










## HABITAT INVENTORY

The first thing to do is define your starting point so that you can assess your needs, track progress and celebrate successes. The Habitat Inventory will help you identify the features and creatures of your yard today. You will also consider how you and your family use your yard so you can better decide how much space is needed — or indeed whether you even require — such areas as a lawn or a patio. From this baseline portrait you can decide where you want to go. It's sort of like taking your weight and measurements before beginning a fitness program. It lets you see where you are now and determine where you want to be later. Repeat the inventory periodically to see how the habitat is improving.

*Enter answers in both columns: what you have and do "today" and what you hope to achieve, your "goal." The arrows indicate which direction to work toward. View action plans in Creating a Healthy Yard for methods to meet goals.*

	<u>TODAY</u>		<u>GOAL</u>
<b>DATE:</b> _____			
<p>% Percentage of overall space that has...</p>			
Native plants	_____		_____
Exotic plant pests	_____		_____
Lawn	_____		_____
Impervious surface (patios, etc.)	_____		_____
Number of pesticide applications per year	_____		_____
Number of fertilizer applications per year	_____		_____
Number of watering times per week	_____		_____
Compost pile? (yes/no)	_____		_____ <u>YES</u> _____
For the birds (yes/no)			
Do you offer a variety of bird feeders? (seed, suet, nectar, other)	_____		_____ <u>YES</u> _____
Do you offer a water source? (birdbath, pond, stream, other)	_____		_____ <u>YES</u> _____
Do you offer nesting and sheltering areas? (nest boxes, snags, brush piles, other)	_____		_____ <u>YES</u> _____
Have you lessened the threats to wildlife?	_____		_____ <u>YES</u> _____
Participate in citizen science projects?	_____		_____ <u>YES</u> _____

Number of wildlife species found in your yard

Birds	_____	↑	_____
Insects	_____	↑	_____
Other creatures	_____	↑	_____
including _____	_____		

Amount of time you spend each week in outdoor space...

Observing wildlife	_____	_____
Recreating (gardening, playing, swimming, etc.)	_____	_____
Entertaining (barbecuing, eating, etc.)	_____	_____
Resting (reading, lounging, etc.)	_____	_____
Maintaining the area (mowing, weeding, etc.)	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____

Percentage of overall space dedicated to...

Wildlife	_____	_____
Recreating (gardening, playing, swimming, etc.)	_____	_____
Entertaining (barbecuing, party, etc.)	_____	_____
Resting (reading, lounging, etc.)	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____

Identify Your Ecological Address

Watershed	_____
Geological region	_____
Climate	_____
Ecosystems	_____
Natural habitat (forest, grassland, wetland, etc)	_____

Also note...

North/south/east/west direction	_____
Direction of prevailing wind	_____
Where the sun rises and sets	_____
Amount of sunlight to planting areas	_____
Wet or dry areas	_____
Soil pH, type (clay/sand/loam), nutrient content	_____
USDA plant hardiness zone	_____