

Protecting the State's NATURAL RESOURCES



Challenges

- Population growth, urbanization, land conversion and increasing water demand threaten Texas' natural resources.
- Environmental factors such as drought, floods, non-point source water pollution and exotic species invasion have placed the state's water supply under tremendous stress.



Contact

Office of the Director
Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Service
(979) 314-8200
extension@ag.tamu.edu

AgriLife Extension Response

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service delivers a wide range of researched-based educational resources and programs on water quality, water-use efficiency, wildlife and fisheries practices, ecosystem and parks management, tourism and open-space planning to improve habitat. These programs delivered more than **1,150 educational events**, planning meetings and workshops in 2023 to more than **109,000** educational and other contacts.

- **Water resource** programs focus on watershed health and protection, onsite wastewater treatment systems, water-use efficiency, private water wells and soil nutrient management.
- **Wildlife and fisheries** programs focus on restoration and conservation of wildlife habitat, disease and predator control, harvest management practices and aquaculture and pond management tools.
- **Land and ecosystem** programs address the ecology and restoration of rangeland and coastal wetlands, including best practices for brush, pasture, rangeland and weed management.
- **Community and economic development** programs bolster parks tourism, including open space planning and outreach to support planned development and growth as well as the **\$28 billion** outdoor recreation and tourism industry.
- **Texas Master Naturalist** encompasses **5,300 volunteers** who help with research and provide stewardship education at nature centers, parks, and other nature-based sites totaling more than 228,000 acres.
- **Texas 4-H Youth Development** Program engaged more than **108,000 youth** in natural resource and environmental learning activities.

Economic Impacts

- **Wildlife management** programs led to estimated economic gains of **\$24.2 million** by reducing property damages from feral hogs and improving quail biology and habitat.
- **Wildlife Services' predation and beaver damage** management efforts led to **\$83.8 million** in economic benefits for landowners.
- **Texas Master Naturalists** contributed **553,000 hours** of volunteer service in 2023, which was valued at **\$17.6 million**.
- **Water conservation** programs produced estimated cost savings of **\$23.7 million**, while **groundwater protection education** led to over **\$1.1 million** in economic benefits for private well owners.
- Participants in **rangeland and natural resource management** programs reported anticipated economic benefits of **\$64.8 million** on 3.5 million managed acres.



EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE | PROVIDING SOLUTIONS

2024

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