



GROW A WILD BACK YARD

HELP LOCAL WILDLIFE, EARN REWARDS

Wildlife needs our help. With stressors like habitat loss, climate change and non-native plants, our local insects, birds, mammals and other creatures are having a hard time staying healthy. The good news is, we can help — and earn rewards! — by taking simple actions in our own back yards or adopted gardens. Here's how:

1 Take action at home. Whether you're a beginner or expert, live in the city or the suburbs, learn more about each Wild Back Yards level in the chart below.

2 Get information, tools and resources at bit.ly/wildbackyards. While you're there, sign up for monthly emails and check out our calendar of free, naturalist-led programs designed to help you succeed! Look for this icon.



3 Track your progress by checking off the actions taken, then turn in this form to earn a reward for each level completed! Rewards will help you continue along your Wild Back Yards journey.

	PLEASE COMPLETE EACH LEVEL BEFORE MOVING TO THE NEXT	NATIVE PLANTING	INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT	HABITAT QUALITY	ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT	SPREAD THE WORD
Level ONE	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 or more native species planted in outdoor space (listed on back)	<input type="checkbox"/> No yard – OR – Identify 3 plants in your yard (see website)	<input type="checkbox"/> Implement 3 actions from the Habitat Quality list (see back)	<input type="checkbox"/> Apply 3 actions from the Ecological Footprint list (see back)	<input type="checkbox"/> Take 1 action from the Spread the Word list (see back)	
Level TWO	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 or more native species planted in outdoor space (listed on back)	<input type="checkbox"/> Create a simple Invasive Plant Management Plan (see website)	<input type="checkbox"/> Implement 5 actions from the Habitat Quality list (see back)	<input type="checkbox"/> Apply 5 actions from the Ecological Footprint list (see back)	<input type="checkbox"/> Take 2 actions from the Spread the Word list (see back)	
Level THREE	<input type="checkbox"/> 15 or more native species planted in outdoor space (listed on back)	<input type="checkbox"/> Remove or control for 1 common invasive/introduced plant (see website)	<input type="checkbox"/> Implement 7 actions from the Habitat Quality list (see back)	<input type="checkbox"/> Apply 7 actions from the Ecological Footprint list (see back)	<input type="checkbox"/> Take 3 actions from the Spread the Word list (see back)	
EXPERT Level	<input type="checkbox"/> 30 or more native species planted in outdoor space (listed on back)	<input type="checkbox"/> Remove or control for all common invasive/introduced plants (see website)	<input type="checkbox"/> Implement 9 actions from the Habitat Quality list (see back)	<input type="checkbox"/> Apply 9 actions from the Ecological Footprint list (see back)	<input type="checkbox"/> Take 5 actions from the Spread the Word list (see back)	

➤ Actions are cumulative — e.g., three actions from Level One apply towards the five actions required in Level Two.

OVER FOR LIST OF ACTIONS AND HELPFUL RESOURCES ➔

Name _____ Summit County Resident: YES NO

Wild Back Yard Location _____ City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Level Completed: ONE TWO THREE EXPERT (requires inspection by an SMP biologist) Date _____

Visit bit.ly/wildbackyards or call 330-867-5511 for form submission and reward pick-up details. Forms may not be mailed. | Rewards are FREE to Summit County residents. Out-of-county residents pay \$10 to receive their rewards.





TRACK YOUR PROGRESS

COMPLETE THE REQUIRED ACTIONS FOR EACH LEVEL TO EARN REWARDS!

➤ Actions are cumulative — e.g., three actions from Level One apply towards the five actions required in Level Two.

NATIVE PLANTING

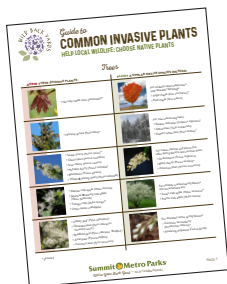
List the Native Plants you have:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____
- 11 _____
- 12 _____
- 13 _____
- 14 _____
- 15 _____
- 16 _____
- 17 _____
- 18 _____
- 19 _____
- 20 _____
- 21 _____
- 22 _____
- 23 _____
- 24 _____
- 25 _____
- 26 _____
- 27 _____
- 28 _____
- 29 _____
- 30 _____

See website for full "Regional Native Plant List"

INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT

- My outdoor space is not a yard — I already meet all the criteria for Invasive Plant Management!
- OR -
- Identify **3** plants and determine whether they are invasive/introduced or native:
 - 1 _____
 - invasive/introduced
 - native
 - 2 _____
 - invasive/introduced
 - native
 - 3 _____
 - invasive/introduced
 - native
- Create a simple Invasive Plant Management Plan*
- Remove or control for **1** invasive/introduced plant on the "Guide to Common Invasive Plants"*
- Remove or control for **all** plants on the "Guide to Common Invasive Plants"*



See website for "Guide to Common Invasive Plants"

HABITAT QUALITY


- Provide one bat/owl/bird/bee/toad shelter
 - Provide a second shelter
 - Provide a third shelter
 - Provide a fourth shelter
- Assess bird collision problem areas and treat to reduce strikes*
- No application of fertilizers or pesticides when ground is frozen or before rain
- Reduce or eliminate use of red and yellow label pesticides/fertilizers*
- Reduce or eliminate outdoor lighting March-May and September-November
- Switch all outdoor bulbs to bug bulbs or motion sensors*
- Avoid use of bug zappers
- Host a rare species in your yard*
- If applicable:**
 - Provide vegetation buffer for any streams, rivers, ponds or lakes
 - Discourage or remove non-native animals
 - Keep cats indoors or in an outdoor enclosure



ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

- Reduce lawn area*
- Clean up pollutants such as car oil or pet waste
- Use a rain barrel*
- Use a rain garden*
- Use ecologically friendly de-icers*
- Apply smart watering techniques if irrigation is necessary*
- Utilize natural soil amendments*
- Use soaker hose or dripline for garden irrigation*
- Employ responsible pharmaceutical disposal*
- Utilize integrated pest management*
- Irrigate only in morning or evening
- Compost yard waste and kitchen scraps for use on-site*
- Properly dispose of chemicals and household hazardous waste*
- Avoid tillage*
- Position trees and shrubs in landscape to optimize heating/cooling efficiency*
- Upcycle materials for yard features*
- Prevent unnatural erosion on property*
- Reduce impervious surface area*
- Avoid use of gas-powered yard equipment; use hand tools instead
- Utilize wood chips, pine needles or other mulch for water retention and weed control

SPREAD THE WORD

- Take a picture of your #wildbackyards progress and tag SMP on social media
- Install a free Wild Back Yards yard sign (available at nature centers and the SMP administrative office while supplies last)*
- Attend a free SMP Wild Back Yards naturalist program or other educational program on native plants* 
- Invite friends and family to visit your Wild Back Yard
- Track and post wildlife visitors on iNaturalist project*
- Encourage 2 neighbors to participate in the Wild Back Yards program
- Sign up for volunteer information*
- Organize a community presentation on Wild Back Yards
- Work with your school, church or other organization to adopt a Wild Back Yard
- Encourage your landlord, superintendent or HOA to participate in the Wild Back Yards program
- Consider a donation to the SMP Foundation's Conservation Fund*

* See website for links to more information and helpful resources for completing these actions: bit.ly/wildbackyards