

Conservation Landscape Certification Checklist 20.2

RESIDENTIAL / SMALL MIXED-USE PROPERTY

Check green boxes if you have implemented at least 3 from the list for that item for Criteria 1-5. You must re-save this document (add your name) to edit. Criteria 6 and 7 are optional.

CORE CRITERIA 1 : Provide wildlife habitat.

1.1. Provide food for wildlife

A. Food Plants

Three species of plants offering the following foods:

Optional Points _____
(1 point for each food plant type)

- Seeds
- Edible berries
- Foliage/Twigs
- Nuts
- Other Fruits
- Sap

Notes:

Notes: List plants providing above that are present on your property, and number of each

B. Supplemental feeders

Optional Points _____
(1 point for each feeder type)

- Suet
- Bird Feeder
- Mammal Feeder
- Hummingbird Feeder
- Butterfly Feeder
- Other:

Notes:

C. Species of plants that offer pollen and nectar during each month of the growing season.

Optional Points _____
(1 point for plant species)

Notes: List plants providing above that are present on your property, and number of each

1.2. Provide clean water source(s) for wildlife to drink and bathe

Optional Points _____
(3 points for each source)

- Adjacent or nearby water source: Lake, bay, wetland, river, stream, pond
- Integrated water source: rain garden, pond, or backyard wetland/seasonal pool, open basin or barrel

In urban and suburban areas consider these options for adding a water source for wildlife.

- Bird baths and container water gardens.
- Maintained puddle (butterflies, other insects, wildlife)
- Other:

1.3. Provide shelter for wildlife

Optional Points _____
(1 point for each)

- Wooded Area
- Bramble Patch
- Ground Cover
- Rock Pile or Wall
- Cave
- Roosting Box
- Dense Shrubs or Thicket
- Evergreens
- Brush or Log Pile
- Burrow
- Meadow or Prairie
- Water Garden or Pond
- Amphibian house
- Leave garden plants in place over winter or long term

Notes:

Create or preserve other places for wildlife to engage in courtship behavior, mate, and then bear and raise their young:

- Mature Trees
- Nesting Boxes, including for bees (do not place many bee boxes together)
- Wetland
- Host Plants for Caterpillars: esp. oaks, cherries, willows, birches, aspen
- Dead Trees or Snags
- Bare soil for insects, bird dust baths

Notes:

CORE CRITERIA 2 Practice soil and water conservation.

2.1. Reduce stormwater runoff

Optional Points _____
(1 point for each practice implemented)

- Create buffers for all riparian areas and shoreline with plants and other structures
- Capture Rain Water from Roof
- Water slowing and infiltration structures: terraces, rocks, swale plantings, wetlands, turnouts, water bars
- Mulch
- Rain Garden
- Other Water Collection
- Permeable hardscapes
- Conserve or add tree canopy
- Green roof(s)
- Downspout mini-rain gardens
- StreamSmart principles applied to all stream crossings

2.2. Other water conservation practices

Optional Points _____
(1 point for each practice implemented)

- Xeriscape (water-wise landscaping)
- Drip or Soaker Hose for Irrigation
- No lawn irrigation
- Limit Water Use
- Re-use greywater

Notes:

Optional Points _____
(Below: 3 points for each practice implemented)

- StreamSmart principles applied to all stream crossings
- LakeSmart certification completed

2.3. Build soil

Optional Points _____
(1 point for each practice implemented)

- Avoid tilling or disturbing healthy soil layers
- Keep leaf litter in place
- Mulch with yard waste
- Leave garden plant matter on soil
- Compost

□ 2.4. Control soil erosion

Optional Points _____
(1 point for each practice)

- Mulch
- Add plants to areas that need soil stabilization
- Create multi-level buffers for water bodies
- Use Maine erosion and sediment control practices during any construction
- Maintain gravel road and driveway surfaces and ensure proper drainage

CORE CRITERIA 3 Control invasive species.

