

Backyard Habitat Certification Program

Plant roots, create a habitat, transform the world... one yard at a time...

Katherine Noble



Backyard Habitat Certification Program



Mission: To provide tools, resources and recognition for gardening sustainably and creating wildlife habitat.

Climate Resilient Yards & Communities

- Participants educated & equipped to take action in their own yards & beyond!
- Taking steps to mitigate climate change (ex: plant trees!)
- Reduce man-made hazards (ex: don't use pesticides)
- Neighborhood & community connections



How Does the Program Work?



- Sign-up (sliding scale)
- 1 Hour Site Assessment w/staff Technician
- Resource Packet & coupons
- Site Report
- Native Plant Discounts!
- Cool sign
- Certification Visit (volunteers do these!)
- Certification sign, recognition and “benefits”
- Upgrades and renewals

The 6 elements of the program



**1. Manage Plants
Recommended
for Removal**



**2. Plant Locally
Native Plants**



**3. Reduce Pesticide
Use & Commit to IPM**



**4. Support
Wildlife**



**5. Stormwater and
Soil Management**



**6. Education and
Volunteerism**



**What's the
result?**

Backyards by the numbers

Across the
whole
program,
there have
been ...



**5.3
million**

square feet of
naturescape
planted



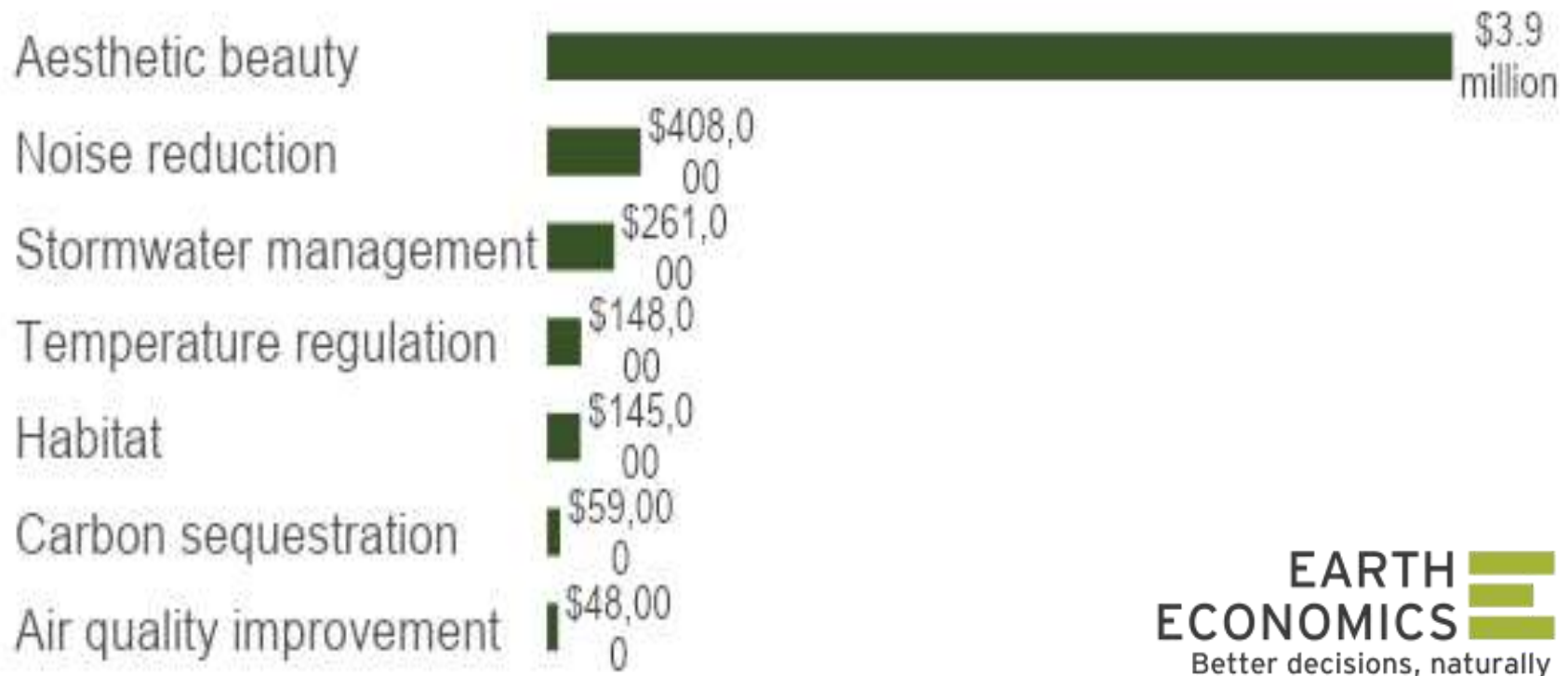
21,182
native trees
planted



327,315
shrubs and
other
groundcovers
planted

Benefits of the Backyard Habitat Program

Participants support over \$5 million in environmental benefits for themselves and neighbors every year



