

An enjoyable way to save water,  
save work, and help wildlife.

# Create a Texas Wildscape

Wildscaping means that your landscape benefits  
wildlife. It provides the basics for good habitat:  
food, cover, nesting sites, and water.

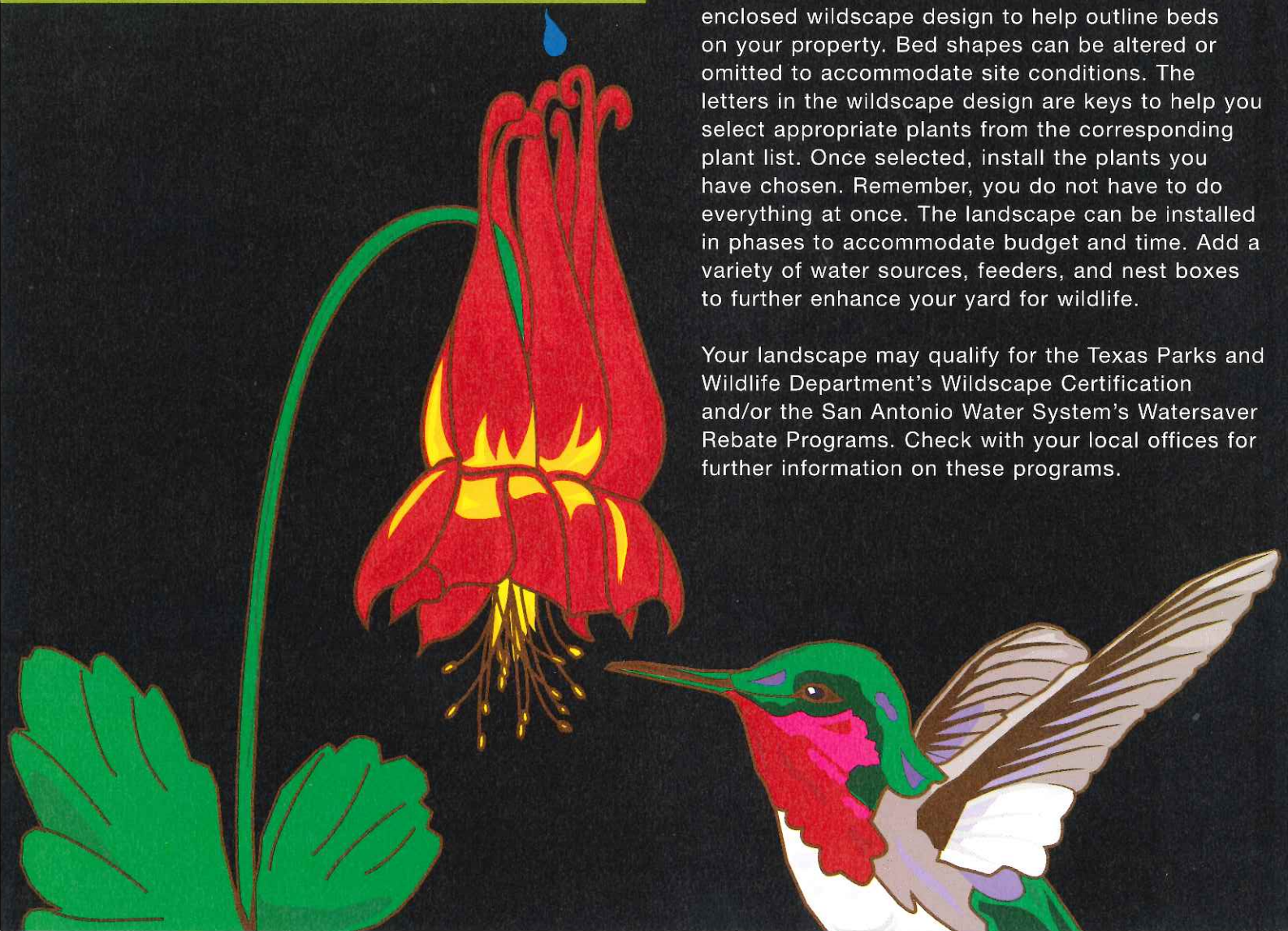


You can enrich existing landscapes or create new ones with wildlife-friendly drought resistant plants. As a bonus, you reduce water bills and maintenance while attracting and supporting song birds, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other desirable wildlife. This brochure includes a sample wildscape design, a suggested plant list, and some landscaping tips to get you started on creating your own unique habitat.

