



Welcome to the Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary,
home of the Houston Audubon Society.

A Wooded Oasis in West Houston...



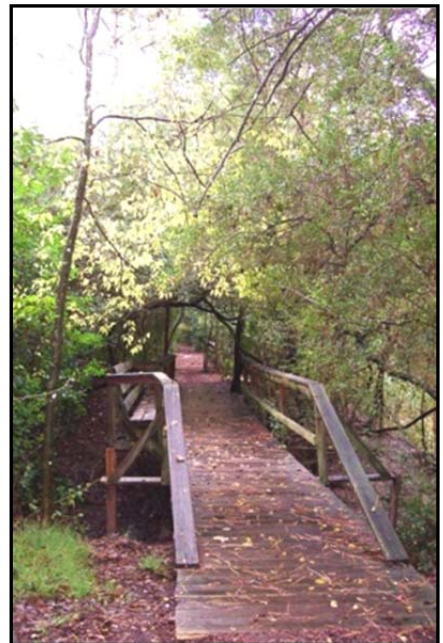
The Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary in West Houston is a 17.5 acre wooded oasis of native Texas forest, situated along Rummel Creek, and surrounded by Houston's busy Memorial area. Open to the public 365 days a year, it is also home to Houston Audubon's headquarters.

Mission

The mission of the Houston Audubon Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary is to provide an urban wildlife sanctuary for native plants and animals and to provide education about the natural environment to Houstonians of all ages. An average of 10,000 people participate in hands-on, environmental education programs at the sanctuary each year.

Nature

Within its 17.5 acres of hardwood and pine forest and freshwater habitats, the Edith L Moore Nature Sanctuary provides an important home for native wildlife. Resident mammals, migratory songbirds, shorebirds, birds of prey and a variety of species of reptiles and amphibians live within the sanctuary. Within Rummel Creek and the ponds of the sanctuary, you can find resident bull frogs, as well as bronze and leopard frogs. Many turtles and several species of Water Snakes and aquatic invertebrates also call our creek and pond habitats home.



Common Canopy Tree Species

1. Loblolly Pine
2. Southern Red Oak
3. White Ash

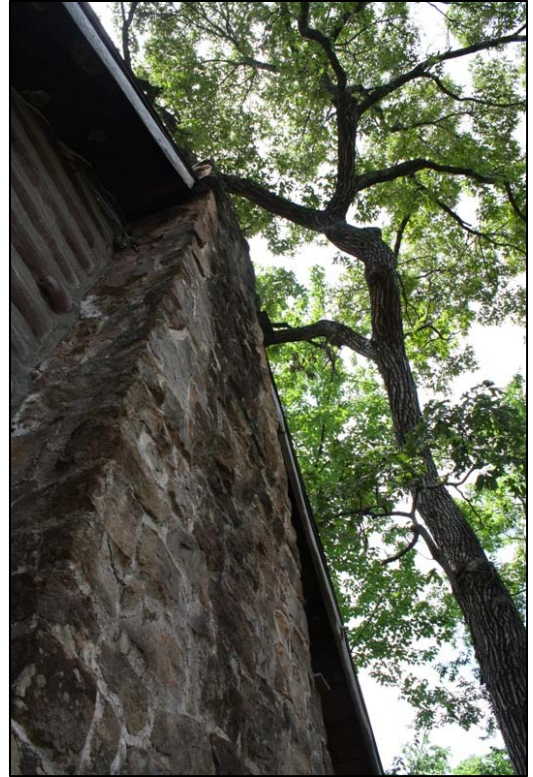
4. Sugar Hackberry
5. Black Hickory
6. Post Oak
7. Willow Oak
8. American Elm
9. American Sycamore
10. Carolina Linden
11. Water Oak
12. Black Gum
13. White Oak

Common Understory & Mid-Canopy Species

1. Cherry Laurel
2. Yaupon Holly
3. Eastern Redbud
4. Mexican Plum
5. Parsley Hawthorn
6. Deciduous Holly
7. American Hornbeam
8. Carolina Linden
9. Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum
10. Roughleaf Dogwood
11. American Beautyberry
12. Arrowwood Viburnum
13. Farkleberry
14. Turk's Cap
15. Flameleaf Sumac
16. Downy Forestiera

Common Resident Bird Species

1. Carolina Chickadee
2. Tufted Titmouse
3. Carolina Wren
4. Red-bellied Woodpecker
5. Downy Woodpecker
6. Blue Jay
7. Northern Cardinal
8. Mourning Dove
9. White-winged Dove
10. American Robin
11. Northern Mockingbird
12. Eastern Screech Owl
13. Yellow-crowned Night Heron
14. Green Heron

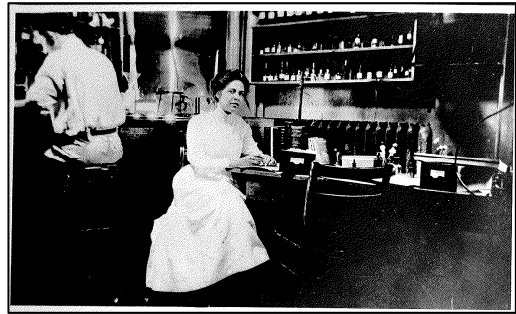


Recreation

The Edith L Moore Nature Sanctuary is open to all for relaxation and rejuvenation within its natural surroundings. Birdwatchers, hikers and families are welcome.

