ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

Lighthouse Aurora, Susan Lippman

GENERAL PURPOSE

Austin Sierra Club

P.O. Box 4581
Austin, TX 78765-4581
Bruce Melton (512) 799-7998
E-mail: bmelton@earthlink.net
Net: sierraclub.org/texas/austin
Facebook: facebook.com/sierraclubatx
Instagram: instagram.com/sierraclubatx

Purpose: The Austin Sierra Club is the local arm of one of America's oldest and largest environmental organizations. Our mission is to explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives; and to provide cultural and natural systems equity and justice in the development of this mission.

The Austin Group of the Sierra Club is well known for immensely popular group outings to enjoy wild places, and for local environmental activism. Our current campaigns are for climate change, surface water, the Edwards Aquifer, open spaces/parks, energy, public transportation and transportation infrastucture, air quality, and anti-sprawl efforts.

Projects/Activities: Hiking, campouts, cycling, environmental conservation/service projects, social activities.

Meetings: General meetings are 2nd Wednesday of most months at El Mercado, 1302 S. 1st, Austin. Food ordered at 6:30 PM, with program at 7 PM. Climate Crisis meetings are 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover Ave., Austin. Potluck starts at 6:30 PM, with program at 7 PM.

Volunteer Opportunities: There are active committees for everyone's interests, fun, or service: Climate Change; Outings; Conservation; Environmental Education; Singles; Fundraising; Membership.

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Newsletters/Publications: *Austin Sierran* e-newsletter; monthly Lone Star Chapter newsletter; quarterly National Sierra Club magazine.

Dues: No dues for local group. National dues: $39/year; $15/First Time; $24 Students/limited income & seniors.

Environmental Defense Fund Austin Office

301 Congress Avenue, Suite 1700
Austin, TX 78701
E-mail: members@edf.org
Net: edf.org
Facebook: facebook.com/EnvDefenseFund

Purpose: One of the world's leading international nonprofit organizations, Environmental Defense Fund creates transformational solutions to the most serious environmental problems. To do so, EDF links science, economics, law and innovative private-sector partnerships. With more than 3 million members and offices in the United States, China, Mexico, Indonesia and the European Union, EDF's scientists, economists, attorneys and policy experts are working in 28 countries to turn our solutions into action.

Newsletters/Publications: *Solutions*, quarterly.

Travis Audubon Society

3908 Avenue B
Austin, TX 78751
(512) 300-2473
E-Mail: info@travisaudubon.org
Net: travisaudubon.org

Purpose: Travis Audubon Society has hundreds of walks, classes, and other programs annually. The vision is to inspire conservation through birding. In 1952, the founders recognized the vital connection between conserving wildlife habitat and the ecological balance necessary for healthy and sustainable communities. Members enjoy benefits such as exclusive access to our 715-acre Baker Sanctuary, and discounts on exciting programs and classes. Join, get involved, and find inspiration in nature.

Projects/Activities: Travis Audubon provides opportunities for group birdwatching activities, public environmental awareness education, and informed environmental action.

Meetings: Monthly meetings, open to the public, are on the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June through August, and December) at 7 PM. See calendar for details.

LENORE AVANT
REALTOR
TEL 512.632.1099.
FAX 512.445.7479
lenoir1@austin.rr.com

Volunteer Opportunities: Travis Audubon offers a variety of volunteer experiences. These include promoting education through group presentations, maintaining sanctuaries, and assisting with bird surveys.

Newsletters/Publications: Online *Murmurations* blog and Annual Report.

Dues: $50-$500/year.

AIR QUALITY

CLEAN AIR Force of Central Texas

P.O. Box 29295
Austin, TX 78755
Jim Stephens (940) 367-0004
E-mail: jstephens@cleanairforce.org
Net: cleanairforce.org
Facebook: facebook.com/CLEAN-AIR-Force-of-Central-Texas-60700478852
Instagram: instagram.com/cleanairforceofcentraltexas
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/clean-air-force-of-central-texas

Purpose: We help manage air quality improvement programs in Central Texas. We are focused on motivating citizens, businesses and governments of this region to take actions to reduce air pollution to protect public health and the health of our economy. This includes: (1) being a liaison among stakeholders; (2) coordinating air quality planning of the private sector; (3) providing a forum for public discussion; and (4) educating the public on air quality issues.

Projects/Activities:

• Clean Air Partners Program – secures commitments from businesses and governments to voluntarily reduce their emissions by 10% or more;

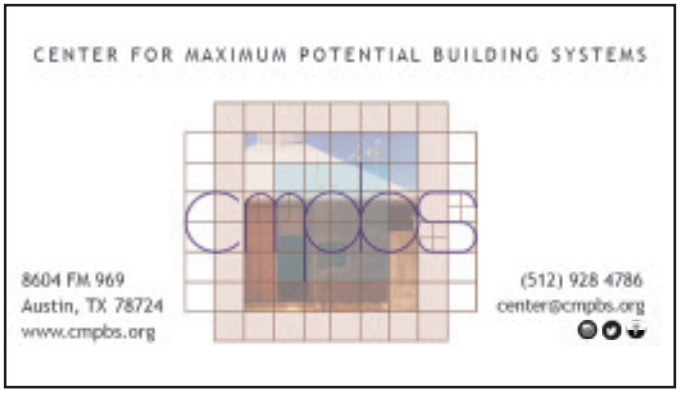
• Ozone Alert Program – informs the public via e-mail and Facebook on days when air pollution is unhealthy so citizens can take actions to reduce emissions;

• Air Quality Professionals Forum and Lunches – CAF hosts quarterly luncheons as well as working lunches, with presentations, for Austin area air quality professionals to learn about current air quality issues or trends;

• Annual Meteorologist Luncheon – CAF hosts an annual Luncheon for Austin area TV and Radio meteorologists featuring guest speakers;

• Air Monitor Installations – CAF helps facilitate the installation of neighborhood-level "PurpleAir" Monitors;

• Interns – CAF interns or "Co-Pilots" are college students majoring in sustainability or environmental studies and other volunteers concerned with sustainability.



BUILDING/DESIGN

Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems

8604 FM 969
Austin, TX 78724
Gail Vittori (512) 928-4786
E-mail: center@cmpbs.org
Net: cmpbs.org

Purpose: The Center, established in 1975, is a nonprofit education, research and demonstration organization. Our mission is to enhance community resilience, health and economic vitality by integrating air, water, food, energy, and material balanced systems through protocols, prototypes and policies.

Projects/Activities: Current initiatives include: innovations and inventions addressing integrated water and energy systems, community-scale, low-carbon and healthy building systems and materials; ecoBalance planning and design; advancing policies to promote transparency, disclosure, and reporting for construction materials; consulting on select public and private sector projects.

We are the fiscal sponsor of the Austin Green Awards (www.atxgreenawards.org) and Biomimicry Texas (facebook.com/BiomimicryTX).

U.S. Green Building Council Central Texas Region

Jonathan Kraatz (512) 470-9923
E-mail: CentralTexas@USGBCTexas.org
Net: usgbctexas.org/Central-Region

Purpose: The Central Texas Regional Council is the local voice of the U.S. Green Building Council, a national nonprofit organization working to promote the use of green building and sustainable land development practices. The Region represents 34 counties and promotes the adoption of LEED® building standards by producing programs and educational events, as well as serving as a key informational resource for local, regional, and state government.

Projects/Activities: We offer regular lunch n'learns, green building tours, and other programs throughout the year. We have strong alliances with related businesses and professional organizations in Central Texas and advocate with industry and governmental bodies on an ongoing basis.

Meetings: Regular regional meetings; building tours/mixers; lectures; symposiums; special events.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer committees include: Communications; Education and Events; Advocacy; Development; Green Schools; Emerging Professionals; and Membership. Apply at usgbctexas.org/VolunteerWithUs. Internships are also available year round.

Newsletters/Publications: Regular newsletter; e-blasts promoting upcoming educational programs; special events.

Dues: For organizations, membership of USGBC National (new.usgbc.org/membership). For individuals, membership of the Texas Chapter, which includes participation at the regional level. Pay at usgbctexas.org

ENERGY

Citizens' Climate Lobby

E-Mail: austin@citizensclimatelobby.org
Net: voicesofaustin.online
Facebook: @CCLAustinTex

Purpose: Since our founding in 2007, Citizens' Climate Lobby has operated as a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change solutions. The Austin Chapter works to influence state and city officials. CCL's advocacy focuses on legislation to promote carbon pricing, clean energy permitting reform, healthy forests, and building electrification.

Projects/Activities: The most important activity is to educate. Citizens' Climate Lobby empowers people from diverse backgrounds to educate key stakeholders, policymakers, and the public about effective solutions to climate change.

Meetings: We meet once a month on second Saturday of every month. Each regular chapter meeting consists of a national call and a local chapter meeting. Although we prefer to meet in person, there is usually a Zoom option.

