

# CERTIFICATION APPLICATION:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address to be Certified  
 Property Size (Sq. Ft. or Acres): \_\_\_\_\_

### Description:

Plants and number on your property which might provide wildlife foods such as nuts, buds, berries, seeds, acorns, nectar, etc. from large trees, small trees, shrubs, annuals and perennials.

List the types and number of feeders and foods you provide for the wildlife.

Wildlife visiting your area. \_\_\_\_\_

### Water provided for drinking/bathing:

Year-round  Seasonally

### Methods:

Bird Bath  Water dripping into bird bath  
 Spring  Stream  
 Pond  Other  
 Wildlife Pool

### Weather breaks and hiding places provided:

Dense Shrubs  Evergreens  
 Brush Piles  Rock Piles/Walls  
 Ground Covers  Meadow, Scrub or Prairie Patch  
 Log Piles  
 Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

### Places to raise young:

Mature Trees  Small Trees  
 Shrub Masses  Trees with Nest/Den Cavities  
 Ground Dens  Meadow, Scrub or Prairie Patch  
 Wildlife Pool or Pond  Nesting Shelves  
 Nesting Boxes

Number and type of artificial houses: \_\_\_\_\_

**D**igital or print, if you have a picture you can supply, we would like to see what you have done.

This program is funded through donations to the **Chickadee Checkoff**.

**To receive an attractive sign and certificate which officially recognizes your backyard efforts for wildlife send this application and \$5 to:**

**Ecological Services Section  
 Kansas Department of Wildlife,  
 Parks and Tourism  
 512 SE 25th Ave.  
 Pratt, KS 67124**

*Make check out to KDWPT*

For more information about the Kansas Wildlife Federation and how to join, contact:

**Gain National Recognition for your backyard wildlife habitat through the National Wildlife Federation! Call 1-800-822-9919 or visit [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org).**

**Kansas Wildlife Federation  
 PO Box 8237  
 Wichita, KS 67208  
 or through the  
 National Wildlife Federation's website  
[www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org).**

## Who To Contact for Technical Assistance:

**REGION 1 OFFICE**  
 PO Box 338, 1426 Hwy 183 Alt.  
 Hays, KS 67601  
 (785) 623-2945

**REGION 2 OFFICE**  
 300 SW Wanamaker Rd.  
 Topeka, KS 66606  
 (785) 273-6740

**REGION 3 OFFICE**  
 1001 W McArtor,  
 Dodge City, KS 67801  
 (620) 227-8609

**REGION 4 OFFICE**  
 6232 E 29th St. N  
 Wichita, KS 67220  
 (316) 683-8069

**REGION 5 OFFICE**  
 1500 W 7th, PO Box 777  
 Chanute, KS 66720  
 (620) 431-0380

**KANSAS CITY DISTRICT OFFICE**  
 8304 Hedge Lane Terr.  
 Shawnee, KS 66227  
 (913) 422-1314

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, and military or veteran status. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327. 02/12

# KANSAS BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Sponsored By  
**CHICKADEE CHECKOFF**



of the  
**Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism**  
 and the  
**Kansas Wildlife Federation**

**KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION**  
*The voice of outdoor Kansas*

# BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

## What Is It?

This program was initiated in 1985 to help homeowners improve their backyards for wildlife. Kansas is an urban state with about 80 percent of the people living in or near large cities. These people share a common interest – they enjoy watching wildlife. Surveys show a large majority of Kansans annually participate in wildlife watching activities. Many people have developed their backyards or other associated areas for attracting wildlife to help satisfy this desire. This may be as easy as adding a few select shrubs and a watering area or it might be as complex as establishing native prairie, trees, shrubs and a small pond. The possibilities are as numerous as the number of backyards and other areas in cities and towns throughout Kansas.

