



Neighborhood Habitat Challenge

The Neighborhood Habitat Challenge is an annual contest of the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Every year the City of Austin and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) challenge its neighborhoods to make Austin a more wildlife friendly city. Prizes are awarded to the top three winners.

Neighbors certify the most number of wildlife habitats within their neighborhood between March 15th and November 15th 2013. If you are interested in learning more or signing up your neighborhood just e-mail us at wildlife@austintexas.gov.

[2013 Neighborhood Habitat Challenge Guidelines](#)

[2013 Neighborhood Habitat Challenge FAQ](#)

[2013 Neighborhood Habitat Challenge Registration Form](#)

2012 WINNERS:



1st Place – Jester

Jester won the 2012 Habitat Challenge with 57 NWF certified wildlife habitats! This is the second win for Jester (they took home the grand prize in 2008 too). Jester is truly a wildlife-friendly neighborhood, and made more so by the tireless work of residents Dale and Pat Bulla. All newly certified residences in Jester were given a free Canyon Mock Orange sapling courtesy of BCP. Congratulations Jester!



2nd Place – Travis Heights/SRCC

The Travis Heights/South River City Citizens Neighborhood had 56 yards certified as NWF wildlife habitats. It was a very close race between 1st and 2nd place this year! Travis Heights certified the Travis Heights Elementary as their community project. Great job Travis Heights/SRCC!



3rd Place - Hancock

The Hancock neighborhood rose to the challenge with 8 newly certified habitats. They also organized a very successful native plant swap as part of their community project. Well done Hancock!

The following neighborhoods have participated in the challenge to date.

2012 [Map](#)

- 1st place – Jester
- 2nd place – Travis Heights/SRCC
- 3rd place – Hancock
- 4th place – Windsor Park
- 5th place - Dawson

2011 [Map](#)

- 1st place - Windsor Park
- 2nd place - Northfield
- 3rd place - Dawson

2010 [Map](#)

- 1st Place- Bouldin Creek
- 2nd Place- Heritage Hills- Woodbridge
- 3rd Place- Southwood
- 4th Place Tie- Dawson & West Creek
- 5th Place- Harris Branch

2009 [Map](#)

- 1st Place- Windsor Park
- 2nd Place- Crestview
- 3rd Place- Copperfield
- 4th Place- Hancock

2008 [Map](#)

- 1st Place- Jester Estates
- 2nd Place- Allandale
- 3rd Place- Highland Park West Balcones Area
- 4th Place- Rosedale
- 5th Place- West Austin Neighborhood Group
- 6th Place- Copperfield

This year make your neighborhood a winner for wildlife!

Meeting the criteria for certification by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is simple and will help your neighborhood in its effort to win the challenge and ensure that Austin maintains its status as a NWF certified Community Wildlife Habitat.

The Parks and Recreation Department's Wildlife Austin program sponsors the challenge. Wildlife Austin is an initiative to educate and support Austinites in the creation of

wildlife habitats to benefit its people, wildlife, and biodiversity.

It's easy to create homes for wildlife in our city! Properties that provide food, water, cover, places to raise young for wildlife are eligible for NWF wildlife habitat certification. Schools, places of business and worship, and other community sites can also be counted in the Habitat Challenge! For more details about NWF habitat certification visit: www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife.

Creating habitat is as simple as...

- Planting native plants that provide nectar, pollen, seeds, and berries year round
- Including a reliable water source to attract a variety of critters
- Providing places for cover and rearing young such as planting evergreen shrubs, leaving rock piles or putting up a birdhouse

Click on our link to learn more about the [Neighborhood Habitat Challenge Guidelines!](#)

Photos by COA/PARD employees

[RETURN TO WILDLIFE AUSTIN HOMEPAGE](#)