Over the past years, urbanization has reduced the variety of plants in our landscapes. We have replaced many of our native plants with imported plants which do not always adapt well to our climate and may not provide food or shelter for wildlife. Creating a Texas Wildscape can restore Texas native plants and benefit wildlife.

To design your wildscape, start with a plan of your property drawn to scale on graph paper. On a photocopy of the original, mark areas which will be planted. Use the flower bed shapes in the enclosed wildscape design to help outline beds on your property. Bed shapes can be altered or omitted to accommodate site conditions. The letters in the wildscape design are keys to help you select appropriate plants from the corresponding plant list. Once selected, install the plants you have chosen. Remember, you do not have to do everything at once. The landscape can be installed in phases to accommodate budget and time. Add a variety of water sources, feeders, and nest boxes to further enhance your yard for wildlife.

Your landscape may qualify for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Wildscape Certification and/or the San Antonio Water System's Watersaver Rebate Programs. Check with your local offices for further information on these programs.

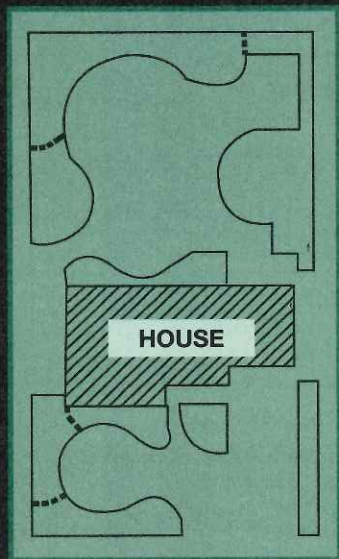


This sample wildscape design shows plant groupings which are assigned letters that correspond to letters found in the adjacent plant list. The letters represent plant types: trees, shrubs, perennials (that live year after year), annuals (that live only one year), vines, and native perennial grasses.

The plant list categorizes the plants according to height at maturity. This allows you to create a layered effect with low plants in the front and taller ones in the rear of your beds. Be sure plants are placed in the appropriate sunlight conditions. The plant list also notes a few wildlife species attracted to each plant and the time of year the plants produce food for a variety of wildlife. You should plant to provide some source of food year-round.

