



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT® FOR HEALTHY LIVING FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Angostursa Dart point (8000 years B.P.)

## YMCA Roberts Ranch Education. Nature Preserve. Research Center

# Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023

Purpose: Provide a sustainable natural Hill Country area for the education and enjoyment for all.

#### **Environmental Education**

| Summer Youth day field trips and week and residential camp |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Texas Youth Hunting Program                                |  |  |
| Hunters Safety Certification                               |  |  |

Archery Program

Junior Master Naturalist of the Hill Country

Texas Brigades

Angler Program\*

ISD Educator Workshops\* - education & in-service credits

Hill Country Homeschool

Higher Education Partnerships\* - connect w research programs

Adult and Senior Workshops and Hikes

Disabled Adults

Family Hikes - Weekends and Holidays





#### **Nature Preserve**

| Camping                 | TYHP camping; Boy Scouts  |
|-------------------------|---|
| Hiking Trails           | Roberts Ridge • Warbler Walk • Casa Blanca Springs • Apple Valley • Robins Ridge  |
| Guided Docent Led Tours | Interpretive hikes • Hill country during the Civil War • Archeology Cultural Resources • Geology tour • Managing the land for water |
| Hunting                 | TYHP • Hunting lease  |
| Special Events          | Picnics • 5/10k trail races • New Years Day hike • Dark Sky • Y branch events   |
| Fishing                 | Pond and dam in need of repair. Angler activities not recommended.  |
| Hunting                 | Important for land management initiatives   |
| Special Events          | Limited by indoor classroom space that needs HVAC   |

### Research

**Property Density** 

| Vegetation                  | Native plants • Non-native • Cedar • Oak Wilt                                    |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Domestic Animals            | Cattle • Goats for lease • Sheep • Horses not recommended                        |
| Native Wildlife Assessment  | White tail deer • Exotic surveys w/ Texas Parks & Wildlife • Monthly bird census |
| Non-native Invasive Animals | Assessed: Feral Swine • Aoudad • Sika  |
| Watershed                   | 2019 with Stream Team partnership  |

| Initiative           | Action   |
|----------------------|--|
| Vegetation           | BioBlitz • Plant surveys • Invasive plants • Exclusion Fences for research   |
| Grazing              | Grazing Lease • Rotational Grazing Lease • EQIP Grant*   |
| Water Resources      | Stream survey* • Educational program development   |
| Cultural Resources   | Sites recorded with Historical Commission • Sites needing further investigation  |
| Wildlife Hunting     | Monitorin • Managed Lands Deer Program • Texas Youth Hunting Program (TYHP) Feral Swine Management • Lease Hunts* • Aoudad • Bow hunting |
| Wildlife Birds       | Monthly census • Golden-cheeked Warbler Survey • Habitat recovery  |
| Wildlife Herpetology | Surveys  |
| Wildlife Butterflies | Monarch and Butterfly Surveys  |
| Prairie Restoration  | Controlled burns   |
| Partnerships         | Wildlife COOP • Texas Stream Team (TSU) • Trail Tamers of Austin • Hill Country Alliance • TWA • TYHP • NRCS • Texas Master Naturalists  |



## **Property/Facility**

| Entrance      | Install composting toilets • Designate shuttle parking • New fence • Branded sign  |
|---------------|--|
| Roads         | Annual maintenance of entrance to pavilion, pavilion to ranch house and Upper Ranch Rd.  |
| Casa Blanca   | Remodel for overnight use. Electrical, porch, and fence repairs needed. Interior needs plumbing upgrade, a bathroom, new flooring, paint, and furniture. |
| Pavillion     | HVAC of enclosed classrom space • Commerical refrigerator • Freezer • Triple sink • Picnic tables • WiFi   |
| Ranch House   | Upgrade HVAC • Replace washer and dryer • Repair fence • Rebuild pumphouse   |
| Bunkhouse     | Evaluate space for mold • Repair roof • Install hot water heater • Install bathroom • Install kitchen • Add climate controlled storage                   |
| Cleaning Shed | Workroom for gear related to Abattoir • Storage for landscaping tools and fuel cabinet • Electrical repairs needed • New windows                         |
| Barn          | Upgrade electrical outlets and lighting • Create an indoor workplace • Parking for vehicles  |
| Fencing       | Existing • New pastures • Water restricted   |