

Biodiversity at Ready Mixed Concrete Plants

Tools to implement habitat & biodiversity projects at ready mixed concrete plants

National Ready Mixed Concrete Association & Wildlife Habitat Council: Partnership for Sustainability

The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) is an independent, nonprofit assemblage of corporations, conservation organizations, and individuals dedicated to protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat. WHC strives to promote responsible environmental stewardship within corporate culture and also works to broaden the understanding of wildlife values through partnerships.

Founded in 1930, the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA) is the leading industry advocate. Its mission is to provide exceptional value for members by responsibly representing and serving the entire ready mixed concrete industry. Both organizations are proud of the partnership promoting habitat enhancement and biodiversity initiatives at ready mixed concrete production facilities. The expertise brought to this collaboration will allow ready mixed concrete production facilities to demonstrate environmental stewardship and obtain recognition for voluntary initiatives.



WHC and NRMCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding in an effort to work jointly with ready mixed concrete production facilities to aid in the development of sustainable environmental initiatives at their facilities. Typically small in size, production facilities do not have expansive tracks of land to dedicate to conservation. In the larger picture however, every initiative benefiting habitat and wildlife has value. It can represent a stopover for migratory birds, a food source for pollinators, an opportunity to increase diversity. Therefore, a unique approach to serving the specific needs and potential of ready mixed concrete production facilities was created. WHC developed a biodiversity toolkit specifically designed for the ready mixed concrete industry to engage in habitat projects and further their sustainability mission.

Biodiversity Toolkit

The toolkit developed provides contextual information and detailed how-to instructions needed to implement voluntary biodiversity projects at Ready Mixed Concrete production facilities. This toolkit is designed to introduce employees to potential projects and the benefits they can bring to the production facilities as well as the environment. When prepared for a partner, the biodiversity toolkit includes a brochure presenting standard habitat enhancement recommendations chosen to fit the industry and the typical plant landscape. Those project opportunities include:

- Identify and manage exotic, invasive species
- Create habitat for pollinators
- Establish an avian management program
- Enhance visual berms
- Wetland / pond structural enhancement
- Conservation education

Several supporting documents are also provided as part of the biodiversity toolkit. These include native species lists, technical references, links to priority actions in the state, potential partner contact, wildlife management plan templates, sample monitoring logs and certification information. WHC's goal is to provide the production facilities with all the information they need to be able to readily pursue one or more of these projects and initiate a strong program.

How to get Started

The biodiversity toolkit and associated voluntary habitat projects are part of WHC's *Wildlife at Work*SM program. Under the program, valuable habitat projects going above and beyond mitigation and regulation are eligible for certification. Certification requirements are detailed in the biodiversity toolkit and can also be found on WHC's website at www.wildlifehc.org.

Productions facilities initiating projects, participating in the program and/or pursuing certification can also obtain points under the NRMCA Sustainable Plant Guideline system. Actions and values are presented in the official documentation available through NRMCA.

WHC strongly encourages corporate strategies to be set as part of an integrated approach to sustainability. Several projects are compatible with operations and still represent opportunities for employee and community involvement. If the program is undertaken at the site level, the following are typical steps to plan for:

- Contact WHC, discuss with WHC regional biologist to identify best approach
- Request Biodiversity Toolkit
- Initiate first project and schedule biologist visit

For further information about the Biodiversity Toolkit, contact WHC's Director of Field Programs, Josiane Bonneau (jbonneau@wildlifehc.org / 301.588.8994 x105)

NRMCA – WHC Partner Form

Date: _____

Plant Information			
Company:		Point of Contact Name, Function:	
Plant/Location Name:		Email:	
Address:		Telephone:	
City, State	Zip Code:	Contact Mailing Address:	
Eligibility			
Are you a member of NRMCA			
Are you a member of the Wildlife Habitat Council			
Does your operation include less than 10 acres of land (owned or leased)			
Physical Characteristics			
Total Site Acreage:		Acreage potentially available for wildlife:	
Acreage Currently Managed for wildlife:			
Number of employees on site:			
Are there currently any biodiversity or habitat enhancement projects in place			
If so, describe:			
Please check all applicable to the site			
There is a retention / drainage pond on site			
Visual berms surround the entirety or part of the operations			
There are bodies of water (wetland, stream, creek) on site or bordering the site			
There are landscaped areas on site or at the entrance points			
We have observed the presence of birds on and around site			
The site includes a buffer area where no activities occur			
Which of the following objectives would you like your program to achieve?			
Habitat Restoration / enhancement	Community Relations	Cost Savings	
Employee relations	Public Relations	Other (specify)	
SIGNATURE			
Signature of authorized site representative		Date:	

Please fax at 301.588.4629 or email at jbonneau@wildlifehc.org

Once received a regional biologist will contact you to gather additional details, billing information and explain the project and certification process. Allow 5 to 7 working days to receive the project information toolkit. If you have any questions, please contact Josiane Bonneau, Director of Field Programs at 301.588.8994 x105

Received (date/Initials) _____
 Contacted (date/Initials) _____
 Payment Received _____
 Toolkit Sent (date/Initials) _____