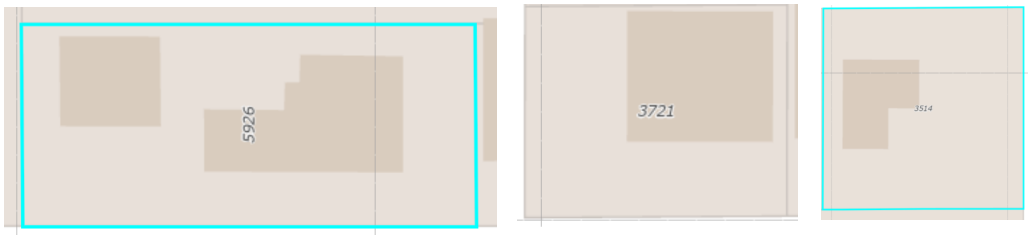
Determinating Naturescaped Area

1) Use a "zone" approach

Focus on the "*zones*" of a yard. What counts as a zone? The "zones" will depend on the site. Many times it might be a front yard or backyard or a large side yard. Other times, the entire yard might be considered a zone. Each yard is different. Examples:



Get a sense of the entire yard & its habitat to determine any zones. It can be helpful to approach it from a bird or pollinator perspective. Then just trust your gut & don't overthink it.

2) Elements of a naturescaped area

1. Within a zone, look for "*planted areas*". Planted areas are areas of a yard that have focused plantings (i.e. where plants are grouped together, such as in a mulched bed or the example to the right). Areas <u>will</u> range in size.
2. If 50% or more of a planted area has PPL native plants (from any canopy layer), note the square footage of that "PPL-planted area". Repeat for all the **PPL-planted areas**.

   <u>NOTE</u>: It is okay (& common!) to count only a portion of a planted area as a PPL-planted area.

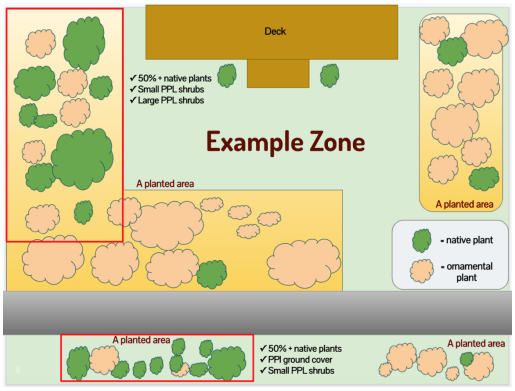
Example of a planted area

3. Look for the presence of **3 or more native canopy layers** within a zone's PPL-planted areas. Ideally, each contributing zone has at least 3 <u>native</u> canopy layers present in their PPL-planted areas (but remember to keep in mind the big picture).

   <u>NOTE</u>: If they have a large native tree in their yard, wherever it may be, give 'em credit for it.

4. To determine the **total naturescaped area for a zone**, add up all the PPL-planted areas you measured (in Step 2). For a zone's naturescaped area to be used in the total property calculation (Step 5), 3 canopy layers should be present in the PPL-planted areas. However, trust your gut when deciding whether or not to include a zone if it doesn't have all 3 canopy layers.

   - In the example on the right, the 2 outlined areas are planted with 50% or more PPL native plants. Between the 2 areas, there are 3 canopy layers! Add up their sq. ft. to measure the naturescaped area for this zone.



5. To determine the **total naturescaped area for a yard**, add up the sq. ft. from zone's with naturescaped areas.

Keep in mind:

Ideal vs on-the-ground

- A balance between what is ideal and what are the actual property-by-property conditions

Big picture

- Important to keep the big picture goals in mind: creating habitat and supporting participants

BHCP is a framework

- There are various ways to create habitat; the BHCP framework focuses on some of those ways
- That framework will work really well for many situations and less well for others
- This may be helpful to share when engaging with some participants

Embrace the "gray areas"

- Measuring nature is awkward & involves leaning into the "gray areas".

Trusting your judgement

- We trust your decision-making & encourage you to trust your gut!

Ecological context to consider

<u>Habitat layout:</u>

- **Multiple canopy layers**
    - It is important to have plant species that vary in size and shape.
    - 3-dimensional gardens:
        - Provide different niches for food, shelter, nesting, etc.
        - The more niches available, the more wildlife abundance and diversity.
- **Grouping/clumping plants**
    - Flower groupings/clumps of an individual species are more attractive to pollinators & hummingbirds than when plants species are widely & randomly dispersed.
- **Foraging flight distance**
    - Ideally, nesting & foraging resources are in proximity. Particularly important for insects.
        - Example: Some bees flight right is only a couple hundred feet.
    - Quality & size of habitat patches affect pollinator populations. "*The shorter the distance a bee has to fly to find flowers, the more efficiently it can forage and provide for more offspring*". (Xerces Society)
- **Plant diversity**
    - "*If you want to support lots of wildlife, you must supply as many different species of native plants as you can.*" – Bringing Nature Home author, Doug Tallamy