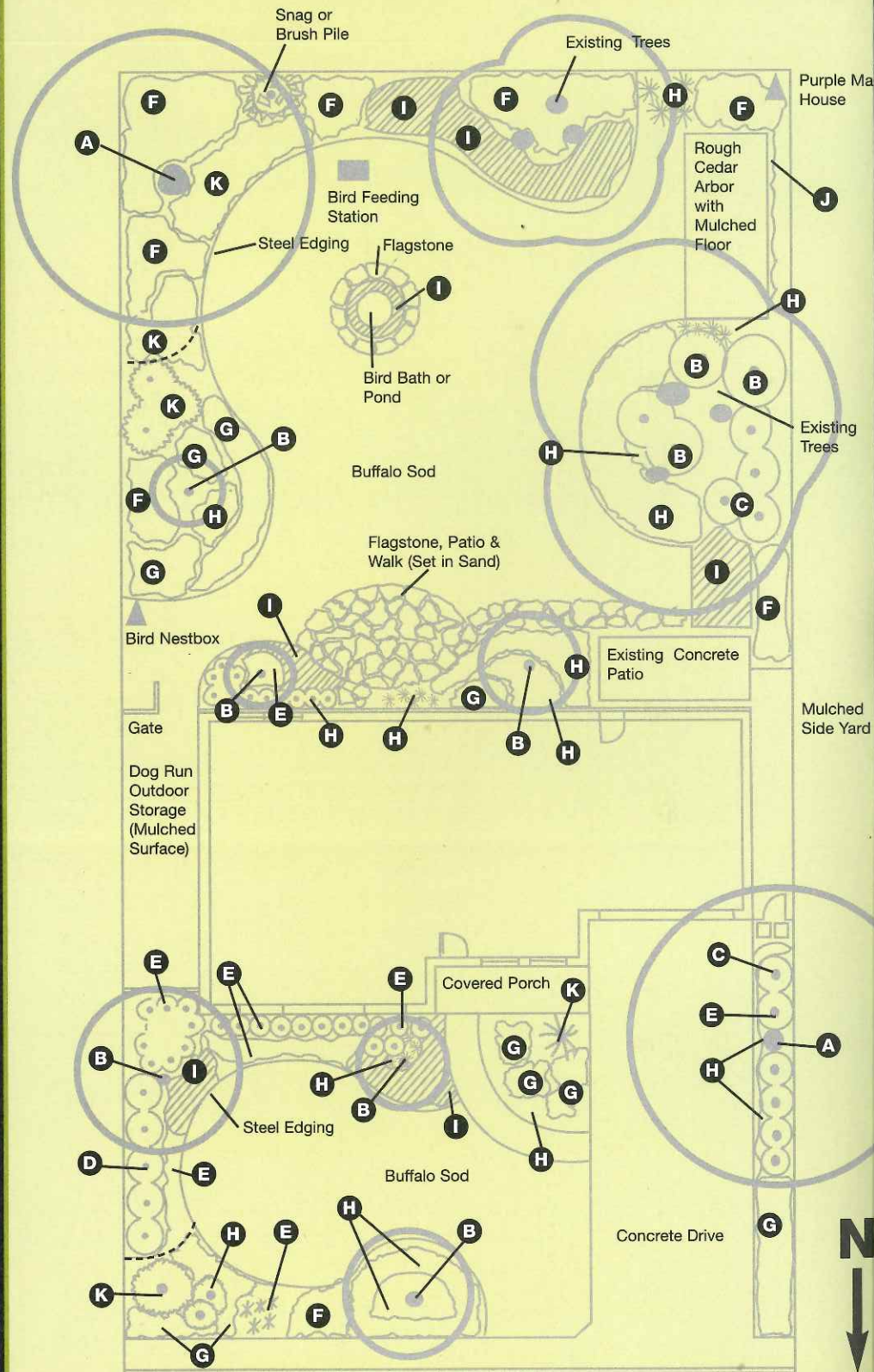
The listed plants have been selected because they are "Texastough" and can be found at retail garden centers. When purchasing a plant, always refer to the botanical name (indicated in italics) so that the correct plant is obtained. The plant list represents only a few of the many native plants available.

### Outline of Bed Shapes



**Note**  
the dashed lines within the flower beds which indicate modification of bed sizes.

# Sample Wildscape Design



Scale: 1" equals approx. 20'  
0' 10' 20' 30'

