



# The Little Habitat Project

The Little Habitat Project encourages community participation in creation of a network of connected habitats in developed areas that provide corridors for wildlife to travel and the habitat elements they need to thrive. The Little Habitat projects serves residents in developed areas, includes benefits for the participants and ecosystem, and offers three certification levels: Level I (Acorn), Level II (Seedling), and Level III (Oak).

## Service Area

The Little Habitat Project serves developed areas of Marion County including:

- Private Yards/Gardens
- Townhomes/Apartments
- HOA Common Areas
- Schoolyards/  
Universities/Community Colleges
- Assisted Living Centers
- Public Parks
- Places of Worship
- Municipal Buildings
- & more!

## Benefits

Ecological benefits include:

- greater support for biodiversity.
  - increased connectivity across the landscape.
  - more resilient food webs.
- Successful applicants will receive:
- Little Habitat Project yard sign.
  - a feature article on our website.
  - \$10 plant sale coupon.
  - membership in a supportive community.
  - *more to come!*

## Certification Level Calculation

Circle your level for each section. Certify at lowest level satisfied in all sections. Take more actions to move up.



	I	II	III
Soil	I	II	III
Water	I	II	III
Plants - Invasives	<i>required</i>		
Plants - Layers	I	II	III
Plants - Natives	I	II	III
Plants - Practices	I	II	III
Infrastructure	I	II	III
Education	I	II	III

## Certification Process

Follow these steps to become a certified Little Habitat:

1. Review the [Certification Criteria](#).
2. Determine which actions you will take to qualify.
3. Request a site evaluation (optional).
4. Implement any practices needed to qualify for your certification level.
5. Submit application form online.



Scan or visit

# The Little Habitat Project

Small spaces, big benefits:  
creating community and connectivity for wildlife.



Soil



Water



Plants



Infra-  
structure



Education

The Little Habitat Project  
An Initiative of Marion SWCD  
[www.marionswcd.net/little-habitat-project/](http://www.marionswcd.net/little-habitat-project/)



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Kassi Rooth, Urban Conservation Planner



# Checklist of Actions



The Little Habitat Project aims to build ecosystem resilience in places where wildlife and people intersect (developed areas) by promoting habitat connectivity, enhancing biodiversity and food webs, and engaging community members in conservation efforts. Use this checklist for planning purposes. Visit the Little Habitat webpage for certification steps and more.

## Soil Actions



Level I: Choose 1



Level II: Choose 2



Level III: Choose 3

- Add compost from off-site.
- Leave the leaves.
- Plant cover crops.
- Add wood chips.
- Create a compost pile.
- Create a vermicompost bin.
- Pick up and dispose of pet waste.



## Water Actions



Level I: Choose 1



Level II: Choose 2



Level III: Choose 3

- Install a wildlife water feature.
- Install a puddling area.
- Create a garden pond.
- Eliminate lawn watering.
- Disconnect downspouts (where appropriate).
- Install a rain garden or bioswale.
- Improve irrigation efficiency.



## Infrastructure



Level I: Choose 1



Level II: Choose 2



Level III: Choose 3

- Add and maintain a nesting box.
- Add and maintain a bee house.
- Add and maintain a bird feeder.
- Create a habitat rock pile.
- Install a catio.
- Install motion detector lights.
- Install bird deterrents on windows.
- Use permeable walkways (mulch, pavers, stones, etc.).



## Education



Level I: Choose 1

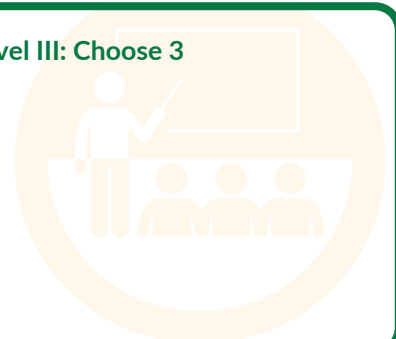


Level II: Choose 2



Level III: Choose 3

- Participate in a community science project.
- Attend continuing education opportunities.
- Write a blog post for Marion SWCD.
- Recruit two new Little Habitat participants.
- Teach your neighbors about habitat.
- Volunteer in support of wildlife habitat.





# Plant Actions

Plants are central to the Little Habitat Project. We recommend that project sites have at least 70% native plants for the greatest wildlife benefits.

## Manage Noxious Invasive Plants



Required for all levels.

- Actively manage noxious invasive plants. Revisit every season. Select most effective, lowest risk approach (manual, mechanical, cultural, chemical...).
- Minimize the use of pesticides (including herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and rodenticides) and look for alternatives.
- If using pesticides, understand: when to apply, how to interpret label directions, and how to calculate mixing and application rates.



Weed List

## Provide Vegetation Layers

- Canopy: tall trees (D)
- Midstory: understory trees (C)
- Shrubs: shrubs of all heights (B)
- Ground: flowers/groundcovers (A)



Level I: at least 2



Level II: at least 3



Level III: all 4

## Incorporate Native Plants\*



Level I: at least 2



Level II: at least 4



Level III: at least 6

A single plant can only be used to check off one item.

2, 4, or 6 different native plants that are:

- Herbaceous
- Woody
- Evergreen
- Deciduous
- Vining
- Annual
- Perennial

2, 4, or 6 diff. native plants that produce:

- Fruit
- Seeds
- Nuts
- Nectar
- Pollen
- Sap
- Bulbs

2, 4, or 6 diff. native flower colors that are:

- Red
- Orange
- Yellow
- Green
- Blue/Purple
- Pink
- White

2, 4, or 6 diff. native plants that bloom in:

- February - March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September - October

\*Native to the Willamette Valley and neighboring ecoregions.

## Add Plant Practices



Level I: at least 1



Level II: at least 3



Level III: at least 5

- Install a native hedgerow.
- Reduce the area of lawn.
- Provide hollow stems.
- Retain a snag or nurse log.
- Create a brush pile.
- Plant big patches of each species.
- Reduce mowing frequency.
- Plant an eco-lawn.
- Plant a native plant garden.
- Plant a native wildflower meadow.

