

This list contains projects or items that are desired by our education and conservation teams. These wish list items will help us fulfill our mission by improving the educational experience for our visitors, helping us make the Arboretum habitat more diverse and welcoming for native plants and animals, or improving internal efficiency. Thank you in advance for your interest and support.

One-Time	
Project	Approximate Cost
Build ADA accessible trail from Education Courtyard to Willow Oak trail	(Main Street Capital Corporation)
Multi-tiered Plant Sale Shelving	\$15,000
Replacement Trees for Shady Grove area of Playscape	(Ruth & Dan Flournoy)
Savanna Ecosystem Maintenance	\$10,000
Tree Care Program	\$9,000
Drought Response	\$8,000
Texas Conservation Corp Crew Tallow Removal	\$8,000
Create, fabricate, and install signage for Sensory Garden	\$7,500
Create, fabricate, and install signage for Bird Drip	\$6,500
Educator Workshops Sponsorship	(Liz & Louis Weisberg)
Hands Free Door Control of Nature Center Entrance Doors	\$6,500
Goat grazing	(Liz & Louis Weisberg)
Grit Freedom Chair (handicap accessibility for non-ADA trails)	(Liz & Louis Weisberg)
Acopian Bird Savers for Education Building	\$3,500
Wheelchair accessible sand table	(Ethel & Chap Hutcheson)
Custom-built outdoor habitat for Discovery Room turtles	\$1,500
4-Wheel Rechargeable Mobility Scooter	(Liz & Louis Weisberg)
Conservation Seed Storage Refrigerator	\$1,000
Welder	(Liz & Louis Weisberg)
Irrigation Equipment	\$500
Create, fabricate, and install signage for Butterfly Bungalow	(Centerpoint Energy)
Install interior Butterfly Bungalow features	(Centerpoint Energy)
Improve trail accessibility to Butterfly Bungalow	(Centerpoint Energy)

ADA Accessible Trail (\$20,000) – This 150-foot major trail connector is currently a mulched trail that connects the Education Courtyard to the Willow Oak Trail. This section is in need of an ADA upgrade in order to accommodate visitors with all types of mobility issues to be able to connect with an important part of the Arboretum's trail system.

Multi-tiered Plant Sale Shelving (\$15,000) – The Arboretum's bi-annual Plant Sale has introduced many Houstonians to going native with their own yards. It has become so popular that the Conservation Team can hardly keep up with demand and are running out of space to store plants that are grown in our in-house nursery. Multi-tiered shelves would expand storage space so that additional plants to be propagated in the nursery and offered at the Plant Sales or used in our restoration efforts.

Playscape Shady Grove Tree Transplants (\$12,000; \$6,000/tree) – Two large trees within the Nature Playscape's Shady Grove unfortunately did not survive the extreme summer conditions. Although irrigated during this time, past climatic events and soil compaction from Master Plan construction were too much for these trees to handle. To maintain the character of the Shady Grove, mature trees will need to be transplanted to jumpstart the benefits that trees provide to this popular area.

Savanna Ecosystem Maintenance (\$10,000) – The Arboretum's newly restored savanna is indicative of the landscapes that Houston's first settlers encountered, with a mix of pine and oak trees scattered above an understory of native grasses and wildflowers. This emerging ecosystem requires diligent management to prevent it from reverting to an overgrown thicket that is more susceptible to extreme climate fluctuations. Brush removal, native seed broadcasting, and invasive species removal are necessary in this critical stage of recovery.

Tree Care Program (\$9,000) – Houston's weather over the past few years has hit hard with back-to-back hard freezes and intense summer droughts. These extreme fluctuations have taken a toll on the Arboretum's trees, and though resilient, actions can be taken to improve their health and survival toward future events. The Tree Care Program allows for specialized root feeding and pest protection for thirty of the Arboretum's most prominent mature trees.

Drought Response (\$8,000) – Summer 2023 was the hottest on record for Houston. Coupled with over two months with no rainfall, many trees succumbed to these extreme conditions. Actions are required to remove larger dead trees adjacent to trails, facilities, and parking lots so the safety of our visitors stays at the forefront of our operations.

Texas Conservation Corp Crew Tallow Removal (\$8,000) – A temporary crew is needed to assist staff in tackling the Chinese Tallow tree encroachment occurring within the Arboretum's woodland areas. The tallow population exploded after overstory canopy gaps opened as a result of the 2011 drought. An aggressive plan and more skilled hands are necessary to remove these highly invasive trees before they take over the forest. The Texas Conservation Corps of American YouthWorks engages and trains a diverse group of young people, completing conservation projects for public benefit, and current Conservation staff are alumni as well.

