



# HEARD

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*Natural Science Museum  
& Wildlife Sanctuary*



HeardMuseum.org ♦ McKinney, TX

Bringing  
Nature  
&  
People  
Together



# The Heard: By the Numbers 2023

- *289 Acre Nature Preserve*
- *6.5 Miles of Hiking Trails on 6 Trails*
- *6,000 Square Foot Exhibit Hall*
- *12,000 Square Foot Science Resource Center*
- *More than 100,000 Visitors Annually*
- *More than 20,000 Students on Field Trips*

# The Heard: Offerings

- *Butterfly House and Garden (Spring through Fall)*
- *75 Non-Releasable Animal Ambassadors*
- *Native Plant Garden*
- *Venue Rentals (Weddings, Corporate Meetings etc.)*
- *Annual Events*
  - *Halloween at the Heard*
  - *Holidays at the Heard*
  - *Night Out at the Heard (3)*
  - *Native Plant Sale (2025: 36<sup>th</sup> Annual)*

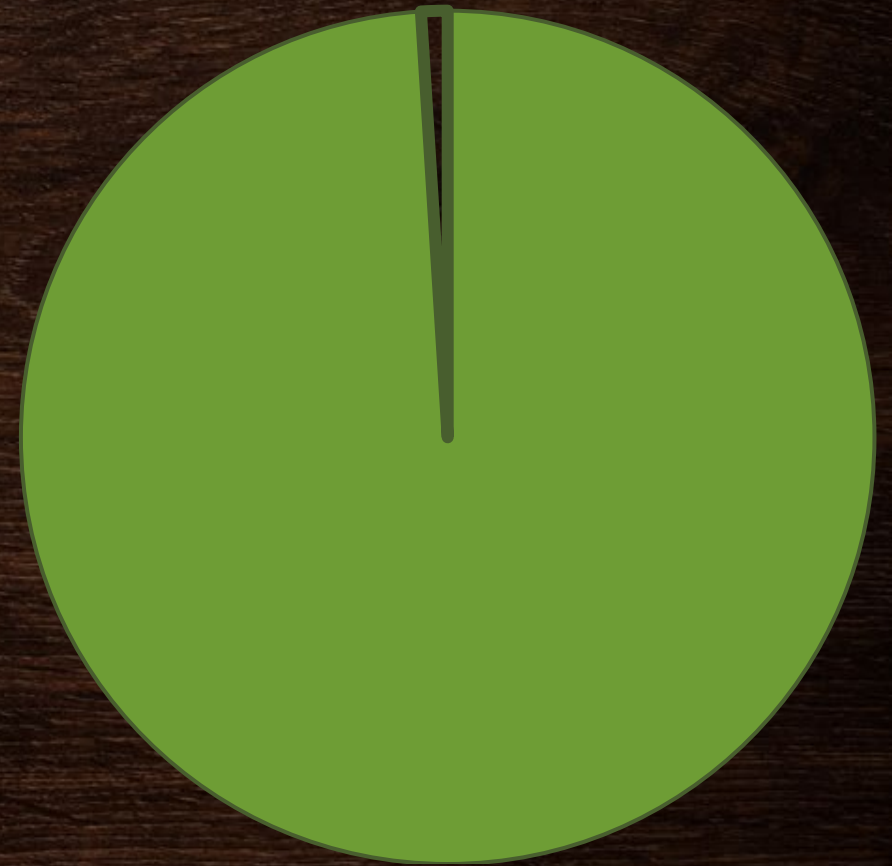
# The Heard: Wildlife

## *Confirmed Wildlife Sightings in the Heard Sanctuary*

- *Bobcats*
- *Coyotes*
- *Fox*
- *Raccoons*
- *White Tailed Deer*
- *Bald Eagles*
- *Beavers*
- *River Otters*
- *Barn, Barred, Eastern Screech, Great Horned Owls*
- *200+ Unique Bird Species (61 nesting)*
- *A Variety of Snakes, including Rough Greensnakes, Western Ribbon Snakes*
- *And Many More*

# Blackland Prairie Ecosystem

- *Originally more than 170,000,000 acres from Kansas to San Antonio*
- *Less than .05% remains*
- *The Most Endangered Ecosystem in the Western Hemisphere*
- *The Heard maintains approximately 60 acres*



# A Variety of Meaningful Science and Environmental Programs

- *Night Hikes*
- *Seasonal Camps*
- *Teacher Workshops*
- *Field Trips*
- *Canoe Programs (Seasonal)*
- *Outreach Programs*



- *Summer Nature Camps*
- *Nature Camps, Art Camps & Keeper Camps*
- *Home School & Preschool*
- *Natural Science Programs*
- *Scouting Programs*







