



RIVER LEGACY FOUNDATION  
*Impact Report | June 2022 - December 2022*

# DEEPENING OUR ROOTS GROWING THE LEGACY



RIVER LEGACY  
FOUNDATION

35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



**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

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.

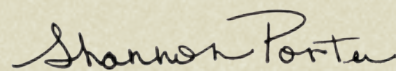
I love this note from Al Qualman, a long-time volunteer and friend of the Nature Center who illustrates these feelings beautifully:

**“THE WORLD MAY  
BE RAPIDLY  
EVOLVING, BUT  
NATURE REMAINS  
CONSTANT.”**

*“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,



Executive Director (2023)





## 2022 RIVER LEGACY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF MEMBERS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Robert Blake ..... <i>President</i>        | Jill Hill ..... <i>Executive Director</i>                 |
| Mark Warren ..... <i>Vice President</i>    | Shannon Porter ..... <i>Associate Executive Director</i>  |
| Mike Davis ..... <i>Treasurer</i>          | Becky Nussbaum Gerro ..... <i>Director of Development</i> |
| Elizabeth Marks ..... <i>Secretary</i>     | Sherrie Ripple ..... <i>Director of Education</i>         |
| Paul Brodie ..... <i>Board Member</i>      | Dr. Ellen Edwards Ravkind ..... <i>Naturalist Manager</i> |
| Stephen Cavender ..... <i>Board Member</i> | Sarah Morris ..... <i>Naturalist</i>                      |
| Susan Eaves ..... <i>Board Member</i>      | Chad Etheridge ..... <i>Naturalist</i>                    |
| Stewart Garrison ..... <i>Board Member</i> | Jorge Garcia ..... <i>Naturalist</i>                      |
| Richard Greene ..... <i>Board Member</i>   | Cheryl Mathis ..... <i>Event Manager</i>                  |
| Carole Hoyer ..... <i>Board Member</i>     | Karla Hernandez ..... <i>Marketing Coordinator</i>        |
| Vince Hrabal ..... <i>Board Member</i>     | Mollie Ripple ..... <i>Social Media Coordinator</i>       |
| Pete Jamieson ..... <i>Board Member</i>    | Mary Moreno ..... <i>Venue Coordinator</i>                |
| Jason Jones ..... <i>Board Member</i>      | Whitney Campbell ..... <i>Volunteer Coordinator</i>       |
| Steve Martindale ..... <i>Board Member</i> | Amy Evans ..... <i>Administrative Assistant/Registrar</i> |
| Jerry McCullough ..... <i>Board Member</i> | Lisa McCaskey ..... <i>Front Desk Assistant</i>           |
| Dick Moise ..... <i>Board Member</i>       | Dana Rose ..... <i>Guest Experience Host</i>              |
| Judy Rupay ..... <i>Board Member</i>       | Martin Wallace ..... <i>Docent</i>                        |
| Rezolia Johnson ..... <i>Board Member</i>  | Angela Chadwick ..... <i>2nd Grade AISD Liaison</i>       |
| Cindy Salter ..... <i>Board Member</i>     | Robin Swindle ..... <i>4th Grade AISD Liaison</i>         |
| Scott Slocum ..... <i>Board Member</i>     | Traci Alley-Brown ..... <i>Nature School Teacher</i>      |
|  | Janet Stephens ..... <i>Nature School Teacher</i>         |
|  | Cindy Barry ..... <i>Nature School Teacher</i>            |
|  | Tiffany Dragun ..... <i>Nature School Teacher</i>         |

### 2022 ANNUAL SPONSORS



**“CHILDREN SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO DEEPEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING  
OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THEIR  
RELATIONSHIP TO IT.”**

*RIVER LEGACY FOUNDATION EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY*

**EDUCATION | CONSERVATION | RECREATION**



**7,428 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.



**632 CHILDREN**

discovered nature by participating in our in-house education programs. Paid and free programming gives everyone the opportunity to learn!



