

Travis Audubon
Spring 2025 Green Leaders Fellowship Cohort
Austin, TX | Part-Time | In-Person

Project Title: Habitat Restoration and Education Fellowship

Project Duration: 12 weeks

Organization Description: Travis Audubon promotes the enjoyment, understanding, and conservation of native birds through inclusive environmental education, habitat protection, restoration, and management, and conservation advocacy. Travis Audubon (TAS), a member of the Audubon Foundation of Texas, manages four wildlife sanctuaries, including Blair Woods, a 10-acre urban preserve situated in East Austin. Owned and managed by TAS since 1985, Blair Woods Nature Preserve is a significant representative of the Blackland Prairie Ecological Region. It holds rich historical significance as the location of Native American presence at Coleman Springs, the site of the Republic of Texas Fort Colorado, a turn-of-the-century Swedish dairy farm, and remnants of Dr. Blair's herpetological field research.

Project Overview: The Habitat Restoration and Education Fellow will assist with land management tasks of Blair Woods, as well as the education programming that is scheduled on the property. They will work to promote desired native plant growth, remove and/or treat non-native and native invasive plant species, propagate desired native plant species, maintain trails, grounds, and facilities, lead volunteer workdays, and conduct guided tours of Blair Woods. In addition to hands-on restoration work, the fellow will develop a short presentation focused on educating volunteers and visitors about invasive species prevalent in Blair Woods and the importance of native plant restoration. The fellow will research local flora, create educational materials, and design a short presentation to impart knowledge effectively. The fellow will have the opportunity to present this during TAS volunteer and corporate workdays. Most hours will take place onsite at Blair Woods Nature Preserve in East Austin, although some hours may occur remotely or in our office in Hyde Park.

Project Outcome(s):

- An educational video or other online resource about invasive plants, both broadly and those found on the property, to be shared with volunteers and visitors
- Final presentation in medium of fellow's choice showcasing the restoration and educational work completed over the course of the fellowship program

Qualifications:

- Basic knowledge of land management best practices
- Familiarity with the native flora and fauna of the Blackland Prairie ecosystem
- Ability to identify non-native and invasive plants, experience with native plant propagation, and some understanding of trail maintenance
- Able to lift up to 50 lbs. and carry a backpack of 25 lbs. for distances up to one-half mile
- Passion and curiosity about land conservation and education

- Strong organizational skills and ability to work with minimal supervision
- Demonstrated ability to be a self-starter and to work well in a collaborative environment
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to commit to 10-15 work hours per week

Additional Benefits:

- Professional development working with Austin's oldest conservation nonprofit
- Experience actively restoring degraded habitat in an urbanized area
- Experience developing educational content that will be utilized by preserve docents
- Oral presentation experience in a relaxed setting
- Greater understanding of the complexities of managing an urban preserve
- Networking with industry colleagues and a corps of well-connected volunteers