

The Three Rs Research Program

There are 30,000 species of plants in North America; 5,700 of those are in Texas, including 2,300 that call the pineywoods home. While only four are listed as federally endangered, there are at least 50 in East Texas that deserve immediate conservation attention due to small numbers of plants or colonies that exist.

Our goal at the SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center is to study rare native plants with the intent to increase species survival in a three-step process:

Rescue

Collecting endangered plant material from protected sources.

Research

Conducting propagation and container production research to determine how to build numbers for reintroduction. This crucial conservation horticulture work is conducted at the horticulture facility at the PNPC.

Reintroduction

Replanting in appropriate sites, usually working with state and federal agencies to support their conservation programs.

We are currently working with the following endangered species:



Texas Trailing Phlox
(*Phlox nivalis texensis*)

Reintroduced to protected sites in the Big Thicket National Preserve in southeast Texas. Located in the Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden.



Neches River Rose Mallow
(*Hibiscus dasycalyx*)

Prefers moist, lowland soils. Located in our Wetland area.



Winkler's White Firewheel
(*Gaillardia aestivalis winkleri*)

Prefers sandy, sunny sites. Located in the Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden and our backyard Firewise Landscape.



Visitor Guide
and Map

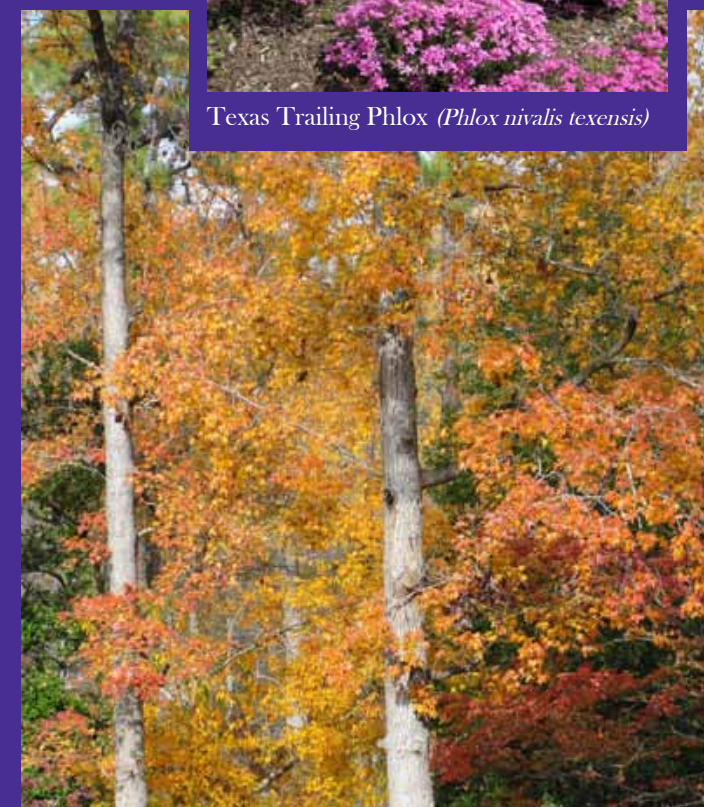
WELCOME TO THE PINEYWOODS NATIVE PLANT CENTER

The Stephen F. Austin State University Pineywoods Native Plant Center is a 42-acre green-space sanctuary located in the heart of historic Nacogdoches, Texas.

Our mission is to promote education about conservation and use of native plants of the southern forest. The property has two miles of handicap-accessible trails winding through demonstration gardens and diverse habitats including a bottomland hardwood forest.



Texas Trailing Phlox (*Phlox nivalis texensis*)



Sweetgums and dogwoods highlight the forest.



Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

GOALS OF THE PNPC

- Feature the best native ornamental plants in a well-designed display garden with appropriate interpretive signage.
- Maintain a documented germplasm collection of rare, threatened and endangered plants of East Texas.
- Contribute to endangered plant conservation horticulture by linking with federal, state and private institutions charged with monitoring and saving those plants.
- Educate students and the public about conservation, ecology and the natural environment.



Education programs are available for all ages.

VISIT US ON THE WEB
<http://sfagardens.sfasu.edu>

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LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

The demonstration garden was dedicated by Lady Bird Johnson in April 2000 and features more than 100 species native to East Texas. Visit six different plant communities represented in the garden.