**3,648 STUDENTS**

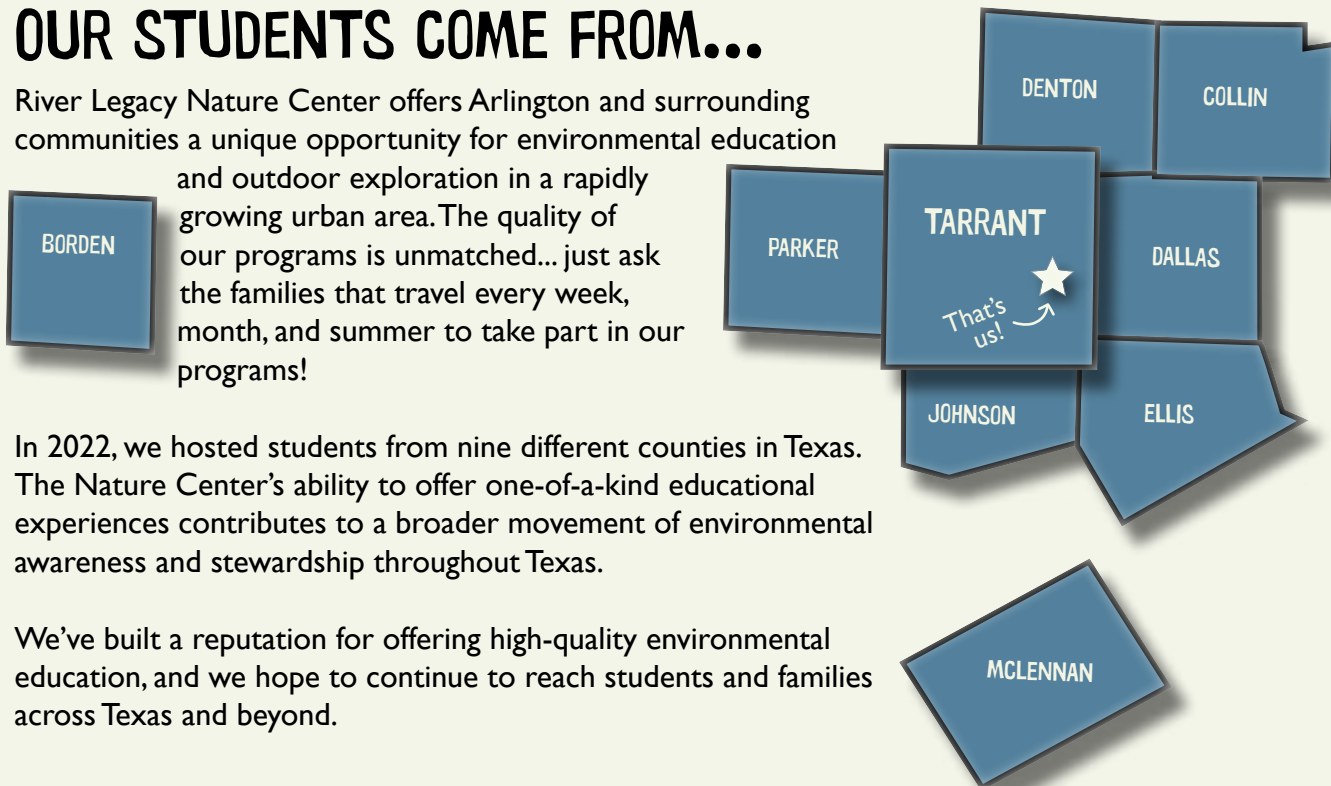
made a connection to nature during a STEM related field trip. Hands-on activities, animal encounters, and naturalist-led hikes are just a few of the many tools offered to inspire connections to nature.

## OUR STUDENTS COME FROM...

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



**EDUCATION | CONSERVATION | RECREATION**



## 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 exceptional 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!

## THANKS TO YOU...



# VOLUNTEERS

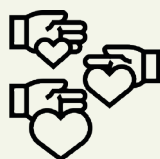
Our volunteers continuously help us build, grow, and nurture one of Arlington's beloved legacies. From high school and college students, retirees, educators, outdoor enthusiasts, and everyone in between... volunteers are essential in making River Legacy Nature Center an extraordinary place to learn,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



**496**  
**VOLUNTEERS**



**2,786**  
**HOURS**



**\$55,725**  
**OF VALUE**



A green-tinted photograph of a park path. In the foreground, a wooden bench is partially visible. A wooden bridge with a curved railing spans across a small stream or path in the middle ground. The background is filled with dense trees and foliage. The text "THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, outlined font.

