

Hillsboro Welcomes Backyard Habitat Certification Program

Written by Colin Miletich for the City of Hillsboro

Hillsboro's next step in fostering a sustainable, healthy, and natural environment for people and wildlife is in supporting the Backyard Habitat Certification Program.

A partnership between Portland Audubon and Columbia Land Trust, this region-wide program provides support and incentives for community members who seek to restore native habitat to their yards, making their outdoor spaces welcoming for birds, butterflies, and other pollinators.



“We are so excited to welcome the Backyard Habitat Certification Program to Hillsboro,” said Lori Prince, Outdoor Recreation Manager at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve. “We’re currently working to complete the certification process in our upland gardens near the Nature Center at Jackson Bottom. Our goal is to provide an accessible demonstration space that will encourage visitors to participate in the program in their own yards and help grow a healthier Hillsboro for both the community and wildlife.”

Residential landscapes play a significant role in developing healthy habitats for people and wildlife, making up about 40 percent of land in our metropolitan area.

The program aims to develop healthy habitats through five key elements:

1. Removing noxious weeds
2. Planting native plants
3. Reducing pesticide use
4. Improving stormwater management
5. Supporting wildlife

These elements combine to help local pollinators thrive in accordance with Hillsboro's Bee City USA designation, reduce hazards to the 209 species of migratory birds that live or fly through this region, and maintain healthy streams and waterways, among numerous other benefits.

Community members Soledad Ayres and Victor Fiore are among the first community members in Hillsboro to participate in the program. "Our yard is a very tiny part of this planet, but by working toward habitat certification we can be part of the much larger effort to protect the pollinators that help produce our food and the trees that help stabilize our climate."



Hillsboro will join more than 20 other cities in Clark, Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties in supporting the program, which currently enrolls more than 6,200 participants.

[Learn more about the Backyard Habitat Certification Program.](#)