1 Xeric Bed

Dry upland communities are characterized by deep sandy or clay soil and drought-tolerant plants. Many colorful, sun-loving wildflowers, grasses and succulents grow in dry upland sites. Look for prickly pear, pussy toes, rattlesnake master and yucca.



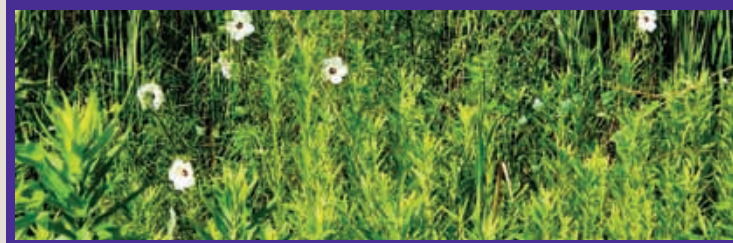
2 Mesic Bed

Mesic slopes and creek bottoms are well drained but still hold sufficient soil moisture during most of the year. They are often covered with leaf litter and an overhead tree canopy and are located near water sources or in cooler exposures. Look for dogwood, red buckeye, southern sugar maple and redbud here.



3 Riparian Zone

Riparian zones are those near the edges of streams and rivers. Plants growing here need a regular source of moisture to live. Look for river birch, paw paw, cardinal flower, switch cane and buttonbush.



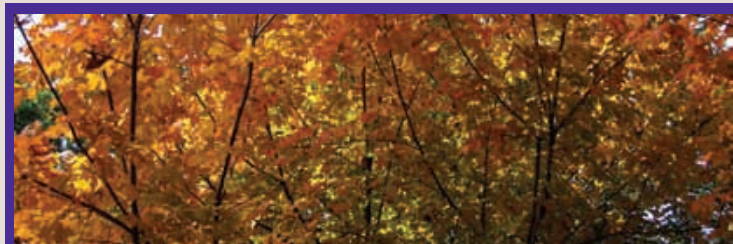
4 Wetland

Natural wetlands, like marshes, swamps and bogs, absorb excess water, slow flooding, neutralize toxic substances, protect shorelines from erosion, provide important wildlife habitat, and strain silt and debris from water. Our wetland serves many of the same functions as it filters runoff from the nursery container yard and greenhouse. Look for cattail, baldcypress, pickerel weed and Louisiana iris growing here.



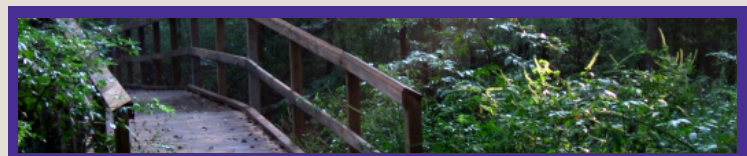
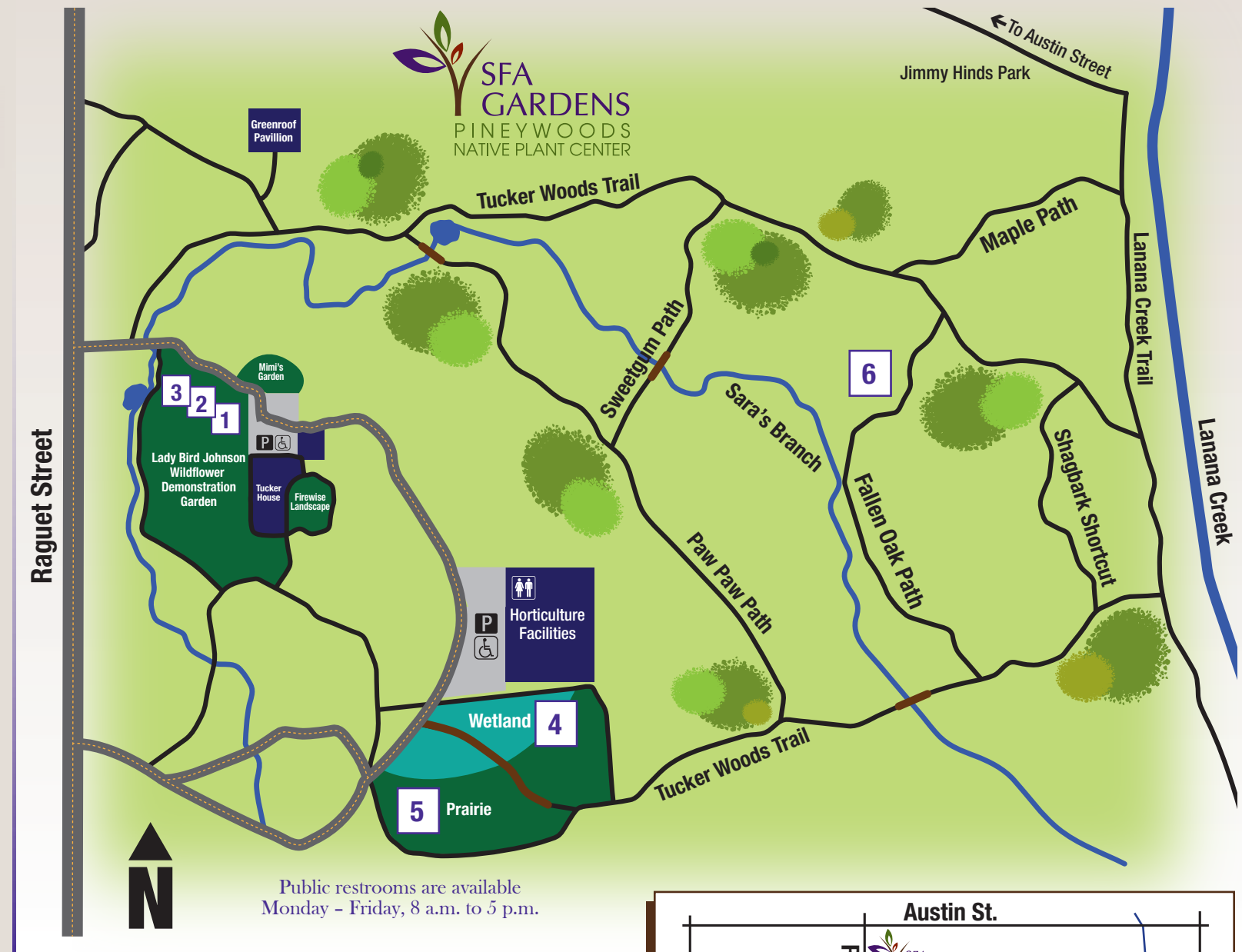
5 Prairie