**THANK YOU  
TO OUR  
SUPPORTERS**

# DONORS

## GRANTS

Baylor Scott and White  
Orthopedic and Spine Hospital  
at Arlington, LLC

California Community  
Foundation

Honey B Foundation,  
a Hive of Grace

Texas Workforce Commission

## \$5,000 AND ABOVE

Baylor Scott and White  
Orthopedic and Spine Hospital  
at Arlington, LLC

Capital Street Scapes, ACP,  
SA-SO Signs and Safety

Viridian

## \$2,000-\$4,999

Bob and Marge Dawson

Dick and Helen Moise

Mike & Becky Gerro

Stephen and Ann Cavender

## \$1,000-\$1,999

Central Bible Church Friends

George and Nesha Morey

Jim and Mary Turner

Kent and Diane Rasmussen

Richard and Sylvia Greene

Mark and Jennifer Warren

Scott and Sammie Slocum

## \$500-\$999

David and Kathy Atnip

George and Carole Hoyer

John and Denise Dillow

Ken Mattner

Mike and Nancy Honkomp

Randol Mill Pharmacy

Steve and Jill Hill

Steve and Paula Martindale

Tommy and Carol Crumpton

## \$250-\$499

Chaplain Rich & Reecia Stoglin

Dan and Susan Eaves

Debra Roesler

Doug and Joyce Bevoni

Emily Reeves

Jay Six

Mark and Jennifer Warren

Pete Jamieson

Scott and Elizabeth Marks

Tim and Barbara Perry

## \$100-\$249

Anonymous (3)

Allen and Mollie Clemson

Ashley Golsorkhi

Barbara Hinds

Bill and Lucille Helton

Brian and Karen Ellen Anderson

Chuck & Margaret Baskin

Cindy Salter

Craig and Nancy Barton

Curt and Ginger Osiek

David and Kristine Johnson  
Botterman

David and Teresa Weldon

Deborah H Vernon

Dick Schoech

Dustan Compton

Earl and Marguerite Hampton

Fred and Louann Schulze

Jack & Becky Upchurch

James and Shelby McLean

Jeff and Terry Eaton

Jodene Daniels

John and Priscilla Promise

Kameron Erbatur

Kathleen Emerson

Kathryn White

Kathy Goodrich

Kermit and Joyce Olson

Lynda Gearheart

Martha Martin

Martin Wallace

Mike and Cheryl Davis

Mike and Laurie Walkenhorst

Mike and Sandi Ray

Paul Brodie

Rev. Rezolia Johnson

Richard & Carol Wray

Richard and Margaret Lenz

Roberto Hernandez

Ronnie Ridgeway and Cathy  
Flores

Rotary Club of Arlington  
Highlands

Sam Elliott

Shannon Porter

Sharon Quist

Steven and Cathy Latham

Steven and Patricia Pierret

Susie Hood

Teddy Dillingham

Tom and Nancy Reneau

Trey and Shana Yelverton

Vince Hrabal

Willa Mills

## \$1-\$99

Anonymous (1)

