

# Flutter Flyer



## Introduction

Welcome to the Flutter Flyer, the quarterly newsletter for the Yard by Yard Community Resiliency Project! For new participants (and anyone who could use a refresher), we start things off with an overview of the Yard by Yard program, followed by program updates and helpful articles from our staff. Thank you all for taking the pledge to do your part to make a difference... Yard by Yard!



## In This Issue...

- News and Announcements
- Practice Spotlight:  
Rainwater Harvesting
- Sam Says!
- Yard by Yard: In Pictures!

## What is Yard by Yard?

The Yard by Yard Project encourages residents in cities and towns to add strength, health, and resiliency to our communities! This happens when yards are managed to improve soil health and contribute to clean water. Yard by Yard recognizes and supports citizens who take action to make their yards resilient and nature-friendly. The Yard by Yard program aims to provide three things: 1) recognition for having property that is nature friendly, 2) resources to help citizens create healthy and functional landscapes, and 3) food for our very important pollinators!

The Yard by Yard Project is sponsored by the Friends of Blue Thumb, the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission's Soil Health and Blue Thumb Programs, and by the conservation district in which you live.

### EDITORS

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## Blue Thumb Volunteer Training

### Training in Norman

June 9 - 10, 2026

8:30AM - 4:30PM

Development Center - 225 N Webster

### Training in Tahlequah

September 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

8:30AM - 4:30PM

Location TBD

### Training in Alva

November 14 - 15, 2026

8:30AM - 4:30PM

Location TBD

**Register now at**

**[WWW.BLUETHUMBOK.COM](http://WWW.BLUETHUMBOK.COM)**

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Meadow – Fest at Crow Creek Meadow

Visti the Crow Creek Meadow on and:

- Enjoy the trails
- learn about wildflowers
- get free seed
- talk to the people who keep the meadow functioning
- Sip free lemonade

**Party Atmosphere! Kid Friendly!**

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

4:00PM - 8:00PM

Crow Creek Meadow

1025 E. 33<sup>rd</sup> Place, Tulsa OK 74105

### In My Yard

In some editions of the Yard by Yard Newsletter, we feature stories from Yard by Yard participants. These articles give participants an opportunity to share their yard, the conservation practices they have implemented, the impact those changes have had on wildlife and natural resources, and the experiences that inspired them to rethink traditional landscaping.

Would you like to contribute an article to the Flutter Flyer? You can write for the In My Yard column.

Learn more by contacting Cheryl Cheadle

[cheryl.cheadle@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:cheryl.cheadle@conservation.ok.gov)

# SUSTAINABLE URBAN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE

*20+ sessions on how to landscape in more sustainable, ecologically-beneficial ways.*

**JUNE 26 & 27 | 9 AM - 4 PM**  
**METRO TECH SPRINGLAKE CAMPUS**

Learn more and register at  
[www.okcbeautiful.com/  
sustainable-urban-  
landscape-conference](http://www.okcbeautiful.com/sustainable-urban-landscape-conference)



# Rainwater Harvesting

Capture and hold rainwater to drought-proof your yard

The drought of 2022 was a wake-up call for many Oklahomans, making it clear that our conventional landscaping practices are inadequate for maintaining a thriving green landscape all summer long. In a climate with concentrated spring rains followed by long summer droughts it is increasingly important to capture rainwater and use it wisely over a long period of time. Rain barrels and rain gardens are both excellent ways to do this at home!

## Rain Barrels

The simplest method of capturing rainwater is the humble rain barrel. These are a great way to capture runoff from your roof and other raised surfaces. While plastic drums with an opening on top and a spigot at the bottom are typical, there are attractive alternatives such as ceramic and metal barrels, or even recycled materials such as old whiskey barrels. Keep in mind that the more water you capture, the more drought-resilient you become; consider large barrels or a series of barrels if you have space. While a spigot to dispense the water is essential, a spillover line to direct water to the garden when the barrel is full also helps.



It's critical to make sure the top of the barrel is covered so that mosquitoes can't lay eggs inside. Try to keep the gutters clear of leaves or other debris that could clog the barrel, and keep the screens clean to help them function.



## Rain Gardens

A rain garden can be a beautiful and practical way to capture and use more of the rainfall your property receives. They can be designed to capture water from impervious surfaces like roofs and driveways or to slow runoff coming from a neighbor's yard. Although they should fill up with water during a storm, rain gardens should not maintain standing water – a good rain garden will completely distribute the water it captures into the soil within 48 hours.

If you have well-drained soil, you can simply create planted berms to slow down runoff and give it time to soak in. If your soil has poor drainage you may need to dig out the garden area to a depth of 6-12in, then mix 50% sand, 25% compost, and 25% topsoil to backfill the garden. More complicated designs include gravel and large rocks underneath this layer to create a larger storage basin.

The size of the garden depends on how much drainage it will receive. Typical garden size recommendations are 5-30% of the land area draining into the rain garden. For the runoff from a 1000 Sq.Ft. driveway, the rain garden should be from 50 to 300 square feet.

Learn more at

[okcountyconservation.com/water-conservation](https://okcountyconservation.com/water-conservation)

# Yard by Yard: In Pictures!



Check out some of the yard we've certified this Spring!