Educator Workshops (\$6,500) Since 1967, the Arboretum's 155-acre outdoor classroom has been an ideal location to improve teachers' skills, content knowledge, and familiarity with environmental education and science topics. Hands-on, place-based, experiential lessons from Arboretum staff improve the quality of science education in the classroom. Providing these workshops at low- or no-cost to teachers will ensure we reach as many educators as possible. Workshops cover a variety of topics from plant biology, life cycles, food webs, local ecosystems, and outdoor classroom best practices. Teachers receive 2 hours of SBEC credit, lesson plans, and materials to use in classroom activities. [Project WILD](#) workshops are day-long trainings utilizing provided curriculum and activity guides. The guides help incorporate wildlife-related concepts into classroom curriculum, and each activity is designed to teach multiple concepts.

Automatic Swing Door (\$6,500) Addition of an access management system that would allow for a new device featuring automatic opening of the Nature Center entrance door. This upgrade to the Nature Center's main point of entrance will provide barrier-free access for people with disabilities to be able to enter and exit the building independently.

Goat Grazing (\$6,000) – The Arboretum has led the region in returning the once common and natural occurrence of grazing into an urban landscape. This technique has proved to be successful in removing overgrown thickets of undesirable species from the forest floor and improving species diversity. In addition to

their ecological benefits, the 150 goats that visit are always a crowd-pleaser, and draw many visitors over the days that they spend with us.

GRIT Freedom Chair (\$4,000) – The GRIT Freedom Chair is a manual all-terrain wheelchair built to explore the outdoors, get daily exercise, and go on adventures. Designed by MIT engineers, the GRIT Freedom Chair is a mix between a manual wheelchair and a mountain bike. This all-terrain mobility device will allow visitors with physical disabilities to explore more of the Arboretum by allowing access to the non-ADA trail system. Add-on features include push bars to allow a second person to assist in navigating them along the trails, lap belt for increased safety, and anti-tip bars to prevent against tipping over on uneven trails or slopes. The lever system conserves energy, which makes pushing the GRIT Freedom Chair 40% more efficient than standard wheelchair tires. The Freedom Chair can be used by both adults and children.

Acopian Bird Savers (\$3,500) – When people think of bird mortality they usually think of cats, wind turbines, and pesticide poisoning, among other causes. In fact, in North America the largest number of birds are killed each year by glass. Acopian Bird Savers are an easy, elegant, inexpensive solution to prevent birds from dying at our windows. This project would allow the Arboretum to include all the windows in the Nature Center building, providing a valuable, temporary solution during peak migration months.

Wheelchair Accessible Sand Table (\$2,500) – The elevated table will make the Arboretum's playscape more inclusive for all visitors. Many of the Playscape's current surfaces are not ADA-approved (sand or mulch) and can be a challenge for people with physical or mobility disabilities to navigate. This sand table is elevated, wheelchair-accessible, and will make it easier for kids of different mobility requirements (leg braces, standing issues, spinal cord injuries, etc) who need to stand or lean against something to play and explore. The table can be filled with sand, soil, or water, and will be used for a variety of educational programming.

4-Wheel Rechargeable Mobility Scooter (\$1,200) – The Arboretum proudly features several ADA-accessible trails located near the Nature Center and parking loops. However, many people with lower body disabilities or who fatigue easily still require additional assistance when exploring these trails. Additionally, people who have difficulty walking or getting around are at a greater risk for injuries from trips or falls, especially on surfaces like gravel. Mobility scooters are intuitive, simple to operate, and will allow for increased access to the Arboretum's ADA trails. This electric scooter has a range of 25 miles, features a handlebar that can be adjusted to fit a variety of heights and sports all-terrain wheels and suspension system that offers a smooth ride on the gravel trails.

Conservation Seed Storage Refrigerator – The Conservation team collects seed directly from the grounds and also coordinates with other regional organizations on seed collecting trips to grow unique native plants for the Plant Sale and restoration efforts. Over time, seeds can expire and lose their ability to germinate. The ideal storage temperature for seeds 35-40F, and a refrigerator dedicated to seed storage would allow these collected seeds to maintain their viability for a longer period of time.

Welder (\$1,000) – The Conservation team is in need of a welder and accompanying safety equipment. This item would allow the repair of metal items, tools and equipment in and around the grounds.

Irrigation Equipment (\$500) – This previous summer we've learned that there is no such thing as having too much help when it comes to irrigation. These funds will be used to purchase new and replace damaged hoses, sprinklers, and spigots that can tie into the existing reclaimed irrigation system.

RECOGNITION

All wish list gifts will be acknowledged with a permanent medallion on the grounds. Corporate partners are recognized as appropriate to the program/project, including logo on printed materials, website, social media and our e-newsletter. For on-site support, such as ecosystem maintenance or planting, temporary (or, if appropriate depending on gift level, permanent) signage can be placed in the landscape to notify guests of your company's generous support. Customized opportunities are also available.

Houston Arboretum & Nature Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission of nature conservation and education. All gifts are fully tax deductible. Recognition will be provided as appropriate. For more information, please contact Debbie Markey, Executive Director, at dmarkey@houstonarboretum.org