Supporting Mental Wellbeing



289
Individuals with
reduced risk of
depression or
anxiety



\$687K
avoided direct
healthcare costs



\$814K
avoided indirect
costs

City of Tualatin Accomplishments

- 102 participating properties to date!
- 20 site assessments completed in CY 2025
- 26 properties certified!
- 21+ acres enrolled
- 2,340+ native trees & shrubs planted by certified sites

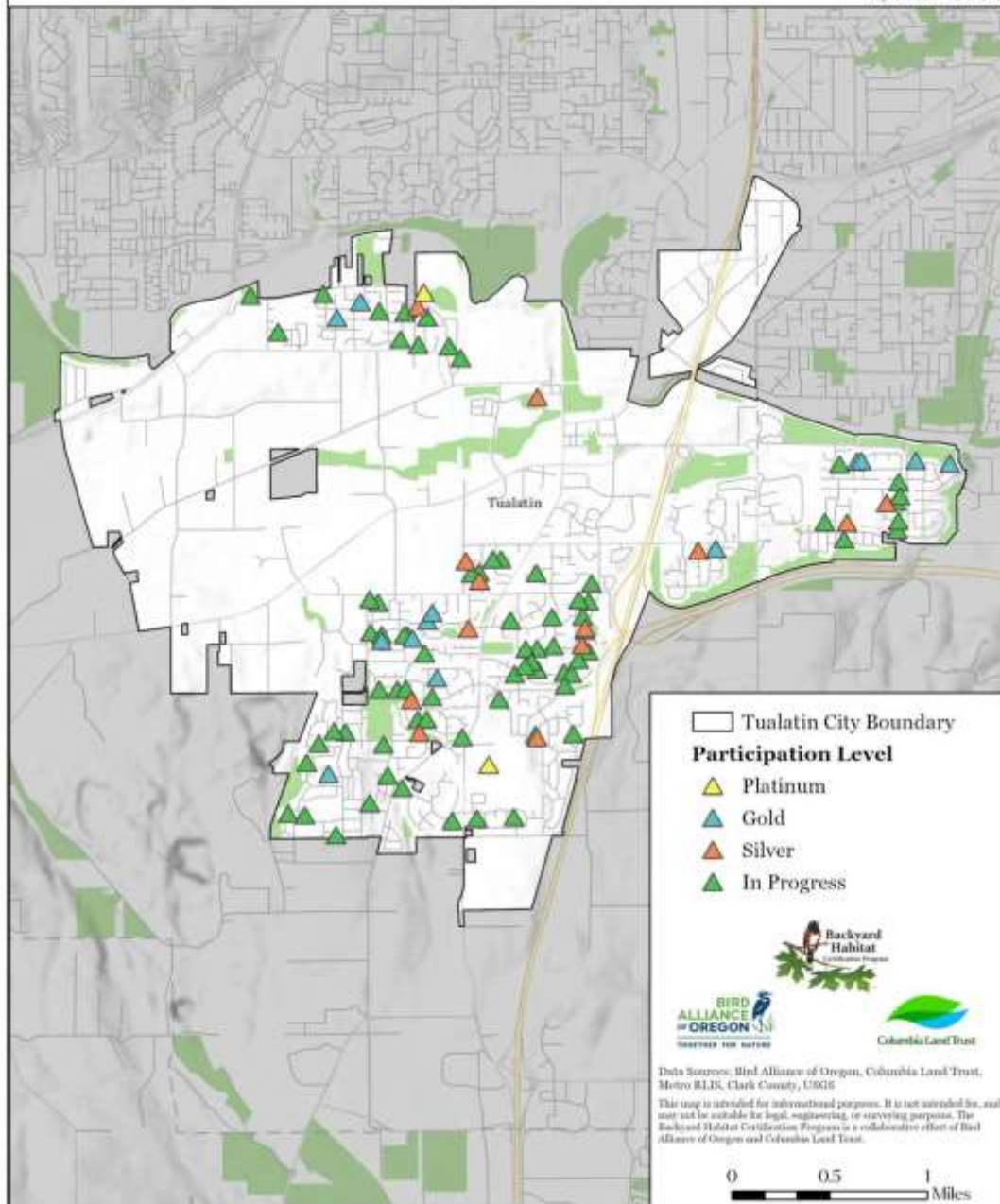


updated: January 27, 2026

Backyard Habitat Certification Program

City of Tualatin - All Years

Map Created: 1/21/2026



City of Tualatin Outreach CY 2025

- Presentation to Philanthropic Education Organization
- Arbor Day Planting Event
- Tualatin Public Library



City of Tualatin Highlights CY 2025



Tualatin High School's Environmental Design Class,
Platinum Certified - naturescaped rain swale
June 11, 2025

City of Tualatin Participants



Thanks to our program partners!



Questions?

"A year after being Backyard Habitat Certified, we are seeing results. Yesterday it was both Northern Flicker and Downy Woodpeckers . Last week it was Townsend Warbler, Solitary Verio, Towhee, and Varied Thrush" - Dave



"This project has been a great learning experience, one that perhaps I have obsessed over. This spring has been particularly fun, watching most of the 200 some plants leaf & bloom.

Since you were here last, neighbors were inspired & removed their fence for the view & friendship; probably the greatest compliment." - Gwen