



## **Shavano Park the 4<sup>th</sup> Community in Texas Officially Recognized as a Community Wildlife Habitat**

*“Commitment to living with our natural wildlife in harmony”*

**[Shavano Park, Texas 01.21.19 ]** – Today, the City of Shavano Park announces its certification as a “Community Wildlife Habitat” through the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). The process of certifying as a NWF Community Wildlife Habitat began almost two years ago as a citizen-based initiative. Over the ensuing months, habitat gardens were added and enhanced at municipal facilities, an ongoing process of elevating citizens’ awareness of wildlife and water began, and best practices were adopted by citizens, businesses, HOAs and City administration. This designation means that the City, its participating residents, community associations and business partners have agreed to follow guidelines on how to live in harmony with our natural habitat.

Spearheaded by the organization “Going Green in Shavano Park” under the leadership of Vicky Maisel, Nancy Bula, Kim Lane, Dagne Fischer, Jean Countryman and Kristi Werner, their efforts encouraged residents, businesses, schools and other stakeholders to beautify and enhance the places where local appreciators of nature spend their time. Under NWF guidelines, community stakeholders have adopted and/or continued NWF environmental best practices with resulting participation of hundreds of citizens across the community.

Following NWF notification, “Going Green in Shavano Park’s” President Vicky Maisel said, “We are all very proud of the spirit of our community’s. Along with community leaders, business citizens and an active citizen base, the board of “Going Green in Shavano Park” believes we are making Shavano Park a special place. Where else can you live surrounded by one of America’s largest cities and enjoy a daily diversity of nature in your front and back yards every day. This is truly special.

Mayor Bob Werner stated, “We are pleased to be the 4<sup>th</sup> city in Texas to achieve this wonderful designation. When the Board members of “Going Green in Shavano Park” began the initiative, we looked at the values of our community and those of NWF. It was a wonderful match for our community. I am so pleased that “Going Green in Shavano Park” secured this designation for our community. As we follow through, our community recognizes the role each of us has to play in preserving our local habitat for this generation and those that follow.”

### **About the Program and NWF:**

NWF, America’s oldest and largest conservation organization, works across the country to unite Americans from all walks of life in giving wildlife a voice. NWF has been on the front lines for wildlife since 1936, fighting for the conservation values that are woven into the fabric of our nation’s collective heritage. ([www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)) In Texas, NWF has now designated four communities in Texas as a “Community Wildlife Habitat”, with Shavano Park joining Austin, Houston, and the Whitewater Springs HOA, which is northwest of Austin.

To successfully certify the City, partners encouraged and supported the creation of water-friendly habitat gardens in yards, businesses, schools, and other community spaces. The Community Wildlife Habitat <<http://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/Create/Communities.aspx>> program empowers citizen leaders to act on behalf of wildlife throughout their communities. The program provides these leaders with a framework to create and restore high-quality wildlife habitat. This program also educates and engages community members while working to attain NWF's esteemed certification as a wildlife-friendly community. Going Green in Shavano Park, the City and its partners have chosen this framework to advance their collective goals of improving the City's livability, enhancing habitats for wildlife and improving water quality and quantity.

NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat program has been helping people take personal action on behalf of wildlife for more than 40 years. The program engages homeowners, businesses, schools, churches, parks and other institutions that want to make their communities wildlife-friendly. The Community Wildlife Habitat project is part of NWF's Garden for Wildlife program. Since 1973, NWF has provided millions of people with the basic guidelines for making their landscapes more wildlife-friendly. There are more than 200,000 certified habitats nationwide. For more information, please go to: [www.nwf.org/garden](http://www.nwf.org/garden)<<http://www.nwf.org/garden>>.

**About Shavano Park:**

On the edge of the Texas Hill Country, the City of Shavano Park is located in the San Antonio Metropolitan Area in northwest Bexar County, approximately 12 miles north of downtown San Antonio. Shavano Park is surrounded by the City of San Antonio to the north, east, south, and west. Generally, the City's boundaries are Loop 1604 on the north, Huebner Road on the south, Lockhill Selma on the west and Salado Creek on the east. Bexar County is the fourth largest County in the State of Texas and San Antonio is the largest City in the County and second largest City in the State. Geographically, Shavano Park is located in the south-central Texas region at the edge of the Gulf Coastal Plains.

The designation of Shavano Park as a "Community Wildlife Habitat" is the City's latest and most exclusive wildlife designation. Other nature awards and designations held by the City are Tree City USA, Scenic City, Firewise, and State of Texas Most Outstanding 2018 Arbor Day.

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