



Bird-Friendly Spaces Program

Quick Start: Community Space



The Bird-Friendly Spaces program has been designed so everyone can participate, regardless of the size of your space. Whether you have a school garden, HOA-managed park, or corporate green space, there are many actions you can take to help protect resident and migratory birds in our region. This guide is aimed at helping you figure out how to turn your community area into a bird-friendly space!



CREATE INVITING HABITAT

Save time and money by creating a natural bird-friendly space in your community. Discover the beauty and value of plant species native to the greater-Houston area.

Overcoming Community Garden Challenges:

"Natives are weedy"

Providing a variety of native plants can create a beautiful all-natural Houston aesthetic.

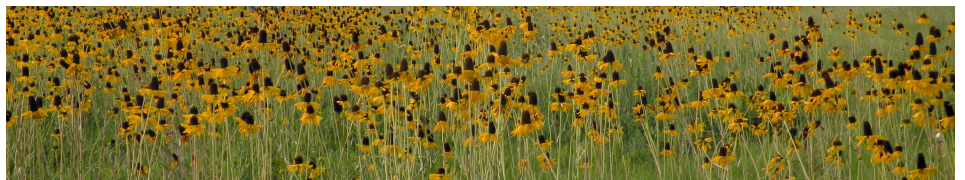
"I already have a garden"

That's great! We encourage you to replace old plants or bare sections with native plants to add more variety.

"Native plants cost more"

Native plants actually cost 1/5th of the price to maintain over 10 years compared to non-natives!

- ✓ Plan for native plants in your new garden, or integrate native plants in your existing garden.
- ✓ Have a conversation with your landscapers. Encourage them to remove invasive plants and start planting natives around your community.
- ✓ Provide water features, bird feeders, and nest boxes to attract more birds and create memorable bird-watching experiences.
- ✓ Encourage community members to help maintain the native plant garden.
- ✓ Make an aesthetically pleasing design to leave a positive impression on your neighbors.



Why Do Native Plants Matter?

Native Plants are HOUSTON STRONG!

Species local to Harris County are more resilient to floods, droughts, and freezes and require less water, pest-control, and fertilizer than ornamental plants.

Pollinator Paradise

More pollinators mean more flowers and fruit, which is great news for vegetable gardens and other flowering plants in the neighborhood.

High Value for a Low Cost

Benefits of native gardens include increased property value, aesthetic beauty, lower maintenance, and a sense of pride in your contributions to a greater cause.



Attractive Native Plants to Add to Your Garden

Yaupon Holly

Picturesque evergreen shrub with bright red berries

Water Oak

Rapidly growing shade tree with yellow fall foliage

Eastern Gamagrass

Tall, corn-like grass that attracts a diversity of wildlife

Kansas Blazing Star

Beautiful rose-purple flowers crowd a leafy stem



Areas with at least 70% native plant coverage led to an increase in Carolina Chickadee populations!

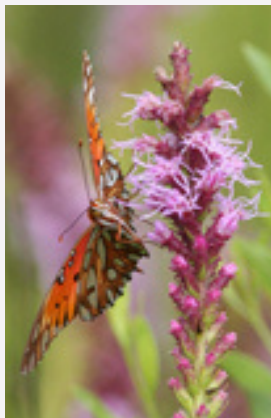
CONNECT WITH OTHERS

Create a bond between your community members by encouraging others to join you in your efforts.

- ✓ Host a class about birding or native gardening.
- ✓ Share your bird-friendly status on social media.
- ✓ Talk to your coworkers, board members, and neighbors about ways they can be bird-friendly!



Learn more about Bird-Friendly Spaces



LIMIT THREATS TO BIRDS

Be a leader in your community and help all the wildlife in our region by reducing threats to birds.

- ✓ Buy bird-friendly coffee for meetings.
- ✓ Turn off all non-essential outdoor lighting at night, especially during migration seasons.
- ✓ Plan a trash clean-up day for your community.