

# 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. Contact us at [ABQbackyardrefuge@friendsofvalledeoro.org](mailto:ABQbackyardrefuge@friendsofvalledeoro.org) with questions about whether a certain plant species contributes to wildlife habitat.
- Also 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

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

**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.

**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](mailto: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 each 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)