Return on Conservation™ Index: Friends of Bachman Lake

*For more info on how to read this card and metadata associated with it, please visit texanbynature.org/roc-index

This ROC™ Index highlights the benefits resulting from Friends of Bachman Lake's efforts to restore and enhance Bachman Lake Park and the Bachman Creek Greenbelt since restoration began in 2021. Restoration efforts include removing invasive species, reseeding native plants, constructing trails and benches, installing signage, and offering educational programming to foster deeper connections between Dallas residents and nature.

This ROC™ Index provides estimates for the broad economic and environmental benefits provided by the restoration efforts by Friends of Bachman Lake. Based on this conservative analysis, it is estimated that FoBL has delivered a total of $18.1M in economic benefits between 2021–2026, with $243K in economic impact delivered annually following successful restoration.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	Targets	Impact *2021-2026*	Total Economic Value *All values in FY2025 dollars. **Denotes recurring annual value*
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	**3.4**: Promote mental health and well-being	**500 volunteers engaged in restoration, stewardship, and organizational operations**	**$17.5K** in value of volunteer efforts
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	**4.7**: Ensure all learners have the knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development through education	**55 people reached through educational programming**	**$500** in value of environmental education
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	**6.6**: Protect and restore water-related ecosystems	**15 acres of riparian habitat under active restoration**	**$210K** in value of riparian habitat restoration**
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	**11.7**: Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces	**3,600,000 visitors to Bachman Lake Park and Greenbelt**	**$18M** in recreational value
13 CLIMATE ACTION	**13.1**: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters	**445 metric tons of carbon stored by restored native Blackland Prairie**	**$700** in value of carbon capture by native vegetation**
15 LIFE ON LAND	**15.1:** Ensure conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems	**58 acres of native Blackland Prairie under active restoration**	**$33K** in value of native prairie habitat restoration**
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	**17.19:** Develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product	**1 Return on Conservation™ Index**	**Not Yet Valued**

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: FRIENDS of bachman lake, EcoMetrics

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	Targets	Reporting Standards	How Friends of Bachman Lake Addresses Sustainable Development Goals
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	**3.4**: Promote mental health and well-being	**WHO Global Health Observatory Indicator**: Policy or plan for mental health	- **500 volunteers** contributed to native prairie restoration, invasive species removal, landscape stewardship, and organizational operations, reflecting a strong civic partnership model with positive impacts on long-term conservation efforts. Volunteering has been shown to yield positive mental health benefits and strengthen connections within one's local community (Musick & Wilson, 2003; Jenkinson et al., 2013; Nichol et al., 2024).
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	**4.7**: Ensure all learners have the knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development through education	**UNI 4.7.1:** Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	- **55 people** participated in educational programming focused on ecological stewardship and conservation practices, building knowledge and skills that support long-term environmental sustainability.
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	**6.6**: Protect and restore water-related ecosystems	**GRI 101-5-a:** Location and size of sites with significant impacts on biodiversity GRI **101-2-a:** Actions taken to mitigate negative impacts on biodiversity including actions taken to restore impacted ecosystems and how stakeholders are engaged	- Riparian restoration was conducted along **1 mile of the Bachman Creek corridor**. This work reduces runoff, improves water quality, and protects critical urban water ecosystems for biodiversity. - The **removal of 15 acres of invasive privet** reduced pressure on native plants, wildlife, and communities, and supports overall ecosystem health.
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	**11.7**: Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces	**UNI 11.7.1** Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	- Bachman Lake Park and Greenbelt has welcomed **3,600,000 visitors since 2021**, offering a free, accessible space for recreation, exercise, and time in nature. - **1 mile** of a nature trail was developed and repaired to ensure accessible access to urban green space for the local community.
13 CLIMATE ACTION	**13.1**: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters	**GRI 102-4**: Report greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets and progress	- Native vegetation restoration across **5 acres** of Blackland Prairie using **2,500 plants** has the potential to store approximately **445 metric tons of carbon** and strengthen overall climate resilience.
15 LIFE ON LAND	**15.1:** Ensure conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems	**GRI 101-2-b**: For locations with significant impacts on biodiversity, report the size and location of area restored or rehabilitated	- With less than 1% of original Blackland Prairie remaining today (TPWD) the restoration of 58 acres along the Bachman Lake Greenbelt improves ecosystem health and supports native biodiversity. - The restoration of **58 acres** along the Bachman Lake Greenbelt improves ecosystem health and supports native biodiversity.
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	**17.19**: Develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product	**GRI General Indicators:** - Publicly disclosing sustainability information and increasing accountability and transparency - Advocating for the disclosure and use of sustainable development data	- Friends of Bachman Lake and Texan by Nature worked together to report the environmental and economic return on investment of conservation efforts at Bachman Lake Park and Greenbelt to promote participation in and investment from private and public sectors. **Texan by Nature ROC™ Indexes are used to aid organizations in articulating the quantitative impact of their efforts, for standardized reporting, fundraising, development, and more.**

