***How to Help Wildlife in Hot Weather***

**Leave out water sources.** High and low water sources help animals maintain a safe body temperature. Some mammals and birds use panting, allowing water to escape from their mouth, thus needing extra water around to avoid dehydration and overheating.

**Have undisturbed areas of shade.** For those of you with a garden, if you have a lot of plants, this is a good start that creates naturally, cool and shady areas. These shaded areas give wildlife a break from direct sunlight.

**Pay attention to your pond.** Head and sunlight can change the conditions of your pond so it is important to keep an eye on it and make any changes needed to help the wildlife. Make sure there are exit and entry routes to the pond to assist the amphibians with the changing conditions. Warm water tends to hold less dissolved oxygen than cold water, so warm, still water can be less oxygenated during the humid summer. You can install a simple pump or water fountain that will keep the water constantly moving allowing the dissolving process of essential oxygen.

**Water your plants.** This might be an obvious one, but it can make a huge difference to the health of your garden and the wildlife. Plants are essential for animals to thrive, and healthy watered plants provide both food and water to the ecosystem. As the water reaches down to the roots, it will provide moisture to the soil, lending a hand to animals beneath the ground.

**Put out extra food.** Water might seem like the most obvious scarcity in the heat but food can also be in shorter supply for wildlife. During hot and dry conditions invertebrates like worms, will tunnel deep into the soil, out of reach for birds to eat them. Putting out bird seed or meal worms for birds is an easy way to help.

*Conservation Corner,*



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