

Proclamation

City of Mission



WHEREAS, the mission of the Texas Master Naturalist™ program is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.

WHEREAS, started in 1997 by a group of concerned conservationists, the Texas Master Naturalist™ program includes 49 local chapters serving 214 counties throughout Texas.

WHEREAS, The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service sponsor the Texas Master Naturalist™ organization. As of 2023, the TMN Program has trained over 17,000 certified volunteers, impacted more than 234,800 acres of wildlife, contributed more than 6.9 million hours of service, and reached more than 7.1 million Texas residents of all ages. These volunteer efforts are estimated to be worth more than \$140 million to the state of Texas.

WHEREAS, The South Texas Border Chapter Texas Master Naturalist™ was chartered in October 2015 to support organizations in Hidalgo, Starr, and Cameron Counties. Its more than 70 active members serve as nature guides, administrative support, educators, speakers, workers, gardeners, and physical laborers building and maintaining trails, interpreting nature for visitors, weeding gardens, and supporting citizen science activities.

WHEREAS, In the City of Mission, South Texas Border Chapter Texas Master Naturalist™ members have, since 2015, provided more than 10,000 volunteer hours with an estimated economic impact of more than \$233,000 and provided direct service to more than 17,000 citizens of all ages.

WHEREAS, In the City of Mission, South Texas Border Chapter Texas Master Naturalist™ members can be found volunteering regularly at Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park and the National Butterfly Center.

NOW THEREFORE, we the City Council of the City of Mission do hereby celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the South Texas Border Chapter Texas Master Naturalists.

PROCLAIMED on this the 12th day of May, 2025.

Norie Gonzalez Garza, Mayor

Jessica Ortega, Councilwoman

Ruben Plata, Mayor Pro Tem

Marissa Ortega Gerlach, Councilman

Alberto Vela, Councilman