Volunteer Opportunities: All members are encouraged to contact their legislators regularly on specific issues guided by CCL alerts. Other activities include tabling at local events to introduce Citizens' Climate Lobby to others, the writing of letters to the editor and other media outreach, meetings with legislative staff, and other outreach and education activities.

Send a note to austin@citizensclimatelobby.org to learn more.

Public Citizen

309 E. 11th Street, Suite 2
Austin, TX 78701
Adrian Shelley (512) 477-1155
E-Mail: ashelley@citizen.org
Net: citizen.org/texas
Facebook: facebook.com/publiccitizentx
Instagram: instagram.com/publiccitizentx/PublicCitizenTX

Purpose: Public Citizen is a nonprofit consumer advocacy organization that champions the public interest in the halls of power. Our Texas office works for clean energy, clean

environment, and clean government. Our staff advocates for progressive policies including climate action, fossil fuel retirement, clean energy adoption, public health and air pollution, chemical safety, nuclear waste policy, government ethics and reform, and voting rights. We work at the state and local levels, and on national policy in conjunction with our headquarters in Washington D.C.

Volunteer Opportunities: Public Citizen runs an internship program year round. Advocacy opportunities are shared with our members, our e-mail recipients, and our social media followers.

Dues: $20; see donate.citizen.org/page/59137/donate/1?locale=en-US.

Solar Austin

309 E. 11th Street, Suite 2
Austin, TX 78701
E-Mail: info@solaraustin.org
Net: solaraustin.org
Facebook: facebook.com/solaraustin

Purpose: Solar Austin works to accelerate the transition to clean, renewable energy in Central Texas and expand everyone's access to the benefits of solar energy to mitigate climate change while creating a healthy community and supporting a strong local economy.

Projects/Activities: We advocate for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Solar Austin has been instrumental in getting solar programs and goals established and funded at Austin Energy and continues to be a bridge between citizens, the solar industry, community nonprofits, Austin Energy, Austin's City Council, and the City's Electric Utility and Resource Management Commissions to help craft a future that works for everyone.

Meetings: Solar Austin hosts happy hours and other events with networking and speakers on topics that relate to solar and other clean energy solutions, including policies, programs, technologies, and the energy market. Check the Web site for upcoming events.

Volunteer Opportunities: Various advocacy campaigns, donated solar installations, and events.

Newsletters/Publications: Sign up for periodic emails from Solar Austin at actionnetwork.org/forms/join-the-solar-austin-supporter-list

Dues: Contributions welcomed – Solar Austin relies on your donations to advance equitable deployment of solar in Austin. Visit the Web site to give.

CLEANTX FORUM

Networking for professionals interested in renewable energy and clean technology. To join our educational forums, or to be added to our e-mail list, visit:

http://cleantx.org

Texas Solar Energy Society

P.O. Box 1447
Austin, TX 78767-1447
Patrice 'Pete' Parsons (210) 722-7270
E-Mail: pparsons@txses.org
Net: txses.org

Purpose: TXSES is a member-based organization with a mission to educate and enable every Texan to adopt solar energy. Founded in 1976, TXSES is committed to protecting clean air; building resilient, socially equitable communities; supporting local, well-paying jobs; and laying the foundation for energy independence with solar energy.

Projects/Activities: In response to increased consumer demand for solar and the unreliability of the Texas grid, we have kicked off a statewide campaign to double the amount of distributed solar in Texas by 2030. *Infinite Power: Take Your Share of the Texas Sun* features: education; working with developers to implement net-zero subdivisions; advocating for fair credit for solar from utilities; working to stop unethical solar installers; convening 34 Texas electric coops to discuss relevant issues; training low-income individuals in solar panel installation; and launching an innovative financing model for low-income participants, with the goal to take the model statewide in 2025.

Meetings: Annual meeting in January. Statewide chapters meet monthly or quarterly.

Newsletters/Publications: *The Solar Report*, bi-monthly. Join mailing list on Web site.

Dues: Starts at $40/Individual; $250-$1,500/Business.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

PODER (People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources)

P.O. Box 17294
Austin, TX 78744
Susana Almanza (512) 770-7896
E-mail: poder.austin@gmail.com
Net: poderaustin.org

Purpose: To promote community empowerment and community involvement (recruitment), PODER has undertaken programs, projects, annual celebrations, and workshops and/or trainings. These include the following:

1) "Transportation & Quality of Life," which advances the understanding and involvement of transportation planning and the decision-making process.

2) "Land Use & Community Health Action" (LUCHA), which addresses environmental, economic, health, and cultural impacts of land use and community development.

3) "Nahui-Ollin Healthy Communities Project" works with parents and youth to address air, energy, water quality, land use, and impacts of chemicals.

4) The Colorado River Conservancy organized for the protection, preservation and restoration of the wild green stretch of the Lower Colorado River that runs from East Austin's Longhorn Dam to the Travis County Line.

5) "The Young Scholars for Justice Leadership Development Program," integrating youth and young adults into all of PODER's work.

6) Solar Equity ensures that low-income and people of color residents and businesses have access to solar energy.

Meetings: Call for information.

FOOD

Austin Organic Gardeners

Mary Kraemer (512) 944-0200
E-Mail: AustinOrganicGardeners@gmail.com
Net: austinorganicgardeners.org

Purpose: 2025 will mark the 80th anniversary of Austin Organic Gardeners! Since 1945, our members have shared information about successfully raising vegetables and ornamentals without using harsh fertilizers that harm the soil and toxic pesticides that disturb the ecological balance. The club's philosophy is that human and animal health depends on the health of the soil that produces their food. Healthy soil, which is rich in organic matter, abounds with organisms that convert minerals in the soil into forms plants can use. Well-nourished plants in these soils are better able to defend themselves against insects, diseases, and other pests.

Projects/Activities: Monthly meetings, with guest speakers; exchange of gardening experiences and plants.

Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month, 6:30–9 PM, Zilker Garden Center, Austin. (No meeting December.)

Volunteer Opportunities: Staff organic gardening information booths at Zilker Garden Festival, the annual organic vegetable and herb transplant sale, and selected other community events. Opportunities to serve on the club board are also available.

Fruitful Commons

1217 Alegria Rd.
Austin, TX 78757
Angie Holliday (512) 217-5010
E-mail: admin@fruitfulcommons.org
Net: fruitfulcommons.org
Instagram: instagram.com/fruitfulcommons
Facebook: facebook.com/FruitfulCommons
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/fruitful-commons

Purpose: Fruitful Commons advances collaborative, equitable, and regenerative community agriculture to promote health and sustainability across the Austin region. By supporting food forests and community gardens, the organization empowers communities to create thriving green spaces addressing food insecurity and environmental stewardship. Partnering with neighborhood leaders, schools, the City of Austin, and faith-based organizations, Fruitful Commons fosters sustainable community commons inspiring connection, resilience, and shared abundance. The nonprofit envisions a future where every neighborhood enjoys vibrant spaces reconnecting people to growing food, nature, and each other.

Projects/Activities: We provide fiscal sponsorship for groups growing food on public or private land. The *Gathering of Growers* workshop series teaches project leaders skills for regenerative agriculture, water management, governance, and related topics. The *Tree Care Mini Grant Program* (sponsored by the City of Austin Urban Forest Grant) funds local nonprofits, schools, or community-serving groups to expand Austin's urban canopy and uplift environmental stewardship. Projects include Festival Beach Food Forest, Friends of Grand Meadow, Central Texas Seed Savers, and Cuernavaca Community Garden.

Newsletter: mailchi.mp/fruitfulcommons/fruitful-commons-newsletter-signup.

Green Corn Project

P.O. Box 49468
Austin, TX 78765
E-Mail: greencornproject@usa.net
Net: greencornproject.org

Purpose: Green Corn Project installs gardens and provides expertise for families and individuals as well as at schools and other community organizations. We provide materials, know-how and volunteers to help those with lack of access to affordable, healthy food grow some of their own vegetables and herbs. Following the garden installation or replanting, GCP supports our gardeners with advice, materials and help as needed between seasons. For gardeners that are able to do the planting themselves, GCP provides ongoing material support including seeds, plants and compost. We turn unused land into garden beds that provide food, education and a sense of accomplishment and pride for our volunteers and gardeners.

Projects/Activities: Spring and Fall Dig-Ins (garden building), seed starting workshops and Dig-in Leader Training; "Cook Globally, Grow Locally" Fall Festival at Boggy Creek Farm.

Volunteer Opportunities: Dig-in volunteers; no experience necessary. During Dig-In events held each spring and fall, volunteers work with a trained Dig-In Leader and garden recipients to build gardens. GCP provides free training for volunteers wanting to learn more about organic gardening and lead garden installations.

Newsletters/Publications: Quarterly.

Dues: Donations by mail or on Web site.

