

ABQ Backyard Refuge Certification Form



Habitat Elements and Engagement Questions

Fill out these questions for reference when completing the online application for certification.

- Use the workbook on the pages indicated as a guide.
- Use our official plant list to find plants that provide excellent habitat. Many other drought-tolerant native plants provide great habitat, too. We will evaluate the habitat value of plants not on our list when reviewing your application.
You can also contact us at ABQbackyardrefuge@friendsofvalledeoro.org with questions about whether a certain plant species contributes to wildlife habitat.
- Contact us with any questions about the certification form or process.

What type of space(s) would you like to certify as an ABQ Backyard Refuge?

(Check all that apply)

- Front Yard Back Yard Side Yard
 Patio, Deck or Courtyard Balcony
 Community Space Open to the Public
 Private Community Space (apt complex rooftop or courtyard)
 Property of a Business/Organization Other

Details or notes about type of space(s) you want to certify as an ABQ Backyard Refuge:

Certification Level

Complete the rest of this form (using pages 4-11 of the workbook as a guide) and determine the highest level of certification you meet in all categories:

- Contributing Connecting Core Habitat

Contributing Habitat Requirement: Provide at least 2 sources of wildlife-appropriate food (2 plants that provide food pollinator (or 1 plant as a food source and 1 water source).

Connector Habitat Requirement: Provide at least 4 sources of wildlife-appropriate food with at least 2 being drought-tolerant native plants, preferably on the ABQ Backyard Refuge plant list.

Core Habitat Requirement: Provide at least 6 sources of wildlife-appropriate food during all 4 seasons with at least 4 food sources being drought-tolerant native plants, preferably on the ABQ Backyard Refuge plant list.

Food for Wildlife (*workbook pages 4-5*)

How many plant food sources does your space provide? ____

*Include plants from the **ABQ Backyard Refuge Plant List** and other drought-tolerant native species that provide pollen, nectar, seeds, fruits, nuts, etc. Our list contains a few hundred wildlife-friendly plants, but many other drought-tolerant native plants also provide excellent habitat. The suitability of plants not on the list will be determined when your application is evaluated. (Plants in the same genus as those on our plant list are usually a good bet. Email us at abqbackyardrefuge.org if you have questions about suitable plant species.)*

Select: 1 – 6 or more

How many supplemental feeders does your space provide (bird feeder etc.)?

Select: 0-4 or more

Total number of wildlife-appropriate food sources your space provides? ____

Which seasons do you provide wildlife-appropriate food in your space?

(At least 1 supplemental feeder or native plant food source must be available for each season you indicate)

Spring Summer Fall Winter

Details and notes about wildlife-appropriate food sources your space provides. List the plant species that provide food (seed, fruit, nectar, attracts insects, etc.) for wildlife in your space.

Water for Wildlife (*workbook page 6*)

Contributing Habitat Requirement: Not required but 1 water source can be used as a substitution for a supplemental food source.

Connecting Habitat Requirement: One source of water for wildlife (including either a natural water source or installed water sources) available year-round or mix and match two sources of water available at different times of the year to support wildlife during at least three seasons.

Core Habitat Requirement: At least two sources of water (including a natural water source, or installed water sources) with both readily available to support wildlife during all four seasons.

How many water sources for wildlife (including either an installed water source or natural water source within a quarter of a mile radius of your property) does your space provide? ____

Select: 0 - 2 or more

Which seasons do you provide at least one water source for wildlife (installed or natural) in your space?

Spring Summer Fall Winter I do not provide a water source

Do you provide two sources of water for wildlife (installed or natural) during all four seasons in your space?
(note: as acequias and arroyos only have water seasonally, they do not serve as one of the two year-round sources)

(required for Core Habitat level) (Y/N)

Details or notes about water sources your space provides:

Shelter for Wildlife (*workbook page 7*)

Contributing Habitat Requirement: Not required

Connector Habitat Requirement: At least 2 sources of shelter or places for roosting to support wildlife during all four seasons.

Core Habitat Requirement: At least 4 sources of shelter or places for roosting for supporting wildlife during all four seasons.

How many sources of shelter or places for nesting or roosting are available to support wildlife during all four seasons in your space? ____

Details or notes about sources of shelter for wildlife or places for roosting in your space:

Best Practices (*workbook pages 8-11*)

Contributing Habitat Requirement: 2 practices from any section in the list.

Connector Habitat Requirement: 3 practices from any section in the list.

Core Habitat Requirement: 6 practices from any section in the list.

How many soil and water conservation best practices does your space achieve?
(*workbook page 8*)

- Capture rainwater from roof and move overflow water to landscaped areas using a swale, basin, or other method of diversion e.g., a hose attached to a rain barrel.
- Have xeriscape elements (water-wise landscaping)
- Use drip or soaker hose for irrigation
- Limiting water use
- Reducing erosion
- Use mulch to keep soil cool and help maintain soil moisture
- Make and use compost where plants need it
- Scoop the poop in your yard and on walks!

How many wildlife gardening best practices does your space achieve? (workbook page 9)

- Keep pets indoors or in controlled areas
- Convert traditional lawn from one species to a diversity of native and drought-tolerant plants
- Add native and drought-tolerant plants to supplement or replace existing vegetation in your yard.
- Prune after insect emergence in spring plants and before nesting season begins
- Trim trees and plants after wildlife nesting seasons, leaving some dead branches when possible for wildlife
- Leave some leaf litter for over-wintering wildlife
- Eliminate chemical pesticides/herbicides/rodenticides and practice non-toxic methods of Integrated Pest Management
- Eliminate chemical fertilizers
- Allow plants to flower and go to seed, and leave seed heads over winter for food
- Leave some fruit on fruiting trees for wildlife
- Leave bare ground for ground-nesting native bees

How many engagement best practices have you achieved while working on your space? (workbook pages 10-11)

- Post wildlife or plant observations on citizen/community science website (Examples: iNaturalist, eBird, Nature's Notebook, etc.)
- Advocate for land conservation
- Volunteer at public lands or with environmental conservation organizations
- Attend an ABQ Backyard Refuge or program partner event or training
- Promote the ABQ Backyard Refuge Program at community gatherings or on social media
- Recruit neighbors, friends and/or family to seek ABQ Backyard Refuge Certification

Total number of best practices you have implemented? _____

(Add up numbers in the Best Practice sections above)