

Amber Waves Farm and Hungerford Nature Center Earn Green Grounds Certification, Marking New Milestone for Re:wild Your Campus

Re:wild Your Campus is proud to announce that *Amber Waves Farm* in Amagansett, New York and *Hungerford Nature Center* in Berlin, Connecticut have officially received Platinum-level Green Grounds Certifications, marking the program's first certifications awarded to non-university institutions.

This milestone reflects a powerful expansion of Re:wild Your Campus's mission beyond traditional academic settings, demonstrating that diverse organizations - including nature centers, farms, and public spaces - are leading the way in eliminating synthetic pesticides, embracing organic land care practices, and fostering biodiversity in the landscapes they steward.

"We created the Green Grounds Certification to incentivize organizations to protect both human and ecological health, while highlighting their commitment to biodiversity. This proves that managing grounds without chemicals is practical and achievable." said Mackenzie Feldman, Co-Director of Re:wild Your Campus. "Amber Waves and Hungerford Nature Center are proving that you don't have to be a college campus to be a leader in safe and sustainable land care. This is a huge step forward in growing a movement of organic, pesticide-free public spaces."

At Amber Waves Farm, the team manages two acres entirely without synthetic pesticides or fertilizers. Their commitment to sustainable land care includes the planting of native species along fence lines and in the Education Garden, and the installation of a native pollinator garden at their public entrance in partnership with the Perfect Earth Project. Hand-scale pest control methods and a pair of diligent farm cats have eliminated the need for chemical rodenticides, while mulching with composted leaves and wood chips helps build healthy soil and suppress weeds.

"Quote from Amber Waves Farm"

Hungerford Nature Center manages 22 acres of public land without synthetic pesticides and is undergoing a dramatic rewilding transformation. The Center is replacing lawns with native meadows, expanding pollinator habitats, and removing non-native ornamental species across its gardens and trail systems. Staff use manual methods and even goats to manage invasive species, and they engage the community through on-site signage, children's programs, and family education on the importance of pollinators and native plants.

"We are striving to model best environmental practices in the management of our grounds and we hold the responsibility and opportunity to then teach about it. We are very fortunate to support the next generation of environmental stewards for the health of our community and our planet." explains Dr. Tami Christopher, Executive Director of Hungerford.

"The Green Grounds Certification includes four levels: Bronze (50% pesticide-free grounds), Silver (70%), Gold (90%), and Platinum (100%). To qualify, institutions must not only meet the percentage thresholds but also document land care practices, provide community pesticide notification plans, and commit to reducing fossil fuel-powered landscape equipment.

By meeting all Platinum-level requirements, *Amber Waves Farm* and *Hungerford Nature Center* are leading the way in cultivating safer, healthier, and more sustainable public spaces. Their certification represents a promising signal for how the Green Grounds movement can grow beyond campus borders and into broader communities.

