

# Austin Water – Center for Environmental Research



Austin Water – The University of Texas – Texas A&M University  
A Partnership for Urban Ecology and Sustainability: Community,  
Ecology, Research



located at the Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant  
2210 South FM 973, Austin, Texas 78725

Website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/cer>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/austinwatercer>

## CER Events March 2025

**Temporary Partial Trail Closure - Texas Gas Service is installing a gas pipeline through the Hornsby Bend site. We have closed a section of the River Trail north of Pond 3 which means that temporarily you cannot reach Pond 3 when hiking from Platt Lane (or Platt Lane when hiking from the ponds). This closure is marked by signs on the trail – do not go into this area! Construction in the river bottom should be done by the end of March. Most of the pipeline construction will be in our hay fields and not impact the public. The pipeline will go under Platt Lane, and you will see signs and equipment there as well, but Platt Lane is still open to the public.**

**Mar 1**

**Saturday 8am meet at the Center for Environmental Research**

- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership Monthly River Monitoring Trip**
- The river trip is for monitoring birds, bugs, fish, and human impacts for the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership. Each trip covers a different stretch of the river between Austin and Bastrop ranging from 5 – 10 miles.
- **Meet at the CER parking lot at 8:00AM. To participate you MUST provide your own boat.**
- More about the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership at the CER website Research, Programs, Partnerships page <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/research-projects-partnerships-and-programs>
- Check out the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership Facebook Page for updates and photos from the river monitoring trips [www.facebook.com/austinbastroprivercorridor](http://www.facebook.com/austinbastroprivercorridor)

Mar 5

Wednesday 10am – Noon at the Austin Water Center for Environmental Research

- **Location: 2210 South FM 973, Austin, Texas 78725**
- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership Bimonthly Meeting** – Open to anyone interested in the Colorado River – a stakeholder partnership about the past, present and future of the river corridor between Austin and Smithville.
- **Presentations**
  - ***Toxins and microplastics? Documenting the newest contaminant of concern in Austin's reservoirs*** - Dr. Brent Bellinger, Supervisor, Conservation Program, COA Watershed Protection Department
  - ***Riparian Restoration on Urban and Eastern Creeks***
    - **Staryn Wagner, Environmental Scientist Senior Watershed Protection**
    - **Valerie Tamburri, Director of Reforestation & Lead Arborist, TreeFolks**
    - **Marina Weikel, Carbon and GIS Coordinator, TreeFolks**
  - More about the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership at the CER website Research, Programs, Partnerships page  
<http://www.austintexas.gov/page/research-projects-partnerships-and-programs>
- Check out the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership Facebook Page for updates about the river corridor [www.facebook.com/austinbastroprivercorridor](http://www.facebook.com/austinbastroprivercorridor)

Mar 6

Thursday 1230pm to 2pm at University of Texas

Peter O'Donnell Building (POB) Room 2.402

<https://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/campus/buildings/nlogon/maps/UTM/POB/>

- 2025 CER Lunchtime Lectures Series Topic – ***The Geography of Urban Nature***
- Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lectures by Kevin M. Anderson
- **March CER Lunchtime Lecture – *The Urban Pastoral: Parkland and the Garden City***
- Urban pastoral spaces range from parkland to gardens and urban farms. This lecture explores the history of the idea of urban pastoral nature and, as Peter Schmitt described it, the “Arcadian myth” in urban America. As American cities grew in the 1800s, parks were built as deliberate socioecological spaces for urbanites to experience a “refined” kind of pastoral nature – an urban Arcadia meant to improve them physically, mentally, and politically. As Schmitt described it, “the rural, picturesque landscape contrasted with and counteracted the confining and unhealthful conditions of the crowded urban environment and served to strengthen society by providing a place where all classes could mingle in contemplation and enjoyment of the pastoral experience.” The social and political role of American urban parks was to “banish the plague-spots of democracy” through connecting urbanites to the right kind of nature and teaching them the right way to appreciate this refined nature. This urban pastoral program continues in 21st century American cities where the role of “greenspace” is to cure “nature deficit disorder” from which urbanites are said to suffer and to connect urbanites to a proper, officially sanctioned kind of urban nature complete with interpretive signage. Join us for the story of the American urban pastoral.

- Mar 8**      **Saturday 7am-1130am meet at the Center for Environmental Research**
- **Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory Program Monthly Bird Survey**
  - The HBBO Bird Survey is a citizen science effort to monitor bird species at the Hornsby Bend site. This is not a field trip. Advanced and intermediate birders are welcomed to participate. Beginning at 7am, we have teams covering different areas of the Hornsby Bend site, and they count numbers of all birds seen. It is a full morning of hiking and counting, but lots of fun along the way. We meet again at 1130am to tally up the species. More information about the CER HBBO program at [www.hornsbybend.org](http://www.hornsbybend.org) and [www.facebook.com/hornsbybend](http://www.facebook.com/hornsbybend)
- Mar 10**      **Monday NOON to 1pm at the Center for Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend**
- 2025 CER Lunchtime Lectures Series Topic – *The Geography of Urban Nature*
  - Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lectures by Kevin M. Anderson
  - **March CER Lunchtime Lecture – The Urban Pastoral: Parkland and the Garden City**
- Mar 13**      **Thursday NOON to 1pm at PARD Senior Activity Center - Lamar+29th St**
- 2025 CER Lunchtime Lectures Series Topic – *The Geography of Urban Nature*
  - Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lectures by Kevin M. Anderson
  - **March CER Lunchtime Lecture – The Urban Pastoral: Parkland and the Garden City**
- Mar 15**      **Saturday 730am – 11am at the CER**
- **HBBO/Travis Audubon Society - Hornsby Bend Monthly Birdwatching Fieldtrip – FREE!**
  - Meet at the CER 730am, no registration needed – all levels of birder welcomed, an easy morning of walking and learning the birds of Hornsby Bend. Bring binoculars and some water if the weather is warm. More information at [www.travisaudubon.org](http://www.travisaudubon.org) and [www.hornsbybend.org](http://www.hornsbybend.org)
- Mar 29**      **Saturday 9am – 1pm at the CER**
- **Ecological Literacy Volunteer Day** – Help maintain Hornsby Bend! Did you know that all the Hornsby Bend trails, habitat gardens, and kiosks were built and are maintained by volunteers? If you enjoy birding or walking along the Colorado River here, please join us in maintaining these amenities and supporting public access at Hornsby Bend.
    - Wear work clothes [long pants], hat for shade, and sturdy shoes; bring water and binoculars if interested in birds.

**For more information about these events contact - [kevin.anderson@austintexas.gov](mailto:kevin.anderson@austintexas.gov)**