



ECO WARRIORS

# Greening Dallas Parks



Dallas Park & Recreation  
*Bringing Communities Together*

FALL 2024

## Pollinators Make Dallas Parks Key Stopovers On Their Journey South

Each fall, millions of birds, butterflies, and insects journey thousands of miles south to reach their winter destination. Among them are monarch butterflies whose highly developed migration takes them 3,000 miles from Canada to Mexico's mountain forests. As pollinators migrate in search of nectar, many will stopover in Dallas parks that have become crucial refueling stations for them. Bees - best known of the pollinators - now are busy cross-pollinating fall flowers such as asters, goldenrod, sunflowers, and salvia, ensuring that pollinated flowers and seeds become nutrition for the winter survival of small mammals.



### Suffering From Allergies?

Don't blame the goldenrods. These colorful fall flowers are not the culprits. Their bright yellow and purple colors are to attract pollinators during dusk.



Dun Skipper waiting on the Camphor to bloom

## Dallas' Pollinator Gardens Revamped Just in Time for the Great Migration

The Mayor's Pollinator Garden at City Hall and the garden at White Rock Lake Pump Station have been restored just in time for the great pollinator migration. Dallas Park and Recreation horticulture teams led the restoration activities where they prepared garden beds, repaired irrigation systems, sourced the plant materials, and placed the plants according to landscape designers' plans for pollinator-friendly and water-efficient layouts.

With funding from the Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability, the newly revamped gardens will be showcased at the Water-Wise Landscape Tour on October 19!



New plants in the Mayor's Pollinator Garden in July 2024.

# Water-Wise Landscape Tour Will Enhance Your Green Thumb

Don't miss the 30th Water-Wise Landscape Tour on October 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the White Rock Pump Station. Family-friendly activities include educational talks, live music, arts, crafts, hands-on "Let's Make Seed Balls" workshop, and free souvenir bags. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., take self-guided tours of drought-tolerant gardens featuring native plants, drip irrigation, and rain barrels. Maps are available at the White Rock Pump Station, 2900 White Rock Road, Dallas 75214.

## Dig Into Water-Wise Landscaping

Water-wise gardening is an eco-friendly way to enhance your landscape while conserving water. The City of Dallas has promoted this practice for 30 years, emphasizing the benefits of native and drought-tolerant plants.

## Serving Up Energy Efficiency at Dallas Tennis Centers

Whether you're serving up aces or enjoying a casual game, visit **Fretz**, **Kiest**, **L.B. Houston**, and **Samuell-Grand** tennis centers and see how energy-efficient improvements can improve your game. New environmentally friendly lighting at the city's four full-service tennis facilities have replaced outdated metal halide fixtures. Brighter LED lights consume less energy, reduce utility costs, and provide superior court illumination for better play. The new lighting offers several additional benefits: longer lifespans, minimal maintenance requirements, and 100% recyclability.

Follow these principles to create your sustainable, water-efficient landscape:

- 1. Create a Plan:** Assess soil, drainage, water access, and views. Identify high-water areas and align your design with your budget.
- 2. Soil Health:** Test your soil at a local nursery and improve it with compost and mulch for better moisture retention.
- 3. Smart Turf Use:** Instead of grass, consider round covers, shrubs, or decks to reduce water use.
- 4. Choose the Right Plants:** Opt for native or drought-tolerant plants that thrive on local rainfall.
- 5. Water Wisely:** Water slowly to encourage deep penetration and reduce runoff. Use sprinklers with larger droplets to minimize evaporation.
- 6. Organic Mulch:** Apply mulch to retain moisture, suppress weeds, and prevent erosion, using options like pine bark or composted leaves.
- 7. Ongoing Maintenance:** Regularly prune, weed, fertilize, and adjust irrigation as needed.



Since the pandemic, Dallas' tennis centers have seen a significant increase in play with an average annual attendance of 130,799 compared to pre-pandemic attendance of 77,797.



Teens remove invasive privet at Bachman Greenbelt.

## Dallas Teens Are Today's Eco Advocates

Planet Earth and the environment have new champions. Dallas youth are learning how to tackle everyday ecological issues through hands-on activities, thanks to Dallas Park and Recreation's Environmental, Recreation Services, and Park Maintenance and Operations divisions. Year-round learning opportunities are shaping informed and active environmental heroes!

This summer, teens from Exall, Nash Davis, Thurgood Marshall, and Timberglen recreation centers rolled up their sleeves to remove the invasive privet plant at Bachman Lake Greenbelt where they learned ecosystem management and native habitat restoration. Tours of McCommas Bluff Landfill and the Materials Recovery Facility showed teens the importance of recycling and waste reduction. With assistance from an urban biologist, teens identified aquatic insects in water collected at Lake Cliff to assess the lake's health.



Teens at McCommas Bluff Landfill

## Employees Unite for the Environment



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Dallas Park and Recreation Department Eco Warriors are dedicated to sustainability and reducing the department's environmental footprint. Since 2019, employees from the department's six divisions come together monthly to initiatives focused on waste reduction, recycling, green product usage, and organic landscaping. To learn more about the Eco Warriors, click [here](#).

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