Sustainable Food Center

2921 E. 17th Street, Building C
Austin, TX 78702
(512) 236-0074
E-mail: info@sustainablefoodcenter.org
Net: sustainablefoodcenter.org
Facebook: facebook.com/SustainableFoodCenter
Instagram: instagram.com/sfclocal/
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/sustainable-food-center

Purpose: Sustainable Food Center is on a mission to transform the Texas food system to nourish our health, land, and livelihood. SFC cultivates a healthy community by supporting local farmers and improving access to nutritious, affordable food.

Projects/Activities:

• Double Up Food Bucks Texas: SFC is the statewide lead of Double Up Food Bucks Texas, a program with over 60 participating locations. The program doubles SNAP benefits $1 for $1, helping families access fresh fruits and vegetables while supporting Texas farmers and local economies. You can find participating farmers' markets, farm stands, mobile

markets, and grocery stores across Texas.

• SFC Farmers' Markets: SFC hosts weekly farmers' markets featuring more local farmers than anywhere else in Austin. Visit us every Saturday, 9 AM–1 PM:
SFC Farmers' Market Downtown: 422 Guadalupe St.
SFC Farmers' Market at Sunset Valley: 3200 Jones Rd.

• The Happy Kitchen/La Cocina Alegre®: This nationally recognized cooking and nutrition education program nurtures skills in food selection and preparation. Our free, six-week courses are taught in English and Spanish.

Newsletters/Publications: Sign up for SFC's bimonthly newsletter to receive updates on cooking classes, farmers' markets, food access programs, Texas agriculture, and action alerts: secure.sustainablefoodcenter.org/a/sfc-newsletter-signup

Texas Center for Local Food

201 North Main ST
Elgin, TX 78621.
Sue Beckwith (512) 496-1244
E-Mail: AskMe@texaslocalfood.org
Net: TexasLocalFood.org
Facebook: facebook.com/texaslocalfood
Instagram: instagram.com/texaslocalfood

Purpose: Food touches everything! We believe Texans want to eat food grown in Texas and that's healthy for our planet. We provide consultation and technical assistance to schools, communities, and organizations to help them incorporate food systems into their work, create markets for Texas-grown food and develop infrastructure to support access to it.

We are a small and scrappy organization focused on action that creates durable systems change. We'd love to have you or your organization as a member. Please contact us for rates and specific technical assistance services.

Projects/Activities: Farm-to-Kids After School Program for K-5; Local Food Resource Directory.

Volunteer Opportunities: To volunteer: (1) review projects on our Web site; and (2) e-mail your letter of interest to e-mail address above. We work with professors and instructors to support student credit for work on our projects.

Newsletters/Publications: Join on Web site to get Member Newsletter.

Dues: $20 year/Supporter; $100 year/Organizations.

Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (TOFGA)

1451 John West Rd.
Dallas, TX 75228
(512) 656-2456
E-mail: info@tofga.org
Net: tofga.org

Purpose: TOFGA is a statewide nonprofit educational and support organization for producers, manufacturers, consumers and organic supporters.

Projects/Activities: Our annual winter conference includes pre-conference workshops, farm tours, workshops, talks, technical assistance and FUN! The conference is open to current and aspiring farmers, gardeners, ranchers, land

stewards, and other producers. Workshops are organized into five tracks: Specialty Crops; Livestock; Community & Policy; Business and Marketing; and Farmers Market.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are the backbone of this organization. They staff booths, help organize and facilitate workshops and conferences, give local talks, help develop publications, and assist with fundraising.

Newsletters/Publications: The TOFGA Monthly Newsletter provides information on events, activities, products, services, and general news about TOFGA happenings and the organic farming industry.

Dues: $45/Individual; $85/Farm and Ranch; $165/Business.

FUNDRAISING

EarthShare of Texas

P.O. Box 1911
Austin, TX 78767
Emma Cravey (512) 472-5518
FAX: (512) 472-4930
E-mail: estx@earthshare-texas.org
Net: earthshare-texas.org

Purpose: An umbrella fundraising organization that raises money for environmental and conservation organizations that protect public health and our air, land, water and wildlife. EarthShare of Texas represents more than 70 local, state, national, and international environmental organizations in payroll contribution plans and other corporate partnerships across Texas.

Contact us to learn how you can help start a giving program in your workplace.

Partial List of Groups: Audubon Foundation of Texas, Austin Parks Foundation, BikeTexas Education Fund, Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems, Clean Water Fund of Texas, Colorado River Alliance, Ecology Action of Texas, Hill Country Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, Public Citizen of Texas, Save Barton Creek Association, Sierra Club Foundation, State of Texas Alliance for Recycling, Sustainable Food Center, Texas Solar Energy Society, TreeFolks, Wildflower Donor, Inc.

Volunteer Opportunities: Office assistance.

GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING

Clean Water Action

3005 S. Lamar Blvd, Ste. D109 #289
Austin, TX 78704
Becky Smith (617) 314-2347
E-mail: bsmith@cleanwater.org
Net: cleanwateraction.org
Facebook: facebook.com/CleanWaterActionTexas

Purpose: Clean Water Action is a national organization of diverse people and groups working together for clean, safe, and affordable water, the prevention of health-threatening pollution at its source, creation of environmentally safe jobs and businesses, and empowerment of people to make democracy work. We also work to elect pro-environment candidates at all levels of government and pass ballot initiatives that promote a more sustainable future.

Projects/Activities: At the national level, Clean Water Action is working to restore full protections to waterways under the Clean Water Act and enact strong climate protection legislation. In Texas, we are working to strengthen and enforce environmental laws, promote water conservation, curtail our dependence on polluting fossil fuels, and increase investments in energy efficiency and wind and solar power.

Clean Water Fund, a 501(c)3 whose programs complement those of Clean Water Action, holds an annual "Spring for Water" celebration with silent auction each April or May.

Volunteer Opportunities: Work on elections, participate at public hearings, and assist with office projects. Paid and unpaid internships, with college credit, are available.

Newsletters: *Clean Water Currents* newsletter, state and national versions.

Dues: Various membership levels.

Environment Texas

200 E. 30th Street
Austin, TX 78705
Luke Metzger (512) 479-0388
E-mail: luke@environmenttexas.org
Net: environmenttexas.org
Facebook: facebook.com/environmenttexas

Purpose: We all want clean air, clean water, and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of progress. That's the idea behind Environment Texas. We focus exclusively on protecting Texas' air, water, and open spaces. We take action at the local, state, and national levels.

Projects/Activities: Environment Texas is working to protect Texas natural areas from development, to improve enforcement of our clean air laws, and to bring more wind and solar energy to Texas.

Volunteer Opportunities: Internships and volunteer opportunities are both available.

Newsletters/Publications: *Environment Texas Report*, sent to members 3 times a year.

Dues: $25/year ($15 for first-time members).

Meetings: Meets irregularly; announced via newsletter.

Texas Campaign for the Environment

P.O. Box 42278
Austin, TX 78704
Jeffrey Jacoby (512) 326-5655
E-Mail: jeffrey@texasenvironment.org
Net: TexasEnvironment.org
Instagram: instagram.com/txenvironment
Facebook: facebook.com/texasenvironment

Purpose: TCE empowers everyday Texans to fight environmental racism, resource exploitation, and the global climate crisis through campaigns that shift corporate and government policy.

Our work in frontline communities along the Gulf Coast and elsewhere impacts every Texan—and millions of others around the world. That's why we engage supporters from every part of the state, region, and planet to join our fight to create a better future for us all.

Projects/Activities: TCE uses door-to-door or phone canvassing, tabling, digital outreach, media campaigns, lobbying elected officials, or creative direct actions that shine a light on polluters and help shift policy.

We support grassroots organizers in communities across the Lone Star State, participate in strategic local fights, and collaborate in a broad range of national campaigns and global alliances.

Volunteer Opportunities: We welcome student interns and are always eager for skilled volunteers that can help us in creative ways as we pressure policy-makers into doing right by our environment.

Newsletters/Publications: Annual reports; research and articles available on our Web site; regularly updated social media.

Dues: $15+ annually.

HEALTH

Texans for Environmental Health

Support Group: Environmental Health League
P.O. Box 1207
Wimberley, TX 78676
Robbie E. Lea (512) 842-1133
E-mail: rel787@outlook.com
Net: txeh.org

Purpose: 1) To provide information and support to individuals who have had chemical injuries and to those who have chemical sensitivity/intolerance; 2) To help educate the community about the impact of toxins on human health and the environment; 3) To suggest safer alternatives to toxic products.

Projects/Activities: Monthly meetings in or near Austin that provide an opportunity to share information and experiences with one another; occasional speakers on related topics. We give counseling and networking via telephone. We conduct public outreach and education at schools and community events.

Newsletters/Publications: We offer handouts and suggest books and DVDs on such topics as less toxic living guidelines, safer laundry products, environmental pest control, toxic chemicals in fragrances, and understanding and accommodating people with chemical sensitivities.

Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility

3571 Far West Blvd., #3428
Austin, TX 78731
Marj Plumb, Executive Director
E-Mail: director@texaspsr.org
Net: texaspsr.org

Purpose: Texas PSR aims to reduce the public health risks associated with climate change, environmental toxins, and pollution by increasing healthcare professionals' knowledge and capacity to address these issues in their practices and through advocacy. We have been effective in providing expertise in support of environmental initiatives through community outreach, lectures and special events, editorials, and legislative and government agency testimony.

Projects/Activities: In addition to educating policy makers about the environmental threats and solutions to public health, the organization runs two distinct programs: 1) Education on environmental threats to health, through medical school electives and core curriculum as well as continuing education opportunities for physicians and other clinicians; 2) Organizing and supporting leadership and advocacy opportunities for medical students through six active student chapters.

Meetings: Join listserve on Web site to receive emails with meeting information.

Volunteer Opportunities: Send an e-mail with your specific interests to the contact listed here.

Texans for Environmental Health

(512) 842-1133 • www.txeh.org

Offering support and information to those with chemical sensitivities.

PARKS

Austin Parks Foundation

1023 Springdale Rd., Ste. 10D
Austin, TX 78721
(512) 477-1566
FAX: (512) 477-1586
E-mail: apf@austinparks.org
Net: austinparks.org
Facebook: facebook.com/austinparksfoundation
Instagram: instagram.com/austinparksfdn/?hl=en
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/austin-parks-foundation/

Purpose: Austin Parks Foundation partners with our community to enhance people's lives by making our public parks, trails and green spaces better through volunteerism, innovative programming, advocacy and financial support.

Projects/Activities: Since 1992, Austin Parks Foundation has been committed to ensuring the future of Austin's public parks, trails and green spaces. We provide resources, programming and funding to ensure access to parks for every Austinite. We create volunteer opportunities (both large and small), activation programming and fund large capital improvement projects. APF has been at the center of promoting park development, maintenance, accessibility and improvements all over Austin for more than 30 years.

"It's My Park Day" – 1st Saturday of March and November; city-wide.

"Party for the Parks" – Wednesday between the two weekends of Austin City Limits Music Festival.

Volunteer Opportunities: See Web site.

Newsletters/Publications: Monthly e-newsletter; regular blog posts.

Dues: Donate on Web site.

Friends of the Parks of Austin

2311 Ridgeview St.
Austin, Texas 78704
Larry Akers (512) 443-1036
E-Mail: larryakers@austin.rr.com
Net: austinfriendsoftheparks.wordpress.com

Purpose: Friends of the Parks of Austin is a volunteer,

non-profit organization incorporated in 1985 for the purpose of supporting and helping create a first class park system in Austin. It encourages and organizes programs for voluntary service in parks and monitors and advocates for parks and recreation in ongoing municipal decisions. Recognizing the importance of parks and open spaces to the aesthetic, social, and economic well-being of the community, Friends of the Parks of Austin has taken an active role in strengthening and improving existing park facilities.

It is currently serving as financial trustee for citizen groups improving Great Hills Park, Reed Park, Mayfield Park, elements of Butler Park, and the annual Tarrytown 4th of July Parade, which benefits West Austin parks. We serve as a stakeholder in the Town Lake Park Community Events Center Venue Project, which includes Michael Butler Park and Vic Matthias Shores.

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of every quarter.

Volunteer Opportunities: Independent volunteer neighborhood park project groups may apply to the board for 501(c)(3) financial trusteeship.

Hill Country Conservancy

P.O. Box 163125
Austin, TX 78716
Carolyn Stephens (512) 328-2481
E-Mail: info@hillcountryconservancy.org
Net: hillcountryconservancy.org
Facebook: facebook.com/hillcountryconservancy

Purpose: Hill Country Conservancy preserves vital natural resources through conservation, community collaboration, and engagement to sustain our region now and forever.

Projects/Activities: Hill Country Conservancy (HCC) works with landowners to protect open space in the Texas Hill Country through land conservation. These privately owned easements provide significant public benefits, safeguarding water resources, wildlife habitats, and flood mitigation. By preserving these ecosystems, HCC supports clean water and air, public health, local culture, and a robust economy. Over the past 25 years, HCC has conserved more than 14,500 acres.

HCC also provides nature access through the Violet Crown Trail (VCT) and two preserves: Nalle Bunny Run Wildlife Preserve and Pecan Springs Karst Preserve. The VCT currently spans 13 miles, connecting Zilker Park to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. When complete, this first regional trail system in Central Texas will stretch 30 miles, offering unique recreational experiences through urban wildlands, including Barton Creek Wilderness Park, Sunset Valley, Austin Water Quality Protection Lands, and Hays County.

Volunteer Opportunities: National Public Lands Day, National Trails Day, and "It's My Park Day," plus regular cleanups on the Violet Crown Trail. Visit Web site to sign up and to find out about upcoming opportunities: hillcountryconservancy.org/events/category/volunteer/

Newsletters/Publications: hillcountryconservancy.org/about/in-the-news/press-releases/

PARKS AND PRESERVES

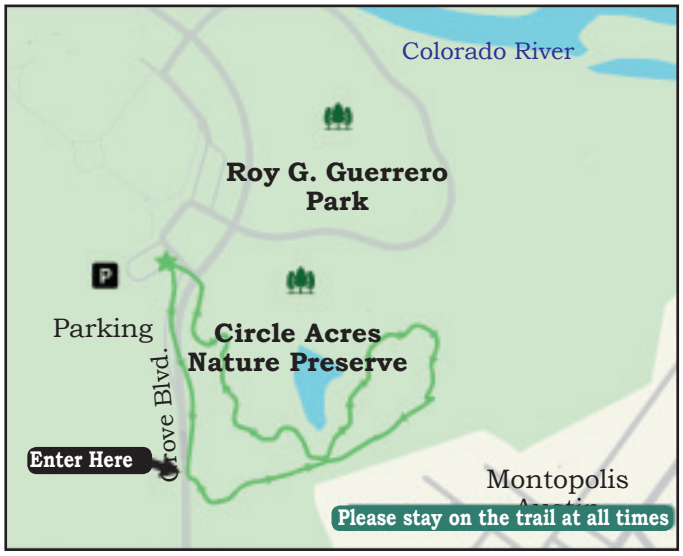
Ecology Action of Texas

Eric Paulus (512) 322-0000
E-mail: eric@ecology-action.org
Net: ecology-action.org

Purpose: Founded in 1969, Ecology Action (EA) is one of the oldest environmental groups in Austin. EA's mission is to protect, reclaim, and connect communities to neglected or damaged remnants of the urban wilderness.

Projects/Activities: EA accelerates ecosystem recovery through bioremediation, biodiversity enhancement, water quality improvements, and regenerative land stewardship. We own a 10-acre nature preserve in East Austin that we've transformed from a city landfill and illegal dump into a thriving, biodiverse sanctuary for urban wildlife.

Newsletters/Publications: Ecology Action Membership E-Bulletin, annual.



Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

4801 La Crosse Avenue
Austin, TX 78739
(512) 232-0100
E-mail: info@wildflower.org
Net: wildflower.org

Purpose: The mission of the Wildflower Center at UT Austin is to inspire the conservation of native plants and landscapes.

Projects/Activities: The Center's gardens display the native plants of the Central Texas Hill Country, as well as South and West Texas, while the Plant Conservation Program protects the ecological heritage of Texas by conserving its rare and endangered flora. Our online *Native Plant Information Network* is a database of more than 8,000 native species visited by millions annually about native plants and vendors across North America.

The Center regularly hosts walks and talks and holds annual family nights, native plant sales (spring and fall), and other inspiring and educational activities.

Volunteer Opportunities: Numerous! Call or e-mail for more information.

Newsletters/Publications: *Wildflower*, members' magazine; brochures; online educational materials for all ages; online database (Native Plant Information Network).

Dues: Starting at $50/Individual; $40/Senior.

Visiting Arrangements: Open daily 9 AM – 5 PM. Free for members, children under 4, and UT faculty, staff, and students with ID. $12/Adults; $6/Youth ages 5 –17.

Paul Robbins

POLITICS

Austin Environmental Democrats (AED)

11701 Barchetta Dr.
Austin, TX 78758
Craig Nazor (512) 836-5087
E-Mail: info@envirodems.org
Facebook: facebook.com/ATXenvirodems

Purpose: Austin Environmental Democrats is committed to (1) being a leading voice for Austin Democrats on how environment, conservation, sustainability, and related issues should be addressed in Austin and Travis County; (2) working for the development of programs to improve the quality of life for all residents of Travis County; (3) providing grassroots support for the Travis County Democratic Party (TCDP) with emphasis on environmental issues and good city government; (4) endorsing candidates, amendments, and propositions that promote AED objectives; and (5) informing the membership about current issues.

Projects/Activities: Electing Democrats with strong environmental credentials and platforms.

Meetings: Generally 1st Friday of month at El Mercado-South, 1302 S. 1st Street, Austin, 78704 from Noon to 1 PM. Check AED Facebook page or TCDP Web site to confirm.

