

## Making a Difference

### **The Goodwater Master Naturalists**

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The Master Naturalists in Williamson County continue to grow as a group, volunteering and educating our community stakeholders in conservation. The group currently has **167** adult members that have volunteered **12,582** hours of time in our community.

**Goodwater Master Naturalist Training Classes** – The Master Naturalists offer two training classes each year. These classes last fifteen weeks, giving the students over **50** hours of training time. Experts in the fields of natural science deliver programs intended to educate the students in Texas ecology, paleontology, interpretation, biology, and much more. In 2019, **48** new Master Naturalists were trained in Williamson County. The fall class hosted **29** students, the largest class in the history of the Goodwater Master Naturalist program. **14** of the **29** participants completed the initial certification process, which includes volunteering **40** hours beyond the class certification time.

**Goodwater Master Naturalist Garey Park Outreach** – **12** times a year the Master Naturalists host educational programs. These programs are held on free entry days at the park and are geared toward upper elementary students and their families. Topics included in 2019 are: pollinators, beneficial insects, blue bird habitats, turkeys and water conservation. These programs combined served **3,266** youth and **1,078** adults.

**Junior Master Naturalist Program** - The Junior Master Naturalist program is in its third year and has grown to include **19** youth. This group meets biweekly and includes class time and field trips.

**Berry Springs Park Programing** – The Goodwater Master Naturalists work closely with Berry Springs Park and Preserve. A few of the projects at the park focus on pond maintenance and wildlife. We have an active nature tracking team that use cameras and observations to provide local conservationists with a number of species found in the park.

**River Ranch Country Park** – The Master Naturalist have been assisting in the development of this 1,000 acre park in Williamson County. A team of volunteers have been working on several projects at the park, including researching the history, producing videos and organizing clean up efforts.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Master Naturalist, we have an upcoming training class. For more information, see their website at <https://txmn.org/goodwater/texas-master-naturalist-training-program/> or contact Shelley Franklin.

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