RIVER LEGACY FOUNDATION Impact Report | June 2022 - December 2022

DEEPENING OUR ROOTS GROWING THE LEGACY



WELCOME RIVER LEGACY NATURE CENTER

RIVER LEGACY FOUNDATION EST. 1988

MISSION

TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE LAND ALONG THE TRINITY RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES AS AN EXTRAORDINARY RECREATIONAL, EDUCATIONAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE.

VISION

TO PRESERVE A LIVING LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME... You splashed in a puddle or caught a firefly in your hands? Do you remember what it feels like to discover a worm in the dirt or catch your first fish?

These simple moments of childhood joy made us smile and wiggle with excitement and discovery. They encouraged us to ask deeper questions about why the natural world captures our imagination and sparks curiosity for further exploration. For many of us, myself included, these experiences planted a seed and created a lifelong love of the environment.

The world may be rapidly evolving, but nature remains constant. Our connection to the natural world is the link between the past, present, and future. River Legacy Nature Center strives to provide opportunities for our community to get outside and get connected. Whether it's taking a hike along the trails, stopping by our bird blind to learn about local birds, or immersing yourself in local history of the forest floodplain of the Trinity River, the Nature Center keeps us exploring and engaged.

Every day at the River Legacy Nature Center children and adults are connecting to our outdoors in ways that change their lives for the better. Through science and research, free access



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to outdoor trails and equipment, volunteering to maintain the land, and spending time in our community parks and Nature Center, our youth, families, and neighborhoods are alive with that same sense of childhood excitement and discovery.

> I love this note from Al Qualman, a long-time volunteer and friend of the Nature Center who illustrates these feelings beautifully:

> > "River Legacy is a special place for me because of all of the fond memories I have of the park. My daughters learned to ride their bikes there. Whenever I walk the trails with my dog or go biking with friends, I never fail to see wildlife in their natural environment - birds, snakes, armadillos, turtles, ducks, geese, hawks and of course, the bobcats! I enjoy volunteering because it is a way of giving back to a place that I have loved for over 30 years."

The real gift in all of this great work is YOU. All of the enjoyment we're able to share with others is only possible because you've chosen to support the River Legacy Nature Center.Thank you for your support, your presence, and your belief in our work.

Sincerely,

Shannon

Executive Director (2023)



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2022 ANNUAL SPONSORS







CHILDREN SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEEPEN THEIR UNDERSANDING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO IT.

RIVER LEGACY FOUNDATION EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY





428 OUTDOOR HOURS

Learning in natural environments has proven to calm children and foster prosocial behaviors while enhancing a child's imagination and inborn sense of wonder.

7,831 VISITORS

came through the Nature Center to participate in community festivals, exhibits, and activities the Nature Center offered throughout the second half of 2022.



5:648

3,648 STUDENTS

made a connection to nature during a STEM related field trip. Handson activities, animal encounters, and naturalist-led hikes are just a few of the many tools offered to inspire connections to nature.

OUR STUDENTS COME FROM ...

River Legacy Nature Center offers Arlington and surrounding communities a unique opportunity for environmental education

in our in-house education programs.

everyone the opportunity to learn!

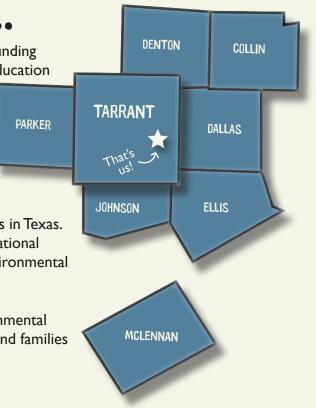
Paid and free programming gives

Borden

and outdoor exploration in a rapidly growing urban area. The quality of our programs is unmatched... just ask the families that travel every week, month, and summer to take part in our programs!

In 2022, we hosted students from nine different counties in Texas. The Nature Center's ability to offer one-of-a-kind educational experiences contributes to a broader movement of environmental awareness and stewardship throughout Texas.

We've built a reputation for offering high-quality environmental education, and we hope to continue to reach students and families across Texas and beyond.



RIVER LEGACY PARKS SHALL BE PRESERVED, MANAGED, AND RESTORED IN A MANNER THAT PROTECTS THE PARKS RESERVOIR OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.

RIVER LEGACY FOUNDATION CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHY



750 PRIVET PLANTS REMOVED

Privet (*Ligustrum*) is an invasive plant that grows at an astounding rate, adapts easily, and will take over and kill native plant life that is beneficial to our ecosystem. Privet Patrol meets once a month to remove privet from River Legacy Park in an effort to control growth and help our local flora and fauna.

402 NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE NATURE CENTER

Thanks to the pollinator crew from the North Central Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT), the Nature Center's ecosystem thrives and provides an exeptional habitat for butterflies, bees, birds, and other local wildlife.



40 NATIVE PLANTS FOR OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

In collaboration with U.S. Fish and Wildlife, River Legacy Foundation partnered with local schools to participate in the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. This partnership helped teachers and administration plan the infrastructure and instruction to create outdoor learning classrooms. Along with planning, the Foundation – and the City of Arlington Parks and Recreation Department – provided supplies, materials, **45 bags of mulch and compost soil, and 40 native plants** for teachers and students to plant in their pollinator gardens during the school year. RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN RIVER LEGACY PARKS SHALL NOT ENDANGER THE ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY OF THE PARKS OR THE SAFETY OF PARK USERS. POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES MUST BE MEASURED AGAINST A NATURE STANDARD, AS WELL AS AN URBAN STANDARD.

RIVER LEGACY FOUNDATION RECREATION PHILOSOPHY

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Our annual fundraisers support River Legacy Foundation's environmental education programs and the everyday operations of the Nature Center. Join the fun and support our mission at a friendly clay shoot, a golf tournament, at our Fall Festival, or at a special evening under the stars. There is something for everyone!



VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers continuously help us build, grow, and nurture one of Arlington's beloved legacies. From high school and college students, retirees, educators, outdoor enthusiasts, and everyone in between... volunteers are essential in making River Legacy Nature Center an extraordinary place to learn, play, give, and discover nature!



496 VOLUNTEERS දෙසා







\$55,725 OF VALUE

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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RIVER LEGACY FOUNDATION 35TH ANNIVERSARY



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RIVER LEGACY FOUNDATION IS A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

RIVER LEGACY NATURE CENTER | 703 NW Green Oaks Blvd.Arlington,TX 76006 817-860-6752 | www.riverlegacy.org