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EcoMetrics

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Return on Conservation™ Index: Economic Proxy Use

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UN SDG GOAL	Proxies Used	Unit of Measure	Proxy Explainer	Citation
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	Volunteer Labor Value	$/hour/volunteer	Monetary equivalent of volunteer hours and wellbeing benefit derived from socially meaningful work.	Independent Sector. (2025). Value of Volunteer Time - Independent Sector. https://independentsector.org/research/value-of-volunteer-time/ Jenkinson, C. E., Dickens, A. P., Jones, K., Thompson-Coon, J., Taylor, R. S., Rogers, M., ... & Richards, S. H. (2013). Is volunteering a public health intervention? A systematic review and meta-analysis of the health and survival of volunteers. BMC public health, 13(1), 773. Musick, M. A., & Wilson, J. (2003). Volunteering and depression: The role of psychological and social resources in different age groups. Social science & medicine, 56(2), 259-269. Nichol, B., Wilson, R., Rodrigues, A., & Haighton, C. (2024). Exploring the effects of volunteering on the social, mental, and physical health and well-being of volunteers: an umbrella review. Voluntas: international journal of voluntary and nonprofit organizations, 35(1), 97-128.
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	Education Value	$/person/visit	This value represents the consumer surplus when visiting a nature center. This equation multiplies the proxy by the number of visitors and over time.	Marlowe, T., Bilmes, L. J., & Loomis, J. B. (2019). Economic benefits provided by National Park Service educational resources. Valuing US National Parks and Programs: America's Best Investment, 72. Rosenberger, Randall S. (2025). Recreation Use Values Database. Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University, College of Forestry. http://recvaluation.forestry.oregonstate.edu/
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	Water Filtration	$/acre	Removing water pollutants via soil filtration and transformation by vegetation and microbial communities.	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (2022). FEMA Ecosystem Service Value Updates. FEMA. https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ecosystem-service-value-updates_2022.pdf
	Erosion Control	$/acre	Retaining arable land, slope stability, and coastal integrity.	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (2022). FEMA Ecosystem Service Value Updates. FEMA. https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ecosystem-service-value-updates_2022.pdf
	Habitat & Biodiversity	$/acre	Providing shelter, promoting growth of species, and maintaining biological diversity.	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (2022). FEMA Ecosystem Service Value Updates. FEMA. https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ecosystem-service-value-updates_2022.pdf
	Biological Control	$/acre	Providing pest, weed, and disease control.	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (2022). FEMA Ecosystem Service Value Updates. FEMA. https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ecosystem-service-value-updates_2022.pdf
	Water Supply	$/acre	Regulation the rate of water flow through an environment and ensuring adequate water availability for all water users	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (2022). FEMA Ecosystem Service Value Updates. FEMA. https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ecosystem-service-value-updates_2022.pdf
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	Recreation Value	$/person/visit	This values utilizes the USACE Unit Day Value for Recreation for FY 25 - ($5.17 is most conservative at lowest point value conversion) for "General Activities" which include picnicking, hiking, cycling, walking involving relatively intensive developmentof access and facilities.	Crompton, J. L. (2012). Estimates of the Economic Benefits Accruing From an Expression of Houston's Bayou Greenway Network. Journal of Park & Recreation Administration, 30(4), 83. Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (2025). Economic Guidance Memorandum, 25-04, Unit Day Values for Recreation for Fiscal Year 2025. https://publibrary.sec.usace.army.mil/api/download?id=c2366b51-9c94-4ef3-fe41-28e58a0cf4a9&filename=EGM25-04.pdf&token=&preview=true
13 CLIMATE ACTION	Climate Regulation	$/acre	Supporting a stable climate at global and local levels through carbon sequestration and other processes.	AECOM. (2025). Quantifying Environmental Benefits for Benefit-Cost Analysis of Green Infrastructure. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Green Infrastructure for Texas. https://agrilife.org/gift/files/2025/08/Ecosystem-Service-Values-for-Texas_FINAL-August-2025.pdf. Potter, K. N., Torbert, H. A., Johnson, H. B., & Tischler, C. R. (1999). Carbon storage after long-term grass establishment on degraded soils. Soil Science, 164(10), 718-725.
15 LIFE ON LAND	Soil Quality	$/acre	Maintaining soil fertility and capacity to process waste inputs (bioremediation).	AECOM. (2025). Quantifying Environmental Benefits for Benefit-Cost Analysis of Green Infrastructure. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Green Infrastructure for Texas. https://agrilife.org/gift/files/2025/08/Ecosystem-Service-Values-for-Texas_FINAL-August-2025.pdf. Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. (2025). The Blackland Prairies. https://tpwd.texas.gov/wildlife/wildlife-diversity/wildscapes/wildscapes-plant-guidance-by-ecoregion/the-blackland-prairies/

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