

Bullitt County Conservation District

Local Cost Share Program Guidelines

In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, money was budgeted to offer a local cost share program focused on three different Backyard Conservation projects. Below are the program guidelines.

Eligibility for 3 Backyard Conservation Cost Share programs:

- 50/50 cost-share rate not to exceed \$125.00 (Reimbursed 50% of expenses, up to a maximum of \$125)
- At the time of application, you must choose **one** project. Reimbursement requests will only be considered for the approved project.
- One application per household (Bullitt County residents only.)
- Applications will need to include information on the overall plans for the project. Layouts/designs for your projects are **required**. They do not have to be professional grade but must show a layout that shows the general scope of your project. The more information you can provide, the easier it will be to get approval for your project.
- Funding is first come, first served.
- Applications **must be approved** before starting the project. No payment will be made for purchases made prior to approval date.
- Project must be completed within 90 days of approval date on the acceptance letter.
- Photographs of completed project and receipts must be submitted within 95 days of approval date to qualify for reimbursement.
- Applications will be taken September 1, 2024 through March 21, 2025, unless budgeted funds are expended before then.
- Applicant's projects will be subject to spot-check and project must be maintained for two years.

Local Cost Share Programs

Backyard Habitat: Project components may include the following and would ideally include something from each area:

Water Source - A water source may be a bird bath, pond, or butterfly puddle.

Bird Houses and Bat Houses - Any bird or bat house is acceptable. Consider what type birds you want to attract, then buy or build a house suitable for their needs.

Cover - An area created to provide cover for animals or birds to rest or raise babies. Examples are rock groupings, tall grasses, evergreens, and dense bushes.

Food - Plant native flowers and trees that support the birds and insects. Plant a variety of species to provide a food source during all the seasons. If you wish to install a bird feeder, please be aware that this is a long-term commitment! Once you start feeding the birds, they expect you to continue feeding them. We expect that, too.

(over)

Raised Garden Beds: Raised beds are great for growing small plots of vegetables or flowers. They prevent soil compaction, provide good drainage, and serve as a barrier to pests and pathway weeds. Gardening in containers or raised beds can be just the answer for gardeners who would like to grow their own vegetables and flowers but lack the space or physical ability for a traditional garden. We do not pay for the plant or seeds. We pay for the wood for construction, dirt, netting, and any needed plastic inside the bed. (New beds only, no payment for refurbishing existing beds.) Prefabricated or ready to assemble raised beds are acceptable.

Pollinator Gardens, Monarch Way Stations: Support pollinators by supplying shelter, food, and a water source to attract them to a specific area. Regardless of their size, a pollinator garden will impact our crops and assist with fruit and vegetable production. You can use seeds or plants that are annual or perennial. These need to be planted during the optimum planting period for the variety chosen. You must have a soil sample and follow its guidelines if you wish to receive reimbursement for soil amendments.

The University of Kentucky, as well as Extension Services in other states, has a good selection of publications that will assist you with your Backyard Conservation project. Project components that require construction by the homeowner should be done using recommendations from Extension publications. Listed below are just a few of the publications you may find helpful, but others are available online. Just search for Extension publications for the subject matter you are interested in. If you cannot find what you need, give us a call. We will be happy to help you.

Raised Garden Beds

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ID/ID248/ID248.pdf>

Pollinator Garden/Monarch Waystation

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/for/for71/for71.pdf>

[For-98: Attracting Butterflies with Native Plants \(uky.edu\)](#)

Bat Houses

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/FOR/FOR48/FOR48.pdf>

Bird Houses

<https://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/g2002.pdf>

Backyard Habitats

[https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/426/426-070/SPES-247%20\(2\).pdf](https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/426/426-070/SPES-247%20(2).pdf)

These guidelines have changed slightly from the previous program year. Please make sure you read them carefully. Also, if there is something questionable on a receipt and you want to explain how it was used, please do so. This will help us in our payment approval process.

Backyard Conservation Cost Share Application

*50/50 cost-share rate not to exceed \$125.00 (Reimbursed 50% of expenses, up to a maximum of \$125)

*At the time of application, you must choose **one** project. Reimbursement requests will only be considered for the approved project.

*One application per household (Bullitt County residents only.)

*Applications will need to include detailed information on the overall plans for the project. Layouts/designs for your project are **required**.

*Funding is first come, first served.

*Applications must be approved before starting the project. No payment will be made for purchases made prior to the approval date.

*Project must be completed within 90 days of approval date on the acceptance letter.

*Photographs of completed project and receipts must be submitted within 95 days of approval date to qualify for reimbursement.

*Applications will be taken September 1, 2024 through March 21, 2025, unless budgeted funds are expended before then.

*Applicant's projects can be subject to spot-check and project must be maintained for two years.

*****PLEASE COMPLETE THE APPLICATION BELOW AND RETURN TO THE CONSERVATION OFFICE*****

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE #: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please check **one** project area of interest from the list below:

_____ Backyard Habitat

_____ Raised Garden Beds

_____ Pollinator Garden/Monarch Waystation

Description of your project (drawings/layout designs required). (Attach additional pages, if needed.)

(over)

Yes or No (please circle one) I allow photographs of my finished project to be taken and/or used by the Conservation District for documentation and cost share promotion.

If you live in an area with an HOA, your project must comply with their regulations as well as those of this cost share program.

Disclaimer: In no event will Bullitt County Soil Conservation District be liable for any special, direct, indirect, consequential, incidental, property, or punitive damages whatsoever arising from the Backyard Conservation Program project.

I agree to the terms outlined above:

Applicant Signature

Date

Return signed application to:

Bullitt County Soil Conservation
1048 N. Bardstown Rd.
Mt. Washington, KY 40047

or email to: bccd@bullittcountysoilconservation.com

Contact us at 502-538-0628 with any questions.

<p>Office Use Only</p> <p>Program Year 2024-2025</p> <p>Date application submitted: _____</p> <p>Date of Board review: _____</p> <p>Approved or Denied _____</p> <p>Target date for completion _____</p> <p>Actual completion date _____</p> <p>Last day for receipt submission _____</p>
