

**FINAL REPORT**  
**Forest Service Grant No. 00-DG-11083150-440**

Period covered by this report: August 1, 2000 through January 31, 2002

Issued To: National Wildlife Federation

Address: 11100 Wildlife Center Drive  
Reston, VA 20190-5362

Congressional District Number: 11

Project Name: Tree Conservation and Home Site Development Guide

Contact Person/Principal Investigator:

Name: David Mizejewski

Mailing Address: same as above

Phone Number: (703) 438-6499

Fax Number: (703) 438-6468

E-Mail Address: mizejewski@nwf.org

Your Organization's internet home page address: [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)

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Grant Modification: N/A

Date of Expiration: January 31, 2001

Funding: Federal Share: \$33,250 plus Grantee Share: \$58,250 = Project Total  
\$91,500

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Provide a 100-word abstract on your project defined by your initial proposal and contract:

National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has created and published the *Tree Conservation and Home Site Development Guide*. This guide will be used by Habitat For Humanity International (HFHI), one of the world's largest homebuilders, and its affiliates around the county to facilitate the incorporation of environmental evaluation and planning into the siting and landscaping decisions that are made at new development sites. The guide is an informative resource, emphasizing the conservation of trees and other natural vegetation and the role sustainable landscaping plays in the energy, water, and habitat conservation. The guide will be distributed by National Garden Clubs, Inc., a nonprofit organization of over 8,000 garden clubs nationwide, and NWF. Guides can be ordered from NWF at <http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/thehabitatshop.cfm>.

## Project Objectives:

1. In collaboration with key partners, develop the framework and content of the Tool Kit
2. Integrate the content of multiple authors into one cohesive work that covers the following areas:
  - Concepts  
The benefits and values of trees and community and urban forests  
The benefits and values of sustainable landscaping  
Landscaping for energy conservation  
Landscaping for water conservation  
Landscaping for wildlife  
Elements of a low maintenance landscape
  - Inventory & Design  
Research, Site Inventory, and Analysis  
Site Design
  - Tree Protection  
Protecting trees and other natural vegetation and landscape components during construction
  - Plant Installation  
Soil preparation  
Selecting Trees  
Planting trees and shrubs
  - Maintenance  
Lawn and garden maintenance  
Tree and shrub maintenance
  - Homeowner and Family Education  
Incorporating tree conservation and sustainable landscape concepts into HFH Homeowner Education/Sweat Equity requirements.  
Planning Sweat Equity activities for families.  
Green Home Information
  - Appendix  
Contacts and Resources: Details for finding and contacting local conservation districts, garden clubs, etc., for assistance  
Additional print and video resources
3. Design, print, and disseminate 2,500 copies of the Tool Kit
4. Evaluate the impact of the Tool Kit in the following areas via feedback forms and pre/post-assessments to answer the following questions:
  - How has implementation of the Tool Kit affected the landscape?
  - How has implementation of the Tool Kit affected knowledge and understanding of homeowners regarding benefits of the urban forest and sustainable landscaping?
  - Produce 5 case studies from around the country where the Tool Kit has been used.
5. Revise and reprint as necessary

**Objectives met/not met:**

Objective 1 — accomplished

Through collaboration between authors from Clemson University, National Garden Clubs, Inc., Habitat For Humanity International, and National Wildlife Federation, the framework and content of the guide was developed.

Objective 2 — accomplished

The guide content was completed after thorough review from the above partners, and multiple revisions.

Objective 3 — accomplished

An initial print run of 2,500 guides has been printed as an 8.5 x 11 inch, four color, illustrated, spiral bound book (spiral binding will ensure the homeowner pages can be photocopied as "take home" elements).

Objective 4 — accomplished/ongoing

Evaluation card was included in the guide, which will be evaluated by NWF once a critical number are returned.

Objective 5 — to be accomplished

Revision and reprinting will occur if necessary after the evaluation process.

**List the major research of policy findings of your project.**

N/A

**If not apparent in the above, or if your project did not involve research, how did the project increase the knowledge we have about urban forestry? How did (will) the public benefit?**

HFHI is one of the world's largest homebuilders, building an average of 40 homes per day. As a result, the information covered within the guide will reach an enormous amount of people — many of whom have never heard of urban forestry or sustainable landscaping.

NWF is on the forefront of sustainable landscaping issues, in particular the importance of the restoration of native plant communities in the face of destruction caused by sprawl and invasive exotics. The existing body of urban forestry information will be strengthened through this guide by making the connection between the human benefits of the urban forest (economic, aesthetic, and environmental) to those it provides to the native plant and wildlife communities. This holistic approach will solidify urban forestry as a key component of sustainable development.

People will reap a greater long-term benefit if their landscapes reflect good urban forestry practices while at the same time working as a functioning part of a greater ecosystem. This guide will show the public how to accomplish this.

**What recommendations might you make to community foresters or others who might benefit from your project?**

This guide is a good tool that delivers tree conservation, planting and long-term maintenance concepts in a clear, easy-to-understand way and can be used as a tool for homeowner education. Chapter 5, which consists of homeowner instructions on sustainable lawn care, watering practices, fertilization, weeding, pruning, pest control, and mulching can be photocopied and distributed to the public.

**Attach copies of the reports, publications, or videos. If your work has been published (journals, popular press, etc.) provide where they have been published or reported and how copies can be obtained.**

Three copies of the guide are enclosed. The guide can be ordered from NWF's website at <http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/thehabitatshop.cfm> or by calling (716) 461-3092 and requesting item # NWFBWH22.

**How were your results disseminated to the public?**

National Garden Clubs, Inc. is distributing 1300 copies of the guide to HFHI affiliates around the country free of charge. The remaining 1200 copies are being sold by NWF, primarily via our Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program website, which receives an average of 35,000-45,000 individual user sessions a month.

**List the active partners:**

*National Wildlife Federation*

David Mizejewski, Manager, Backyard Wildlife Habitat

*Habitat for Humanity International*

Neville Eastwood, Green Team Leader, Construction & Environmental Resources

*National Council of State Garden Clubs*

Marion Hilliard, Chairman, Wildlife & Endangered Species

Jo Williams, Chairman, Habitat for Humanity Landscape Project

*Clemson University*

Donald L. Ham, Professor, Department of Forest Resources

Mary B. Taylor Hague, Professor, Department of Horticulture

Lolly Tai, Professor, Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture

**Photo or Illustration**

N/A

**If a no-cost time extension was granted for this project, why was it needed?**

N/A

**How would you evaluate the grant process? What changes, if any, would you recommend?**

I personally inherited this project after the funding had been allocated, so I can't comment on the application process. The periodic reporting process was clear and minimal, and Suzy Del Villar was very helpful and informative when I had questions.

**This report was prepared by:**

Name: David Mizejewski

Title: Manager, Backyard Wildlife Habitat

Phone Number: (703) 438-6499

Date: June 21, 2002