

What Category Does Your Habitat Hero Garden Fall Into?

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Native plants for birds - Food	Habitat includes native plants that provide and at least 2 of the 5 food categories (caterpillars, nectar, grain, nuts, fruit)	Habitat includes native plants that provide and at least 3 of the 5 food categories (caterpillars, nectar, grain, nuts, fruit)	Habitat includes native plants that provide and at least 4 of the 5 food categories (caterpillars, nectar, grain, nuts, fruit)
Habitat structure	Habitat contains at least 2 of 3 vegetation layers (understory, midstory, overstory)	Habitat contains at least 2 of 3 vegetation layers (understory, midstory, overstory)	Habitat contains all 3 vegetation layers (understory, midstory, overstory)
Water	Natural or artificial water source provided	Natural or artificial water source provided	Natural or artificial water source provided
Invasive plants	Habitat includes no more than 20% invasive plants.	Habitat includes no more than 10% invasive plants.	Habitat includes no more than 5% invasive plants.
Reducing or eliminating pesticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whenever possible, use mechanical means to remove invasive plants. Choose native plants grown without pesticides (i.e. neonicotinoids). Pledge to reduce the use of pesticides. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whenever possible, use mechanical means to remove invasive plants. Choose native plants grown without pesticides (i.e. neonicotinoids). Pledge to eliminate the use of pesticides. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invasive plants removed by mechanical means. Choose native plants grown without pesticides (i.e. neonicotinoids). Maintain an organic, chemical-free yard.
Eliminating hazards	Choose 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows treated to reduce reflectivity & transparency. Cats kept indoors at all times Outdoor lighting reduced 	Choose 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows treated to reduce reflectivity & transparency. Cats kept indoors at all times Outdoor lighting reduced 	All 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows treated to reduce reflectivity & transparency. Cats kept indoors at all times Outdoor lighting reduced
Stewardship	Optional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a nest box for birds/bees/bats Adopt petroleum-free yard maintenance practices Adopt a fertilizer-free yard maintenance practices. Create a wildlife brush pile Leave leaf-litter 	Choose 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a nest box for birds/bees/bats Adopt petroleum-free yard maintenance practices Adopt a fertilizer-free yard maintenance practices. Create a wildlife brush pile Leave leaf-litter 	Choose 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a nest box for birds/bees/bats Adopt petroleum-free yard maintenance practices Adopt a fertilizer-free yard maintenance practices. Create a wildlife brush pile Leave leaf-litter
Education	Choose 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch video or webinar about healthy yard habitat. Attend local Audubon habitat education program Read Audubon Guide to Creating a Bird Garden. Read <i>Bringing Nature Home</i> by Doug Tallamy Participate in Master Gardener Program Participate in Master Naturalist Program 	Choose 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch video or webinar about healthy yard habitat. Attend local Audubon habitat education program Read Audubon Guide to Creating a Bird Garden. Read <i>Bringing Nature Home</i> by Doug Tallamy Participate in Master Gardener Program Participate in Master Naturalist Program 	Choose 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch video or webinar about healthy yard habitat. Attend local Audubon habitat education program Read Audubon Guide to Creating a Bird Garden. Read <i>Bringing Nature Home</i> by Doug Tallamy Participate in Master Gardener Program Participate in Master Naturalist Program
Citizen Science	Optional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a list of birds and butterflies that visit your habitat patch. Contribute observations in your patch to eBird or Hummingbirds@Home 	Optional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a list of birds and butterflies that visit your habitat patch. Contribute observations in your patch to eBird or Hummingbirds@Home 	Optional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a list of birds and butterflies that visit your habitat patch. Contribute observations in your patch to eBird or Hummingbirds@Home
Volunteer	Optional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit 2 neighbors or friends to help in your garden! Recruit 2 neighbors or friends to sign up! Allow your property to be showcased in garden tours Volunteer as an Audubon Habitat Ambassador Volunteer as an Audubon Habitat Gardener Give Audubon Habitat presentation to community group or neighborhood/homeowners association. Contact plant growers or sellers and encourage them to register as an Audubon Native Plant provider. 	Choose 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit 2 neighbors or friends to help in your garden! Recruit 2 neighbors or friends to sign up! Allow your property to be showcased in garden tours Volunteer as an Audubon Habitat Ambassador Volunteer as an Audubon Habitat Gardener Give Audubon Habitat presentation to community group or neighborhood/homeowners association. Contact plant growers or sellers and encourage them to register as an Audubon Native Plant provider. 	Choose 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit 2 neighbors or friends to help in your garden! Recruit 2 neighbors or friends to sign up! Allow your property to be showcased in garden tours Volunteer as an Audubon Habitat Ambassador Volunteer as an Audubon Habitat Gardener Give Audubon Habitat presentation to community group or neighborhood/homeowners association. Contact plant growers or sellers and encourage them to register as an Audubon Native Plant provider.