

ABQ Backyard Refuge Program Certification Form

You can use this to prepare your answers for the online form at abqBackyardRefuge.org

Please use the online form if possible. As an alternative, you can print and send this form to:

ABQ Backyard Refuge Program
Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
7851 2nd St. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105

If choosing the paper option, if possible, scan or take phone photos of the application and email them to BackyardRefugeApplication@friendsofvalledeoro.org either instead of, or in addition to, mailing the form.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Event admission:

- \$50 suggested donation
- Free certification
- Free certification + donation of any amount: _____

You can make this donation at <https://friendsofvalledeoro.org/donate/> and indicate that it is for the backyard refuge certification, or include a check if mailing the form. Checks should be made out to Friends of Valle de Oro NWR and please indicate in the notes that the donation is for the backyard refuge program.

How did you hear about the program? _____

Did one of our Neighborhood Ambassadors or current participant recruit you?

Full address of the site you are certifying:

Provide an estimate of the square footage of the space you are certifying:

Select one:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 square feet or fewer (e.g. 2x5' balcony or smaller) | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 square feet (e.g. 4x3' balcony) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 square feet (e.g. 3x6' balcony) | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 square feet (e.g. 3x10 balcony or 5x6' patio) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50 square feet (e.g. 5x10') | <input type="checkbox"/> 100 square feet (e.g. 10x10') |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 200 square feet (e.g. 8x25') | <input type="checkbox"/> 500 square feet (e.g. 20x25') |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1000 square feet (e.g. 20x50') | <input type="checkbox"/> 1500 square feet (e.g. 30x50') |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5000 square feet (e.g. 50x100') | <input type="checkbox"/> 7500 square feet (e.g. 50x150') |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11000 square feet (approximately .25 acre) | <input type="checkbox"/> 22000 square feet (approximately .5 acre) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 43000 square feet (approximately 1 acre) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1+ acres |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2+ acres | <input type="checkbox"/> 3+ acres |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ acres | <input type="checkbox"/> 10+ acres |
| <input type="checkbox"/> actual acreage: _____ | |

Habitat Elements and Engagement

Fill out this section completely, referring to pages 4-11 in the workbook as necessary.

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:

Food for Wildlife (*workbook pages 4-5*): How many native plant food sources does your space provide? (Include only plants from the ABQ Backyard Refuge plant list that provide pollen, nectar, seeds, fruits, nuts, etc). Select: 0 - 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 or notes about wildlife-appropriate food sources your space provides:

Spring:

Summer:

Fall:

Winter:

Water for Wildlife (workbook page 6):

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

Details or notes about water sources your space provides:

Shelter for Wildlife (workbook page 7)

How many sources of shelter or places for 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, *including those specifically required for Core Habitat*

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 (*required for Core Habitat designation*)

Trim trees and plants after wildlife nesting seasons, leaving some dead branches when possible for wildlife (*required for Core Habitat designation*)

Leave some leaf litter for over-wintering wildlife

- Eliminate chemical pesticides/herbicides/rodenticides and practice non-toxic methods of Integrated Pest Management (*required for Core Habitat designation*)
- Eliminate chemical fertilizers (*required for Core Habitat designation*)
- Allow plants to flower and go to seed, & leave some seed heads over winter for food (*required for Core Habitat designation*)
- 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)

Do you have the ability to harvest rainwater using a rain barrel in your space? _____

Would you like a free 55-gallon rain barrel to use in your space? ____ If so, your rain barrel will be provided by the Bernalillo County Water Conservation Program and your address will be provided to Bernalillo County for their records (each property address is allowed one free rain barrel). Upon certification, we will provide contact information for arranging pick-up of your rain barrel.

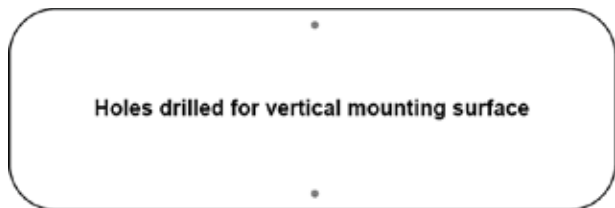
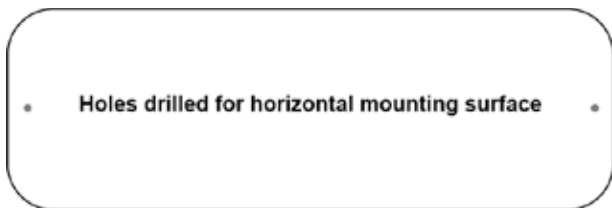
We ask that you send photos of your ABQ Backyard Refuge space via email to **certificationphotos@friendsofvalledeoro.org** in order to officially become certified. **Do you agree to send these photos?**

Can the ABQ Backyard Refuge Program and its partner organizations use photos of your ABQ Backyard Refuge Space for promotional purposes and to share with our network of participations on social media and/or our newsletters?

- Yes I give permission to share my photos publicly No, do not use my photos

If you are willing to share your photos publicly, how should we credit them? _____

Would you like your yard sign pre-drilled with holes? If so, which orientation? vertical horizontal



That’s all! Please scan or take photos of these pages and email them to: backyardRefugeApplication@friendsofvalledeoro.org.

If possible, please do this even if sending the pages with a check in the mail in case it gets lost.

Don’t hesitate to reach out to us at backyardRefugeApplication@friendsofvalledeoro.org or to our program director at laurel@friendsofvalledeoro.org with any questions.

Cheers, and happy habitat!