

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

Texas Children in Nature
Network



TEXAS
Children
in Nature
NETWORK

ABOUT TCINN

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 towards creating access and connection to nature for ALL children in Texas. Through our partner programming and projects, TCiNN engaged over **2 million families** in Texas during 2025.

The Texas Children in Nature Network supports the children in nature movement through the sharing of resources, production of an annual summit, and technical support to our partners. With our partners, TCiNN has created the strongest statewide nature collaborative in the nation.

ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS

In 2025, we accomplished the following:

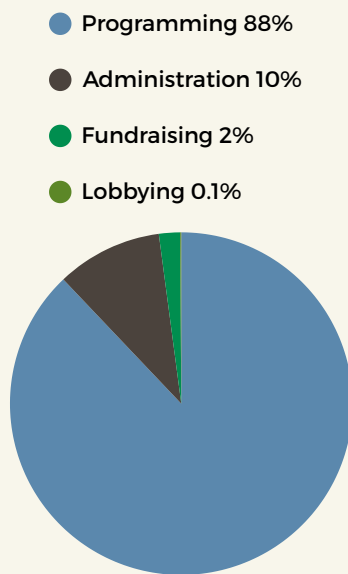
- Wrote and Released our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.
- In December, we hosted our 2025 Summit at the Brazos County Expo Hall in Bryan, Texas, for 220 attendees.
- Hosted webinars and shared resources for 1787 attendees.
- Launched our Early Childhood Education Pathfinder Network for early childhood educators who are interested in engaging their students outdoors.
- Hosted a Texas Nature Smart Library Convening in Austin for 25 librarians.
- Launched our Paso Del Norte and Hill Country Regional Collaboratives.
- Expanded our LEAP Library Backpack program to libraries in Kerrville, Uvalde, and Pasadena.



THE FIGURES

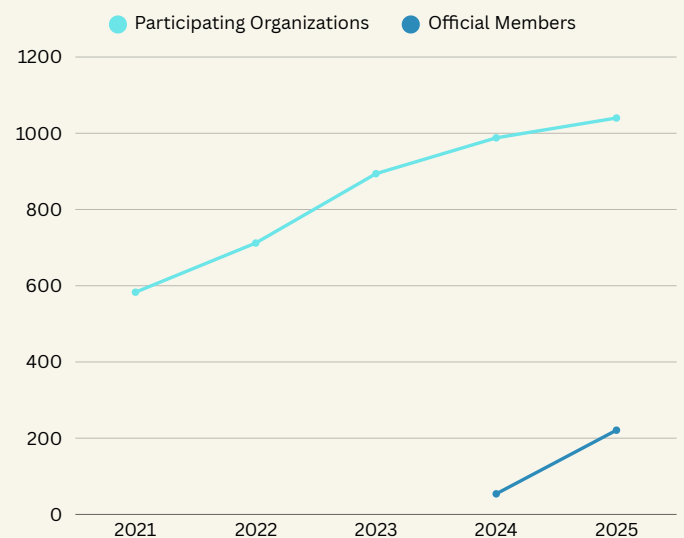
HOW YOUR DONATIONS WERE USED

This graph shows the percentages of spending for 2025



GROWTH OF MEMBERSHIP

Collaboration across the state is growing



GRANTS WE RECEIVED IN 2025

- Department of State Health Services
- Outdoor Learning Environment
Early Childhood Education Network
- \$96,000
- H-E-B: \$15,000
- H. E. Butt Foundation: \$2,700
- REI: \$15,000

INCOME AND EXPENSES

- Total Earned: \$430,306
- Total Spent: \$387,110

2025 MEMBERSHIPS

- 223 Members
- \$16,320 raised

MAJOR PROJECTS



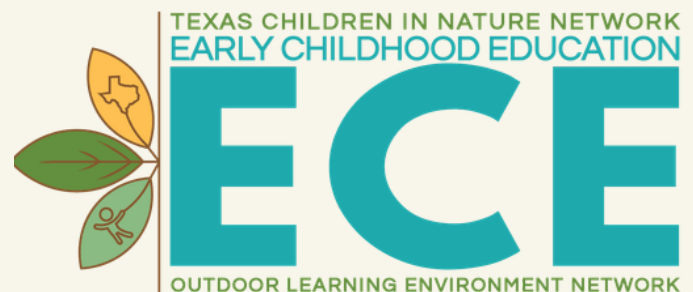
2025 STRATEGIC PLAN AND MEMBERSHIP

In 2025 it was time to update our Strategic Plan. In August Fossil Rim Wildlife Center hosted our board for a two day retreat. During the retreat the board engaged in systems change mapping, dreaming, and planning our future directions. Out of this planning process our 2025 Strategic Plan was written and released in December. For the next five years we will be working to Connect, Empower, and Amplify the work. Check out the full plan included in this report.