Volunteer Opportunities: Work on endorsed candidate campaigns, as available.

Dues: $25/year. Join thru ActBlue: secure.actblue.com/donate/austin-environmental-democrats-1

Recycling/Litter Abatement

Keep Austin Beautiful

2200 East MLK Jr. Blvd., Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78702
(512) 391-0617
E-mail: info@keepaustinbeautiful.org
Net: keepaustinbeautiful.org
Facebook: facebook.com/KeepAustinBeautiful
Instagram: instagram.com/keepaustinbeautiful

Purpose: Keep Austin Beautiful inspires and educates all Austinites to volunteer together, beautify green spaces, clean waterways, and reduce waste every day. The organization mobilizes thousands of volunteers and educates 12,000 youth annually.

Volunteer Opportunities: Keep Austin Beautiful is your one-stop shop for completing service projects, greening your event, and environmental education. Volunteers can join one of Keep Austin Beautiful's listed events or create their own. TEKS-aligned educational opportunities are also available.

Major Events: Keep Austin Beautiful coordinates large-scale cleanups of Lady Bird Lake (bimonthly) and an annual citywide cleanup – "Keep Austin Beautiful Day" (April). Events are packed with supplies, guidance, prizes, and socials. "Beautify Bash," Keep Austin Beautiful's annual award ceremony and fundraiser, is in November.

State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR)

3571 Far West Blvd., #3383
Austin, TX 78731
(512) 828-6409
FAX: (866) 593-5871
E-mail: info@recyclingSTAR.org
Net: recyclingSTAR.org
Facebook: facebook.com/recyclingSTAR

Purpose: The mission of STAR is to advance recycling through partnerships, education, and advocacy for the benefit of Texas.

Meetings: STAR hosts two annual education and networking events: the "Texas Recycling Summit" and the "Texas Compost Summit." There are many STAR affiliated councils that meet monthly.

Volunteer Opportunities: Internship program where students can receive credit.

Dues: $150/year. Check Web site.

SPECIAL PURPOSE

Austin Neighborhoods Council

P.O. Box 301975
Austin, TX 78703
Ana Aguirre
E-Mail: president@ancweb.org
Net: atxanc.org

Purpose: The Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) is Austin's only comprehensive representative of the City's neighborhood associations. More than 50 years old, ANC consists of nearly 100 member neighborhood associations

representing hundreds of thousands individual residents all across Austin. ANC leads and promotes a culture of civic engagement by connecting, supporting and protecting Austin neighborhoods through education and advocacy.

Projects/Activities: Monthly meetings with presentations from elected officials, city government, and other speakers of neighborhood interest. Assesses existing and proposed policy and acts as a clearinghouse, providing information to members, and promoting neighborhood interests to city officials. Holds a forum for vetting City Council candidates, and hosts educational sessions for its members.

Meetings: 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 PM (except November and December). Meeting currently held on Zoom. For meeting information please contact infoancatx@gmail.com .

Newsletters/Publications: E-mail updates and discussions on the ANC listserv – ANCTalk.

Dues: $50/year. Membership is open to all neighborhood groups in the Austin area.

Austin Permaculture Guild

Taelor Monroe (214) 448-6428
E-Mail: taelor@austinperm.com
Net: austinperm.com
Facebook: facebook.com/AustinPermacultureGuild
Instagram: instagram.com/austinpermaculturegild

Purpose: We are an ever growing community in Central Texas committed to resilience, collaboration, and catalyzing diversity and abundance. We believe that although one person can't change the world, together We can.

Projects/Activities: Spring 2025 – Courses: Advanced Digital Design Course, Summer 2025; 2-Week Intensive Permaculture Design Course, Fall 2025; 5-Week Permaculture Design Course.

Other Activities: Gardening Workshops; Food Forest/Berms & Swales Workshops; Permaculture Potlucks; Volunteer Days most Fridays at our new location, the Cosmos Ranch Foundation.

Volunteer Opportunities: Most Fridays at the Cosmos Ranch Foundation. Check out Web site to RSVP and see our current schedule.

Newsletters/Publications: Register for our newsletter on our Web site. Our quarterly newsletter keeps you up to date on all events and volunteer days.

Earth Day Austin

Janis Bookout (512) 788-2996
E-Mail: janis@earthdayaustin.com
Net: earthdayaustin.com
Facebook: facebook.com/EarthDayATX
Instagram: instagram.com/earthdayatx

Purpose: Earth Day Austin's mission is reinventing sustainability as an unprecedented cultural phenomenon with equity at the center. We provide a venue and a platform for businesses, advocacy groups, nonprofits, government organizations, and community leaders to connect with the public in the interest of sustainability, innovation and environmental justice. While our flagship program is the Earth Day ATX festival, our greater purpose is to facilitate coordination among community stakeholders to develop and implement scalable, systemic, community-driven solutions. We serve a future in which Austin leads the way in systemic transformation toward a sustainable society for all people.

Projects/Activities: Annually, we host the Earth Day ATX Festival on or around April 22. As of 2025, Earth Day ATX has a 55-year history in Central Texas. It is one of the best free-to-the-public family festivals of the year. Thousands come for in-depth programming, new activities and engaging exhibitions that allow them to connect, learn and take action.

Meetings: Irregular.

Volunteer Opportunities: Internships available throughout the year, as well as 200+ volunteer positions for the Earth Day Festival in April. We are registered on Benevity.

Hill Country Alliance

P.O. Box 151675
Austin, TX 78715-1675
Katherine Romans (512) 894-2214
E-mail: info@hillcountryalliance.org
Net: hillcountryalliance.org

Purpose: Founded in 2004 by a group of neighbors concerned about the quickly accelerating rate of growth, our organization has grown into a regional nonprofit and thought leader that champions a vision for conservation, growth, and planning that protects the most critical features of the Texas Hill Country for future generations. We envision a Hill Country in which our lands and waters are managed for long-term resilience, our view of the night sky is protected from light pollution, and our communities are vibrant, healthy, and thriving.

Projects/Activities: We strive to bring together a diverse coalition of partners to preserve the open spaces, starry night skies, clean and abundant waters, and unique character of the Texas Hill Country. Some of our ongoing projects include:

• Hill Country Leadership Institute – a leadership program for decision makers and elected leaders throughout the Texas Hill Country;

• Land stewardship – numerous boots-on-the-ground opportunities from the Pedernales River Basin to the Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape;

• Water and Night Skies programs – support locally-led grassroots conservation efforts across the region.

Volunteer Opportunities: Subscribe to our newsletter to stay in the loop on HCA events and activities, from Texas Water Symposiums to land stewardship workshops to star parties and night sky programming across the Hill Country

Dues: Donations of all sizes are gratefully accepted.

Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy

200 E. 30th Street
Austin, Texas 78705
Rev. Dr. Becca Edwards, Climate Advocate
E-Mail: becca@texasinterfaith.org
Net: texasimpact.org

Purpose: Texas Impact is a faith-based, nonprofit organization, providing theologically grounded

public policy analysis to people of faith and other Texans. "Texas Interfaith Power & Light" (TXIPL) is Texas Impact's environmental program, and is the Texas affiliate of the national Interfaith Power & Light movement. TXIPL helps congregations take action to reduce global warming and air pollution through energy conservation and renewable energy strategies.

Projects/Activities: Environmental stewardship resources for congregations; legislative information; teaching; preaching; and grassroots advocacy—including local IPL chapters around the state.

Volunteer Opportunities: Events; research; legislative contacts; and organizing. Paid and non-paid internships available, and student interns can receive credit.

Newsletters/Publications: Weekly enewsletter; "Weekly Witness" podcast; "LegeTV" YouTube channel. Check out our coverage of the United Nations climate negotiations on the *Austin Chronicle* Web site.

Dues: Donations of all sizes are gratefully accepted.

TRANSPORTATION

BikeTexas

900 Springdale Rd.
Austin, TX 78702
Robin Stallings (512) 476-7433
E-mail: mail@biketexas.org
Net: BikeTexas.org
Facebook: facebook.com/biketexas

Purpose: BikeTexas is the statewide nonprofit organization that advances bicycle access, safety, and education at the local, state and federal level. We encourage and promote bicycling, increased safety, and improved conditions. We unite and inspire people and provide a cohesive voice for those who ride bikes in Texas. We celebrated our 30th anniversary in 2021!

Projects/Activities: *Safe Routes to School* Educational Materials – Sales of tens of thousands of bicyclists and pedestrian safety booklets and bicycle lights per year to schools, police departments, and other community organizations.

Texas Trails and Active Transportation Conference – Offers over 30 breakout, plenary and mobile workshop sessions. Urban planners, civil engineers, and landscape architects get continuing education credits. They share with each other and policy makers best practices for multi-use trails and all ages and abilities bike/ped networks.

BikeTexas Advocacy – Member-funded work with elected and other public officials on local, state, and federal levels (especially during Texas Legislative Sessions) on legislation and policy promoting bicycle safety.

