



BASTROP COUNTY COMMUNITY REFORESTATION PROGRAM

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the Bastrop County Community Reforestation Program?

The Bastrop County Community Reforestation Program (BCCRP) launched in December 2012, with the mission to promote recovery and reforestation of Bastrop County, its communities, and residents affected by the 2011 Bastrop County Complex Fire (BCCF) by providing reforestation services to eligible participants through the utilization of volunteers and community based education and outreach opportunities focused on planting available native, drought resistant loblolly pine seedlings. TreeFolks, a local nonprofit organization that specializes in urban forestry, tree planting events and volunteer engagement, is administering the program. Program partners include Bastrop County, Bowman Consulting, American YouthWorks Texas Conservation Corps, Texas A & M Forest Service, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Apache Foundation, Arbor Day Foundation, the Lost Pines Recovery Team, H-E-B, McCoy's Building Supply, and the Bastrop County Sheriff's Office.

Program Duration, Availability, and Qualifying Criteria

Year one of the Bastrop County Community Reforestation Program is being carried out through March 15, 2013. Nearly 60,000 native loblolly pine tree seedlings and native hardwood species are available this planting season for BCCRP and will be planted by March 15, 2013.

Due to the limited number of trees available for planting this planting season, the BCCRP developed an intake and prioritization process based on the following criteria:

1. A Right of Entry was filed with Bastrop County by December 1, 2012,
2. The site was in both the heavy burn area, with moderate to highly erodible soils,
3. The site was previously forested.

Where and when can I sign up for BCCRP?

An invitation letter introducing the program and application for year one reforestation services was mailed to 930 parcel owners who met the above criteria on December 17, 2012. If you received an application in the mail, you met the qualifying criteria for year one and are eligible to apply for reforestation services at this time. Please complete your application and mail it back to TreeFolks as soon as possible. Applications will be sent to all remaining parcel owners affected by the 2011 Labor Day wildfires in the late summer or fall of 2013. The latest information about this program will be available on three websites: <http://treefolks.org/reforestation/>, <http://treefolks.org/lostpines>, and <http://www.bastroprecovery.org>.

How is this program funded?

Major contributors include: Bastrop County, H-E-B, Apache Foundation, Arbor Day Foundation, Austin Community Foundation, American YouthWorks Texas Conservation Corps, Texas A & M Forest Service, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, McCoy's Building Supply, Bastrop County Sheriff's Department, and members of the Lost Pines Recovery Team.

MISSION STATEMENT

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What is TreeFolks?

TreeFolks is a nonprofit urban forestry organization that has been serving Central Texas for nearly 24 years. TreeFolks' mission is to grow the urban forest of Central Texas through tree planting, education and community partnerships.

How are you going to plant 60,000 trees in 6 weeks?

A combination of methods will be utilized to plant trees this planting season. TreeFolks reforestation coordinator will meet with applicants on site to develop a tree planting plan and determine the best method for planting the site. The site will either be planted by our tree planting vendor - American YouthWorks Texas Conservation Corps, during a volunteer-based community tree planting event, or landowners will receive a predetermined number of trees through a tree planting workshop.

Can I volunteer?

Yes, volunteers are critical to our success, please register at <http://treefolks.org/volunteer-opportunities/> Volunteer opportunities are also available with Bastrop State Park at <http://arborday.org/texas>

What happens if I am selected to participate in the program to receive reforestation services but there are not enough trees to plant my property this planting season?

Approved applicants for year one will receive planting services in the order in which applications are received. Due to the limited number of trees available for planting this season many landowners may not receive tree planting services until the second or possibly third planting season. As TreeFolks receives applications, they will provide confirmation to the landowner that the application has been received, and schedule site visits as quickly as possible. During the site visit, the landowner and TreeFolks' reforestation coordinator will develop the planting plan and determine the most efficient way to plant the parcel.

If my parcel is selected to receive trees during a Tree Planting Workshop, how will the trees be planted?

Year 1 program participants selected to receive trees at a Tree Planting Workshop will go through a short training course on how to handle, plant and care for their trees before receiving the trees. If you feel that you may need assistance to plant your trees, please let TreeFolks know at the time of the site visit, or as soon as possible before the distribution event. Trained volunteers will be available to assist landowners immediately following the training. If you would like to learn more about planting loblolly pine seedlings, watch the [Texas A&M Forest Service video on Youtube](#).

If I did not qualify for participation in this program, are there any other reforestation services available?

At this time, there are no other reforestation programs offering reforestation services for this planting season. The latest information about this program and other reforestation services will be available on three websites: <http://treefolks.org/reforestation/>, <http://treefolks.org/lostpines>, and <http://www.bastroprecovery.org>.

Can I buy trees through this program or from other vendors?

The BCCRP offers tree planting services at no charge. We are not aware of any vendors selling "the unique to this area" drought resistant, Lost Pines loblolly pine trees. Be careful of nurseries selling non-native species of loblolly pines as they are not likely to survive in our soils and climate. The pines found in Bastrop County are genetically unique drought-tolerant loblollies different than those found in the forests of eastern Texas.

