

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.

<i>One-Time</i>	
Project	Approximate Cost
Goat grazing	\$15,000 – Radoff Family Foundation
Binoculars	\$15,000
Mushroom Bells for Playscape	\$7,500
Hands Free Door Control of Nature Center Entrance Doors	\$6,500
Claw Grapple for Tractor Attachment	\$6,600 – Flournoy family
Tree Care Fertilization	\$5,000
Native Seed	\$4,000
Table Saw	\$4,500 – Flournoy family
Chronolog Photo Station	\$3,000
Ventless Washer/Dryer	\$2,500
Bat Detectors	\$1,500
Drill Press	\$1,700
Garden Carts	\$1,200
Irrigation Equipment	\$1,000 – Rich Solberg
Video/Audio Conference Room System	\$600
Cricut Maker 4	\$500

Goat Grazing (\$15,000) – single donation opportunity to fund a first time visit to our Ravine ecosystem – 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 understory 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.

Binoculars (\$15,000 - 75 needed - \$200 each) current loaner binoculars are falling apart and many are now unusable or very uncomfortable to use. They are also bulky and hard to use for many people (especially elderly participants). New binoculars will be smaller, lighter, and higher quality. Binoculars are essential for guests, volunteers, and staff to use for birding programs like the Bird Survey, Christmas Bird Count, and birding classes. Staff also need access to quality binoculars to spot and track wildlife during regular duties.

Mushroom Bells for Playscape (\$7,500) – The Arboretum's Playscape provides a place for children of all ages to engage their imaginations as they crawl, climb, build and explore the natural world. To be more inclusive, we are adding new sensory elements to an accessible area of the Playscape. A set of three mushroom-shaped bells combine a touch of whimsy, along with the sensations of vibration and sound, for a fun music-making experience. The bells are at wheelchair accessible height and provide auditory, visual, and tactile opportunities for children.

Claw Grapple Tractor Attachment (\$6,600) - Following recent major storm events, a claw grapple for the tractor would be an extremely handy attachment to assist the Conservation & Facilities Teams during cleanup activities to move downed tree trunks. Outside of large storms, it would help with transporting brush piles generated from ongoing habitat enhancement, compost turning, and adjusting log placement along trails.

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.

Tree Care Fertilization (\$5,000) – 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. This donation will provide specialized root fertilization and pest protection to enhance the survival of thirty of the Arboretum's most prominent mature trees, including the Courtyard Live Oak.

Table Saw (\$4,500) – The Arboretum's current table saw was manufactured back in 1975 and donated by HL&P – Houston Lighting & Power – now Reliant Energy. It is rarely used because staff are hesitant to do so out of safety concerns. A new table saw with a built-in safety blade stop is proposed for its replacement. It will be used to fabricate the custom-shaped boards on our new boardwalks and support creating crafts for education programs and events.

Native Seed (\$4,000) – The Arboretum's newly restored savanna and prairie habitats are indicative of the landscapes that Houston's first settlers encountered, and these emerging ecosystems require ongoing diligent restoration and management. Supplementing these areas with native seed is necessary to jumpstart biodiversity and buffer against invasive species encroachment. Over 60lbs of seed, including local native grasses and wildflowers, will be purchased and broadcast over 20 acres of the Arboretum's restored savanna and prairie ecosystems.

Chronolog Photo Station (\$3,000 - 3 stations for 5 years) These three Chronolog Photo Stations would be used to capture landscape changes over time in woodland and swamp areas we are working to restore. The plan is to install them at the start of the restoration projects and, through citizen science, collect photos of the landscapes over time. Chronolog is user generated, so staff and guests alike can take photos at the Photo Stations and email them to Chronolog for inclusion in an ongoing time lapse. I've added about \$500 to cover installation and maintenance.

Ventless Washer/Dryer (\$2,500) – Every department is taking home laundry - safety vests, hand towels, pond dipping towels, cleaning rags, bandanas, etc. and it would be easier if we could wash them at the Nature Center. In addition, to assist in our zero waste goals, it would help to have fabric napkins that we use here for lunch meetings and small rentals, which would also be able to be washed.

Drill Press (\$1,700) – The Arboretum’s current drill press was manufactured back in 1959 and donated by HL&P – Houston Lighting & Power – now Reliant Energy. Although it technically works, its output has decreased, and it occasionally shuts off mid-operation. A new drill press is needed to reliably perform routine maintenance and fabrication for facilities, as well as mass produce crafts for education programs.

Bat Detectors (\$1,500) Our current bat detector is wonderful but not enough to reach the large group sizes we’re now getting for bat programs! We need at least one more detector for broadcasting bat sounds, but it would be even better to get a new plug-in style detector with an app that identifies bats to species. This will allow staff and volunteers to identify bats "on the fly," not only enriching the guest experience but also supplementing our stationary bat monitoring devices. We could also broaden our audience for bat-related programs by getting a child-friendly bat detector. These detectors would be used by staff, volunteers, and - if we get the child-friendly detector - by guests.

Garden Carts (\$1,200) – Garden carts are the Conservation Team’s most used tool and are used daily for mulching trails, hauling brush and moving equipment into areas where vehicles cannot access. Some of these carts are over 10-15 years old, and new garden carts are always needed to replace old ones that are falling apart.

Irrigation Repairs (\$1,000) – The past few summers 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.

Video/Audio Conference Room System (\$600) Help us modernize our conference space with a professional video and audio system that makes every meeting—whether with staff, partners, or donors—clear, connected, and productive. This upgrade will strengthen our ability to collaborate and share our mission with a wider audience.

Cricut Maker 4 (\$500) Upgrading our current Cricut. A Cricut is a smart cutting machine that allows users to create custom projects by precisely cutting, writing, and drawing on a wide variety of materials. These machines are used for crafting and are popular for making personalized items like stickers, custom t-shirts, home decor, and handmade cards, connecting to a computer. It is most often used by the Education Department for class prep but is also occasionally used for Special Events.

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