



Welcome Fall 2022 Class



Spring Creek Ambassador Program

Tel: 281-576-1634
10330 Lake Rd. Bldg. J
Houston, TX 77070
Email: info@bayouland.org



Spring Creek Ambassador Program

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Spring Creek Greenway Training Schedule Fall 2022

*The October 1st Orientation is **mandatory** to be enrolled in the Ambassador program*

1. **Orientation** – Bayou Land Conservancy and the Ambassador Program
 - *Date:* Saturday October 1st from 9:30 am – 11:30 am
 - *Location:* Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center (1300 Riley Fuzzel Rd., Spring 77386)
 - i. *Please check location before arrival, as some phone map apps will take you to a nearby storage unit.*
 - *Instructor:* Karastin Katusin (BLC Community Conservation Manager)
2. **Geomorphology and Water Quality** – How water shapes the landscape
 - *Date:* Saturday, October 8th from 9:00am – Noon – Field Day
 - *Location:* George Mitchell Nature Preserve, Flintridge Trailhead
 - *Instructor:* Rene and Aram Derewetzky (PhD Geologist, BLC Trail Crew Member, and Texas Master Naturalist)
3. **Fundamentals of Conservation Easements** – What are CE's and how we manage them
 - *Date:* Saturday, October 15th from 9:00am – Noon – Field Day
 - *Location:* Little Cypress Creek Preserve (Telge Rd & Spring Cypress Rd, Cypress, TX 77429)
 - *Instructors:* Kevin Muraira (BLC Land Stewardship Manager)
4. **Urban Flora and Fauna** – What calls the Spring Creek Greenway home?
 - *Date:* Saturday, October 22nd from 9:00am – Noon – Field Day
 - *Location:* Carter Park (7221 Treaschwig Rd, Spring, TX 77373)
 - *Instructors:* Justin Hurt, Naturalist with Harris County Pct. 3 Park Programs
5. **Trail Maintenance** – How to blaze and maintain low-impact trails
 - *Date:* Saturday, November 5th from 9:00am – Noon – Field Day
 - *Location:* TBD on the Spring Creek Nature Trail
 - *Instructors:* Diana Philpot, Tom Philpot, and Roy Cuellar (BLC Trail Crew Members)
6. **Graduation** – Brews and Bayous
 - *Date:* Sunday, December 4th or 11th at 1 pm
 - *Location:* TBA



Volunteer Release and Waiver Form

As a participant or parent or guardian of a participant in the volunteer project sponsored by the Bayou Land Conservancy and other participating sponsors, I, the undersigned, hereby release, discharge, and agree to waive all claims against the Bayou Land Conservancy, all other sponsors, their agents, employees, officers, and successors from all liability, claims or actions which I, my heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns may have or claim to have against any of them arising from any personal injuries or other claims connected therewith, whether known or unknown, or injuries to other persons or to property caused by or arising out of any actions I might take relating to my activities while participating in the above volunteer project. In addition, I agree to hold harmless the Bayou Land Conservancy for any claims or personal injuries that I may cause.

If the participant is a minor, I, as parent or guardian of the participant, give permission on behalf of the minor and further authorize participating sponsors and employees or representatives of these organizations to obtain emergency medical treatment for the participant, should an apparent need for this treatment arise.

I have carefully read this release and understand all its terms. I sign it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its legal consequences.

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT

DATE

PARTICIPANT'S NAME (please print)

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN (when applicable)

STREET ADDRESS

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER (should need arise)

CITY STATE ZIP

CLUB, GROUP OR COMPANY (when applicable)

EMAIL ADDRESS/ PHONE NUMBER

I grant permission to photograph, record, broadcast, and otherwise use in any media, including web pages or the internet, my or my child's participation in this volunteer project and to use my name, voice, and biographical information concerning me in connection therewith.

YES, photos may be taken and used for Bayou Land Conservancy advertising & reporting purposes only.

NO, photos may not be taken and/or used.

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT

DATE

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN (when applicable)

DATE

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BLC Overview

Bayou Land Conservancy is a community-sponsored land preservation organization working with willing landowners to permanently protect land in the greater Houston region. We preserve river and bayou corridors, other properties with significant wildlife habitat value, and places where family recreation can occur in harmony with nature.

Since 1996, Bayou Land Conservancy has protected over 14,000 acres of land in the Greater Houston Area through land preservation agreements (known as conservation easements) and fee ownership. We thank you for becoming a Spring Creek Greenway Ambassador, and for your commitment to helping Bayou Land Conservancy enhance the Spring Creek Nature Trail for the benefit and enjoyment of all.

During your training, you will learn

- Local native and invasive species
- How we obtain and manage lands via Conservation Easements and trail maintenance
- Local geology and how water shapes our landscape
- BLC's mission and how to become an active volunteer

BLC STAFF

Bayou Land Conservancy has five dedicated staff members, working together towards our mission of preserving land along streams for flood control, clean water, and wildlife.

Jill Boullion, Executive Director
Karastin Katusin, Community Conservation Manager
Becky Martinez, Conservation Director
Kevin Muraira, Land Stewardship Manager
Frida Ramirez, Development Coordinator



CLASS INFORMATION

REQUIRED GEAR – All participants are required to wear closed-toed shoes and long pants for class. Water is not provided, so you will need to bring ample drinking water with you, in addition to sun protection and insect repellent. *Recommended* items would include a backpack to carry all supplies, snacks, note-taking tools, and extra layers (or rain protection).

