



Golden-Cheeked Warbler

# Austin guide for... **PRESERVE-SIDE** *neighbors*

## *Wildlife*

Just as you enjoy resident wildlife such as deer, fox or golden-cheeked warblers as your neighbors, it is often necessary to accept that there may also be some less desirable wildlife such as rattlesnakes and coyotes as well. To help reduce problems from nuisance species:

- Reduce nesting opportunities around the home
- Plant native, food producing plants instead of using supplemental feeders
- Don't place dog or cat food outdoors
- Secure any garbage that must be left outdoors
- Report any sick, disoriented or aggressive wildlife, including coyotes, to the City of Austin's Animal Damage Control group at 854-9613 or call 3-1-1

## *Landscape Management*

To protect water quality, it is essential to reduce, or better yet, eliminate landscaping chemicals.

- Retain as much of the native landscape as possible
- Plant native and adapted plant species that require little water and few chemicals
- Apply natural or slow release fertilizers only as needed
- Use pesticides as a last resort
- Find Grow Green gardening fact sheets and plant guides at Austin nurseries or visit [www.growgreen.org](http://www.growgreen.org)

## *Additional Tips*

- Do not dump debris in preserves; dried vegetation increases the risk of fires
- Call 3-1-1 to let City staff know of any damage to preserve fences or boundaries
- Control your pets – cats can harm or kill small animals while dogs can leave scent trails that can disturb the behavior of wildlife and confuse territories. Roaming cats and small dogs could also fall prey to coyotes.

Living next to, or near, a preserve provides many benefits – natural beauty, interesting wildlife, quiet neighbors. Maintaining these amenities, however, can require additional knowledge, and in some cases, a little extra effort.



## *Ecological Preservation*

Many of Austin's preserves have been specifically dedicated to endangered species habitat and/or water quality protection. When we encroach upon a preserve, we can unknowingly destroy its natural eco-system. As a preserve-side neighbor, there are several things that you can do to help.

## *Invasive Plants*

One of the most significant problems in Austin's preserves is exotic invasive plants. Exotic invasives are non-native plants that spread from human settings into the wild, where they may out-compete and replace native plants. They often spread rapidly and can seriously alter natural habitats. The following plants have already invaded preserves and greenbelts in Austin and we ask that you avoid planting them in the future. If you already have these plants on your property and removing them is impractical, you can help control them by trimming back berries, seed heads or runners.



# Invasive Plants To Avoid

The following plants have already invaded preserves and greenbelts in Austin. They spread by seeds, berries and spores that can be *easily transported long distances*.

Invasive Plant	Non-Invasive Alternatives
Bamboo, Running	Evergreen Yaupon, Bamboo Muhly
Cat's Claw Vine	Carolina Jessamine, Crossvine
Chinaberry	Chinquapin Oak, Texas Red Oak
Chinese Parasol Tree	Bald Cypress, Arizona Cypress
Chinese Pistache	Chinquapin Oak, Texas Red Oak
Chinese Tallow	Lacey Oak, Bigtooth Maple
Giant Cane	Evergreen Yaupon, Roughleaf Dogwood
Japanese Honeysuckle	Coral Honeysuckle
Kudzu	Virginia Creeper, Coral Vine
Ligustrum, Wax Leaf	Texas Sage, Barbados Cherry
Ligustrum, Japanese	Evergreen Sumac, Evergreen Yaupon
Mimosa (non-native)	Desert Willow, Redbud
Mulberry, Paper	Cherry Laurel, Texas Persimmon
Mulberry, White	Cherry Laurel, Texas Persimmon
Nandina (berrying varieties)	Dwarf Nandinas (non-berrying), Bush Germander, Texas Sage, Barbados Cherry
Photinia, Chinese	Evergreen Sumac, Evergreen Yaupon
Privet, Common	Evergreen Yaupon, Burford Holly
Pyracantha	Evergreen Sumac, Evergreen Yaupon
Russian Olive	Cherry Laurel, Texas Persimmon
Tamarisk, Salt Cedar	Arizona Cypress, Bald Cypress
Tree of Heaven	Chinquapin Oak, Lacey Oak
Vitex	Texas Pistachio, Mexican Buckeye

These plants travel by runners, rhizomes, spores and stems. While they are not generally transported long distances, they can invade nearby or "downstream" areas. *Avoid planting near parks and preserves.*

Invasive Plant	Non-Invasive Alternatives
Elephant Ear	Arrowhead, Crinum Lily, Tuckahoe
English Ivy	Leadwort Plumbago, Mountain Pea
Holly Fern	River Fern
Vinca	Leadwort Plumbago, Mountain Pea
Wisteria	Passion Vine



Ligustrum



Berrying Nandina