In 2025 we also launched membership for Texas Children in Nature Newtork. Over the last year we have grown the program to include 220 both organizational and individual members.

OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS - OLE! TEXAS

Through its partnership with the Department of State Health Services, Texas Children in Nature Network expanded the Outdoor Learning Environment Early Childhood Education Professionals Network to 290 members across early childhood and community learning settings. The initiative strengthened statewide capacity through a Pathfinder convening, three site visits to high-quality outdoor spaces, nine webinars engaging more than 200 stakeholders, 15 in-person trainings supporting over 600 educators, and three consultations advancing nature-rich outdoor learning environments. View the website at <https://texaseceoutdoornetwork.org/>



MAJOR PROJECTS

NATURE SMART LIBRARIES

A Nature Smart Library is a community library where communities can engage with the outdoors through the outdoor space at the library, materials at the library, and with nature programming at the library sites.

This year, TCiNN launched our Nature Smart Library Cohort by hosting a library convening in Austin during September. 22 librarians gathered to tour nature smart libraries and learn about how to add nature to their libraries. Following the gathering, over 55 libraries began to meet quarterly on our cohort calls.

In addition, TCiNN staff have helped the Kerrville Library, El Progreso Memorial Library in Uvalde, and the Pasadena Libraries to launch LEAP packs at their libraries. Our staff has also been consulting on several design projects at libraries across the state.



ANNUAL SUMMIT

Every year, TCiNN hosts a gathering of leaders across the state. During this three-day Summit, TCiNN brings together health, education, built environment, faith, and conservation community leaders to shape an even brighter future for the children of Texas. Our Summit in 2025 engaged 220 partners in Bryan-College Station. We also honored five amazing Children and Nature Champions

- Kathleen Ownby
- Sophia Vitela
- Cameron County Commissioner David Garza
- Grow Local South Texas
- Natureversity Outdoor School



MAJOR PROJECTS

UT PLANET 2050 PHARR YOUTH COALITION

This year, TCiNN deepened its engagement in Pharr by supporting ongoing university-community research collaborations and strengthening youth-centered environmental leadership. TCiNN facilitated research activities led by the University of Texas and UT Health San Antonio, helping students connect their academic work with community priorities identified through earlier Photovoice efforts. As part of this work, TCiNN coordinated meetings between research teams, city representatives, and local leaders to advance the design process for Jones Box Park, ensuring youth perspectives and community needs remained central to the planning process.

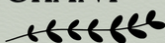
TCiNN also continued convening the Coalition on Youth, Health, and the Environment, providing a space for cross-sector partners to align around shared goals and support youth-driven environmental action. These efforts collectively help strengthen the city's capacity to integrate youth voices into environmental planning and reinforced the long-term impact of the Photovoice initiative.



MAJOR PROJECTS

AUSTIN CONNECT AND GROW GRANT

In the Summer of 2025, TCiNN was approached by MONA Design in Austin, looking for a way to support Early Childhood Centers in the Austin area. Through a donation, we were able to offer two mini-grants to two different centers. One center will be building an outdoor storage area, and the other will be installing garden beds.

**AUSTIN
CONNECT
AND
GROW
GRANT**




Up to \$500 for Outdoor Improvements
Grant Due Jan 31, 2026
For More Information Email - Beth Edwards:
bedwards@texaschildreninnature.org





WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS

TCiNN is sharing best practices and resources with partners and teachers through our series of webinars and workshops. Monthly webinars cover topics such as equity in the outdoors and public health with experts in the field. Teacher workshops are offered throughout the year to help teachers teach more in the nature spaces on their campuses. This year, in addition to our webinars, we also contracted out to partners and schools to train their staff on nature access and connection. In 2025, TCiNN hosted 29 webinars and workshops with a total of 1789 participants.

PRESENTATIONS FOR TEXAS CHILDREN IN NATURE NETWORK

This year, staff from Texas Children in Nature Network presented at multiple statewide and national conferences, including plenary presentations at the Children & Nature Network Conference, the Healthier Texas Summit, and the Texas Rising Star Early Childhood conference.

Overall, the staff presented for 1500 people this year.



MAJOR PROJECTS

GREEN SCHOOLYARDS

This year, TCiNN has expanded its Green Schoolyards work by developing new tools, strengthening partnerships across the state, and providing design support. Currently, TCiNN is developing the Green Schoolyard Starter Guide and Planting Guidelines, resources designed to help schools transform their outdoor spaces into nature-rich learning environments. We did this through the launch of both a Green Schoolyards Cohort and a Green Schoolyard Newsletter, helping to build a shared learning network for educators, partners, and practitioners.