History

In 1969, the romance between Edith Lotz Moore and the Houston Audubon Society (HAS) began, though neither was aware then that in a few years it would culminate in the realization of her dream of a wildlife sanctuary becoming a reality.



Edith Lotz came to Houston from Minnesota in 1918, to work briefly at Camp Logan until the end of World War I. She then went to work at the United States Public Health Service, and, finally, as a Bacteriologist for the City of Houston. She married Jesse Moore, a milk inspector, in 1921. They lived in the Memorial area until encroaching urbanization drove them to the Memorial country-side in 1931 (they were 17 miles from downtown Houston.) The couple purchased 180 acres of mixed forest, from Memorial Drive to Buffalo Bayou, where they lived and harvested timber, and operated a small sawmill and lumberyard near the confluence of Rummel Creek and the bayou. It is



interesting to note that they never cut any tree less than eight inches in diameter, and although they owned several chickens and other animals, they only ate the eggs of their chickens. Built in 1932, the cabin of Loblolly Pine, cut on the property, was so isolated that they had no public electric or water service. Instead, they relied on a well for water, and a gasoline generator and wet-cell batteries for power.

In 1935, a vast flood covered the area with ten feet of water and mud up to the porch roof of the cabin. The Moores, their two dogs, and their four cats were rescued from the roof, as well as a pig which swam by. That pig later became a pet, and was named Noah. The cabin stood solidly, though coated with mud on the inside, but the sawmill and lumberyard on the creek were washed away. Sometime in those years Edith Moore joined the National Audubon Society to satisfy her interest in the wildlife around her. She is believed to be one of the earliest known Houston members of Audubon. When the Houston Audubon Chapter was chartered in 1969, she was one of its founding members.

After the Moores divorced in 1959, Edith Moore remained in the cabin in the woods with her dogs and cats, as well as the birds and wild creatures she wanted to protect. As time went on she sold off pieces of her property and donated a large tract to the Memorial Drive United Methodist Church. She kept seventeen and one-half acres around her home and along the banks of Rummel Creek.

By 1973, then in her late eighties, Mrs. Moore needed help in maintaining and protecting the acreage she had come to regard as a sanctuary. She offered the land to the National Audubon Society, but the organization declined the opportunity. Then she turned to the Houston Chapter, and her home became the first sanctuary operated and maintained by Houston Audubon. Volunteers and neighbors helped maintain and police the property. Directed by Holland McCarver, a resident of the Rustling Pines subdivision next door, and the first Audubon "warden", they cleaned trails and attempted to restrict the destructive activities of intruders.



Mrs. Moore continued to live in her home until her death in 1975. She willed her home of 44 years to HAS, on the condition that her beloved woods and creek be preserved as a wild place, and that her six dogs were cared for as well. The terms of her will stipulated that the land must remain a permanent nature sanctuary: a refuge for native trees and plants and wildlife for all time.

We all owe a great debt of gratitude to Edith. She was a conservationist ahead of her time and a hero for habitat preservation in our city. The ELM Sanctuary has given Houston Audubon an identity that the entire community can relate to. It is a green area, a place to escape from the rush and noise of the city. It is a flood area, allowing Rummel Creek to overflow its banks without damage to surrounding homes. It is also a living laboratory for the study and protection of over 200 species of birds, of forest growth and of native animals. It is a place for people, a place to escape the urban landscape and interact with nature. It is a true sanctuary for all.

Visitor Information

Gates open at 7am and close at 7pm (9pm in summer).

Reservations are required for groups visiting the sanctuary.

Your generous donation helps to preserve this sanctuary for the birds and for our future. Please visit our website for ways to donate or volunteer.

Because it is a wildlife sanctuary, we ask you to observe the following rules:

- Respect All Wildlife – You Are the Visitor – This is Their Home
- Respect Other Sanctuary Visitors
- Leave Nature as You Found It – No Littering and No Collecting of Plants or Animals
- Pack Out Everything You Pack In – Leave No Waste
- Stay on Marked Trails – Walking Only
- No Smoking or Alcohol Consumption
- Sanctuary Permit Mandatory for Dogs* - Must Remain On-Leash at All Times
- Sanctuary Permit Mandatory for Portrait Photography* – Nature photography is Encouraged

HOUSTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Houston Audubon promotes the conservation and appreciation of birds and wildlife habitat. The Society is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and is supported by member dues and donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations.

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