



CITY OF TUALATIN

Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

FROM: Lindsay Marshall, Management Analyst, Public Works

DATE: April 14, 2025

SUBJECT:
Backyard Habitat Certification Program Annual Report 2024-2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In the summer of 2024, the City entered into a partnership with the Columbia Land Trust and Bird Alliance of Oregon (formally Portland Audubon) to support Backyard Habitat Certification Program operations in Tualatin.

The Backyard Habitat Certification program supports the creation and expansion of urban natural habitats. These habitats contribute to broader conservation efforts by strengthening and expanding wildlife corridors and creating connectivity between public and private lands. The program provides technical assistance for homeowners (ex: site visits offering landscape design support and guidance on plant choice) and financial incentives (ex: discounts on native plants).

This program supports numerous City priorities, including climate action, sustainability, water conservation, and stormwater management. The program encourages re-naturalizing private lands to better support native habitat, reducing water used for irrigation, treating water on-site (disconnecting downspouts from our public stormwater system), reducing pesticide use, and removing invasive weeds.

By formalizing this partnership and providing consistent annual funding, the City is now able to empower property owners to take actions that create an exponential return on investment for the City, accomplishing more progress than the City could on its own. This is the first annual report from the Backyard Habitat Program, which will include information about the program as a whole, as well as Tualatin-specific efforts.

ATTACHMENTS:

-Presentation – Backyard Habitat Certification Program Annual Report 2024-2025