□ 3.1 General Practices

Optional Points _____
(3 points for each practice implemented)

- Find and assess how many invasive plants you have
- Have a professional invasive plant management plan created.
- Remove, contain or suppress non-native Plants and Animals
- Monitor for invasive pests and plants and practice Early Detection Rapid Response to eliminate new infestations
- Report uncommon or new invasive species to state or local conservation agencies

Describe invasives management activities and monitoring:

CORE CRITERIA 4 Plant for ecosystem support.

□ 4.1. Create functional plant assemblages

Optional Points _____
(3 points for each practice)

- Replace grass lawn with sedges, mosses, other natives
- Keep lawn length to greater than 3 inches and allow low flowering plants to live in the lawn area, such as violets, clover, dandelions, pussy toes, spring beauties, others
- Plant native plants
- Create vertically structured plant communities that include several layers, from groundcover to large trees
- Create or conserve a wooded area or woodland edge
- Create a meadow, mowed to protect wildlife and provide pollinator plants

□ 4.2. Enhance biodiversity through planting

Optional Points _____
(3 points for each practice)

- Conserve or add high invertebrate support plants: oaks, willows, birches, aspens, cherries, goldenrods, asters, strawberries, sunflowers, others

- Add plants that meet wildlife needs where species are lost or declining, such as adding hard (nuts) and soft (fruit and seeds) mast trees to replace chestnut, beech, elm and ash seeds.
- Increase site plant diversity
List biodiversity plants added (additional native plants added):

CORE CRITERIA 5 Implement organic practices.

□ 5.1 General practices

Optional Points _____
(1 point for each practice implemented)

- Practice Integrated Pest Management
- Eliminate Chemical Pesticides
- Eliminate Chemical Fertilizers
- Compost creation and use
- Change regimens on lawns to eliminate use of pesticides and fertilizers
- Use natural or non-toxic pesticides and herbicides
- Hand pick pests
- Trap pests
- Add or lure organisms that control pests
- Cover or protect plants vulnerable to pests and herbivores
- Change plantings
- Companion planting
- Suppress weeds with cutting and mowing
- Other:

CORE CRITERIA 6 Optional: Other conservation practices

□ 6.1 General practices Check box if at least one is completed.

Optional Points _____
(2 points for each practice implemented)

- Plant for reduced energy use in buildings: shade for cooling, windbreaks on north sides, sun exposure in winter
- Create a dark plan for night lighting to reduce light pollution and protect night flying insects: solid light covers, motion detector on switches on all outdoor lights
- Reduce exterior noise to create quiet soundscapes for wildlife
- Keep dogs leashed/confined and cats indoors
- Other:

CORE CRITERIA 7 Optional: Steward or create woodland areas.

7.1 General practices

Optional Points _____
(1 point for each practice implemented)

Add CONSERVATION FOREST CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST to determine points for forest land practices. At least three must be implemented to check box 7.1. If you have over 2 acres of woodlands, please certify those forested lands separately.

Resources See our website section Eco Landscaping and Conservation Land Management for online and other resources for each Criteria on this checklist. The criteria numbers are matched with some resource links. **Please send us your suggestions for items that could be added to this checklist.**

How to submit your certification application

1. Complete this checklist. If all green boxes are checked (3 items completed for each #1 through # 5), you qualify for basic conservation land certification provided the practices are implemented correctly on your site. Criteria #6 and 7 are optional. Submit the checklist by mail to our office or by email to aleta.waldosoilandwater@gmail.com, or to us at www.waldocountysoilandwater.org/contact-us/

If you would like to assess your progress in more detail, you can do point totals for each section, and work towards our Master Conservationist level of certification:

Aspiring 5 -64

Certification 65
Or 5 Core Criteria

Master Conservationist Level 140

POINT TOTAL FOR THIS APPLICATION _____ **AWARDED** _____ (SWCD USE)
Date _____ **Staff** _____

2. Contact us on our website or by phone to schedule a time for our staff to visit your property and review your practices on site.
3. If you successfully complete your land certification, you can receive a sign to post (small fee) and /or a certificate of certification, which can be used to support other land applications and requirements.
4. Certified Conservation Landscape owners will be recognized at our Annual Meeting and in our Annual Journal. You may also volunteer to help others complete this process.

Name _____

Property Address _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Acres _____ Uses/ Notes _____