

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROJECT

Kevin Mink, Urban Soil Health Specialist

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Oklahoma County Conservation Di...
Apr 21 · 🌐

State of the Compost Webisode #1



State of the Compost
webisode #1
April 21, 2020

 You and 13 others

3 Comments 12 Shares 701 Views

 Love

 Comment

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Oklahoma County Conservation Di...
May 8 · 🌐

Compost Webisode #2: Hügelkultur



Hügelkultur Raised Garden
Beds
Webisode #2

 15

14 Shares 905 Views

 Like

 Comment

 Share



Oklahoma County Conservation Di...
Jun 8 · 🌐

Webisode #3: Starting Your Own Compost Pile



Building Your Own
Compost Pile

 6

1 Comment 5 Shares 312 Views

HOW IT STARTED

TACKLING CONSERVATION YARD BY YARD

- Promote native plant diversity
- Improve local water quality
- Promote local food production
- Decrease usage of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.
- Decrease excess water usage from irrigation
- Create pollinator and wildlife habitat
- Promote land stewardship

EXPERTS & RESOURCES



- City of Oklahoma City
 - Water Conservation Coordinator
 - Sustainability Manager
- Oklahoma Forestry Services
 - Urban Forestry Coordinator
- OSU Extension
 - Urban Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator
- Oklahoma Conservation Commission
 - Soil Health Coordinator



YARD BY YARD - CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

Please fill out all the required information. Check all the boxes that apply and submit this checklist with your video or photos. Certification requires that you maintain a pesticide-free yard and utilize 5 practices across 3 of our 4 categories.

Name: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____ Phone Number: _____
Email: _____

- ☐ I maintain a pesticide-free yard. (This means no use of synthetic herbicide, pesticide, or pre-emergent applications)

Soil

- ☐ Use of organic mulch (non-rubber, non-dyed) such as wood chips or leaves to help build soil organic matter and hold moisture
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/all-you-need-to-know-about-mulch.html>
- ☐ On-site Composting system capturing organic waste for use in the landscape
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/backyard-composting-in-oklahoma.html>
- ☐ Practice mulch mowing of lawn rather than bagging lawn clippings
<https://www.okc.gov/departments/utilities/squeeze-every-drop/saving-water-outdoors>
- ☐ Improve soil and plant health through compost amendments
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/healthy-garden-soils.html>
- ☐ Increase mowing height to at least 3"
<https://www.okc.gov/departments/utilities/squeeze-every-drop/saving-water-outdoors>

Water

- ☐ Xeriscape and/or other heat/drought tolerant plants that require little or no extra water
http://www.forestry.ok.gov/Websites/forestry/Images/L-333_Xeriscape_plants.pdf
- ☐ Use of efficient irrigation equipment and controllers
<https://www.okc.gov/departments/utilities/squeeze-every-drop/saving-water-outdoors/irrigation-checkup>
- ☐ Utilize rain barrels to capture rainwater for irrigation use
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/design-of-rainwater-harvesting-systems-in-oklahoma.html>
- ☐ Use of a rain garden or bioswale to capture, slow and infiltrate rainwater
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/sustainable-landscapes-designing-a-rain-garden-for-residential-property.html>



Food

- ☐ Presence of vegetable garden, whether in ground, containerized, or raised bed
<https://extension.okstate.edu/topics/plants-and-animals/crops/vegetables/index.html>
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/container-gardening.html>
- ☐ Presence of herb garden for cooking and/or medicinal purposes
<https://havenscapes.com/how-to-plant-an-herb-garden/>
- ☐ Use of cover crops or companion plantings
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/earth-kind-gardening-series-cultural-control-practices.html>
- ☐ Presence of fruit-producing trees or shrubs
<https://extension.okstate.edu/topics/plants-and-animals/crops/fruits-and-tree-nuts/index.html>
- ☐ Integration of grazing/ pasture animals (chickens, goats, etc.)
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/backyard-flock-production.html>
- ☐ Maintenance of honeybee hives for honey production
<https://www.oklabees.com/bee-buzz-library>

