

Texas Green Schoolyards Network Contact List

Last updated: August 2024

Austin Independent School District

- [Colleen Garland](mailto:colleen.garland@austinisd.org), Outdoor Learning Specialist - colleen.garland@austinisd.org
 - AISD outdoor learning environment: [Metz Outdoor Wonder and Learning Center](#)

City of Austin / [Cities Connecting Children to Nature Initiative](#) - Austin

Cities Connecting Children to Nature (CCCN) is a national initiative that seeks to create more equitable and abundant access to nature in cities through a partnership between The National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families and the Children & Nature Network. CCCN Austin supports the Green [School Park Program](#), which works on creating a network of school parks that provides Austin communities with access to nature.

- Melody Alcazar, City of Austin Parks and Recreation: Program Manager - Cities Connecting Children to Nature - Melody.Alcazar@austintexas.gov
- Yasmine Anderson, City of Austin Parks and Recreation: Program Coordinator, and Green School Park Program contact - yasmine.Anderson@austintexas.gov

City of Austin's [AISD Off-campus Greenspaces for Outdoor Learning](#): Displays the nearest green-space within a short walk to applicable Austin ISD schools.

[Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds](#), ON Canada

BNP builds and implements Natural Playgrounds by conducting community engagement on playground design, engaging community stakeholders in usage of the natural playground, and advocating for greenspaces for young people.

- [Adam Bienenstock](mailto:adam@bienenstockplaygrounds.com), Founder, principal designer - adam@bienenstockplaygrounds.com
- [Natasha Sembay](mailto:natasha.sembay@bienenstockplaygrounds.com), Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds vice president of sales and marketing - natasha.sembay@bienenstockplaygrounds.com

[Texas Children in Nature Network](#)

TCNN is a grassroots network of over 900 partner organizations that aims to connect Texas families with nature. TCNN facilitates regional collaborative efforts, events and an annual conference, and outdoor curriculum and fundraising resources.

- [Sarah Coles](mailto:scoles@texaschildreninnature.org), Executive Director - scoles@texaschildreninnature.org
- [Alice Jansen](mailto:ajansen@texaschildreninnature.org), Education Director - ajansen@texaschildreninnature.org
- [Amanda McMickle](mailto:amcmickle@texaschildreninnature.org), Early Childhood Outdoor Education Learning Manager - amcmickle@texaschildreninnature.org
- [Marisa Oliva](mailto:moliva@texaschildreninnature.org), Rio Grande Valley Health and Nature Liaison - moliva@texaschildreninnature.org

[Priscilla Pond Flawn Child & Family Lab](#), UT Austin

The UT Lab School provides observation and training opportunities for early childhood educators. Dr. Bryan facilitates the campus outdoor learning environment.

- [Amy Bryan](#), Associate Professor, Priscilla Pond Flawn Child and Family Laboratory - aebryan@utexas.edu

[North American Association for Environmental Education](#)

NAEE promotes environmental education through 56 organizations in the US, Canada, and Mexico in 2024. The organization uses education to advance environmental literacy and civic engagement that promotes sustainability.

- [Jaime González](#), Board of Directors; Conservation Consultant; affiliated with Alief ISD Jefferson Early Learning Center - jaimegonzalez72@gmail.com

[Made Greene School Garden Services](#)

Made Greene creates outdoor gardens for teachers and students, and provides School Gardening Education curriculum to partner sites.

- [Mary Jo Greene](#), Executive Director - maryjo@madegreene.com Mollie Greene

[Central Texas Interfaith](#)

CTI brings together non-partisan, multi-ethnic and -issue organizations through congregations, public schools, and unions to organize responses to public issues that affect community well-being.

- [Warinda Harris](#). Organizer working to keep local communities engaged with emerging green schoolyards projects - Warinda@centraltexasinterfaith.org

[Texas Trees Foundation Cool Schools Program](#)

The Texas Trees Foundation plans and catalyzes tree canopy installations throughout Texas to foster public well-being. The Cool Schools Program specifically plants trees on school campuses in order for educational communities to benefit from trees' shade and natural benefits.

- Lindsay Hoot, Dallas Fort Worth Manager - lindsay@texastrees.org

[UTHealth Houston School of Public Health](#)

Part of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

- [Kevin Lanza](#), Assistant Professor - Kevin.L.Lanza@uth.tmc.edu

[Texas A&M AgriLife Extension](#)

Texas A&M Agrilife is an education agency and network of professional collaborators in the public and private sectors. AgriLife delivers science-based solutions to agriculture spaces, natural resource dialogues, and public health interventions.

- [Mac Martin](#), Texas A&M Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program Leader, Urban and Community Forest Leader - mac.martin@tfs.tamu.edu

[Trust for Public Land](#)

The Trust for Public Land is a nonprofit organization that creates parks and greenspace advocacy and establishment across the United States. The North Texas division emphasizes urban greenspace programs in Dallas and TPL's work in the Trinity River watershed.

- Molly Morgan, Parks and Schoolyards Program Director, North Texas - Molly.Morgan@tpl.org

[Coastal Bends Bays & Estuaries Program](#)

CBEBEP aims to protect the 75 mile estuarine environment along the south-central Texas coastline across Copano, Aransas, Corpus Christi, Nueces, Baffin, and upper Laguna Madre bay systems. CBEBEP implements the Coastal Bend Bays Plan, which outlines the protection and restoration of the area's health and productivity while supporting public use and economic growth.

- Kimberly Ogden, Education Coordinator - ogdenkinder@gmail.com

Northside Independent School District's [Project A.C.O.R.N.](#) (Alamo-area Children Organized to Replant Natives)

Project A.C.O.R.N. aims to improve environmental literacy for PreK-8th grade students by planting butterfly and vegetable gardens on school sites. The gardens incorporate science and environmental curriculum while also contributing to global scientific databases.

- Amalia Sollars, K-8th Enrichment Programs Coordinator - amalia.sollars@nisd.net

[PBK Architects](#) / [Jefferson Early Learning Center](#) - [Alief Independent School District](#)

The Jefferson Early Learning Center in Alief, ISD (outside of Houston) is an outdoor learning center for preschool and kindergarten aged learners. PBK Architects designed the space.

- PBK Architects Inc: Melissa Turnbaugh, Partner, National Education & Innovation Leader; affiliated with Alief ISD Jefferson Early Learning Center - Melissa.Turnbaugh@pbk.com