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What trees other than Loblolly pine are recommended for Bastrop?

We recommend that only native trees be replanted in Bastrop. A few of the most common native trees found in Bastrop County are listed below. For a full list of recommended species, please visit:

<http://bastroprecovery.org/trees-forests/>

Large Stature: American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), Winged elm (*Ulmus alata*), Cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*), Bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), Coastal live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), Chinkapin oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*), Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), Native pecan (*Carya illinoensis*), Western soapberry (*Sapindus drummondii*).

Small Stature: Mexican plum (*Prunus mexicana*), Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*), Roughleaf dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*), Texas persimmon (*Diospyros texana*), Cherry laurel (*Prunus caroliniana*), Desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), Eves necklace (*Sophora affinis*), Farkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*), Flameleaf sumac (*Rhus lanceolata*).

What do I do about standing dead and felled trees?

If you are signed up for the Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) program and your trees are marked, the vendor will be cutting and removing in the near future. Cutting slows down during the Houston toad breeding season but still continues. If you have not signed up for PPDR but need your trees removed you will need to find a vendor on your own. You may contact Go Green International who is now offering tree removal at no cost to Bastrop County residents. www.gogreeninternationalinc.com

I'm on the list to receive tree planting services; what can I do now to prepare my land?

Pro-active restoration efforts by the community and landowners are needed to ensure the ecosystem recovers in a healthy manner. While recovery of the Lost Pines forest will likely take decades, there are a number of measures we can implement to help accelerate its' recovery. The most common measures include replanting native plant species, managing invasive species, and implementing erosion control techniques. The Lost Pines ecosystem is home to the federally endangered Houston toad. It is important that before implementing any land management activities on your property, to contact your local LPHCP administrator for information on how to appropriately implement recommended land management techniques, <http://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/site/content/lostpineshabitat>. To learn more about these recovery measures visit: <http://treefolks.org/reforestation/>

What are the Lost Pines?

A unique feature to Bastrop County, the Lost Pines are a disjunct segment of loblolly pine forests of east Texas, and home to the endangered Houston toad.

What is the Houston toad?

The Houston toad is an endangered species that makes its' home within the Lost Pines ecosystem of Bastrop County, and depends on healthy and mature forest ecosystems with mixed species composition, significant canopy cover, an open understory layer with an herbaceous component, and breeding pools with shaded edges. Adult Houston toads are medium-sized (2 to 3.5 inches) with females larger and bulkier than males. As with most toads, they are stout-bodied animals with short legs and rough warty skin. The Houston toad is a very secretive species and is seldom seen, except on warm, humid evenings during its breeding season (January-June, with a peak in February and March), when males call to attract females. Calling males at a breeding pond is known as a "chorus." The chorus heralds the coming of spring. Echoing through the forest, the high clear trills

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sound much like the tinkling of small bells. To learn more about this unique species and its habitat visit <http://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/site/content/lostpineshabitat>.

What is the Lost Pines Habitat Conservation Plan (LPHCP)?

The basic foundation of the Lost Pine Habitat Conservation Plan is that humans can coexist with the Houston toad. In fact, the long term preservation, restoration, enhancement, and management of toad habitat in Bastrop County is dependent on private landowners because the vast majority of known and potential habitat exists on private property.

In April 2008 Bastrop County was issued an “Endangered Species Incidental Take Permit” from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) that covers approximately 124,000 acres of known and potential Houston toad habitat within the county. This permit, with its associated Lost Pines Habitat Conservation Plan (LPHCP), offers a simplified process for obtaining authorization for incidental take under section 10(a)(1)(b) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for a variety of activities and provides regulatory certainty for local landowners and other community interests.

The permit allows Bastrop County to issue certificates of participation to landowners for harming the toad or its habitat while engaging in otherwise legal land-use activities, including agricultural or forestry practices, wildlife management, land development, and certain other land-use activities. Landowners can voluntarily participate in the county’s LPHCP in a variety of ways. Whether simply continuing with existing land-use activities, building a new home or business, or developing a subdivision, participation in the LPHCP provides the coverage necessary to ensure compliance with the ESA. For additional information on the LPHCP contact your local LPHCP administrator, <http://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/site/content/lostpineshabitat>.

What are the qualifications to receive a Right of Entry (ROE) form and where can I get one?

1. You must be in the Burn Area
2. Your land must have been previously forested

You can email Sue Cerf at the Bastrop County Office of Emergency Management: sue.cerf@co.bastrop.tx.us.

Can I go pick up free mulch?

Directly after the January 26th, 2013 Community Planting Event at George Ross Lakes Park off FM 1441, there will be mulch available for pick up on a first come, first serve basis until it is gone from the parking lot near the park.

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THANK YOU TO OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS



■ LADYBIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER ■

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