Consultation with community leaders across Texas on advocacy and implementation of safe cycling and active transportation infrastructure, policies, and programming throughout the state.

Volunteer Opportunities: A variety of opportunities, from fleet maintenance, to public outreach, to advocacy and education efforts.

Newsletters/Publications: E-newsletters for members; updates posted on Web site and social media channels.

Dues: Starts at $5/month @ www.biketexas.org/donate

Institute for Community MicroMobility

112 Will Davis DR, Ste. 2230
Austin, TX 78752
Susan Engelking (512) 413-7750
E-Mail: engelkingsusan@gmail.com
Net: micromobilityinstitute.org

Purpose: Imagine getting around town using low-cost, low emission, low speed modes on Vision Zero protected networks. The infrastructure can be built with the crumbs of major transportation projects.

The Institute is looking for cities and towns that are eager to learn how low-cost alternative transportation can make communities more protective of the environment, more affordable, more equitable, safer, cleaner, and more livable.

Newsletters/Publications: *Tiny Transit: The Tipping Point*, a rapid roadmap for how Austin can drastically cut both carbon emissions and the cost of living. On the Publications tab of our Web site.

Projects/Activities: Free consultation because our goal is to accelerate the *tipping point* for a grassroots movement.

The Institute worked with the City of Kyle on the front-end to explore how to reduce its dependence on road-clogging conventional size vehicles when you make it safe and easy to go places on golf carts, on seated scooters, and other exciting small transportation modes.

Volunteer Opportunities: 1) Creating a social media presence; 2) Sparking interest in volunteers' own towns.

See full story about MicroMobility on *Environmental Directory* Web site.

Mobility Austin

5609 Spurflower Drive
Austin, Texas 78759
(512) 522-4697
E-Mail: info@mobilityaustin.com
Net: mobilityaustin.com
Facebook: facebook.com/mobilityaustin
Instagram: Instagram.com/mobilityaustin
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/mobilityaustin
Bluesky: bluesky.com/mobilityaustin

Purpose: Our goal is to create an efficient, cost-effective, safe, adaptable, and equitable public transit system in Austin – one that enables everyone to move easily from wherever they are to wherever they need to go. Specifically, we advocate for city-wide on-demand, ridesharing transit, complemented by rapid bus service, as well as for the regulation and infrastructure necessary to support micro-mobility options.

We believe this approach can be implemented more quickly and at a fraction of the cost of the Project Connect rail proposal, which we see as too limited in scope, too inflexible, too disruptive, and far too expensive for the needs of our city.

Projects/Activities: Education, advocacy.

Safe Streets Austin

1108 Lavaca, Suite 110, #153
Austin, TX 78701
E-Mail: info@safestreetsaustin.org
Net: safestreetsaustin.org
Instagram: instagram.com/safestreetsaustin

Purpose: We are a movement to transform Austin's streets, bikeways, and trails into safe, vibrant, equitable places for people of all ages and abilities to walk, bike, roll, and gather. For over 20 years, we've worked tirelessly and won key victories, including the Shoal Creek protected bike lanes, the Living Streets program, and over $750 million in funding for walking, bicycling, and safe streets.

Projects/Activities: Visit our News page to find out how to support our current projects.

Meetings: Board meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Volunteer Opportunities: We welcome volunteers to help with campaigns and organizational work. Email us to find out more.

Texas EV Alliance

3507 N. Lamar #300497
Austin, Texas 78703
Buzz Smith (817) 296-4914
Net: TxEV.org
Facebook: facebook.com/TexasEV

Purpose: We're committed to guiding and accelerating the adoption of electric transportation across Texas in a cost-effective way that maximizes benefits for all residents. Our Alliance collaborates with Texas state and local authorities to shape EV policies and our Education Project provides programs and educational resources to raise awareness and expand access to electric vehicles. Together, we can drive a cleaner, greener future for Texas!

Projects/Activities: Working with Texas state and local governmental authorities for EV adoption policies. Providing programs and education to promote awareness and access to EVs for all Texans.

Meetings: EV Policy Group meetings (via Zoom), usually on the 1st Friday of each month.

Newsletters/Publications: Monthly email newsletter. Sign up by joining on Web site.

Dues: $25/Individuals. Corporate memberships available.

Yellow Bike Project

Yellow Bike Project
1216 Webberville Rd.
Austin, TX 78721
Contact: (512) 524-5299
E-mail: austinyellowbike@gmail.com
Net: austinyellowbike.org
Facebook: facebook.com/pages/Austins-Yellow-Bike-Project/194137973930427

Purpose: Yellow Bike Project is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that has been working since 1997 to get more bikes on the streets of Austin by operating community bike shops, teaching bike mechanics and maintenance, and acting as a local bike advocacy group.

Projects/Activities: YBP hosts Community Workshops where visitors can fix up their own bike with our tools and help or learn bicycle mechanics while volunteering. We also operate as a thrift store with a selection of refurbished bikes for sale and a warehouse full of inexpensive used parts. We donate fixed-up bikes to a variety of community organizations, school and after-school programs, and individuals in need. Along with our workshops, we offer formal classes periodically, and strive to reuse or recycle bikes and parts that are no longer serviceable.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are always welcome at our Community Workshops, and may participate in our Earn-A-Bike program or fulfill community service requirements, all while helping to keep the shop running and fixing up more bikes!

TREES & PLANTS

American Botanical Council

6200 Manor Road
Austin, TX 78723
(512) 926-4900
E-Mail: abc@herbalgram.org
Net: abc.herbalgram.org
Facebook: facebook.com/HerbalGram

Purpose: The American Botanical Council (ABC) uses science-based and traditional information to promote the responsible use of herbal medicine by educating consumers, healthcare professionals, researchers, educators, industry, and the media.

Projects/Activities: In addition to its Web site with 10 searchable databases and multiple publications, ABC runs the following programs:

1) ABC-AHP-NCNPR Botanical Adulterants Prevention Program (botanicaladulterants.org), which provides educational resources to detect and prevent adulteration in the herbal supply chain;

2) HerbDay in spring at ABC, with lectures, herb walks, a plant sale, activities for kids, and more (first Saturday in May).

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteering in ABC's 2.5-acre herbal demonstration garden, and internship programs for pharmacy and dietetic students.

Newsletters/Publications: *HerbalGram*, a peer-reviewed quarterly journal; *HerbClip*, summaries and reviews of recently published herbal literature; *HerbalEGram*, monthly newsletter; *Herbal News & Events*, weekly update; and the *Botanical Monitor*, a quarterly newsletter addressing botanical adulteration issues.

Dues: Individuals – $50-$150/year; Discounts available for seniors/students. Companies can also become members.

Ethics, Economics and the Future of the World
humanecivilization.org

Annie Borden • anniebordenpaintings.com

Native Plant Society of Texas Austin Chapter

P.O. Box 3017
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
E-Mail: Austin.NPSOT@gmail.com
Net: npsot.org/wp/austin
Facebook: facebook.com/groups/npsotaustin
Instagram: instagram.com/npsot.austin/

Purpose: The Native Plant Society of Texas exists to promote the conservation, research, and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach, and example. The Austin Chapter is part of a network of native plant groups located throughout Texas.

Projects/Activities: Monthly meetings feature guest speakers and presentations. Members collect and exchange seeds, host spring and fall native plant sales, conduct plant surveys on private and public lands, rescue plants from development areas, work with nurseries to encourage native plant use, and sponsor NPSOT Native Landscape Certificate Program classes.

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of most months at 7 PM. Arrive at 6:30 for snacks and seed exchange. Join via Zoom or in-person at Lakewood Clubhouse, 7317 Lakewood Drive, Austin, TX 78750.

Volunteer Opportunities: Public education and outreach, plant sales at NPAT Dowell Ranch, nursery and garden center consultations, assistance with creating native gardens on schoolyards and other public grounds, educational talks and walks with people of all ages.

Newsletters/Publications: State newsletter, quarterly with membership. Check the Chapter Web site to subscribe to the mailing list for announcements.

Dues: $50/Individuals; $15/Student; $35/Senior/Limited Income; $60/Household.

Native Prairies Association of Texas

P.O. Box 1101
Manchaca, Texas 78652
Contact: Amber Arseneaux
E-Mail: office@texasprairie.org
Net: texasprairie.org
Instagram: instagram.com/texasprairie
Facebook: facebook.com/NativePrairiesAssocTX
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/native-prairies-association-of-texas

Purpose: The Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT) is a nonprofit membership organization and accredited land trust dedicated to the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of native prairies, savannas, and other grasslands in Texas. As of 2024, NPAT protected more than 6,000 acres of native Texas prairie.

Projects/Activities: Dowell Ranch (150-acres; Travis County), Maddin Prairie Preserve (1,114 acres; Mitchell County), Lawther – Deer Park Prairie (51 acres; Harris County), Elder Prairie (204-acres; Washington County).