Albertson's

Andrea Meller

Anna Gant

AT&T United Way/Employee  
Giving Campaign

Brad and Maureen Maidlow

Britany Bleistein

Brooke Mixon

Carl and Denise Wilkerson

Carolyn Price

Craig and Terry Carver

Dan and Rebecca Tatsch

Dave and Laura Munson

David and Sharla Martin

Dennis and Jan Barry

Douglas and Lucy Judson

Everett and Pamela Johnson

Tom and Kathy Barnard

George and Holly Heid

Jack and Roslyn Glaze

Janet Stephens

Jim and Julie Douglas

Jock Bethune

Jose Perez

Josephine Keeney

Karla Hernandez

Kathy Fox Powell

Kevin and Diane England

Krista Simmons

Kroger Community Rewards

Laurie Hines-Ackermann

Leeanne Chenoweth

Marion Feters

Martha Martin

Mary Beth Vono

Melinda Hunter

Michael and Anjel Hustedde

Michael and Kathleen  
Faggella-Luby

Mike and Susan Bartlett

Missy Singleton

Paul and Kay Sweeney

Randy & Cathy Williams

Robert and Cindy Barry

Robert Blake

Roger and Ginny Zwicker

Ronny Abrams and Denise Gage

Rosa Weith

Russell Gamber

Sarah Morris

Scott and Linda Church

# DONORS

Sherrie Ripple  
Sharon Brown  
Stacy and Terry Bridger  
Steve and Tracy Brooks  
Steven and Carmen Marsic  
Tiffany Dragun  
Traci Alley  
Virgil and Sharron Segue  
Vone Dempsey  
Whitney Campbell

## HONORARIUM

Gregory and Susan Schadt in honor of Robert Blake  
Jan Barton Gerro in honor of Mike and Becky Gerro  
Julie Nicholson in honor of Becky Gerro  
William A. and Adrienne S. Loweth in honor of Debbie Vernon

## MEMORIALS

Bruce Steinfeld in memory of Michelle Renee Lindsay  
Christopher Cost in memory of Michelle Renee Lindsay  
Don Berman in memory of Ellis Elliott  
Dorothy Lennon in memory of Michelle Renee Lindsay  
Frank Devlin in memory of Michelle Renee Lindsay  
Jack and Becky Upchurch in memory of Jonell Hill Trumble  
Jodene Daniels in memory of Ellis Elliott  
Joseph R Elliott in memory of Ellis Elliott  
Joyce and Doug Bevoni in memory of Jane Dodd  
Mary McNeely in memory of Michelle Renee Lindsay  
Mike and Becky Gerro in memory of Michelle Renee Lindsay

Richard and Sylvia Greene in memory of Diane Cravens  
Sherry Willyerd in memory of Michelle Renee Lindsay

## IN-KIND

Al and Laura DiStefano  
Andy and Linda Broadus  
Baseball Diamonds  
BCertain Realty  
Bit by Bit  
BJ's Brewhouse  
Boo-Ray's of New Orleans  
Bourbon Gospel  
Charlie and Ann Still  
Chick-Fil-A at North Collins St.  
Chicken-n-Pickle  
Cindy Salter  
City of Arlington Parks and Recreation Department  
Dallas Mavericks  
Dave and Lisa McCaskey  
Debby Pond  
Dick and Helen Moise  
Doreen and Joe Bruner  
Gena Williams  
Golf Center of Arlington  
Graham Associates, Inc.  
Great Skin and Spa  
Hand and Stone North Arlington  
HOTWORX of Arlington, Viridian  
Jack & Becky Upchurch  
Julie & Jay Ryan  
Kathy & Bill Venable  
Lazy Dog  
Lost Oak Winery  
Maner Fire Equipment  
Michael Wolfson  
Mike & Becky Gerro

Mountain Sports  
Ms. Deborah H Vernon  
Nothing Bundt Cakes, North Arlington  
Omni Hotels and Resorts  
REI - Recreational Equipment, Inc.  
Robert Blake  
Sanford House Inn and Spa  
Shirley Coleman  
Spec's Wine, Spirits & Finer Foods  
Spring Creek Barbeque  
Stephen and Ann Cavender  
The Man's Shop  
The Melting Pot  
Tobacco Lane  
Walk-Ons

# JUNE-JULY 2022 EVENT SPONSORS



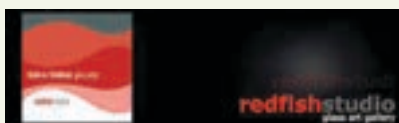
TIM & KENDALL LAKE

DEBBY POND

LESLIE & LEE FRIEDMAN

SAMUEL BRIONES

STATE FARM INSURANCE - ROB BECKER



EDUCATION | CONSERVATION | RECREATION



RIVER LEGACY  
FOUNDATION

35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



**CONNECT**



**DONATE**



**VOLUNTEER**

**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](http://www.riverlegacy.org)