Cherokee County



Oklahoma County



Tulsa County



Cleveland County



Payne County

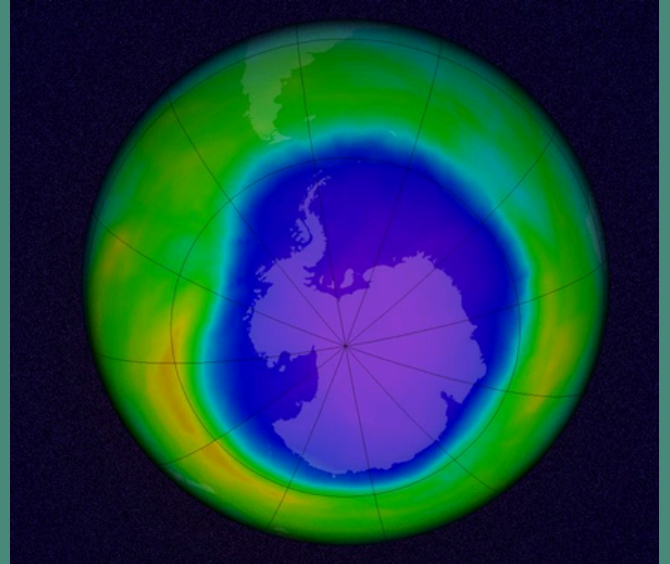


# Sam Says!



There have been some environmental successes that set good examples for people of the world, and I have recently been contemplating the hole in the ozone layer. Of course I was not even born when scientists came together to share their news that there was a big problem, a hole in the ozone layer.

I don't know all that much about how the world works, but our atmosphere is a pretty special thing. Our ozone layer is a thin layer of gases that stops the sun's more dangerous rays from pounding on us from above. Scientists were checking the health of the ozone layer by monitoring the amount of ultraviolet (UV) light reaching the earth's surface over Antarctica in the 1980's. The data revealed that there was a hole in the ozone layer, and it was caused primarily from the increased use of chlorofluorocarbons, found in refrigerants and many common household aerosols, such as deodorant and hair spray. So scientists proposed there was a problem and proposed there was a cause. And they had the data to back it up.



The 1987 Montreal Protocol, signed by key advanced nations, including the USA, set out to limit the use of ozone depleting substances. As a result, while we still have a hole in the ozone layer, it is healing, growing smaller each year. The Montreal Protocol is perhaps the most successful environmental protection measure that has ever taken place on a global scale. How was this effort so successful?

- Scientists collected data over years and found the amount of dangerous UV light reaching the earth's surface was increasing.
- Chlorofluorocarbons and other ozone depleting substances were chipping away at the ozone layer over time.
- Countries worldwide (scientists, the public, academics, government leaders) believed the data and realized that swift action must be taken to protect the earth through regulating the dangerous substances that were impacting the ozone layer.

Evidence points to two major benefits of the healing ozone hole – millions fewer cases of skin cancer and reducing the speed of climate change at least a little. Yes, the smaller hole in the ozone layer has contributed to slowing climate change.

After studying the information about the Montreal Protocol, I had an obvious question that I presented to Cheryl: If the world could come together for the sake of the hole in the ozone layer, why can we not come together for the sake of a dangerously warming world? Cheryl said she would have to get back to me on that one.

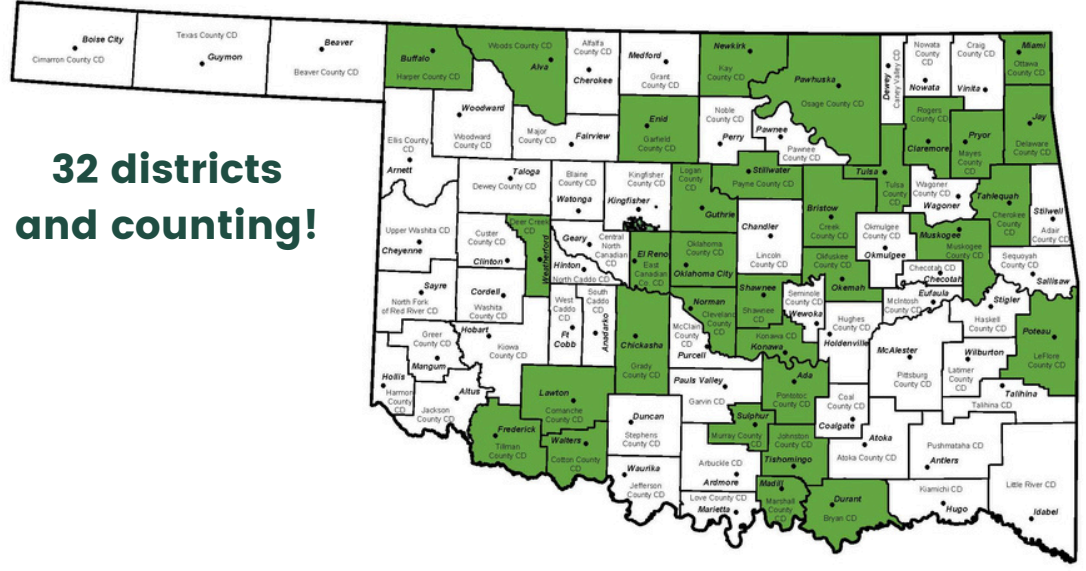


# Participating Conservation Districts



## Do you know your conservation district?

Conservation districts offer a variety of services to farmers and homeowners, including Yard by Yard. Learn more about your district here: [conservation.ok.gov/district-services-division](http://conservation.ok.gov/district-services-division)



# Questions? Comments?



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