

# Best of Texas Backyard Habitats

## Application for Certification



Photo Courtesy of Tony Manasertti

*“Texas Is Our Backyard”*





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## Application for Certification

### OFFICE USE

Habitat # (TPWD) _____	Fee Rcvd. _____	Cert. Sent _____
Habitat # (NWF) _____	Certified _____	

### CONTACT INFORMATION (Please PRINT legibly)

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) to Appear on Certificate \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Habitat \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**If you are applying for someone else, please provide your contact information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the National Wildlife Federation®?  Yes  No

What other wildlife-related interests do you participate in? \_\_\_\_\_

Habitat type:  Home  School  Workplace  Church  Park  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Property Size (approximate acres) \_\_\_\_\_ Is your property  Urban  Suburban  Rural

Did a Habitat Steward/Host or Master Naturalist assist you?  Yes  No Name \_\_\_\_\_

Is your property a certified Wildlife Habitat™ (NWF)?  Yes, # \_\_\_\_\_  No Is it a certified Texas Wildscape?  Yes, # \_\_\_\_\_  No

### 1. FOOD SOURCES: Natural or Supplemental

A. Identify the types of plants that provide fruits, nuts, berries, seeds, nectar and other materials that wildlife might eat. Examples: acorns from oak trees attract birds, squirrels and other small mammals. A majority of plants must be native. Natural food should be provided year-round. List food type, i.e., nectar, pollen, sap, nuts, seeds or berries. (Attachments welcome.)

Large Trees:	Number	Name of Plant	Food Type	Native	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small Trees:	Number	Name of Plant	Food Type	Native	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Shrubs/Vines:	Number	Name of Plant	Food Type	Native	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Annual & Perennial Wildflowers:**

	Number	Name of Plant	Food Type	Native	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Grasses:	Number	Name of Plant	Food Type	Native	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. List the type and number of wildlife feeders and foods you provide. Feeders alone, without food-bearing plants, will not be accepted as a food resource.

Feeder Type:	Number	Food	Visited by
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**2. WATER SOURCES (must be provided year-round):**

- A. Water provided is:  moving  still
- B. Water is provided by:  bird bath  garden pond  natural source (wetland, spring/seep, stream, etc.)  
 wildlife pool  puddling area  wildlife-friendly trough  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

C. Do you collect rainwater for use in these water features? \_\_\_\_\_

**3a. SHELTER:**

What steps do you take to prevent predation from cats, House Sparrows and European Starlings: \_\_\_\_\_

**3b. ESCAPE SHELTER: Places to Hide and Rest**

- Escape or hiding cover is provided by:
- wooded area  prairie patch  scrub or brushland  cave or den  
 brush/log piles  rock piles/wall  hedges  ground cover  
 native shrub thicket (Describe – evergreen or deciduous, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**3c. NESTING SHELTER: Places to Raise Young**

Nesting cover for birds, denning cover for mammals and/or egg-laying cover for reptiles and amphibians, fish or insects is provided by (please describe below and note if the plants are native to your region of Texas):

Nesting shelter is provided by:

Tall Trees \_\_\_\_\_

Small Trees \_\_\_\_\_

Dense Shrubs \_\_\_\_\_

Cavity Trees/Snags \_\_\_\_\_

Wildlife Pool \_\_\_\_\_

Tall Grasses/Prairie/Meadow or Scrub Patch \_\_\_\_\_

Nest Boxes (Describe use by birds, bats, squirrels, other) \_\_\_\_\_

Host plants for butterfly caterpillars (List) \_\_\_\_\_

**4. YOUR CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP:**

How have you actively provided the essential elements of wildlife habitat on your property?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. RESOURCE CONSERVATION: At time of application you must be practicing at least six of these conservation measures**

Tell us how you are conserving resources for people and wildlife:

- Establishing a rain garden or buffer to filter storm water
- Capturing roof rainwater
- Mulching
- Using drip soaker hose instead of sprinkler
- Eliminating chemical use
- Xeriscape plantings
- Reducing or eliminating lawn areas
- Composting yard and food waste
- Green roof
- Water sparingly and only in early mornings or evenings
- Removing invasive exotics
- Planting deciduous trees along the southern exposure of the house
- Keeping your cat indoors

**6. WILDLIFE:**

Please list the wildlife that your habitat supports: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. ATTACHMENTS:**

Along with this application, please send us a simple sketch and photos of your habitat since we cannot visit it in person. Good quality photos and sketches may be selected for our Web site, but cannot be returned. Feel free to include other attachments. All attachments must be no larger than 11" x 17". Be sure to include your name and address on the back of all attachments, including each photo.

- Photos enclosed (no more than five, please)
- Sketch enclosed

**Invasive Plants to Avoid**

- Ligustrum or Privet
- Nandina
- Japanese Honeysuckle
- Chinese Tallow
- Chinaberry
- Bamboo
- Pyracantha
- Red-tipped Photinia
- Japanese Boxwood
- Giant Cane
- Salt Cedar

**PROCESSING INFORMATION: Allow 6-8 weeks for processing**

- \$30 Application Fee Enclosed. This fee covers our processing and handling costs and is non-refundable. Make check payable to the National Wildlife Federation®.

*Please keep a copy of this application for your records.*

**Please complete this application and return to:**  
National Wildlife Federation®  
Gulf States Natural Resource Center  
44 East Avenue, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78701  
(512) 476-9805

For more information on creating your habitat, visit:  
[www.nwf.org/backyard](http://www.nwf.org/backyard) or [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/wildscapes](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/wildscapes)