

# TEXAS WILDSCAPES

## Backyard Habitat Program



*“Texas is Our Backyard”*

# Texas Wildscapes Backyard Habitat Program

Application for Certification

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:

Texas Wildscapes  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744



## CONTACT INFORMATION (Please PRINT legibly)

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

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

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Property size (sq. ft. or acres) \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. FOOD SOURCES: Natural or Supplemental

A. Try to 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; Persimmon (*Diospyros*) fruits attract numerous birds and small mammals; Holly (*Ilex*) provides berries for songbirds; Sunflower (*Helianthus*) provides seeds for many kinds of birds, and Salvias attract numerous hummingbird species. Please check the appropriate blank if you know which plants are native to your area. To qualify as a wildscape your property must be at least 50% native species.

Large Trees:

Number

Native to your area?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes ☐ No

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes ☐ No

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes ☐ No

Small Trees:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes ☐ No

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes ☐ No

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes ☐ No

Shrubs:

Number

Native to your area?

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☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

Annual & Perennial Wildflowers:

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☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

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. Feeders should supplement natural provisions.

Feeder Type:

No.

Foods

Visited by

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## 2. WATER SOURCES: The Key Ingredient

A. Water is provided:

☐ yearlong

☐ seasonally

B. Water is provided by:

☐ bird bath

☐ garden pond

☐ wildlife pool

☐ spring

☐ water trough

☐ stream

☐ other \_\_\_\_\_



## 3. SHELTER: Places to Hide, Rest and Raise Young

A. Escape or hiding cover is provided by:

☐ woodlot

☐ prairie patch

☐ scrub or brushland

☐ brush piles

☐ rock piles

☐ hedges

☐ ground cover

☐ shrub thicket (Describe – evergreen or deciduous, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Additional explanation of what you have done to enhance your property for wildlife.

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B. 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):

No.

\_\_\_ 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) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Plants for butterfly caterpillars (Describe) \_\_\_\_\_



Please include a sketch or diagram of your property showing the features identified above. You may want to send a photo of your habitat too. We cannot return these items however, so please keep a copy for your records.

### Wildscaping Tips:

- Use native plants whenever possible. They are more adapted to your local conditions, provide the kind of food and cover wildlife require, and need less maintenance. To qualify as a Texas Wildscape, at least 50% of the plants in your yard should be native.
- Recycle leaves, plant clippings and kitchen scraps into compost and don't bag grass clippings.
- Conserve water. Irrigate in the early mornings or evenings to reduce water waste.
- Closely follow all label instructions when applying pesticides and fertilizers, and try to minimize their use.



For more information on creating your Habitat visit:  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/wildscapes](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/wildscapes)