Habitat

- ☐ Use of native or well-adapted plants to Oklahoma
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/oklahoma-proven-plant-selections-for-oklahoma.html>
- ☐ Use of host plants for native wildlife (ex. milkweed for monarchs)
<http://www.okiesformonarchs.org/what-to-plant-where-to-buy/>
- ☐ Nonnative or invasive plant species excluded or removed from landscape
<https://extension.okstate.edu/topics/plants-and-animals/insects-pests-and-diseases/weeds-and-invasive-plants/index.html>
- ☐ Lawn and turf grass areas have been reduced or eliminated
<https://www.okc.gov/departments/utilities/squeeze-every-drop/saving-water-outdoors/lawn-management>
- ☐ Functional and flowering lawn species like clover are protected and not mowed
- ☐ Plant diversity providing nectar and pollen for wildlife throughout the growing season
<http://www.okiesformonarchs.org/what-to-plant-where-to-buy/>
- ☐ Presence of native trees/shrubs creating vertical structure
<http://www.forestry.ok.gov/Websites/forestry/Images/Putting%20Down%20Roots%20-%20OKC.pdf>
- ☐ Presence of bee hotels, birdhouses, and/or bat boxes
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/snags-cavity-trees-and-downed-logs.html>
<https://content.yardmap.org/learn/bee-hotels/>
- ☐ Presence of rock or brush pile
<https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/wildlife/wildlife-diversity/landscaping-wildlife>



If you are submitting a video and/or if you would allow photos/videos of you or your yard to be utilized for educational and promotional purposes, please sign the photo release below.

Photo/Video Release Form

I, _____ (please print) grant permission to the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts and the _____ Conservation District the irrevocable and unrestricted right to reproduce the photos/videos images taken of me for the purpose of publication, promotion, illustration, advertising, or trade, in any manner or medium. I hereby release the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts and the _____ Conservation District for all claims and liability relating to said images/video. Furthermore, I grant permission to use my statements that were given during an interview, with or without my name, for the purpose of advertising and publicity without restriction. I waive my right to compensation.

I acknowledge that I am over eighteen (18) years of age _____ (initial)

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For District Use Only:

Date Video/Photos Received: _____

Date Site Visit Completed: _____

Date Sign Provided: _____

Follow-up Scheduled For: _____

THE CHECKLIST



I maintain a pesticide-free yard.

(This means no use of synthetic herbicide, pesticide, or pre-emergent applications)



SOIL

- Use of organic mulch (non-rubber, non-dyed) such as wood chips or leaves to help build soil organic matter and hold moisture
- On-site Composting system capturing organic waste for use in the landscape
- Practice mulch mowing of lawn rather than bagging lawn clippings
- Improve soil and plant health through compost amendments
- Increase mowing height to at least 3"





WATER

- Xeriscape and/or other heat/drought tolerant plants that require little or no extra water
- Use of efficient irrigation equipment and controllers
- Utilize rain barrels to capture rainwater for irrigation use
- Use of a rain garden or bioswale to capture, slow and infiltrate rainwater





FOOD

- Presence of vegetable garden, whether in ground, containerized, or raised bed
- Presence of herb garden for cooking and/or medicinal purposes
- Use of cover crops or companion plantings
- Presence of fruit-producing trees or shrubs
- Integration of grazing/ pasture animals (chickens, goats, etc.)
- Maintenance of honeybee hives for honey production





HABITAT

- Use of native or well-adapted plants to Oklahoma
- Use of host plants for native wildlife (ex. milkweed for monarchs)
- Nonnative or invasive plant species excluded or removed from landscape
- Lawn and turf grass areas have been reduced or eliminated
- Plant diversity providing nectar and pollen for wildlife throughout the growing season
- Presence of native trees/shrubs creating vertical structure
- Presence of bee hotels, birdhouses, and/or bat boxes
- Presence of rock or brush pile





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THE CHECKLIST







FOLLOW-UP & CERTIFICATION

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- Yard by Yard Project Signage
- Native Wildflower & Pollinator Seed Mix (covers 250 sq. ft.)
- Yard by Yard Promotional Stickers
- Community Outreach Postcards
- State & Local Representation Outreach Cards

