



SAFE
SAVING ANIMALS
FROM EXTINCTION



Join Us in Taking Action to Save Species

AZA members and partners work together through our SAFE: Saving Animals from Extinction program to protect and recover threatened species. With your visit to an AZA zoo or aquarium, you're helping us save species around the world. You can help SAFE species like monarchs and songbirds right here in your community too!

Monarch butterflies and migratory songbirds travel thousands of miles and may stop in your backyard or local parks. You can help them on their journey by creating safe stopover areas for their long migrations. Stopover areas are critical for their survival to rest, restore energy and seek shelter. You can help protect and create more healthy stopover habitats by:

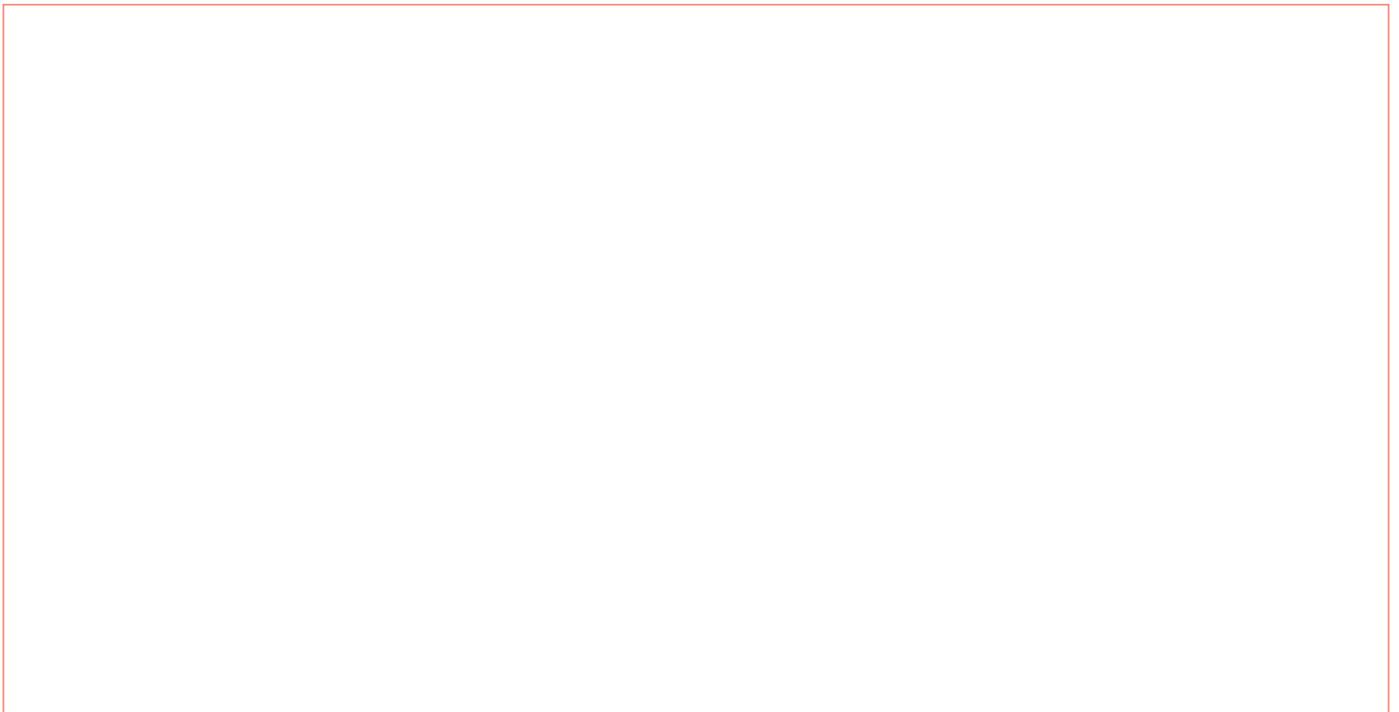
-  **Planting native flowering plants!** Fuel their travels with a diverse buffet. Choosing only native plants and going pesticide-free are best to keep habitats healthy.
-  **Don't mow, let the flowers grow!** Taller grasses create habitat for pollinators and other insects, not to mention it saves you time, money and conserves fuel. Not ready to stop mowing everywhere? Choose a section to let grow and watch as a family for new visitors to your yard.
-  **Use fewer pesticides and fertilizers in your garden!** By reducing or eliminating the use of chemicals on your lawn and gardens you create safer, healthier habitat for monarchs, birds, and other pollinators.
-  **Remove invasive species!** Invasive and non-native plants often bloom before native plants, depriving them of sunlight and soil nutrients. Also, because they are not the natural food for native species they may not provide the nutrients these migrating species need. By removing invasive plants, you are helping native species thrive, creating healthy habitats for animals and people.
-  **Pick up litter and choose to reuse!** Litter—especially plastics —can be mistaken for food or tangle up birds. Disposing of trash and properly recycling helps keep habitats healthy! Do more to keep plastics out of habitats by choosing reusable instead of single-use items like straws, bags, and containers.
-  **Watch and learn more about the birds in your community!** Spend time watching the birds that share your backyard and local parks. See how they look for food, care for their young, and enjoy nature like you. You can help scientists learn more about songbirds and how to best protect them by participating in projects like the Great Backyard Bird Count and Christmas Bird Count with your family and friends.

How will you help create and protect healthy habitats in your community?

Talk with your family to make a plan for what actions you can take. Write or draw them here:



Get your community involved! Do you have a team, scout group, church community, or classmates that could join in to create healthy habitats too? Write or draw about how you can share your efforts:



Share your story to inspire others! Share your photos on social media when you take action to create and protect healthy habitats. Use and follow the hashtags [#PartyForThePlanet](#), [#SpringIntoAction](#), and [#SavingSpecies](#) to connect with AZA zoos and aquariums and their communities working together to save species!