

Botanical Gardens Office Open to the Public

By Brian Whitt
Goldthwaite Eagle

The Texas Botanical Gardens Office at 905 Third Street in Goldthwaite is open to the public.

“Everyone is invited to come visit the new facility,” retired Legacy Plaza Executive Director Jan Fischer said after its opening.

The office space was donated by Tommy and Wynona Head, owners of the building, and other generous donors provided office furnishings.

“The Board appreciates Mr. and Mrs. Head giving us this space,” Fischer said, and she also expressed gratitude for the other donations. Now that the office is open for business, office hours will be Monday 8-12 and Thursday 1-5.



Conservation - Education - Ecotourism

Texas Botanical Gardens & Native American Interpretive Center tie together Goldthwaite’s evolving cultural district with local commerce.

One enters the Legacy Plaza project through the Goldthwaite Welcome Center.

From the Welcome Center, you can relax in the Town Green and then go to the Trailhead which introduces the visitor to the concept of the Gardens and has a site map. This area illustrates the lifeways of the first people to walk across Texas several thousand years ago. Through time, hunter-gatherers built a body of knowledge about food, tools, and medicine centered on a cornucopia of plants and animals which flourished in Central Texas.

Upon entering the J. Waddy Bullion Gardens, the visitor will see panels describing a wickiup, bedrock mortar, a burned rock midden, and flint knapping.

Traveling through the Gardens, the visitor will also see a myriad of native plants and grasses with small, simple labels that identify the plant. Our handout also features several of these plants.

Spend time just enjoying nature in our amphitheatre.

If you have children, please visit our small discovery garden area.

The project has three main objectives:

CONSERVATION

We believe in protecting the natural resources of Texas.

Our project features:

- Conservation of archaeology sites
- Conservation of native grasses
- Conservation of native plants including use in landscaping
- Conservation of water including water harvesting
- Conservation of the land – promoting land stewardship

- Housing
- Things That Come Out At Night
- For adults we offer:
- Birds of Central Texas
- Arrowheads
- Bedrock Mortars & Burned Rock Middens
- Geology of Central Texas
- Insects of Central Texas
- Native Grasses in Central Texas
- Native Plants
- Pecans
- The Archaeology of Central Texas
- The Earliest Native Americans in Central Texas
- The Historic Use of Medicinal Plants

EDUCATION

We offer interactive, creative, and challenging classes.

A sample of the free classes we give to groups of children:

- A visit to the Bedrock Mortars
- Arachnids
- Archaeology for Kids
- Bioluminescence
- Birds
- Bug Extravaganza
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Rock Art
- Texas Wild
- The Mighty Oak
- Indians of Texas
- History
- Cultures

ECOTOURISM

Contact us about visiting ranches and country properties for a day or an extended visit:

- Archeological sites
- Astronomy/Night Sky
- Birding
- Dragonflies
- Entomology
- Experience a Working Ranch with:
- Goats
- Cattle
- Sheep
- Fishing
- Minerals & Rocks
- Native Grasses
- Photography