LOCAL REPRESENTATION OUTREACH

- City Councilperson
- State Senator
- State House Representative



Dear: _____

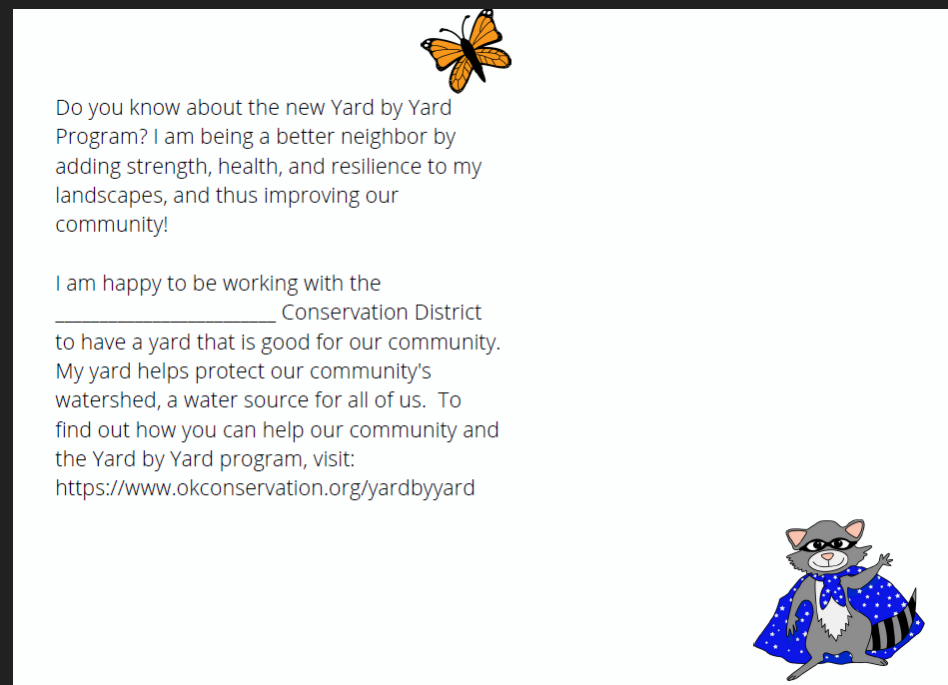


I am happy to be working with the _____ Conservation District to have a yard that is good for my community. My yard helps protect the _____ watershed.

Do you know about the new Yard by Yard Program? Please support me and my neighbors as we add strength, health, and resilience to our landscapes, and thus to our communities! Will you also support the use of conservation practices in our public areas, such as parks and right of ways?

I vote for local leaders who know and understand what the environmental issues are, both locally and globally. Please earn my vote by standing up for sustainability and conservation districts.





