

Patchwork for Wildlife™ Red Bank

Accomplishments 2025

Patchwork for Wildlife™ Red Bank, a program sponsored by the Red Bank Animal Welfare Committee, completed its first year as a partner to the guiding organization founded by Jon Gibbons in Lake Como. A summary of highlights follows. If you would like to be part of the initiative, contact Mary Warner at: marywarnerstories@gmail.com

Westside Garden

- Received a \$500 Grant from the Native Plant Society of New Jersey to upgrade the West Westside Garden.
- Added native plants, removed hundreds of weeds and invasive plants, and removed poison ivy.
- Added a trellis and climbing vine, mulch, and paver path.
- Secured DPW watering schedule.
- Expanded Westside Garden by 240 square feet and prepared ground for 2026 planting.

Yard Evaluations

Completed 35 yard evaluations according to the standards developed by Jon Gibbons: twelve Distinctive; ten Beneficial; and thirteen Entry-level in the pilot.

Evaluators follow a formal methodology when visiting an interested homeowner's property to determine if they meet a baseline or a higher level of certification. The certification categories are Entry level, Beneficial level, and Distinctive level. (Any homeowner can request an evaluation.) The Evaluator completes the following steps:

- Estimate current square footage of native plants, trees, and shrubs. Notes other sustainable activities such as rain barrels, veggie gardens, natural mulching, clover lawns, pervious walkways/driveways, bird supports and habitats, etc.
- Record information, including pictures in Red Bank Patchwork database.
- Collect improvements annually, including more native species, removal of invasive species, and introduction of new sustainable maintenance activities. Improvements contribute to the goal of an acre of sustainable/habitat-friendly land.
- Determine certification level.

Events

Participant/table at community events

- Hosted a table at the Red Bank Green Fair, sponsored by the Borough of Red Bank Environmental Commission at the Middle School.
- Staffed a Patchwork for Wildlife Red Bank table at Red Bank Dog Days at Red Bank's Riverside Gardens Park.
- Shared Mary Warner's yard and distributed native plant and Patchwork information and refreshments for the "Flower or Vegetable Garden" Tour sponsored by the Red Bank Parks and Recreation Committee. Several native plants were given as "door" prizes.

Events Sponsored by Red Bank Patchwork: 105 participants.

- September: Garden Tour at the Brown Place home with Michael-Paul Raspanti and Jaime Maddalena had twenty-five participants, in two sessions.
- October: Kim Rowe, Monmouth Chapter leader of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey, shared how to "Wake Up Your Yard With Native Plants" at the Red Bank Senior Center. There were forty-nine participants from seventeen towns.
- November: "Eco-friendly Garden Maintenance" – Jon Gibbons, founder of the Patchwork for Wildlife™ program, and founder of Candide's Garden & Friends, Inc., elucidated the benefits of Sustainable Maintenance at the Monmouth County Library Eastern Branch, Shrewsbury. There were about thirty people attending.

Marketing/Communications

- An article in redbankgreen.com featured Patchwork for Wildlife Red Bank.
www.redbankgreen.com/2025/09/meet-red-banks-trailblazing-no-mow-gardeners/
- Created a standing 18"x24" Patchwork poster for events.
- Developed the Patchwork for Wildlife Red Bank homepage on Mary's website:
www.maryellenwarner.com/patchwork
- Set up a system for online event registration.
- Created flyers for events, and updated the tri-fold Patchwork for Wildlife Red Bank brochure.
- Continued growing an email list (96 people as of December 2).