

ASWP Backyard Habitat Certification Requirements

Program Elements	Habitat Guardian	Habitat Champion	Habitat Hero
Native Plants	5%+ (or at least 50 ft ²) of property is landscaped with native plants 3 of 4 vegetation habitat layers are present	15%+ (or at least 150 ft ²) of property is landscaped with native plants 3 of 4 vegetation habitat layers are present	40%+ (or at least 400 ft ²) of property is landscaped with native plants 4 of 4 vegetation habitat layers are present
Natural Products	Choose plants grown without neonicotinoids. Do not use pesticides containing neonicotinoids. Use pesticides and herbicides minimally.	Choose plants grown without neonicotinoids. Do not use pesticides containing neonicotinoids. Use pesticides and herbicides minimally.	Choose plants grown without neonicotinoids. Eliminate all non-organic pesticide and herbicide use.
Wildlife Stewardship	Keep cats indoors and choose 1 from below:	Keep cats indoors and choose 2 from below:	Keep cats indoors and choose 3 from below:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a water source for birds and pollinators - Maintain a bird or bat nesting box - Support pollinator and beneficial insect habitat by leaving brush piles, small rock piles, bundles of stems or branches, or a native bee house in yard - Assess property for problem collision windows and treat as needed - Maintain a bird feeder - Leave non-vegetable garden clean up until Spring to provide winter protection and food sources - Maintain a pollinator meadow that includes native species 		
Clean Water	Choose 1 from below:	Choose 2 from below:	Choose 3 from below:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support soil health by leaving leaves in place and/or composting - Properly dispose of chemicals and other household hazardous waste - Reduce water use; water only in mornings and evenings to conserve water, use rain barrel for watering, or install soaker hoses - Create a rain garden* - Install a rain barrel - Convert turf grass to a native meadow - Disconnect downspouts where appropriate - Have a large tree on-site which provides at least 30% canopy coverage 		
Homeowner Engagement and Education	Choose 1 from below:	Choose 2 from below:	Choose 3 from below:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in ASWP Native Plant class or workshop - Participate in Citizen Science program such as Firefly Watch, Project Budburst, or Monarch Larva Monitoring - Allow yard to be showcased - Volunteer in the Backyard Habitat Certification Program - Recruit 2 neighbors to sign up for the Backyard Habitat Certification Program - Participate in ASWP Master Birder program* - Participate in Master Gardener program* 		

*Count as 2