



City of Tukwila

6200 Southcenter Boulevard Tukwila, Washington 98188 Jim Haggerton, Mayor

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Tukwila's Backyard Wildlife Festival Featuring Family Fun and Animal Planet Personality

Keynote David Mizejewski, recycled art, kid parade and garden tours highlight this year's lineup

TUKWILA, Wash. (April 1, 2008) –Tukwila, the first city in the state of Washington to be certified as an official Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation, will host the eighth annual Backyard Wildlife Festival on May 10, 2008. The Festival will feature a day full of outdoor events and exhibits designed to stimulate the minds and senses of both adults and children. This year, Tukwila's Backyard Wildlife Festival will feature keynote speaker David Mizejewski. David is currently host and co-producer of *Backyard Habitat* on Animal Planet, a television series airing since 2005 that shows people how to transform their yards and gardens into thriving habitats for birds and other local wildlife. (<http://animal.discovery.com/fansites/backyard/meet/meet.html>)

The event will take place May 10, 2008, starting at 9:00 am and running until 5:00 pm at the Tukwila Community Center, just south of Boeing Field, 12424 42nd Ave S, Tukwila. The goal of Tukwila's Backyard Wildlife Festival is to demonstrate ways that individuals and families can welcome wildlife into their backyards. There is no cost to attend.

The Tukwila Backyard Wildlife Festival is part of the Tukwila Centennial program. Details are available at www.tukwila100.com.

"The Festival is always filled with so many amazing things to see and do," said Tukwila Mayor Jim Haggerton. "This is an event where kids, parents, grandparents and couples can all find something unique and engaging to walk away with."

Part of this year's theme is to highlight all things "green" and will feature:

- Educational booths at which families can learn about watersheds, noxious weeds, composting and recycling;
- Native plant vendors who will explain the ecological benefits of cultivating regional and local plants in your garden; and
- Local recycled art showcase and contest.

One of the Festival's major draws each year is the garden tour. Each private garden on tour is certified as a backyard wildlife habitat which means there will be no shortage of wildlife and rich natural ecosystems. The garden tours begin at 1:00 pm and run until the end of the day at 5:00 pm.

The "Procession of Species" parade features kids marching in costumes that replicate their favorite species of wildlife. Kids can either make a costume at a mask making workshop at the festival from 9:00 am to 11:45 am or bring a costume they prepared at home. The parade begins at 12:00 noon and participants will march along the shores of the Duwamish River.

The Festival also will include a marketplace where a variety of local arts and crafts will be showcased in addition to a wide range of food vendors and educational booths.

About the Tukwila Centennial

The Tukwila Centennial Celebration events are highlighting the past, present and future of the Tukwila area. Festivities will continue through the end of June 2009. Additional activities include historic presentations, sporting events, Memorial Day at the Museum of Flight, fireworks on the 4th, heart-healthy activities such as the Backyard Wildlife Festival, and hotel and shopping packages.

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