

Volunteer Opportunity – Seasonal Field Surveys

TPWD in updating their Great Texas Wildlife Trails (GTWT) through a project called “Adopt-A-Loop”(AAL). **They could use our help!**

If you are not familiar with GTWT check out the website – Heart of Texas East/Balcones Loop and the Sites in our chapter area (we have three). This is a driving Loop to areas where birds and other wildlife can be seen, which may or may not have walking trails.

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wildlife/wildlife-trails/?g=2&p=12> (GTWT)

- <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wildlife/wildlife-trails/hote> (HOTE)
 - <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wildlife/wildlife-trails/hote/balcones-loop>

“Seasonal Field Surveys”. We would like to recruit those who like to do field surveys to go out on their own, or with someone from their household, or a trusted member using the current health guidelines. In order to count the hours as volunteer time there are some conditions. See the following:

1. GTWT Volunteer Seasonal Field Survey hours will be permitted for 2021.
2. Select a **GTWT Site**
 - a. You may survey more than one Site.
 - b. Each Site needs to be surveyed at least once during each season on a scheduled basis.
3. Select a Season(Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) to survey on SignUpGenius.
4. Please consider a commitment of a minimum of 2 hours surveying at the Site you visit. Travel time can be counted in excess of these hours (up to 1 hour).
5. Consider surveying more than birds.
 - a. Any other animals – mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, fish.
 - b. You can take photos of visitors’ fish catches without the person in the photo.
 - c. Plants count – nuts and fruits too
 - d. Roadkill counts!
 - e. Take lots of photos. You will need them.
6. **Record your data!**
 - a. If you do the field survey and **don’t record the observations in eBird or iNaturalist**, the **hours cannot be counted** as volunteer hours.
 - b. Record your observations in eBird and/or iNaturalist.
 - c. Record birds in eBird using the Hotspot for the location. (See attached list)
 - d. Record observations, which can also include birds, with photos or sounds in iNaturalist.
 - i. **You must join the “standard” project named “GTWT Adopt-A-Loop”.**
 - ii. **Your observations are not automatically added to this project.**
 - iii. **You must add the “GTWT Adopt-A-Loop” to each of your observations.**
 - iv. **You must fill in the “Place of Observation (Site Number)” when prompted.**
Example: HOTE 030.
7. Put your hours in the VMS System as:
 - a. FR: Adopt-A-Loop TMN Field Research Hours
 - b. In the description reference the location surveyed. (Example: HOTE 030)

This is a great way to start on your recertification hours for 2021 and get outside. Many of you are already visiting the sites that need to be surveyed. We hope that you will consider adding your observations to this project. You may add observations you have already made into the project as well.

The following sites qualify for Field Research hours with the Adopt-A-Loop project. Use one of the eBird Hotspots listed with the site if entering observations into eBird.

Heart of Texas East (HOTE) Wildlife Trail:

Balcones Loop

- Creekside Park and Brushy Creek Regional Trail HOTE 029
 - eBird Hotspot: Brushy Creek Regional Trail (b/w 183A & BrCrk Sports Pk)
 - eBird Hotspot: Brushy Creek Regional Trail/Fern Bluff Green Belt
 - eBird Hotspot: Brushy Creek Sports Park (W. of Parmer Ln.)
 - eBird Hotspot: Brushy Creek Lake Park
 - eBird Hotspot: Champion Park (Williamson Co)
 - eBird Hotspot: Creekside Park/Brushy Creek Trail-W(HOTE 029)
 - eBird Hotspot: Twin Lakes Park
- Good Water Trail at Lake Georgetown HOTE 030
 - eBird Hotspot: Lake Georgetown—Cedar Breaks Pk (HOTE 030)
 - eBird Hotspot: Lake Georgetown—Cedar Hollow Area
 - eBird Hotspot: Lake Georgetown—Dam Area
 - eBird Hotspot: Lake Georgetown—Jim Hogg Park
 - eBird Hotspot: Lake Georgetown—Overlook Park
 - eBird Hotspot: Lake Georgetown—Russell Park
 - eBird Hotspot: Tejas Camp (Williamson Co)(HOTE 030)
- Granger Lake HOTE 031
 - eBird Hotspot: Granger Lake Area (HOTE 031)
 - eBird Hotspot: Granger Dam area & Overlook
 - eBird Hotspot: Granger Lake—Comanche Bluff Trail
 - eBird Hotspot: Granger Lake—Friendship Park
 - eBird Hotspot: Granger Lake—Pecan Grove WMA
 - eBird Hotspot: Granger Lake—San Gabriel Unit
 - eBird Hotspot: Granger Lake—Sore Finger Unit
 - eBird Hotspot: Granger Lake—Taylor Park
 - eBird Hotspot: Granger Lake—Willis Creek Park
 - eBird Hotspot: Granger Lake—Willis Creek Wildlife Area (undeveloped)
 - eBird Hotspot: Granger Lake—Wilson H. Fox Park