Last summer, as part of the Children & Nature Network's Nature Everywhere Technical Assistance Program, TCiNN conducted schoolyard evaluations in PSJA, Donna, and Mercedes ISD's. These assessments help districts identify opportunities to expand outdoor learning, increase shade, and integrate nature-based play as they work on designs and plans supported by the Texas A&M Forest Service Community Forestry Grant.



2025 - 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

Texas Children in Nature
Network



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LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I am incredibly proud of the Texas Children in Nature Network Board for its dedication in crafting this comprehensive Strategic Plan. This document is more than just a plan; it is a roadmap that will guide our organization into a future where every child in Texas has meaningful access to the natural world. This plan establishes a bold vision, setting TCINN up to be a more impactful and decisive force in statewide initiatives dedicated to increasing nature access and connection. Furthermore, it commits us to becoming more agile and diverse in securing the necessary resources—through new partnerships and innovative funding streams—to sustain and expand the valuable, life-changing work of connecting children and families with nature across our great state.

- Dr. Demekia Biscoe, Board Chair

CONNECT

Goals

- Goal 1: Be a trusted hub for providers in the nature-outdoor community across the state
- Goal 2: Foster strong connections within the network

Objectives:

- Objective 1: By 2030, have 500 or more active members
- Objective 2: Achieve 12 operational regional collaboratives
- Objective 3: Host an annual summit that meets the needs of our communities' professional development and networking needs, scoring a customer satisfaction score of 4.5 on a 5-point scale



EMPOWER

Goals

- Goal 1: Build community capacity that fosters collaboration and systems change
- Goal 2: Provide high-quality resources and training that empowers members

Objectives:

- Objective 1: By 2030 increase the number of communities participating across Texas Children in Nature Network projects, ie, Nature Smart Libraries, Green Schoolyards, and Outdoor Learning Environments for Early Childhood Education, to 150 communities or more
- Objective 2: Create and implement an evaluation plan for our resources and training
- Objective 3: Increase and diversify funding sources and revenue streams that support our projects



AMPLIFY

Goals

- Goal 1: Champion organizations and opportunities that increase children's access to nature across the state
- Goal 2: Showcase the work of the Texas Children in Nature Network community through impactful, data-driven storytelling
- Goal 3: Share research-driven, best practice strategies to engage children in nature

Objectives:

- Objective 1: Increase the organization's marketing engagements and efforts by 10%
- Objective 2: Prepare at least 12 Facilitators for Texas Children in Nature Network presentations and trainings
- Objective 3: Create at least one educational resource biannually to inform stakeholders of our position



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

2025 SUMMIT

SPONSORS

HEB: Our Texas Our Future
Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds
Edgeland
Guadalupe Blanco River Authority
Keeland and Company
Tarrant Regional Water District

Center for Health and Nature
Texas A&M Forest Service
Shield Ranch
Welder Wildlife Foundation
Asakura Robinson
City of College Station

STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

Demekia Biscoe
Hayden Brooks
Heather Kuhlken
Fossil Rim Wildlife Center
Kelly Albus
Laura Agnew
Linda Welsh
Texas Women's Univeristy

Winkler Family Foundation
Rene Bartos
Jay Maddock
Ryan Spencer
San Antonio River Authority
Mind, Body, Ecology Institute





THANK YOU TO OUR ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS



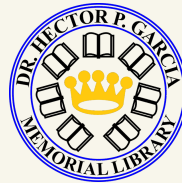
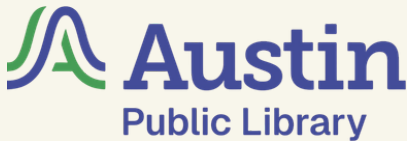
COLORADO RIVER ALLIANCE



Center for Health & Nature

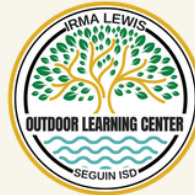
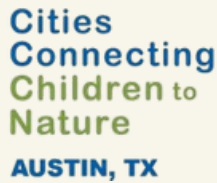


CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
of Conservation, Education,
& Engagement





THANK YOU TO OUR ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS





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connemara conservancy



PARKS &
RECREATION



SMART
Family Literacy



PROSPERITY
BANK®
Member
FDIC



DALLAS ARBORETUM
AND BOTANICAL GARDEN



YOUNG MEN'S
BUSINESS LEAGUE
~ of Austin ~



Guadalupe-Blanco
River Authority





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