

# Wildlife Habitat Design

*Landscaping to protect and conserve Austin's water*

Demonstration garden located at: **Parks and Recreation Headquarters, 200 S. Lamar, Austin, Texas**





Think that you can't have a wildlife habitat garden in the heart of the city? This colorful, native garden proves otherwise. Native plants are the best choice for habitat gardens because they offer the best natural food sources for our local wildlife. Beautiful songbirds, hummingbirds, and butterflies are regular visitors when you provide them with food, water, cover and places to raise their young.

## plant key

### trees

-  crape myrtle
-  anacacho orchid
-  yaupon holly
-  possumhaw
-  wax myrtle
-  texas redbud
-  flowering peach
-  live oak

### perennials

-  yellow bells
-  cedar sage
-  bee balm
-  mistflower
-  phlox
-  big muhly
-  purpleconeflower
-  gaura
-  texas lantana
-  autumn sage
-  river fern

### shrubs

-  coral bean
-  flame acanthus
-  buttonbush
-  fragrant sumac
-  flameleaf sumac
-  coralberry
-  american beautyberry

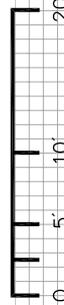
### cacti & succulents

-  red yucca
-  twistleaf yucca

-  antelope horn
-  butterfly milkweed
-  maidenhair fern
-  rock penstemon
-  fennel
-  chile pequin
-  yellow columbine
-  penstemon sage
-  inland sea oats
-  red columbine
-  virginia creeper

# WILDLIFE HABITAT

Landscape design by: Fred Fuller



To Certify Your Wildlife Habitat Visit -  
[www.keeptaustinwild.com](http://www.keeptaustinwild.com)

## *Light:*

Sun/ Part Shade

## *Soil Needs:*

- Amend existing soil with 2-3" of compost
- Be sure that your total soil base is 6-8" deep
- If additional soil is needed, use a good quality soil mix (approximately 25% compost, 65% loam and 10% sand)

## *Water Needs:*

Once established, these plants require little to no water. If plants look wilted, however, water thoroughly every 3-4 weeks if there is no rainfall

## *Irrigation:*

Hand-watering is recommended

If you must use an irrigation system...  
Use bubblers for the beds and spray heads for grass areas

## *Turf:*

While the existing grass at the Parks and Recreation main office is Bermuda and is a low water-use option, Bermuda can be invasive, particularly in flower beds. Another turf alternative for a sunny to part shade yard is Zoysia grass.

[www.growgreen.org](http://www.growgreen.org)

## *Creating a Wildlife Habitat Is As Easy As 1, 2, 3, 4!*

Provide these simple habitat elements to create habitat for wildlife today

1. **FOOD** -- Native plants provide wildlife with a buffet of nectar, pollen, seeds, berries and more. Plant diversity increases the number of animal species found in your habitat
2. **WATER** -- A reliable water source is a key element for a variety of wildlife. Animals need water for

drinking and some need it for breeding

3. **COVER** -- Evergreen shrubs and stacked rock walls are two ways to offer wildlife shelter from predators and bad weather. Layers of vegetation also provide safe places for critters
4. **PLACES TO RAISE YOUNG** -- Dense shrubs, a nesting box or pond are examples of places wildlife need to mate and raise their young

## *Additional Tips:*

- Avoid overhead irrigation to prevent nectar loss in flowers
- Plant red tubular flowers to attract hummingbirds
- Choose masses of purple, yellow, pink and blue flowers to help attract butterflies
- Use stone without mortar between rocks to provide homes for lizards
- Promote beneficial insects - they are wildlife too!

For a driving or biking map to this and other demonstration gardens, visit [www.cityofaustin.org/growgreen/designs.htm](http://www.cityofaustin.org/growgreen/designs.htm)

For more earth-wise gardening tips, visit [www.growgreen.org](http://www.growgreen.org)

For water conserving tips and rebates, visit [www.waterwiseaustin.org](http://www.waterwiseaustin.org)

For more habitat gardening information, [www.keepeaustinwild.com](http://www.keepeaustinwild.com)