## Three Parts

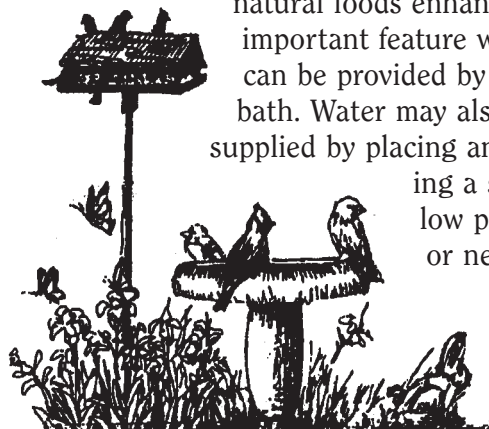
This program has three main parts. (1) technical assistance from Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism biologists, (2) informational materials and brochures, and (3) the Backyard Wildlife

Habitat Certification Program. For more information and help to improve your yard for wildlife, contact our regional offices. Most of the time, technical assistance may be provided over the phone by a wildlife biologist or information can be sent to assist the homeowner. The biologist may also be able to refer you to someone else or a business that specializes in this work. The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism offers a number of brochures and leaflets about backyard wildlife, habitat and problem solving. Check the KDWPT website at [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com) for the latest and updated information

## Three Essential Elements

Three essential elements that provide for backyard wildlife are **habitat, food and water**. Typically, for established yards, adding more shrubs, wildflowers and native grasses in planned areas is all that is needed to enhance the site for wildlife. Plants that provide both cover and food are recommended for attracting songbirds and other animals, such as rabbits and turtles.

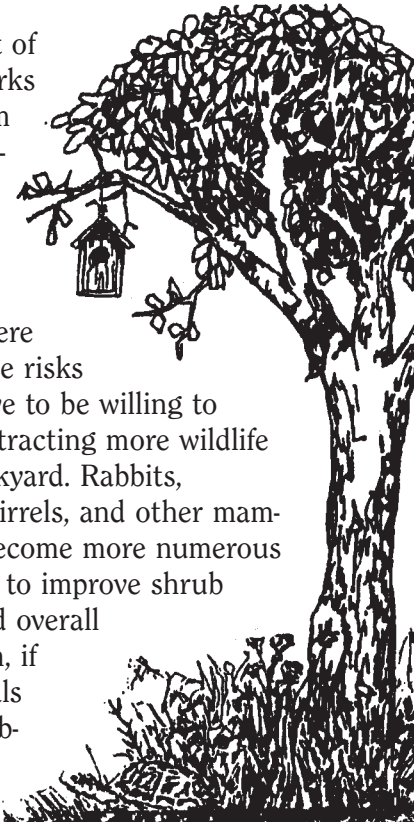
Including bird feeders with natural foods enhances important feature which can be provided by a bird bath. Water may also be supplied by placing and filling a shallow pan in or near



habitats. Check with Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism biologists for other detailed information about which plants to use for desired wildlife.

## Cautions

Some cities may frown on people wanting to establish native plants such as some of the warm season grasses and forbs that make our prairies beautiful. You may wish to visit with your city's officials and explain your landscaping plans so they can be informed early in your developmental phase. You also should be aware of the possibility for attracting nuisance wildlife. Having ample bird feeders in the winter may also attract unwanted starlings and blackbirds. The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism has information that will help prevent these problems but there may be some risks you will have to be willing to accept in attracting more wildlife to your backyard. Rabbits, skunks, squirrels, and other mammals may become more numerous as you seek to improve shrub habitats and overall cover. Again, if these animals become prob-



lems, there are options available in dealing with them. Refer to our other brochures and information about controlling specific pests.

## Other Ideas

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism has a number of brochures and other materials concerning bird feeders, houses and habitats. We also have information on bat houses, squirrel and wood duck nest boxes and many other things. Contact us for more information or if you have any questions about our backyard program.

## Do Something Wild

...in your backyard  
**Backyard Wildlife Habitat  
Certification Program**

If you manage for wildlife in your backyard, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism would like to give you credit through the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Certification Program. This program gives recognition to citizens who improve living conditions for wildlife on their property. The Backyard Wildlife Habitat Certification Program is not restricted to home owners. Residents of high-rise apartment balconies and places of business can apply also.

Just follow the directions on the back of this brochure and send it to the Pratt Operations Office with \$5. Once approved, you will receive a handsome certificate and an attractive sign to display in your yard. Good luck with your efforts!