

## On-Site Technical Assistance

The Urban Wildlife offices offer free technical assistance that municipalities can use to make informed decisions regarding their natural resources. We can assist local parks, golf courses, corporate sites, schools and homeowner's associations in various ways including:

- Habitat Assessment
- Habitat Restoration
- Management Recommendations
- Ecologically Sensitive Landscaping
- Creating Nature Trails
- Use of Bioengineering Techniques
- Erosion Control Techniques
- Solving Urban Pond Problems
- Addressing Urban Stream Issues
- Attracting Beneficial Wildlife
- Referrals for Nuisance Wildlife Problems

If you have a project, question or problem concerning wildlife or wildlife habitats in your city, give us a call and we'll try to assist you.



*"We won't have a society if we destroy the environment."*

– Margaret Mead

## TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE URBAN WILDLIFE PROGRAM OFFICES

### Austin:

4200 Smith School  
Austin, TX 78744  
(512) 389-4974  
fax (512) 389-4593

### Dallas/Ft. Worth:

P.O. Box 941  
Cedar Hill, TX 75106  
(972) 293-3841  
fax (972) 293-3842

### El Paso:

401 E. Franklin,  
Ste. 520  
El Paso, TX 79901  
(915) 834-7070  
fax (915) 834-7060

### Houston:

Sheldon Lake State Park  
14320 Garrett Rd.  
Houston, TX 77044  
(281) 456-7029  
fax (281) 456-7027

### Rio Grande Valley:

Las Palomas WMA  
1902 Joe Stephens,  
Ste. 203  
Weslaco, TX 78596  
(956) 447-2664

### San Antonio:

134 Braniff  
San Antonio, TX  
78216-3392  
(210) 348-6350  
fax (210) 366-2319



© 2001 TPW PWD BR W7000-749 (9/01)  
In accordance with Texas State Depository Law, this publication is available at the Texas State Publications Clearinghouse and/or Texas Depository Libraries.

Texas Parks and Wildlife receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex (in educational programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any Texas Parks and Wildlife program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information, please call or write: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Civil Rights Programs - External Programs, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Webb 300, Arlington, VA 22203, (703) 358-1724.

## Urban Wildlife Program

# Enhancing our cities naturally



# Helping cities blend natural and urban living...

Did you know the the top three sounds people prefer are natural sounds such as birds singing, wind in the trees and gently moving water? The least preferred sounds are urban sounds such as traffic, sirens and gunfire. As Texas becomes increasingly urban, the need for nature in our cities becomes more and more critical. Our society values the natural environment. The evidence is everywhere. Proximity to natural areas increases property values. Studies have demonstrated that people heal faster with natural views outside their hospital window. Employee satisfaction has been demonstrated to improve dramatically when natural areas are created on corporate sites. Wildlife-related recreation is at an all time high. Since 1982, the number of people participating in birdwatching has increased over 155%!

It is clear that our urban society not only yearns for a connection to wildlife, but also benefits greatly from these positive experiences. To assist cities as they strive to enhance the livability of their urban environment, Texas Parks and Wildlife has assigned urban biologists to work in each of the large metropolitan areas of Texas.

## Effects of Urbanization

As we change the character of the land from rural to urban, natural resources are impacted. Traditional development practices alter the conditions of our soil, air and water thus altering the ecosystems that depend on them. These changes cause radical yet predictable shifts in wildlife populations. Many beneficial species of wildlife disappear. Some survive. Some adapt and thrive to nuisance proportions.



## Solving Problems Naturally

By understanding how our local ecosystems function we can work with nature to build cities that are not only healthy economically, but ecologically as well. Urban biologists are here to help cities find ways to blend nature into the urban fabric while addressing common problems faced in metropolitan areas.

## Assistance with Public Policy

We have been called upon to assist municipalities with local ordinances. It has been our experience that many local tree preservation and/or landscape ordinances are poorly written and do not functionally represent the spirit in which they were written. We can offer assistance to create ordinances that produce economically profitable development while



protecting trees, conserving native habitats and encouraging water conservation and reduced pesticide usage.

## Educational Assistance

Urban biologists may be called upon to offer free presentations covering any number of topics including general wildlife information, ecologically sensitive development, wildlife friendly bioengineering techniques and native landscaping to name a few. We often speak to city councils, parks boards, park maintenance personnel, homeowner associations, corporations, schools, etc.

