



Community Resiliency Program

Yard by Yard!
It's Not That HARD!

**Making Yard by Yard Happen for YOUR
Conservation District**





Sponsors:

- Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts
- Friends of Blue Thumb
- Oklahoma County and Tulsa County CDs
- Oklahoma Conservation Commission – Blue Thumb and Soil Health Team



Conservation for Urban and Suburban Dwellers

Overview



Preparing for a site visit



At the House



Common Native Plants in Landscaping



Common Red Flags



**Your board of directors needs to approve participation.
We will come to a board meeting!**





Amanda (OACD)
Jack (OCC/NRCS)
Marcus (OCC/Oklahoma County CD)
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Preparing for a site visit



Review the application



Prepare Certification

Materials:

Post Cards - <http://www.oklegislature.gov/findmylegislature.aspx>

Wildflower Seeds (300sqft)

Wildflower Seed mix information

Yarde by Yard Sign



We have to get the word out!



At the House

- Ask the Yard by Yard applicant to give you a tour of their yard
- Make sure and take lots of pictures of different Yard by Yard practices you observe
- Remember Yard by Yard is an encouragement program!



Get pictures of people with their sign!



Other tips:

Send pictures and confirmation of certification to Marcus - marcus.long@conservation.ok.gov

When posting online or using pictures for promotion, be sure to avoid posting peoples address licence plate.

Be sure before taking pictures that the applicant has signed the photo release.

Although YxY includes a diverse range of conservation practice, most yard focus on wildlife habitat and native plants.



Blanket Flower (Gaillardia spp.)

Height: 1 - 2 Feet

Conditions: Sandy often disturbed soils, annual species

Bloom Period: May – August



Aromatic Aster (Symphyotrichum oblongifolium)

Height: < 20 Inches

Conditions: Moist to dry soils, full/part sun species

Bloom Period: September – November



Purple Coneflower (Echinacea spp.)

Height: 2 - 4 Feet

Conditions: Well drained soils, sun/part shade species

Bloom Period: April - September



Black Eyed Susan (Rudbeckia spp.)

Height: 1- 3 Feet

Conditions: Moist to dry soils, full sun species

Bloom Period: June - October



Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Height: 1.5 – 2 Feet

Conditions: Well drained sandy soils, full sun species

Bloom Period: May – September

Fun Fact: Oklahoma

Has 26 species of native milkweeds!



Prairie Coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*)

Height: 1 - 3 Feet

Conditions: Loam to clay soils, full sun species

Bloom Period: June - August



Switch Grass (*Panicum* spp.)

Height: 3-6 Feet
Conditions: Dry to moist soils, full sun species
Bloom Period: Aug-September



Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Height: 2-3 Feet
Conditions: Dry sandy soils, full sun species
Bloom Period: August - October



Indian Grass (*sorghastrum nutans*)

Height: 3-8 Feet

Conditions: Deep moist soils, full sun species

Bloom Period: August-October



Blue Grama Grass (*bouteloua gracilis*)

Height: 10 -20 Inches

Conditions: Well drained low organic soil, full sunspecies

Bloom Period: July - October



Redbud (*cercis canadensis*)

Height: 15-30 Feet

Conditions: Moist soils, understory species

Bloom Period: March-May



Button Bush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

Height: 6-8 ft tall, 12-15 ft wide

Conditions: Moist soils, shorelines and swamps

Bloom Period: June-September



Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

Easy to identify
Food for wildlife



Post Oak (*Quercus stellata*)

Hard, decay resistant wood



Common Red Flags

01

Weed overgrowth: Every garden requires regular maintenance. If a garden appears overrun with aggressive weeds and lacks recent weeding, it may be a sign of neglect or poor management.

02

Applicant mentions past issues with code office: if an applicant has had past run ins with the code office or mentions frequent neighbor complaints.

03

Applicant thinks that leaving yard "wild" is conservation: all land requires management, and if we don't maintain our yard at all, what is most likely to take over is invasive weeds.



Yard by Yard is not a free
pass to stop mowing!





Mowed border



How best can Yard by Yard fit in?



Taller plants
grouped together



The Yard by Yard sign helps educate the public.

Every yard is different!





Plant for Birds

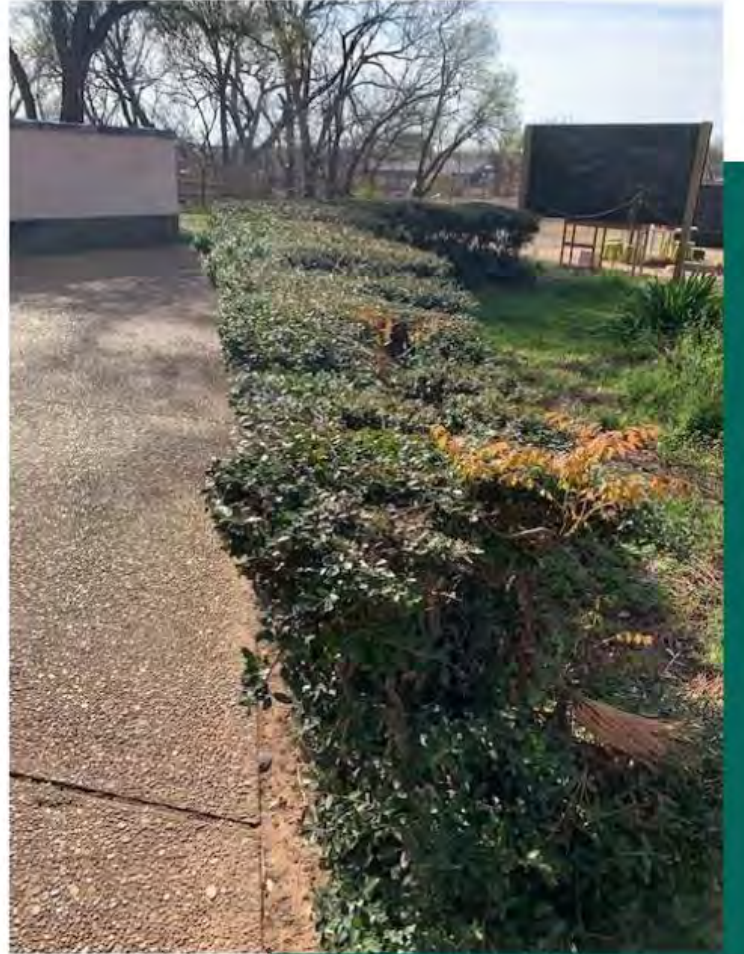


**Plant Inland Sea Oats to
attract birds like: juncos,
sparrows and mourning
doves**

**Plant Foxglove to attract
hummingbirds**

**Plant purple coneflower to
attract goldfinches,
chickadees, blue jays and
cardinals**







Plant for Pollinators

Plant Passion Flower to attract
the Gulf Fritillaries

Plant Golden Alexander for
Black Swallowtails

Plant native Asters for the
Pearl Crescents





Once established, native plants will get by with the amount of rainfall we typically receive.

Rain barrels are another great water conservation tool!



Grow healthy food & introduce children to planting, harvesting, and preparing great dishes!



Special events
Exhibits
Notecards
Press releases
Social media





Thank You

Jack Titchener Urban Soil Conservationist

Marcus Long Urban Soil Conservationist

Cheryl Cheadle OCC/ Blue Thumb