



Protecting Birds and their Habitat in Wyoming and Colorado through Education, Science, and Conservation



Audubon ROCKIES

Habitat Hero Program

WHAT IS A HABITAT HERO?

Habitat Heroes are people who practice a form of landscape stewardship, called ‘*wildscaping*’ - landscaping designed to attract and benefit birds, pollinators and other wildlife. Whether the landscape you tend to is a residential yard, a few pots on a balcony, a public park or schoolyard garden, Habitat Heroes believe in growing a healthy community. Working together, individuals of all ages can create a mosaic of habitat that links individual wildscapes to larger natural areas by providing habitat for wildlife. With the right information and tools, beautiful gardens can be planted that attract songbirds, save water for our streams and rivers, and restore our joy in nature every day.



Example of a residential Habitat Hero garden.

According to the EPA, residential lawns cover more than 20 million acres in the U.S.

If all those yards were transformed into small habitat patches, the additional wildlife habitat would be comparable to increasing the area of the entire National Wildlife Refuge system by 20%.



“BRINGING CONSERVATION HOME, ONE GARDEN AT A TIME”

WILDSKAPING BASICS:

- ◆ **Water Conservation** – use less water (and thus less energy) by planting natives & regionally adapted plants;
- ◆ **Plant Natives** – replace turf grass areas with a variety of native perennials, shrubs, grasses and trees;
- ◆ **Control Invasive Plants** – that degrade habitat in and beyond our yards;
- ◆ **Protect Water Quality** – keeping our local water sources clean by not using pesticides and eliminating harmful runoff;
- ◆ **Support Wildlife** – Plant bird and butterfly-friendly species for year-round food, cover and shelter;
- ◆ **Eliminate Chemical Use** – make for a more sustainable and healthier world for all of us.

Where Birds Thrive, People Prosper.

Audubon Rockies

116 N. College Avenue, Suite 1
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Ways to get Involved

- ◆ **Workshops** – Attend one of our workshops to learn wildscaping tips and techniques, how to attract wildlife in an urban environment, planting a Habitat Hero Demonstration Garden, and more! These events are designed to appeal to both the new-to-the-scene gardener and veteran alike.
- ◆ **Youth Programs** – Our goal is to connect young minds with nature and have them become the ultimate *Junior Habitat Hero!* Activities are designed to spark a sense of curiosity of the world around them and to learn about the other creatures we share it with.
- ◆ **Volunteer** – Whether you are a plant buff, want to get your hands dirty at a planting event, or enjoy connecting with community members – we would enjoy your helping hands. Email audubon.habitathero@gmail.com
- ◆ **Check out our Blog** – Visit our website to learn gardening tips and techniques and hear from a variety of guest bloggers, view recommended plant lists based on your wildscape zip code, and find the most up-to-date information on upcoming events and news. <http://rockies.audubon.org>
- ◆ **Community Plantings** – Members of the community have the opportunity to lend a helping hand in shaping the place where they live by planting a garden in an area of town that needs some sprucing up – whether a park or a roadway median. We partner with city agencies, schools, nurseries, Home Owner Associations, Community Supported Agriculture programs, and other municipalities to plant *Habitat Hero Demonstration Gardens* that offer both environmental benefits and are aesthetically pleasing.
- ◆ **Awards** – From August thru October apply to become a Habitat Hero to receive recognition on your outstanding wildscape! Winners receive an all-weather garden sign to display, gift card to High Country Gardens and a Colorado/Wyoming Wildscapes book – plus the added bonus of bragging rights!

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For More Information:

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