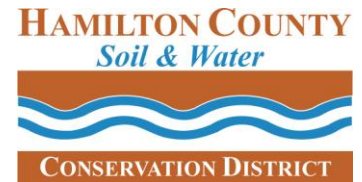




## Backyard Conservation Annual Award Program



**Purpose:** To recognize private landowners (individuals, homeowner associations, workplaces, places of worship, and others) who are conserving and enhancing our natural resources through backyard conservation practices.

**Eligible Practices:** Any and all of the following practices are considered Backyard Conservation Practices. List on the application all that have been applied to your site (minimum of 5 practices required for eligibility):

- Composting
- Water Edge Enhancements
- Filter Strips
- Invasive Plant Control
- Mulching
- Native Plantings (landscaping and/or naturalized areas)
- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management
- Rain Garden
- Pervious Pavement/Pavers
- Wildlife Ponds and/or Wetlands
- Rain Barrels
- Terracing
- Vegetative/Bioengineered Streambank Stabilization
- Water Conservation
- Wildlife Habitat Areas
- Windbreaks and Other Tree/Shrub Plantings

This is not a complete list. Other practices that meet the criteria of Backyard Conservation may be included.

Applications should also describe the sustainability plan for the site, any community or volunteer involvement, and educational/outreach efforts (brochures, signage, etc.). Please enclose photos, if possible, preferably with the home, workplace, or other surroundings included.

**Eligible Applicants:** Any private landowner in Hamilton County, including individuals, homeowner associations, workplaces, places of worship, and others. Applications will be put into one of five (5) categories, depending on the ownership of the property: single family residence, homeowner association, non-profit organization, small business, and commercial/industrial.

**Timeline:** Applications should be turned in by 8 a.m. on Friday, October 15, 2010 to the Hamilton County SWCD ([www.hamiltonswcd.org](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org) or (317) 773-2181). The winners will be notified by December 15<sup>th</sup> of the same year.

**Judging:** Applications will be judged by the Hamilton County SWCD and its Backyard Conservation Program Steering Committee and will be scored using an established ranking sheet, focusing around three areas of conservation: wildlife habitat, water quality, and soil quality. Site visits will be conducted on finalists' sites to ensure accuracy of application.

**Winners:** One winner will be selected in each ownership category and will receive a certificate and sign as recognition. They will also receive one of the following prizes: a flat of native plants from Native Plants Unlimited, Cool Creek Concert tickets or handmade bird nest boxes donated by the Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Department, or a rain barrel from Automatic Irrigation Supply Company! The winners will also be featured on the SWCD's website and will be mentioned in press releases upon winning. Winners will be recognized at the SWCD's annual meeting, held in March of 2011 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds. Project information and photos will be used for publicity and other public outreach and education efforts. Winners may apply for the award again, if they have established new conservation practices since receiving the award (and only new practices will be considered in the judging process).

