

BUSINESS - SCHOOLS - CHURCHES - PARKS

YARD BY YARD: GROUNDS

A COMMUNITY
RESILIENCY
PROJECT

DOES YOUR
PROPERTY
MAKE THE CUT?

COMMUNITY
RESILIENCY
PROJECT



YARD BY YARD



OKCONSERVATION.ORG/YARDBYYARD



THE YARD REVOLUTION HAS BEGUN!



OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

LOCAL LEADERSHIP GLOBAL IMPACT



YARD BY YARD: GROUNDS - CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

The Yard by Yard project would like to recognize the good work you are doing in your yard or other properties.

Please fill out all the required information. Check all the boxes that apply and submit this checklist with your video or photos. Certification requires that you maintain a pesticide-free space, include an educational component, and utilize at least 5 practices across 3 of our 4 categories. If your organization is applying as a "mini-grounds" (you only have a small area of land that does not have the space to implement practices in 3 categories), you only need 2 categories for your 5 practices. Email completed checklist to yardbyyardproject@gmail.com or send it to your local conservation district.

Organization:

Date:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

Authorized Representative:

- Business
- School
- Church
- Park
- Mini-Grounds

I maintain a pesticide-free space. (This means no use of synthetic herbicide, pesticide, or pre-emergent applications)

Soil Health

- Use of organic mulch (non-rubber, non-dyed) such as wood chips or leaves to help build soil organic matter and hold moisture
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/all-you-need-to-know-about-mulch.html>
- On-site Composting system capturing organic waste for use in the landscape
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/backyard-composting-in-oklahoma.html>
- Practice mulch mowing of lawn rather than bagging lawn clippings
<https://www.okc.gov/departments/utilities/squeeze-every-drop/saving-water-outdoors>
- Improve soil and plant health through compost amendments
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/healthy-garden-soils.html>
- Increase mowing height to at least 3"
<https://www.okc.gov/departments/utilities/squeeze-every-drop/saving-water-outdoors>

Water Conservation

- Xeriscape and/or other heat/drought tolerant plants that require little / no extra water
https://ag.ok.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Trees-Xeriscape_Demonstration-Garden.pdf
- Use of efficient irrigation equipment and controllers
<https://www.okc.gov/departments/utilities/squeeze-every-drop/saving-water-outdoors/irrigation-checkup>
- Utilize rain barrels to capture rainwater for irrigation use
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/design-of-rainwater-harvesting-systems-in-oklahoma.html>
- Use of a rain garden or bioswale to capture, slow and infiltrate rainwater
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/sustainable-landscapes-designing-a-rain-garden-for-residential-property.html>
- Use of "green infrastructure" such as a green roof or permeable pavement
<https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure>



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Food Production

- Presence of vegetable garden, whether in ground, containerized, or raised bed
<https://extension.okstate.edu/topics/plants-and-animals/crops/vegetables/index.html>
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/container-gardening.html>
- Presence of herb garden for cooking and/or medicinal purposes
<https://havenscapes.com/how-to-plant-an-herb-garden/>
- Use of cover crops or companion plantings
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/earth-kind-gardening-series-cultural-control-practices.html>
- Presence of fruit-producing trees or shrubs
<https://extension.okstate.edu/topics/plants-and-animals/crops/fruits-and-tree-nuts/index.html>
- Integration of grazing/ pasture animals (chickens, goats, etc.)
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/backyard-flock-production.html>
- Maintenance of honeybee hives for honey production
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/beginning-honey-beekeeping-equipment-and-associated-costs.html>

Wildlife Habitat

- Use of native or well-adapted plants to Oklahoma
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/oklahoma-proven-plant-selections-for-oklahoma.html>
- Use of host plants for native wildlife (ex. milkweed for monarchs)
<http://www.okiesformonarchs.org/what-to-plant-where-to-buy/>
- Nonnative or invasive plant species excluded or removed from landscape
<https://www.okinvasives.org/about-invasives>
- Lawn and turf grass areas have been reduced or eliminated
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/bermudagrass-suppression-methods-for-oklahoma-home-gardens.html>
- Functional and flowering lawn species like clover are protected and not mowed
<https://www.almanac.com/clover-comeback>
- Plant diversity providing nectar and pollen for wildlife throughout the growing season
<http://www.okiesformonarchs.org/what-to-plant-where-to-buy/>
- Presence of native trees/shrubs creating vertical structure
<http://www.forestry.ok.gov/Websites/forestry/Images/Putting%20Down%20Roots%20-%20OKC.pdf>
- Presence of bee hotels, birdhouses, and/or bat boxes
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/snags-cavity-trees-and-downed-logs.html>
<https://content.yardmap.org/learn/bee-hotels/>
- Presence of rock or brush pile
<https://choosenatives.org/articles/brush-pile-build-wild-friends/>



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Size of Habitat/Garden

Small (less than 200 sq ft)

Medium (200-499 sq ft)

Large (500-999 sq ft)

X-Large (1,000-4,999 sq ft)

XX-Large (5,000 sq ft or more)

Education Component

Describe educational materials or activities you use to promote stewardship through your outdoor space



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If you are submitting a video and/or if you would allow photos/videos of you or your yard to be utilized for educational and promotional purposes, please sign the photo release below.

Photo/Video Release Form

I, _____(please print), the authorized representative for _____(organization name) grant permission to the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts and the _____Conservation District the irrevocable and unrestricted right to reproduce the photos/videos images taken of me for the purpose of publication, promotion, illustration, advertising, or trade, in any manner or medium. I hereby release the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts and the _____Conservation District for all claims and liability relating to said images/ video. Furthermore, I grant permission to use my statements that were given during an interview, with or without my name, for the purpose of advertising and publicity without restriction. I waive my right to compensation.

I acknowledge that I am over eighteen (18) years of age _____(initial)

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Organization: _____

Date: _____

For District Use Only:

Date Application Received:

Date Site Visit Completed:

Date Sign Provided:

Follow-up Scheduled? Y / N