COMMUNITY OUTREACH CARDS

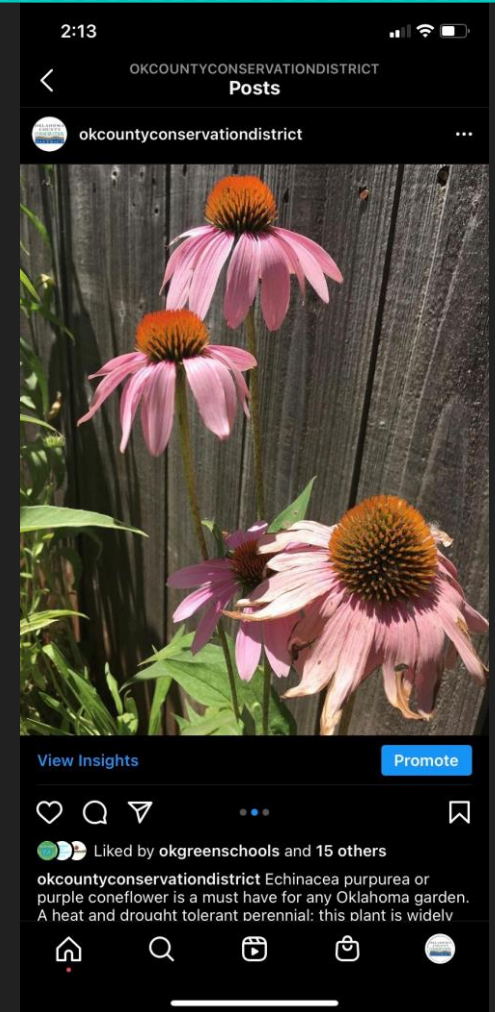
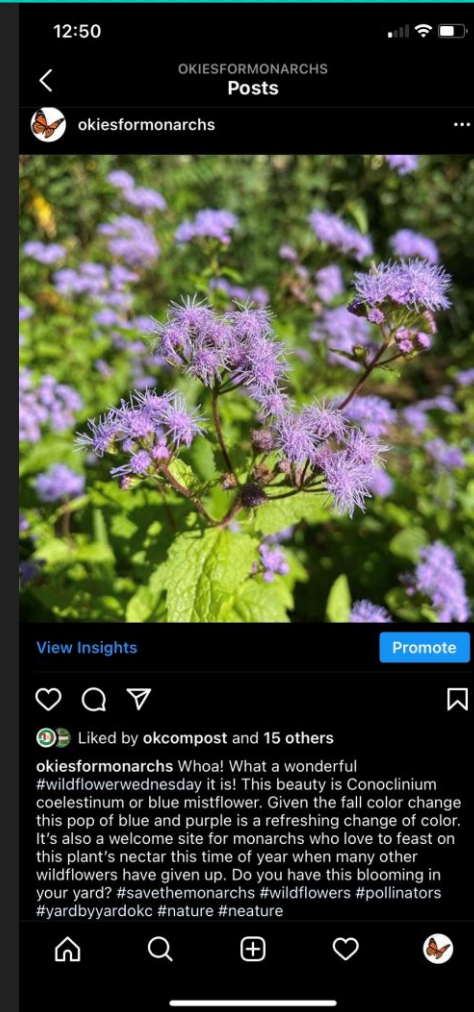
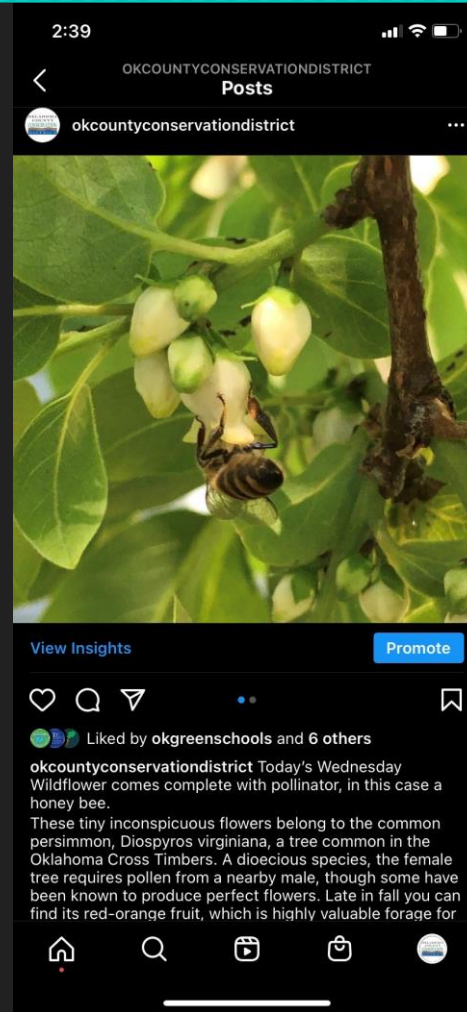
PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES

Outdoor Monarch Rearing
w/ Dr. Patrick Bell of
Oklahoma Native Plant
Society



PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES

Wildflower Wednesday Posts



FUTURE QUESTIONS

- Code Enforcement Citations → Catalyst for local change?
- Additional Practices & Categories → What's missing that is important?
- The Problem of Pesticides → How and where do we draw the line?
- Can program be adapted to national level?

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Statewide Launch Coming Spring 2021
 - Online and in-person Yard by Yard trainings for interested conservation districts
- Opportunities for Research
 - Impacts on local watershed and water quality
- Community Level Intervention
 - Association of Central Oklahoma Governments looking to promote program in particular neighborhoods



Kevin Mink

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405-415-4600

<https://www.okconservation.org/yardbyyard>

<https://www.facebook.com/OKcountyconservationdistrict>

THANK YOU!