You will see prairie flowers like gayfeather, bush-pea, goldenrod and coneflowers in the meadow surrounding the marsh. Each year, this area is managed with a controlled burn to eliminate unwanted plant species and to promote the growth of prairie grasses and flowers.



6 Bottomland Hardwood Forest

In time, most East Texas forests would mature into a mix of amazing old hardwood trees dotted with pines. Look for southern sugar maple, shagbark hickory, American hornbeam and southern red oak along the hard-surfaced trails. Be aware that bottomland forests flood during heavy rains.



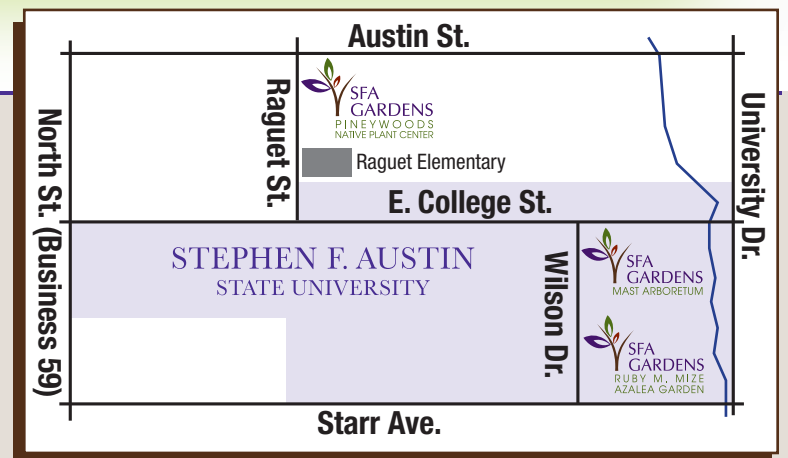
Tucker Woods Trail

Two miles of handicap-accessible trails lead visitors by century-old trees and among varied habitats, as well as through the horticulture demonstration gardens surrounding the Tucker House.



Firewise Landscape

This garden, behind the Tucker House, demonstrates how to create a survivable space by selecting, placing and maintaining plants around one's home that make it less vulnerable to wildfire and other disasters.



Educational Programs

Learning is always fun at the PNPC! Guided tours for organizations and school groups may be scheduled two weeks in advance by contacting the education office at (936) 468-1832 or sfagardens@sfasu.edu.