# The Need:

*Comprehensive  
Repair and  
Continued  
Restoration of  
Blackland Prairie  
Visitor Experience*





# The Need:

## *Trail Improvement and Repair*

*Trail improvement and repair through a large section of the Blackland Prairie is needed. This is one area that was damaged by flooding and is located in a frequently used area.*





# The Need:

## Tractor

*Our tractor is more than 25 years old and can no longer safely traverse the grounds or clear trails easily. It is continually in need of costly repairs.*



# The Need:

## *Replacement SRC Deck*

*This element is heavily used by the public and is a key point of observation for the primary restoration site for this project. It is in major disrepair and needs to be replaced.*





# The Request: \$143,810

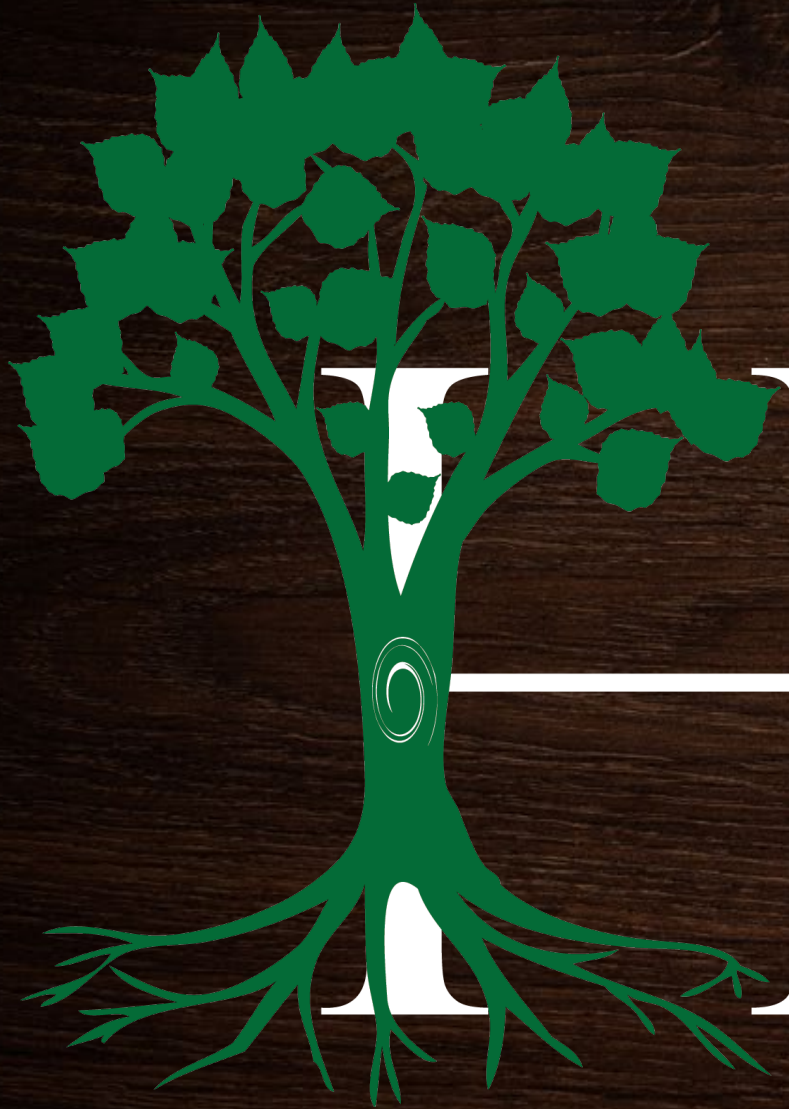
(\$24,190 Already Raised of \$168,000 total Prairie Visitor Experience Restoration Project Budget)

**A new tractor with biosystems-friendly attachments:** that can manage the varying terrain within the Sanctuary is essential and will be used continually for years to come. To use it optimally, tractor attachments must accompany it and include: a bush hog, which is a type of rotary mower commonly used for agricultural and land management tasks; and a tow-behind 200-gallon sprayer

**SRC Observation deck Repair:** used by students and teachers visiting on field trips, by scouting groups, families, homeschoolers, and people attending special events such as weddings and corporate gatherings. The deck was built 30 years ago, but because of normal wear and tear brought on by heavy use it is time to replace it with new decking and safety railing.

**Materials for Trail Restoration:** The Heard wishes to purchase: 1) flexible course base material made from crushed rock (FlexBase) to replace decomposed granite; and 2) Rip Rap rock. Rip rap prevents soil erosion caused by water flow, protects valuable property, preserves natural habitats, and maintains landscape integrity.





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