

Ann-Margaret Gonzalez

210.222.2204

210.383.3315

agonzalez@edwardsaquifer.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



EAA Education Outreach Center's Native Plant Demonstration Garden Receives Texan by Nature Certification

San Antonio, Texas – On Tuesday, September 12, 2023, The Edwards Aquifer Authority Education Outreach Center (EAA EOC) Native Plant Demonstration Garden received a Texan by Nature (TxN) Project Certification for its meaningful conservation efforts involving and benefitting people, prosperity, and natural resources. Founded in 2011 by former First Lady Laura Bush, TxN connects conservation to business, amplifying projects and activating new investments in conservation which return real benefits to people, prosperity, and natural resources of the state.

The EAA EOC Native Plant Demonstration Garden was created to introduce concepts of water conservation through the use of colorful native plants that are drought-tolerant. The demonstration garden relies solely on water that has been collected from the EOC's rainwater harvesting system, and uses a drip irrigation system to ensure the garden receives adequate water. Visitors are introduced to various water conservation methods that can be implemented in their backyards. By using these methods, the garden is able to conserve more water. This system also helps to save money, reducing the cost typically associated with continuously watering plants with conventional methods. The EAA collaborated with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) to identify the best drought-tolerant, native plants and trees to plant in the garden.

"The Native Plant Demonstration Garden at the EOC serves as an educational resource for the community," said Sarah Valdez, EAA Senior STEAM Outreach Educator.

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“It offers opportunities for visitors to learn about the state’s unique ecological heritage. Being part of Texan by Nature’s Conservation Partner network connects us to 140+ organizations and initiatives across Texas dedicated to conservation and sustainability. This interconnectedness allows us to collaborate, share best practices and collectively make a more significant impact.”

The EAA EOC Native Demonstration Garden is proud to be Texan by Nature Certified, and continues to be a sight to see for EAA EOC visitors eager to learn about different drought tolerant and Texas native plants they can grow in their yards.

You can view the Edwards Aquifer Authority – Education Outreach Center Native Plant Demonstration Garden TxN by Nature project webpage here:

<https://texanbynature.org/projects/edwards-aquifer-authority-education-outreach-center-native-plant-demonstration-garden/>

About TxN:

Texan by Nature (TxN) unites conservation and business leaders who believe Texas’ prosperity is dependent on the conservation of its natural resources. TxN, founded by former First Lady Laura Bush, acts as an accelerator for conservation groups and a strategic partner for business. TxN supports 140+ conservation organizations and has accelerated projects and programs that have impacted 7 million-plus people, 20 million acres, and all of Texas’ 254 counties Get involved and learn more at www.texanbynature.org and follow us on Facebook @TexanbyNature, Twitter @TexanbyNature, and Instagram @texanbynature for the latest.

About The EOC

The EAA Education Outreach Center (EAA EOC) represents a major step in the advancement of the EAA's mission. Free and open to all, the EAA EOC offers a variety of interactive exhibits and displays, including a Karst Theater, an endangered species exhibit, a one-of-a-kind Global Perspective Display, a Cloud Caster, a Demonstration Garden, and many more STEAM opportunities for visitors. Situated on the EAA Recharge zone, and housed on the grounds of Morgan's Wonderland Camp, the EAA EOC is rooted in inclusion and is an adventure for all. For more information, [please visit www.eaaeoc.org](http://www.eaaeoc.org)

About The EAA

The EAA regulates the portion of the Balcones Fault Zone Edwards Aquifer – a jurisdictional area that provides water to two-and-one-half million people and covers more than 8,000 square miles across eight counties. These include all of Uvalde, Medina, and Bexar counties as well as parts of Atascosa, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Comal, and Hays counties. For 27 years the Edwards Aquifer Authority has carried out its mission of managing, enhancing, and protecting the Edwards Aquifer. For more information, please visit www.edwardsaquifer.org