



ENTRY FORM

# Child-Friendly Backyard CONTEST

Sponsored by Leave No Child Inside – Greater Cincinnati



## The Contest:

We know that unstructured outdoor play leads to happier, healthier and smarter children! Leave No Child Inside wants to encourage a return to the joyful, creative outdoor play activities that should be the birthright of all children. Our Grow Outside Guide to Outdoor Play (available at [www.LNClgc.org](http://www.LNClgc.org)) includes ideas for creating a Child-Friendly Backyard. The contest is a fun way to encourage parents to allocate space for these safe, unstructured play areas. To be eligible for awards, yards must be within a thirty mile radius of Downtown Cincinnati.

## Guidelines:

Since the key words for a Child-Friendly Backyard are “creative” and “unstructured”, our guidelines are minimal! The measure of success for a Child-Friendly Backyard is that it will be a place your children and their friends will want to spend time playing, imagining and learning for many years to come! We will be judging you on your use of space, not the size of your yard. Here are some things to consider:

### Safety

Free of lawn and garden chemicals, no poisonous plants, clear boundaries, child in view of parents.

### Encourages Unstructured, Creative Play

Includes elements which offer opportunities for children to have “ownership” of the space; natural materials present for children to discover, learn from and use.

### Invites Other Creatures

Includes elements which attract wildlife. Examples include plants which attract birds or butterflies or a compost area.

## How to Enter:

Complete the entry form on the back of this page and submit it with photos of your Child Friendly Backyard no later than August 15, 2009. You can download extra copies from our website.



**Mail to: Child-Friendly Backyard Contest**  
**c/o Civic Garden Center**  
**2715 Reading Road**  
**Cincinnati, Ohio 45206**

Finalists will be contacted and our judges will tour your Child-Friendly Backyard to determine winners.

## Recognition:

Photos of the winning Child-Friendly Backyards will be posted on our website. Winners will be recognized at an awards ceremony in the fall of 2009.

Leave No Child Inside-Greater Cincinnati is a collaborative of individuals and organizations educating the community that time spent in nature is essential for the physical, mental and emotional health of all children. The collaborative includes:

- Cincinnati Horticultural Society
- Cincinnati Museum Center
- Cincinnati Nature Center
- Cincinnati Observatory Center
- Cincinnati Park Board
- Cincinnati Recreation Commission
- Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden
- Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati
- Environmental Education Council of Ohio
- Granny’s Garden School
- Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators
- Green Umbrella
- Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, Solid Waste Management District
- Hamilton County Park District
- Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Joy Outdoor Education
- Imago
- Keep Cincinnati Beautiful
- Mill Creek Restoration Project
- Oxbow, Inc.





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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND FEEL FREE TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PAGES IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE!

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

PHONE: ..... E-MAIL: .....

**When did you create your Child-Friendly Backyard?**

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**What inspired you to create it?**

.....

**Was your child involved in the design/and or installation? Explain.**

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**How often do children play in the space?**

.....

**What is your child's/children's favorite thing about the Child-Friendly Backyard?**

*(If your child is old enough to write, ask them to complete this section!)*

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**What has your child/children learned as a result of playing in the Child-Friendly Backyard?**

*(If your child is old enough to write, ask them to complete this section!)*

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**Please submit 4x6" color photos of your Child-Friendly Backyard with the entry form.**