Meetings: Chapters across the state have regular meetings, field trips, monthly workdays, and volunteer opportunities. See Web site calendar for more information.

Newsletters/Publications: Print newsletter published annually and monthly e-newsletter.

TreeFolks

P.O. Box 1395
Del Valle, TX 78617
(512) 443-5323
E-Mail: admin@treefolks.org
Net: treefolks.org
Facebook: facebook.com/treefolks
Instagram: instagram.com/TreeFolks

Purpose: Our mission is to empower Central Texans to build stronger communities through planting and caring for trees, providing tree education to both children and adults. During our 34-year history, we have planted 3 million trees, distributed over 167,000 trees to local neighborhoods, engaged over 22,000 volunteers, and reforested 260 acres of Central Texas floodplain land. In 2024, TreeFolks began production of 7,000 saplings as part of our new native tree nursery.

Projects/Activities: Public tree plantings and riparian plantings; NeighborWoods tree adoptions; Travis County Reforestation, education opportunities (Urban Forest Stewards Course, sapling giveaway events, tree mapping, tree identification walks).

Volunteer Opportunities: Tree planting (planting season is from October through March), tree maintenance, education, marketing, and fundraising. Opportunities for student interns. See more at Web site.

Newsletters/Publications: E-mail newsletter – *Looking Up!*

Useful Wild Plants of Texas

4700 Loyola Lane, #104
Austin, TX 78723
Lynn Marshall (512) 928-4441
E-mail: info@usefulwildplants.org
Net: usefulwildplants.org

Purpose: Plants are the basis of civilization (not to mention life on earth). UWP is dedicated to exploring and documenting the native plants of Texas and surrounding regions as the foods, medicines, and resources of the past, present, and future.

Projects/Activities: UWP is putting together a database and encyclopedic publication of uses of 4,000 native plants (foods, pharmaceuticals, fibers, glues, dyes, oils, etc.). Call for information about classes and other activities.

Meetings: Get-togethers and events throughout the year for members and volunteers.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to keep research files updated, staff event booths, help produce the newsletter, work on the encyclopedia, and assist with publicity, fundraising, and membership database. Student interns welcome; college credit available for some Independent Studies positions.

Newsletters/Publications: The quarterly Useful Wild Plants newsletter covers project news, uses of plants, people who make their living working with plants, and volunteer and member activities. The first four volumes (covering the genera from Abronia through Convolvulus) of encyclopedic *Useful Wild Plants of Texas, the Southeastern and Southwestern United States, the Southern Plains, and Northern Mexico* are available.

Dues: $25/Individual; $50/Family; $100/Sustaining.

WATER

Barton Springs Conservancy

2100 Stamford Lane
Austin, TX 78703
Mike Cannatti (512) 284-1784
E-Mail: president@bartonspringsconservancy.org
Net: bartonspringsconservancy.org
Facebook: facebook.com/bartonspringsconservancy
Instagram: instagram.com/bartonspringsconservancy
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/barton-springs-conservancy

Purpose: Barton Springs Conservancy (BSC) is guided by the mission to honor, preserve, and enhance the experience of Barton Springs for everyone through education and park improvements. BSC was formed in 2014 to work with key Barton Springs stakeholders to identify and support projects to benefit Barton Springs. Initial efforts focused on establishing fundraising capacity and providing community input to complete the Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation project called for in the 2008 Barton Springs Master Plan and partially funded by the 2012 Bond Package. Through the community input process, a number of facility improvement and education projects have been identified.

Projects/Activities: 1) The Conservancy has partnered with the City of Austin and Parks and Recreation Department to raise at least $8 million in public and private funds for a facility rehabilitation and renovation of the Historic Barton Springs Bathhouse; 2) We have raised $1.3 million private and public funding for new exhibits located at the Bathhouse to educate the public about the endangered Barton Springs Salamander, water quality, and conservation; 3) We build community support for conservation measures for Barton Springs and the Springs portion of the Edwards Aquifer.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to help with monthly pool cleanings, special events, and educational programming. E-mail us for more information.

Newsletters/Publications: Monthly e-newsletter, sign up through our Web site.

Bull Creek Foundation

2800 Benbrook Dr.
Austin, TX 78757
David Cook (512) 799-6289
E-Mail: info@bullcreekfoundation.org
Net: bullcreekfoundation.org

Purpose: The purpose of the Bull Creek Foundation is to promote the harmonious balance between nature, recreation, and sustainable economic development in the Bull Creek watershed, bounded roughly by Highways 2222, 620, 183, and Mesa Drive. This volunteer group believes that all who have a stake in this region can work together to achieve and maintain its delicate ecological balance, and since 1994 we have demonstrated this actually works.

Volunteer Opportunities: Varied. Please contact us.

Newsletters/Publications: See Web site.

Central Texas Water Coalition

P.O. Box 328
Spicewood, Texas 78669
Shannon Hamilton (214) 505-7839
E-Mail: Shannon.Hamilton.ctwc@gmail.com
Net: CentralTexasWaterCoalitionn.org
Facebook: facebook.com/CentralTexasWaterCoalition

Purpose: Central Texas Water Coalition's primary mission to ensure a sustainable future for our region is to advocate for the preservation and conservation of the Highland Lakes, the primary source of Austin's and the surrounding communities' drinking water supply. With no new water projects planned for the immediate future and knowing that new water supply projects are going to be extremely expensive, it is imperative that we treat our water as the most important resource we have today. Investments in water conservation and efficiency, including but not limited to reducing water losses in water distribution systems, should be a top priority.

It is critical that residents, business owners, municipal officials, homeowner associations, and other various stakeholder organizations recognize that this is a finite resource, and that it is essential that the plan used to manage it is updated to protect this resource.

Friends of Barton Springs Pool

P.O. Box 685286
Austin, TX 78768-5286
E-Mail: info@friendsofbartonspringspool.org
Net: friendsofbartonspringspool.org

Purpose: We are dedicated to returning the Barton Springs Pool to its rightful glory. Since 2006, we have organized 7 pool cleaning events and 1,500 volunteer hours/year to make the pool a better place for the salamanders, springs and swimmers.

We worked with the City Council and Aquatics staff to develop a resolution to create and fund a Barton Springs Master Plan to repair the decaying pool facilities and infrastructure, which was adopted in 2009. Since then we have been advocating for improvements in the Master Plan including testing of dams, bypass tunnel repair, sediment removal, general grounds improvements, and rehabilitation of the historic Barton Springs Bathhouse.

Projects/Activities: Support Volunteer Pool cleanings; restoring aquatic plants in the pool; planting trees; and pursuing infrastructure improvements defined in the Master Plan. Advocate safety improvements in Barton Creek, as well as protection of the aquifer and springs. Major events include Council Cleans the Pool Day, New Year's Day Polar Plunge, and Membership Picnic.

Meetings: Monthly Board Meeting, Feb. – Oct.

Volunteer Opportunities: See Web site

Dues: $25/year, or volunteer for a 2-hour pool cleaning session.

Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

P.O. Box 15618
San Antonio, Texas 78212
Annalisa Peace (210) 320-6294
FAX: (210) 320-1457
E-Mail: Annalisa@AquiferAlliance.org
Net: AquiferAlliance.org
Facebook: facebook.com/Greater-Edwards-Aquifer-Alliance-GEAA-74467896453/?epa=SEARCH_BOX

Purpose: Founded in 2005, GEAA counts among our many successes the awful projects that you don't see despoiling or polluting Central Texas. We unite 52 diverse member organizations and thousands of Texans to advocate protection of the Edwards and Trinity aquifers and watersheds, flora and fauna, and the history and culture of the Texas Hill Country.

Projects/Activities: Member groups, citizens, news media, elected officials and public agencies rely on GEAA for technical expertise regarding management and protection of the Edwards and Trinity karst aquifers. We assist citizens in contesting permits, fundraising, development and advocacy of policy and best management practices.

Meetings: Ad Hoc meetings held to address various issues. Notice posted on Facebook page.

Volunteer Opportunities: Experts in the fields of hydrology, geology, biology, civil engineering, and other related specialties. GEAA partners interns with various experts for research projects for course credit.

Newsletters/Publications: Sign up for action alerts on Web site, especially when the state legislature is in session.

Dues: Individuals $75/year ($25/Seniors/students).

Protect Lake Travis Association

11110 Bonham Ranch Road
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
Dan Roark (512) 7962919
E-Mail: roarkdr@gmail.com
Facebook: facebook.com/protectlaketravis

Purpose: The Protect Lake Travis Association guards Lake Travis and its watershed from any events and conditions that could affect the health and safety of area residents, recreational users of the lake, and area wildlife. It also protects the aesthetic natural beauty of the area.

Projects/Activities: The Association is working on eliminating and preventing direct discharge permits to the lake, instead encouraging land irrigation with the treated wastewater. The Association promotes education of the citizenry on preventing pollution of the lake from septic tanks, lawn chemicals, and improper boating practices, and it participates and supports lake cleanup efforts.

