



Bird-Friendly Spaces Program

Quick Start: Patios and Balconies



The Bird-Friendly Spaces program has been designed so everyone can participate, regardless of the size of your space. Whether you have a third-story balcony or paved porch, there are actions you can take to protect resident and migratory birds in our region. This guide is aimed at teaching you how to be bird-friendly in every space that you occupy!

CREATE INVITING HABITAT

You don't need to put plants in the ground to create a bird-friendly habitat! Many native plant species do great in pots and can brighten up your paved outdoor area.

- ✓ Plant native plants in a pot, hang them from your porch, or let vines climb up your balcony railings.
- ✓ Use a stand to hang a bird feeder (place it within three feet of your window to reduce collisions!).
- ✓ Add a small bird bath with a solar powered fountain.
- ✓ Volunteer at a native plant open house or habitat restoration event.



Potted Plants 101

- ✿ Use a bigger pot with space for the plant to grow.
- ✿ Choose a pot with drainage holes at the bottom.
- ✿ Leave 1-2 inches of space between the soil and the rim of the pot.
- ✿ Note the sunlight and water needs of your plants.



Native Plants That Do Great in Pots:



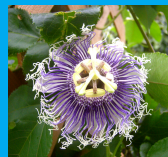
Firewheel



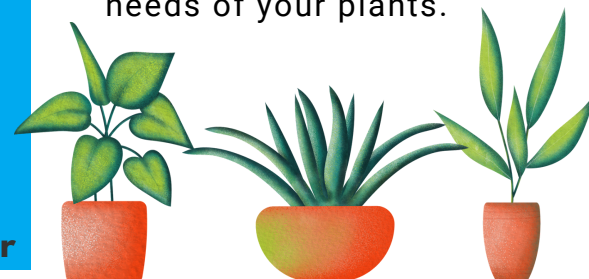
Creeping Spotflower



Narrowleaf Woodoats



Purple Passionflower

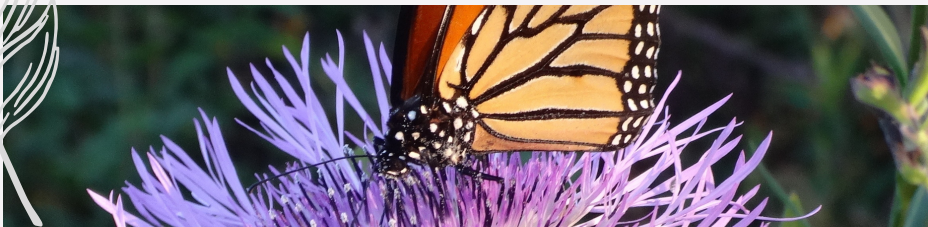




CONNECT WITH OTHERS

Make new friends, learn more about birds, and inspire others to join you in your bird-friendly efforts.

- ✓ Chat with coworkers about your bird-friendly actions and encourage them to participate.
- ✓ Support the work of Houston Audubon by becoming a member.
- ✓ Invite a friend to join a monthly bird survey near you.
- ✓ Contribute to community science and support research through one of these opportunities.



LIMIT THREATS TO BIRDS

Resident and migratory birds face a number of threats in urban environments. Your actions can reduce these threats and help the wildlife in our region.

- ✓ Keep a bag with you to collect trash on your way to and from work.
- ✓ Add decals to your windows to reduce bird collisions during the day.
- ✓ Turn off your outdoor lights and shut your blinds to reduce collisions at night.
- ✓ Keep your cat inside or provide a safe, supervised way to explore, like catios.



Community Science Opportunities:

eBird and iNaturalist

Document bird observations at any time through these apps

Urban Bird Surveys

Join Houston Audubon's beginner-friendly monthly group surveys

Great Backyard Bird Count

Document birds in your favorite places every February

City Nature Challenge

A week-long BioBlitz in April documenting nature in your city

Christmas Bird Count

Spend the day birding on a local count around the winter holidays



Learn more about community science opportunities



Learn more about Bird-Friendly Spaces

