

## Bird-Friendly Community Partners

A key aspect of sustainable conservation is partnerships, and this is no different for our Bird-Friendly Communities program. Every single [Bird-Friendly Space](#) represents a link in our network of regional conservation, and sometimes, these links grow into a larger relationship.

The Bird-Friendly Community Partner designation is intended to formally recognize the partners directly supporting Houston Audubon's Bird Friendly Communities mission via habitat creation, community engagement, and threat reduction. So, what are the pillars that build a Bird Friendly Community Partnership?

Bird-Friendly Community Partners are businesses, organizations, institutions, or the like that achieve at least one goal from each criteria. If you are an individual or an organization only looking to have a planted area recognized, please refer to our [Bird-Friendly Spaces](#) program as an alternative.

1. Provide Native Plants
  - Maintain a native plant area on organizational property.
  - Organize/join a native planting volunteer event resulting in a new native planting area or supporting an existing one.
2. Improve Habitat
  - Maintain a Bird-Friendly water feature on property (e.g. bioswales, ponds, streams, bird baths, bird drip, or wetland)
  - Install nest boxes or feeders on property.
  - If not possible for your organization, discuss alternative options as part of partnership application process.
3. Window Collisions
  - Deploy anti-bird strike strategies on property.
  - Go "[Lights Out for Birds](#)".
  - In the event that your property or organization has no windows or lighting to manage, this criterion is waived.
4. Limiting Other Threats
  - Limit pesticide use on property (e.g. pesticide free zones, adopting an Integrated Pest Management Plan, or going fully pesticide free).
  - Reduce organizational plastic consumption by a matter of ongoing policy or practice (one off events do not qualify).
  - Monitor for and then remove or actively reduce cat colonies on property.
5. Connect With Others

- Promote your actions as a Bird-Friendly Community Partner across media channels.
  - Devoted resource to highlight aspects of your Bird-Friendly initiatives. For example: install interpretive signage or devote a webpage to promote your initiatives.
  - Host a regular bird survey/walk on property.
6. Co-Produce Programming with Houston Audubon
- The most creative aspect of being a Bird-Friendly Community Partner. This initiative will be unique to each organization, and we can work together to achieve this final step! Past examples include: co-creating an educational event or content, or becoming formal partners for a larger scale community project.

#### Perks of Being a Bird-Friendly Community Partner

- Waived honorarium for Houston Audubon Education and Outreach Staff to offer one Bird-Friendly class/program per year with your organization.
- Free native landscaping consultation with Houston Audubon Natives Nursery staff (one per year).
- Recognition on the Houston Audubon website as an official “Bird-Friendly Community Partner”
- Dedicated social media post by Houston Audubon to recognize your status as a Bird-Friendly Partner.
- 10% off native plants year-round at Houston Audubon’s Natives Nursery

If you would like to begin the process of becoming a formal Bird-Friendly Community Partner email [gdurham@houstonaudubon.org](mailto:gdurham@houstonaudubon.org).

Partners must resubmit their applications every 2 years to remain a formal partner and continue to receive the above incentives.