



Bird-Friendly Spaces Program

Quick Start: Large Outdoor Space



The Bird-Friendly Spaces program has been designed so everyone can participate, regardless of the size of your space. Whether you have a house with acres of land or a large fenced in backyard, you can take action now to protect the resident and migratory birds in our region. This guide will teach you how to turn your large outdoor yard into a bird-friendly space!

CONNECT WITH OTHERS

Inspire others to create a bird-friendly space and find inspiration for your own space.

- ✓ Join a bird survey near you to learn more about birds, meet other birders, and contribute to community science.
- ✓ Attend a class on bird-friendly communities or native planting to learn more about creating your bird-friendly space.
- ✓ Volunteer at a bird-friendly organization to meet others with a shared interest in helping wildlife.



LIMIT THREATS TO BIRDS

Reduce the amount of threats birds face in urban and suburban environments.

- ✓ Keep your cats indoors or supervise their time outside by using a leash or a catio.
- ✓ Avoid using pesticides and rodenticides in your space.
- ✓ Substitute products that you use often for bird-friendly options, like shade-grown coffee.



Tips for Planting Natives

Location

Check the drainage, sunlight, and shade your space receives

Preparing the Space

Remove weeds and grass, but maintain the soil underneath

Selecting Plants

Visit a nursery to find native plants right for your space

Habitat Layers

Create layers of plants with trees, shrubs, and groundcover

Watering

Be sure to water new plants until they establish roots

Be Creative

Experiment and create an area that you find enjoyable!



CREATE INVITING HABITAT

Turning your large yard into a bird-friendly space is easier than you think! Create important wildlife habitat by starting small and taking one action at a time.

- ✓ Create habitat for birds and insect by removing invasive plants, non-native weeds, and portions of your sod. You can then improve these spots by planting native plugs or spreading seeds (*check out our tips here*).
- ✓ When possible, leave dead trees, or snags, standing for birds and insect to use.
- ✓ Adding water features or bird baths with drips or fresh, moving water will help attract and support birds in your yard.
- ✓ Provide nesting options for different types of birds by installing and maintaining nest boxes in your yard.
- ✓ Attract even more birds to your yard by installing and maintaining a variety of feeders.



More on habitat design in the Bird-Friendly Habitat Guide



Learn more about Bird-Friendly Spaces

