



2021-2022

CLIMATE-RESILIENT HABITATS PROGRAM

6,000+

Of Seedlings
Planted



300+

Children & Adults
Vounteering



123+

acres
Land Protected
and Restored

The Importance of Our Work

The Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) residents, particularly children, have limited access to environmental educational materials due to the language barrier, and at least 25% of the population lives in poverty. Climate-Resilient Habitats provides co-benefits to all residents: stormwater runoff reduction, heat island effect mitigation, city beautification, and engagement of all residents through bilingual education and volunteer opportunities.

**More Than 80%
of The LRGV Residents
Are Hispanic & Another
80% or More Are
Spanish Speaking.**

The expansion of this program is crucial to keep supporting LRGV wildlife



Life Without Climate Resilience

About 95% of the LRGV natural habitat was cleared for development in the 20th century, and the remaining native habitats are highly fragmented. The impacts of this fragmentation on wildlife are now exacerbated by climatic change. Urban and migratory wildlife species struggle to survive and thrive under these precarious conditions and only the most resilient ones find strategies to adapt. Recently, about 70 bird species in south Texas switched their spatial distribution that goes beyond their historic natural breeding range, and their behavior aligns with the extreme weather events.

Collaborating With Pharr & McAllen

Through the Federation's Climate-Resilient Habitats program, and in collaboration with the cities of **Pharr and McAllen, TX**, we are creating climate-resilient native wildflower and grassland habitats in urban vacant land and road-sides to support the adaptation of wildlife species to climate change and to increase habitat connectivity. Our adaptation strategy is to eradicate any invasive, non-native plants present—when possible—and plant a diverse mix of locally adapted native plant species that collectively will respond well to current and projected climatic changes, ensuring that some nectar sources will be available year-round. Site selection is based on habitat suitability assessments. It is expected that these resilient plant communities will better support climate-vulnerable LRGV wildlife and will provide additional benefits, such as reduced water use, increased rainwater infiltration, and local beautification.

We used a diverse mix of native plant species—over 60 different species—that included flowering plants, host plants, trees, and shrubs!

With The Help of Cities Pharr & McAllen, TX, We've Restored Over

42 Acres



Restoring grasslands habitats nearby roadsides

The Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) created resilient habitat by removing invasive species in 65 acres of Coastal Prairie nearby paved roads. It is estimated that this will contribute to conserving and protecting about 383 acres of Coastal Prairies due to the created buffer zone.

Aplomado falcon, an endangered species, and many other birds benefits from the collaborative restoration work between us and the Laguna Atascosa NWR.

The National Wildlife Federation grant award was made by the Wildlife Conservation Society through its Climate Adaptation Fund, a program made possible by the generous donations of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.



We are proud of our work!