

Backyard Conservation and Local Laws

Case Study

KAL Products, Research and Engineering Facility

In 1995, several KAL employees decided to work with the Wildlife Habitat Council to create habitat on the two acres adjacent to their facility. They encouraged other interested employees to participate and asked a biologist from the Wildlife Habitat Council to assess the potential to create wildlife habitat at the site.

The biologist made several recommendations to start their *Wildlife at Work*sm program. The two significant recommendations were to create butterfly habitat in the areas around the entrance to the facility and to create a wildflower meadow on the two-acre parcel. The employees diligently began to create the wildflower meadow. They planted a variety of plants such as black-eyed susan, purple coneflower, columbine, milkweed and spicebush. Animals began inhabiting the site including butterflies, warblers and hummingbirds. They put up nest boxes for cavity nesters such as bluebirds. The employees even put a trail through the habitat so that the community could enjoy it. They applied for and met stringent criteria to achieve certification by the Wildlife Habitat Council for their efforts.

A few people began to appreciate the wildlife viewing opportunities at the habitat. The local bird club and scout troops not only studied the wildlife at the site but also helped the employees monitor the bluebird boxes. The couple that lived next door walked along the trail and regularly picked up the trash and other debris. The local elementary students visited the site in preparation for developing their own butterfly garden at the school. The employees decided to again work with WHC to start a Corporate Lands for Learning (CLL) program.

Before the CLL program could begin, Mayor John Rist stopped by to talk to Dave Arrowroot, the wildlife team leader. He informed Mr. Arrowroot that some of the neighbors complained that the wildflower meadow was an eyesore and attracted rats and mosquitoes to the community. He stated that there would be a hearing before the City Council in two weeks to determine what to do about the complaints. Those with an opinion on the habitat would be given two minutes each to make their case. The City Council would then decide what was to become of the habitat.

To complete this case study, divide the students into the following groups:

- Mayor (who presides over the city council)
- City Council (6 members)
- KAL Wildlife Team
- Dave Arrowroot, KAL Wildlife Team Leader
- Community Members in Favor of the Wildlife Habitat
- Community Groups Against the Wildlife Habitat



- 1) Discuss as a class the role of each party in the case study.
- 2) Have each student do the research and make a case for or against the wildlife habitat, using the attached “Outline for Persuasion” to a meeting of the City Council.
- 3) Have the City Council decide what should be done about the wildlife habitat based on the testimony by having a discussion and voting.
- 4) Discuss the results.

Extension

Before having the students hold their City Council hearing, take the students to a city council or county commission hearing or watch one on using the local cable access channel.

