

### ASWP Backyard Habitat Certification Requirements

Program Elements	Habitat Guardian	Habitat Champion	Habitat Hero
<b>Native Plants</b>	5%+ of managed, plantable space is landscaped with native plants 3 of 4 vegetation habitat layers are present	15%+ of managed, plantable space is landscaped with native plants 3 of 4 vegetation habitat layers are present	40%+ of managed, plantable space is landscaped with native plants 4 of 4 vegetation habitat layers are present
<b>Address Threats</b>	<p>Required: Keep cats indoors, do not use pesticides containing neonicotinoids, and use herbicides minimally to manage invasive species, and only where applicable. Choose 1 from below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assess property for problem bird collision windows and treat as needed</li> <li>- Reduce light pollution by installing motion sensors, using warm-colored LED lights with a color temperature below 3000K, and/or turn off unnecessary indoor lights</li> <li>- Mow turf grass on a high setting to protect ground-dwelling wildlife and avoid mowing around dusk</li> <li>- Regularly clean bird feeders and bird baths</li> </ul>	<p>Required: Keep cats indoors, do not use pesticides containing neonicotinoids, and use herbicides minimally to manage invasive species, and only where applicable. Choose 2 from below:</p>	<p>Required: Keep cats indoors, do not use pesticides containing neonicotinoids, and use herbicides minimally to manage invasive species, and only where applicable. Choose 3 from below:</p>
<b>Wildlife Stewardship</b>	Choose 1 from below:	Choose 2 from below:	Choose 3 from below:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manage invasive plant species</li> <li>- Provide a water source for birds and pollinators</li> <li>- Maintain a bird or bat nesting box</li> <li>- Support pollinator and beneficial insect habitat by leaving brush piles, small rock piles, or bundles of stems and branches</li> <li>- Leave non-vegetable garden clean up until late spring to provide winter protection, food sources, and support full insect life cycles</li> <li>- Maintain a pollinator meadow that includes native species</li> </ul>		
<b>Clean Water</b>	Choose 1 from below:	Choose 2 from below:	Choose 3 from below:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support soil health (and fireflies) by leaving leaves in place and/or composting</li> <li>- Properly dispose of chemicals and other household hazardous waste</li> <li>- Reduce water use; water only in mornings and evenings to conserve water, use rain barrel for watering, or install soaker hoses</li> <li>- Create a rain garden*</li> <li>- Reduce turf lawn</li> <li>- Disconnect downspouts, where appropriate</li> <li>- Have a large tree on-site which provides at least 30% canopy coverage</li> </ul>		
<b>Engagement and Education</b>	Choose 1 from below:	Choose 2 from below:	Choose 3 from below:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participate in an ASWP Native Plant program</li> <li>- Participate in Citizen Science program such as Firefly Watch, Project Budburst, or Monarch Larva Monitoring</li> <li>- Recruit 2 neighbors to sign up for the Backyard Habitat Certification Program</li> <li>- Participate in ASWP Master Birder program, Master Gardener, or Master Naturalist Program*</li> <li>- Advocate for bird habitat by contacting elected officials, writing a letter to the editor, etc.</li> </ul>		

\*Count as 2