://www.citizencoalitionwe.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/ccweinfo>



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