# Plant List for South-Central Texas

Common Names	Botanical Name	Flower Color	Wildlife			Food Availability			Exposure		
			Birds	Hummingbirds	Butterflies/Larva	Spring (Mar.-May)	Summer (June-Aug.)	Fall (Sept.-Nov.)	Winter (Dec.-Feb.)	Full Sun	Part Sun
<b>A LARGE TREES</b>											
<b>Deciduous</b>											
*Oak	<i>Quercus</i> spp.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
*Cedar Elm	<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>		X	X		X	X		X	X	
*Anaqua	<i>Ehretia anacua</i>	White	X		X	X			X	X	
<b>Conifers</b>											
*Ashe juniper (female)	<i>Juniperus ashei</i>		X	X			X	X	X	X	
*Arizona Cypress	<i>Cupressus arizonica</i>		X			X			X		
<b>B ORNAMENTAL TREES</b>											
*Texas persimmon	<i>Diospyros texana</i>	White	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
*Mexican Plum	<i>Prunus mexicana</i>	White	X	X	X	X			X	X	
*Texas or Mexican Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Pink		X	X				X	X	
*Desert Willow	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	Pink, White		X	X	X	X		X	X	
*Yaupon holly (female)	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>		X	X			X	X	X	X	
<b>C LARGE SHRUBS (6-12 ft.)</b>											
*Wax myrtle (female)	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>		X	X			X		X	X	
*Evergreen sumac	<i>Rhus virens</i>	White	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
*American beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	White	X		X	X	X		X	X	
<b>D MEDIUM SHRUBS (4-6 ft.)</b>											
Butterfly bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Purple		X	X	X	X		X	X	
*Cenizo	<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>	Purple, Pink, White		X		X			X		
Nandina	<i>Nandina</i> spp.	White	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
*Agarita	<i>Mahonia trifoliata</i>	Yellow	X	X	X	X			X	X	
<b>E SMALL SHRUBS (1-4 ft.)</b>											
*Red yucca	<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>	Pink to Red		X		X	X	X	X	X	
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Blue		X	X	X		X	X	X	
*Autumn sage	<i>Salvia greggii</i>	Red	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>F TALL PERENNIALS (Over 4 ft.)</b>											
*Turk's cap	<i>Malvastrum</i> spp.	Red	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cigar plant	<i>Cuphea micropetala</i>	Orange		X		X	X		X	X	
Firebrush	<i>Hamelia patens</i>	Red		X		X	X		X		
Firespike	<i>Odontonema strictum</i>	Red	X			X			X	X	
Mexican bush sage	<i>Salvia leucantha</i>	Purple	X	X		X	X		X		
Indigo spires sage	<i>Salvia</i> spp.	Indigo	X	X		X	X		X	X	
<b>G MEDIUM PERENNIALS (2-4 ft.)</b>											
*Lantana	<i>Lantana</i> spp.	Variety	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
*Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea augustifolia</i>	Purple, White, Pink	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
*Butterfly weed	<i>Asclepias</i> spp.	Red & Orange		X	X	X			X	X	
*Purple fall aster	<i>Aster</i> spp.	Purple		X		X			X	X	X
*Tropical sage	<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	Red	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Shrimp plant	<i>Justicia</i> spp.	Orange	X			X	X		X		
<b>H SMALL PERENNIALS (1-2 ft.)</b>											
"Katy" ruellia	<i>Ruellia</i> spp.	Purple		X		X	X		X	X	X
*Columbine	<i>Aguilegia</i> spp.	Red, Yellow	X		X				X	X	X
Pink skullcap	<i>Scutellaria frutescens</i>	Pink	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
*Texas betony	<i>Stachys coccinea</i>	Red	X		X	X	X		X	X	
<b>I ANNUALS</b>											
Pentas	<i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	Red, White, Pink		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
*Zinnia	<i>Zinnia</i> spp.	Variety		X	X	X	X		X	X	
Mexican sunflower	<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	Orange		X		X	X	X	X	X	
<b>J VINES</b>											
*Coral honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Red	X	X		X	X		X	X	
*Virginia creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>		X					X	X	X	X
*Crossvine	<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Red & Yellow		X		X			X	X	X
<b>K ORNAMENTAL GRASSES</b>											
*Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>		X	X			X		X	X	
*Muhly grass	<i>Muhlenbergia</i> spp.						X		X	X	
*Sideoats grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>		X	X			X		X	X	

\*Texas Native

# Wildscaping Design Tips

- Inventory your yard. Drought tolerant plants attractive to a variety of wildlife may already exist in your yard. Don't remove plants that require little maintenance or watering unless they detract from the design.
- Reduce turf areas with wildscape or xeriscape plants, and replace St. Augustine grass (in full sun locations) with grasses such as Buffalo, Bermuda, or Zoysia.
- Before installing plants, know their height at maturity. A four-inch potted plant may turn into a ten-foot shrub! This will avoid planting in the wrong locations.
- Plant to create a multilayered effect. Offering tall, medium, and short plants grouped together in a tiered arrangement is very appealing to wildlife.
- Include evergreen plants in your design. They keep their leaves year-round offering cover for wildlife throughout the year.
- Use 2-4 inches of mulch to reduce weeds and the need to water. Recycle leaves and grass clippings by composting or using as mulch.
- Add a water source to your landscape. It's important to offer clean water to wildlife year-round. Water can be provided easily in the form of a simple pan, birdbath, or shallow pool.
- Snags, which are dead or dying trees, can be left standing to provide cavity nesting sites. Supplement with nest boxes when natural tree cavities are lacking.
- Know where possible gardening hazards exist before digging. Note buried utility lines or cables.



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- Choose a selection of plants that bloom or fruit at various times of the year, so there is always food for wildlife. Supplement with clean bird feeders if natural food sources are lacking or becoming established.
- Planting in the cool season—late fall or early spring—will allow trees, shrubs, and hardy perennials to establish before the hot and dry summer. Nurseries often offer plant sales during the fall.
- Use organic gardening techniques, including compost and organic sources of fertilizer, to supply nutrients to plants. Try spraying insect infestations with a forceful spray of water before resorting to pesticides.
- Install berms or mounds, and use curved lines to add interest. Rock walls and logs can be attractive features while providing homes for butterflies, lizards, and other small wildlife.