Dues: Voluntary, $20/year suggested.

Save Barton Creek Association

P. O. Box 5923
Austin, TX 78763
Lee Burton (512) 480-0055
E-mail: SBCA@savebartoncreek.org
Net: savebartoncreek.org

Purpose: Save Barton Creek Association (SBCA) is dedicated to protecting all Central Texas streams and aquifers for future generations. We do this through public education, community outreach, and collaborative advocacy. We work to help protect water quality and supply, encourage conservation, prevent flooding, and promote environmental equity. SBCA was founded in 1979, making us one of the oldest citizens' environmental groups in all of Texas.

Projects/Activities: We worked for the passage of Austin's first watershed ordinance, the establishment of the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, and the creation of Austin's Water Quality Protection Lands program.

We are currently opposing several harmful wastewater permit applications in Central Texas. We are also working to advance the Pristine Streams Proposal, which would protect the Hill Country's most iconic streams from wastewater pollution, including Barton and Onion Creeks. In addition to our advocacy work, we also maintain an active schedule of programs and events, including monthly Happy Hour Talks with guest experts; guided nature hikes; workdays with partner organizations; and in-depth panel discussions on larger topics.

Volunteer Opportunities: SBCA welcomes volunteers to help us with our programming and advocacy projects. Volunteers are needed for nature clean-ups and event organizing. We also appreciate volunteers with expertise and skills to assist with our advocacy work. E-mail us if interested.

Dues: $50/Individuals; $25/Students & Seniors. Contributions in any amount are greatly appreciated.

Save Our Springs Alliance

4701 West Gate Blvd., D-401
Austin, TX 78745
Pat Brodnax (512) 477-2320, Ext. 101
FAX: (512) 477-6410
E-mail: sosinfo@sosalliance.org
Net: sosalliance.org
Facebook: facebook.com/sosalliance
Instagram: instagram.com/saveoursprings

Purpose: Save Our Springs is a nonprofit alliance of activists, scientists, lawyers, and educators working to protect the springs of the Edwards Aquifer and the land, water, and wildlife of the Texas Hill Country. We accomplish this by steering development downstream and limiting pumping so our streams and springs keep flowing through droughts and a changing climate.

Volunteer Opportunities: See Web site.

Dues: $10/Students & seniors; $20/Basic; $50-200/Business partner.

Shoal Creek Conservancy

P.O. Box 11520
Austin, TX 78711
(512) 474-2412
E-Mail: info@shoalcreekconservancy.org
Net: shoalcreekconservancy.org
Facebook: facebook.com/shoalcreekconservancy
Instagram: instagram.com/shoalcreekconservancy/

Purpose: Shoal Creek Conservancy champions Austin's Shoal Creek Greenway. We bring people together around Shoal Creek through free, public events and spearhead on-the-ground improvements that make Shoal Creek and the Shoal Creek Trail safer, more accessible, and more inspiring places to be. Shoal Creek Conservancy envisions a continuous network of green spaces stretching throughout the watershed, connected by hike-and-bike trails in a healthy habitat.

Projects/Activities: Shoal Creek Conservancy has spent years working with our community to develop actionable plans to make the Shoal Creek Trail an all-ages and abilities trail with greater connections to Austin's wider trail network and to return Shoal Creek to a fishable and swimmable creek. With these completed plans now in hand, SCC's team is working to implement specific projects and engage our community to begin moving toward their long-term goals.

Volunteer Opportunities: Join us for a volunteer workday to pick up trash, plant native grasses and seeds, and keep the Trail safe and clear of debris! We also offer Creek Tours on topics like fossil hunting and birdwatching, and regular social events along the creek and throughout Austin. See shoalcreekconservancy.org/events.

WILDLIFE

Austin Bat Refuge

P.O. Box 302413
Austin, TX 78703
Lee Mackenzie (512) 695-4116
E-Mail: info@AustinBatRefuge.org
Net: austinbatrefuge.org
Facebook: facebook.com/austinbat
Instagram: instagram.com/austinbatrefuge
TikTok: tiktok.com/@austinbatrefuge

Purpose: To promote respect for bats through rehabilitation and release, education, and conflict resolution,.

Rehabilitation – Over the last decade, with no government funding, we have cut euthanasia of Austin's bats by 50% while protecting the public health.

If you find a bat in trouble, call us, text a photo, and we'll first assess the situation, then work out a solution. We are the only bat rehabilitators in Austin.

Education – Our education table has been a weekend staple at Congress Avenue Bridge for the past 8 years. We

also provide education programs to organizations, agencies, master naturalists, health departments, animal control officers, schools (on a sliding scale), and neighborhood groups.

Conflict Resolution – We provide solutions for peaceful co-existence with bats in your home, office, or facility.

Projects/Activities: Weekend educational outreach at Congress Avenue Bridge. Rehabilitated bat release many nights during the bat season (March to October).

Watch our social media for other activities throughout the year, including bat walks and event tabling.

Volunteer Opportunities: See Web site "Volunteer" page.

Newsletters/Publications: Sign up for quarterly newsletter: austinbatrefuge.org/contact/

Horned Lizard Conservation Society

P.O. Box 21
Burkburnett, TX 76354
E-mail: hornedlizardinfo@gmail.com
Net: hornedlizards.org

Purpose: We are an international organization dedicated to the conservation of all horned lizard species throughout their ranges.

Projects/Activities: Grant program for horned lizard conservation and research projects, status surveys, speaking/presentations to groups, booth sitting, field trips.

Meetings: We have a biennial meeting. Our next meeting is in 2026.

Volunteer Opportunities: Field surveys for horned lizard research, contributing to the newsletter, fundraising, booth sitting/education.

Newsletters/Publications: *Phrynosomatics*, published quarterly.

Dues: $25/Regular; $10/Students & Seniors; $50/Contributing members, $300/Lifetime members.

Merlin Tuttle's Bat Conservation

4009 Banister Ln, Suite 420
Austin, TX 78704
(512) 358-0014
E-Mail: info@merlintuttle.org
Net: merlintuttle.org
Facebook: facebook.com/MerlinTuttlesBatConservation
Instagram: instagram.com/merlintuttlesbats

Purpose: No group of mammals has been more misunderstood, needlessly feared, or intensely persecuted than bats. Once people understand the incredible value of bats in their own lives, most voluntarily become enthusiastic protectors.

Founded by a renowned expert, we rely on a powerful combination of science, field knowledge, and photography. Our organization is helping save millions of bats and protecting public health, economies and worldwide ecosystems by teaching people through a "Winning Friends, not Battles" approach to conservation.

Projects/Activities: International/domestic workshops and trips, student scholarships, photo collection archival project, and Bat House research/guidance (through our qualified vendor "Seal of Approval" and *The Bat House Guide*).

Volunteer Opportunities: Sign up for future opportunities at: merlintuttle.org/work-with-us

Newsletters/Publications: Blogs and quarterly newsletters at: merlintuttle.org/blog

Dues: $10-$1,000 annual memberships are available.

National Wildlife Federation South Central Regional Ctr.

505 East Huntland Drive, Suite 530
Austin, TX 78752
Katie Struth (512) 610-7771
FAX: (512) 476-9810
E-Mail: scrc@nwf.org
Net: nwf.org/southcentral
Facebook: facebook.com/NWFSouthCentral
Instagram: instagram.com/nationalwildlife/?hl=en

Purpose: The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is America's largest conservation organization, with a mission to unite Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a rapidly-changing world.

Projects/Activities: Our Austin-based work includes:

• Environmental Education – NWF helps connect Austin students to nature while providing teachers with tools to engage students in science and math learning experiences.

• Protecting Texas Rivers – NWF works to ensure that Texas manages its limited fresh water resources for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

• Restoring the Gulf of Mexico – The Program works to ensure healthy waters and resilient coasts for the Gulf's people and wildlife.

Newsletters/Publications: Quarterly e-newsletter available by request to scrc@nwf.org. *National Wildlife*, national member's magazine. Children's publications: *Ranger Rick* and *Ranger Rick Jr*.

Dues: $15/year; includes membership magazine.

Austin Wildlife Rescue

P.O. Box 302695
Austin, TX 78703
Rescue Hotline: (512) 472-9453
E-mail: info@austinwildliferescue.org
Net: austinwildliferescue.org

Purpose: Austin Wildlife Rescue serves the citizens and wildlife of Central Texas by providing direct assistance to the public concerning questions, problems, and conflicts with native wild animals. AWR rescues and rehabilitates orphaned, injured and sick wild animals, and educates the public to coexist with wildlife.

Volunteer Opportunities: All volunteer activity takes place at our Rehabilitation Center in Elgin. Volunteer information is posted on our Web site under the Get Involved tab. We hold volunteer orientations twice a month, April-September.

Newsletters/Publications: *Critter Chronicle*.

Donations: Austin Wildlife Rescue is a 501(c)3 organization that gladly accepts donations from $5 to $50,000+.

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