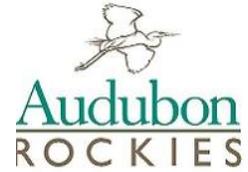




be a
habitat hero!



What is a Habitat Hero? *Wildscape for the Birds ... a project of Audubon Rockies*

Habitat heroes are people who practice a form of landscape stewardship called “wildscaping,” landscaping designed to provide habitat for wildlife, large & small.

Whether the landscape you tend is a home yard, a few pots on a balcony, a public park or schoolyard garden, or a farm or orchard, habitat heroes believe in growing a healthy community.

Make a positive difference for birds, pollinators and other wildlife right at home where we all live.

Benefits of Wildscaping:

Saving energy - your own and the planet's, reducing maintenance, and still having a beautiful landscape: That's wildscaping.

As it turns out, what's good for birds, butterflies and other wildlife tends to be good for people, too. Transforming our yards from highly managed lawns to wilder landscapes can keep our maintenance costs and time down, while creating opportunities for our families and friends to enjoy and learn about nature.



American Goldfinch feeds on sunflowers

Your landscape can contribute to a continent-wide mosaic of wildlife habitat.

According to the EPA, residential lawns (not including parks, commercial landscapes or industrial areas) cover more than 20 million acres in the United States. If all those yards were transformed into small habitat patches, the additional wildlife habitat would be comparable to increasing the area of the entire National Wildlife Refuge system by twenty percent! The *wildlife benefits would be enormous*, and we'd all experience the joy of doing something positive for nature and our environment.

And it's FREE! For more info and to download the application:

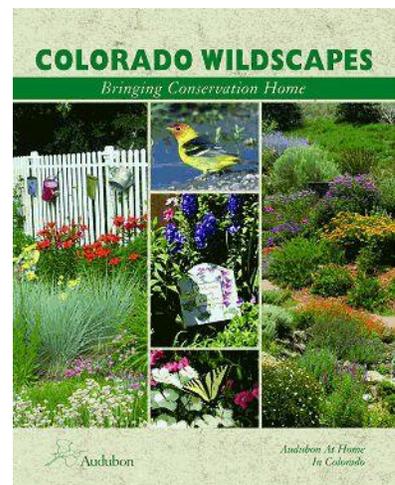
<http://rockies.audubon.org/become-habitat-hero-and-learn-about-how-wildscape>



Wildscaping Basics

- Plant bird- and butterfly-friendly species for year-round food, cover and shelter;
- Use less water (and thus less energy) by planting natives and regionally adapted plants;
- Reduce lawn areas—grow edibles, perennials, and trees and shrubs where appropriate
- Reduce or eliminate chemical use to make a more sustainable and healthier world for all of us.
- Control invasive plants that degrade habitat in and beyond our yards.

Even small patches of wildscape can provide oases for wildlife like butterflies and native bees by creating green corridors that link your wildscape to larger wild lands.



Wildscaping Resources

Blogs

- [Habitat Hero](#)¹ blog is full of useful information and resources
- [Beautiful Wildlife Garden](#)² is a national blog coordinated by writer, birder, and garden designer Carole Sevilla Brown
- [Native Plants & Wildlife Gardens](#)³
- [The Xeric Garden](#)⁴ by David Salman for High Country

Books

- [Colorado Wildscapes: Bringing Conservation Home](#).⁵ This inspired the Habitat Hero project. It includes info which plant species attract birds and butterflies, how to design and build wildscapes, maintaining habitat with less water, and how these can be tools for education and community involvement (\$8 donation to [Audubon Rockies](#), email habitatthero@audubon.org for more info & to request a copy)
- [Wyoming Wildscapes](#)⁶ - This detailed guidebook was developed in partnership with the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, providing invaluable information on how to design, plant, and maintain landscaping to benefit people and wildlife.
- [The American Meadow Garden](#), Creating a Natural Alternative to the Traditional Lawn, John Greenlee, 2009, Timber Press.

1. <http://habhero.org/>
2. <http://www.beautifulwildlifegarden.com/>
3. <http://nativeplantwildlifegarden.com/>
4. <http://www.waterwisegardening.com/>
5. <http://www.boulderaudubon.org/wildscaping.htm>
6. <http://rockies.audubon.org/documents/wyoming-wildscapes>



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