



# TEXAS CHILDREN IN NATURE NETWORK

MISSION: ENSURING EQUITABLE ACCESS  
AND CONNECTION TO NATURE FOR ALL  
CHILDREN IN TEXAS

[WWW.TEXASCHILDRENINNATURE.ORG](http://WWW.TEXASCHILDRENINNATURE.ORG)

## Who Are We?

Children today are disconnected from nature, often spending 7 hours per day on a screen and 1 hour per week outdoors, leading to health problems and a growing sense of isolation. But we are working on a solvable problem; children who play and learn in nature are healthier, happier, and perform better in school.

We strengthen and leverage the work of over 1000 state and local partners across Texas, working in the health, community development, education, and conservation fields. With our partners, we work toward *ensuring access and connection to nature for ALL children in Texas*. Through our partner programming and projects, TCiNN engaged over 7 million families in Texas during 2024.



"The more high-tech we become, the more nature we need." - Richard Louv

## What are Nature Smart Libraries?



Initiative to work with libraires across the state to create outdoor play and exploration spaces in their communities. Spaces can include everything from backpacks to StoryWalks, gardens, and nature play areas. As an organization, we place a high importance on these spaces, incorporating many natural elements, including native plants and trees.

For more information, contact:  
[scoles@texaschildreninnature.org](mailto:scoles@texaschildreninnature.org)



# StoryWalks

StoryWalks are an opportunity to incorporate literature and the outdoors in a unique way. Libraries can create signage along a path or trail to install pages of a book. Patrons are then able to walk and read the story.

Check out this webinar we did all about how to make a StoryWalk.

## Why Nature Smart Libraries

Libraries are often trusted community hubs in their cities and towns. By increasing nature opportunities in and around libraries, we can make an impact in the larger community. Nature Smart Libraries commit to creating nature experience with their patrons through a variety of programs.

Programs and Ways Libraries can incorporate nature?

- Library Explorer Adventure Packs (LEAP)
- StoryWalks
- Nature Nooks and gardens
- Nature Programming

## How TCiNN is Supporting The Work

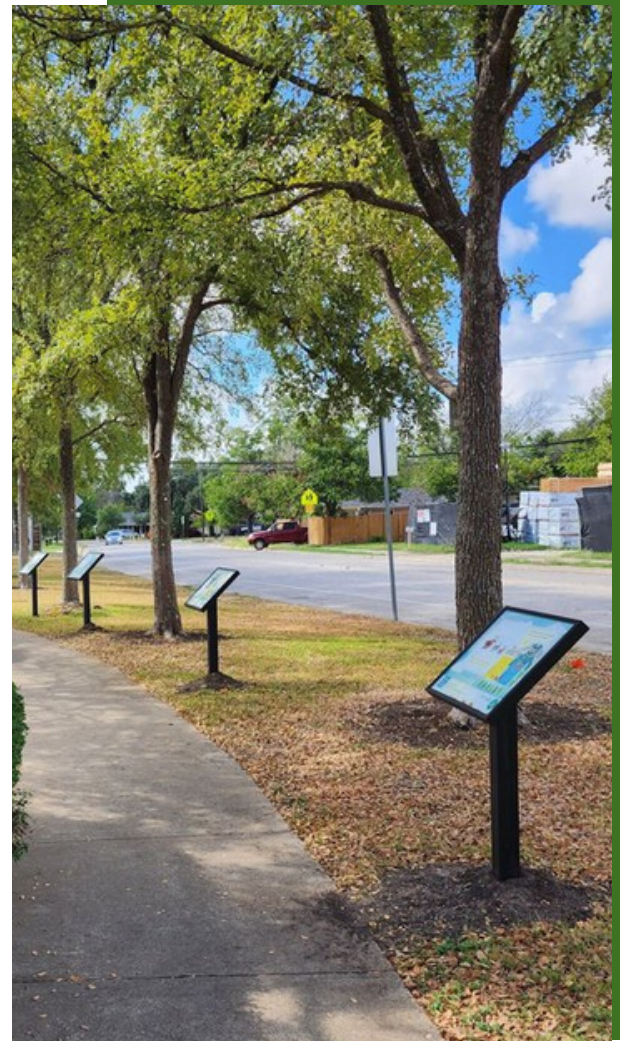
Creation and support of LEAP packs for libraries across the state - we currently have 212 backpacks out and the number grows annually

Nature Smart Library State Cohort Calls

Technical Assistance for Libraries

Nature Space Design Support

Workshops and trainings for Library Staff





# Library Explorer Adventure Packs (LEAP)

Texas Children in Nature Network in partnership with conservation partners from across the state have created backpacks for nature exploration. These packs are available for libraries to check out to their patrons. Packs come in a variety of themes and include many materials to explore the outdoors.

## Pack Themes

- Backyard Bayou
- Beachcombing
- Birds & Birding
- Butterflies & Insects
- Cooking from the Garden
- Fish & Fishing
- Gardening
- Native Plants
- Outdoor Skills
- Pollinators
- Reptiles & Amphibians
- River Exploration
- Rocks & Fossils
- Stargazing
- Wildlife Around You - tailored to your region
- Other packs can be developed with our staff

## LEAP Cost

- Year 1:
  - \$1000 base fee per library - includes 20 hours of Technical Assistance from Texas Children in Nature Network staff to implement LEAP at your library, a kickoff event with Texas Children in Nature Network, and a Texas Children in Nature Network organizational membership
  - \$250 per pack - includes all materials for the packs
- Year 2 and Beyond - \$500
  - Includes membership renewal
  - Replacement items as needed

**LEAP**  
Library Explorer  
Adventure Pack