



Houston Audubon Recommendations for Creating a **Bird-Friendly HOA, School, or Park**

Plant Native Plants for Birds

- Provide food in the form of insects, nuts, seeds, fruit, and nectar throughout the year.
- Remove invasive species.
- Provide native vegetation around creeks, rivers, and ponds.
- Reduce irrigation needs by planting water-wise plants and lawn alternatives.
- Offer landscape design that includes layers: ground, grasses, understory, shrubs, small trees, canopy trees. Birds and other wildlife love thicket and edge habitat!



Build a Community Connected to Nature

- Add nest boxes, water features, and feeders.
- Organize bird walks and talks.
- Share information with neighbors so that everyone can do their part to add corridors of habitat.



Limit Threats to Birds

- Keep cats indoors.
- Avoid or limit use of pesticides.
- Decrease window strikes with special tape and future thoughtful design.



Bird-Friendly Plants for the Houston Area

Did you know?

Over 98% of land birds feed insects to their young. A Carolina Chickadee can feed up to 9000 small caterpillars to its babies before they leave the nest! Native plants are the key to supporting the insects that ultimately provide the bird food essential for our wonderful birds.

We have selected these plants to work in a range of conditions. Be sure to pay attention to your shade, sun, soil, and water conditions. Select accordingly.

Native plants can be found at some local nurseries. Be sure to ask questions about where the plants originated and how pesticides were used. Houston Audubon Natives Nursery also sells native plants. We'd love to see you.

Large Trees



- Water Oak
- Willow Oak
- Southern Red Oak
- Shumard Oak
- Drummond's Red Maple
- American Elm
- Pecan
- Green Ash
- American Basswood
- Sugarberry (Hackberry)

Small Trees



- Mexican Plum
- Parsley Hawthorn
- Roughleaf Dogwood
- American Hornbeam
- Possumhaw

Wildflowers



- Aquatic Milkweed
- Blazing Star
- Green Milkweed
- Texas Coneflower
- Rough Coneflower
- Blue Sage
- Lanceleaf Coreopsis
- Gulf Coast Penstemon
- Cardinal Flower

Vines



- Purple Passionflower
- Crossvine
- Carolina Jessamine
- Coral honeysuckle

Invasive Plants to Avoid



- Chinese Elm
- Bradford Pear
- Golden Rain Tree
- Ligustrums
- Nandina
- Elephant Ear
- Mexican Petunia
- Yellow Flag Iris
- Liriope
- Pampas Grass

Shrubs



- Wax Myrtle
- Arrowwood Viburnum
- Rusty Blackhaw
- Turk's Cap

Grasses



- Gulf Muhly
- Switchgrass
- Eastern Gamagrass
- Little Bluestem
- Inland Sea Oats



Learn More at birdfriendlyhouston.org