BOOK CLUB – Please bring a chair (or blanket), a cold beverage, and a snack to hangout after class. We will pick a location to all meet (on site, or very near-by) to enjoy a packed lunch and reflect on the day's work. This is a great time to network with your peers and instructors!

OTHER

- Most field sites do not have a restroom, so please plan accordingly. If you have questions or concerns, please contact BLC.
- We will be outside, where animals and plants live. Please be aware that we may encounter various wildlife, like snakes and fire-ants, on the trail. We will do our best to stay on the trail but may have to step off to let people pass. Please note that we do have poison ivy in the woods. Wearing closed-toed shoes and long pants will minimize contact.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Class: Orientation with Karastin Katusin, Community Conservation Manager at BLC

Overview: Meet fellow Ambassadors and BLC staff at orientation, where we will learn about how we all play a role in land conservation. Our time together will include hands-on activities, a presentation, and general good time.

Gear: Close-toed shoes, water bottle, good attitude

Karastin is a Texas Master Naturalist, Geology professor at Lone Star College, and avid hiker. She enjoys connecting people to the world around them.



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Class: Fundamentals of Conservation Easements with Kevin Muraira, Land Stewardship Manager at BLC

Overview: Learn the fundamentals of conservation easements and how they are essential for allowing land trusts to conserve land to protect perpetually while enjoying a short hike around Little Cypress Creek Preserve. You will also learn how Land Trusts like BLC uphold their side of the bargain and monitor lands to protect the conservation values of interest.

Gear: Close-toed shoes, long pants, water bottle, bug spray, good attitude, hat



Kevin has been working in the conservation field for the past 2 years and has knowledge on natural resource management. He has been a part of BLC's Lands Committee since 2020 and he is now the new Land Stewardship Manager for BLC to help uphold the conservation values of protected land.

Class: Urban flora and fauna; What calls the Spring Creek Greenway home?

Overview: Learn about your local flora and fauna, as well as invasive species, and their interconnectedness. We will learn about the essential role our Spring Creek riparian zone plays in our everyday lives through interpretive education, hands-on learning, and firsthand experience.

Gear: Closed-toe shoes, long pants, water bottle, bug spray, and your curiosity



Justin Hurt, Naturalist and Program Coordinator with Harris County Precinct 3 Park Programs. Justin is a Texas Master Naturalist (Heartwood Chapter), Certified Interpretive Guide, and is currently working on his bachelor's degree in Wildlife Conservation from Unity College. He's also a proud Eagle Scout. When he's not sharing dad jokes with anyone who will listen, he can be found paddling his kayak, fishing, hiking in state parks, or spending a night under the stars camping.

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Class: Trail Maintenance

Overview: You will learn how the Trail Crew keeps the trail in tip-top shape! BLC Trail Members will present information about safety, tools and techniques, and the structural components of our trails. Then you will get hands-on experience as we maintain a section of trail together!

Gear: Close-toed shoes, long pants & long sleeve shirt, work/gardening gloves, water bottle, sun protection, bug spray. If you own hand pruners/clippers or loppers, you may bring them to class

***Diana and Tom Philpot and Roy Cuellar** are all graduates of the Ambassador program. Additionally, they are regular Trail Crew members for the Spring Creek Nature Trail and lead annual conservation monitory surveys on BLC Preserves.*

Diana is a Texas Master Naturalist, who loves hiking and motorcycling, because both get her outside.

Tom is into hiking and camping, sports of all kinds, and classic rock on vinyl LPs. He graduated with Spring Creek Greenway Ambassador Class XV in 2020.

Roy enjoys the SCNT from his mountain bike, and he travels near and far with his wife Annie.



CONTINUED OPPORTUNITIES AND INVOLVEMENT

Please consider continuing to volunteer with BLC through some of the opportunities below.

CONTACT: Karastin Katusin, Community Conservation Manager – kkatusin@bayouland.org

Docent

- Apply your new Ambassador skills and love of the outdoors with this interactive role. Docents are pair off and spend time on the trail to answer questions, inform visitors of the BLC's role in the trail, and more.

Conservation Team

- Have a background in conservation, biology, ecology or are a Texas Master Naturalist? Have knowledge of local flora and fauna? This could be a great opportunity to build skills and help us keep up with our annual conservation easement monitoring.

Trail Crew

- Meets Wednesday mornings at various locations. Come once, twice, or as often as you like. We focus on maintaining the trails and greenspaces to keep a safe and healthy environment for all users and inhabitants.

Committees

- Join a committee to be intimately involved with the ins-and-outs of BLC
 - Community Conservation
 - DEIA
 - Lands
 - Finance
- Most committees meet once a month

Other

- Do you have writing, photography or social media skills? Let us know! We can find a way for your skills to be used.
- Do you love to teach or want to lead a class, hike, or other fun activity like birding? We are always looking for new guides and instructors to lead programs!
- Have a different skill or interest than listed here? E-mail us and we can see where we can collaborate and find space for your skills.