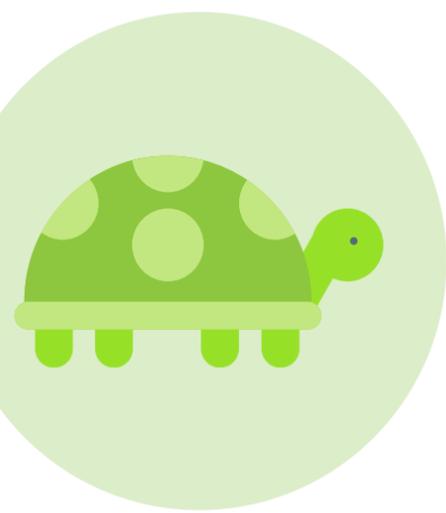


NATURE

How to be an EcoFriendly Longhorn

Despite being a large metropolitan city, Austin is full with many areas to enjoy and appreciate nature. Urban wildscapes are great for conserving wildlife and improving air quality, but they also provide a space for us to relax and recreate. According to Harvard's Medical School, spending time in nature can be very beneficial to mental health.



TURTLE POND

The [turtle pond](#) is one of UT Austin's most beloved spaces. It features over 80 turtles - mostly red-eared sliders and Texas river cooters - basking and swimming. This space, which is often used for class visits, studying, and relaxation, is located just north of the UT Tower.

WALLER CREEK

The campus is bisected by [Waller Creek](#), a rich riparian ecosystem that offers a habitat for wildlife as well as many scenic views on the way to class. The Office of Sustainability has developed a [self-guided walking tour](#) of the creek that highlights campus research, history, and prairie identification. Waller Creek is more than just a creek. UT's Landscape Services maintains a [native pollinator garden](#) at the intersection of San Jacinto and 24th streets as well as a fruit tree orchard nearby. Like so many urban natural spaces, Waller Creek faces constant pollution from city runoff. However, there are opportunities monthly to clean the creek and help protect this iconic piece of UT's history and environment.



HALF PINT PRAIRE

The UT Austin campus sits in an endangered ecosystem known as the Blackland Prairie. Due to environmental degradation such as urbanization and agriculture, less than 0.1% of the original prairie remains. [The Half Pint Prairie](#) showcases a Blackland Prairie ecosystem and demonstrates how much of Austin once looked. This space is located to the west of the Student Services Building.

WILDFLOWER CENTER

The [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#) in South Austin is dedicated to the appreciation of native plants and features historic trees, extensive wildflower patches, and learning gardens full of Texas' diverse plant life. The Wildflower Center also frequently hosts events like movie nights, yoga classes and biology seminars. Admission is free for UT students.



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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Join the [BEEVO Beekeeping Society](#), a student organization that maintains a beehive on campus. It's a great way to get hands-on experience with beekeeping and enjoy fresh honey!
- Utilize [Landscape Service's TreeKeeper](#) page to learn more about each individual tree on campus and find fruit trees that boast loquats, Mexican plums and much more.



DELL MEDICAL SCHOOL

[The Dell Medical School](#) is much more than Texas' newest teaching hospital. The roof of the parking garage features an 11,000 square foot wildflower garden that is open to patients, faculty, students, and visitors. Green spaces are often used as recovery tools for patients due to their benefits on mental health and stress relief. The facilities utilize innovative, sustainable techniques to minimize the use of water, fertilizer, and pesticides.

TEXAS MEMORIAL MUSEM

If you are looking for a deep dive into Texas' natural history, the [Texas Memorial Museum](#), located on Trinity St., includes many specimens of minerals, fossils, and wildlife. This is a great place to get an insight on Texas nature - past and present. Admission is free for UT Austin students.

