

Habitat Projects



Elderhaven Wildlife Habitat Project

Wildlife Austin has been lucky enough to participate in this Travis Audubon-led project transforming the grounds of the [Austin Groups for the Elderly \(AGE\)](#) Elderhaven Adult Day Care Center. Led by Habitat Steward Lynn Hill, the Travis Audubon Urban Habitat Committee and Wildlife Austin have worked very hard this spring to rid the grounds of Bermuda grass, and plant native plants! We also had help from a great group of Dell volunteers! Director of Elderhaven, Stephanie Hoffman, is thrilled with the transformation - as are the Elderhaven clients! Recently Elderhaven completed the paperwork to achieve certification as a NWF Wildlife Habitat! This is an ongoing project, with a fall planting already in the works! Stay tuned for more updates.



The butterfly area (it used to be covered w/ Bermuda)!



Milkweed for Monarchs!



Beautiful Juniper trellis with Coral Honeysuckle



Butterfly puddling area and bird bath



Newly installed birdhouse



Blue mistflower and shelter areas



One happy group of volunteers!



Volunteers plant in the corner of the garden

Firestation #20 Wildlife Habitat Project

Wildlife Austin works with a variety of groups on habitat projects including schools, businesses, places of worship and other city departments including the Fire Department. The latest undertaking was to transform the landscape at fire station #20 in south Austin into a more wildlife friendly and sustainable space.

Firefighter Steve Hope contacted Wildlife Austin with the vision to remove grass and replant the area with native plants to provide habitat for butterflies and birds and also save on water, time and money. Program staff offered technical assistance and volunteer support for this exciting project. A three person team of Habitat Steward Volunteers worked with city staff to create the design, plan the pre-work days and install the plants on the final work day held on October 24th. Approximately 18 volunteers including PARD trained Habitat Stewards, Master Naturalists and friends and family of the firefighters were involved in a variety of activities ranging from plant donation and fostering, grass removal and trail building to full garden installation. The Habitat Team also solicited and received a \$250 donation from the Natural

Gardener Nursery which was a boost to the project budget and generated great enthusiasm from the team.

The project planning and installation of phase one of the habitat garden was very successful. This success could not have been achieved without all the dedicated people involved in this project. A special thanks to the B shift at fire station #20 and especially to Steve Hope who initiated this project and also to the Habitat Stewards volunteer team of Joan Rivers, Mary Martin, and Simonetta Rodriguez. The habitat demonstration garden is located on the grounds of fire station #20 at 6601 Manchaca Road.



Habitat Team L-R: Mary Martin, Simonetta Rodriguez and Joan Rivers



Firefighter Steve Hope relaxes on the new bench after a full morning of planting the habitat garden.

Link to all Photos- <http://gallery.me.com/artsy6#100130&view=grid&bgcolor=black&sel=3>

Fire Department Headquarters Wildlife Habitat Project

After months of planning and fundraising, employees of the Fire Department and the other City departments at 4201 Ed Bluestein held three workdays recently and have almost completed a wildlife habitat garden in the courtyard adjacent to the employee entrance. On December 3rd they planted nine trees and many smaller plants which was made possible with a grant from Austin Energy's Urban Heat Island Mitigation project, in-kind donations and employee monetary donations. Still to come: a water feature, benches and a mosaic!



Fire HQ Habitat Team



This small space has been transformed with native trees and plants for wildlife



Andre Jordan shovels mulch which will serve to insulate the new plants for the winter



Do you have an idea for a Habitat Project?
Contact Wildlife Austin at wildlife@austintexas.gov or 512-978-2606

All photos by PARD employees

[RETURN TO WILDLIFE AUSTIN HOMEPAGE](#)