



## History

On a hot summer day in 1978 a bulldozer was seen blazing a road in a pristine area of the Franklin Mountains. El Pasoans had long hoped the mountains would be protected as a wilderness park and the scarring moved them to act. Word of the threat spread. A meeting was held and the Wilderness Park Coalition, now the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition, was born. Within a year, public support galvanized the Texas legislature to pass and the governor to sign legislation creating the Franklin Mountains State Park, the largest urban park in the United States. To this day, the Coalition continues to support efforts to protect the rest of the Franklin Mountains forever.



## Accomplishments

Since 1978 the Coalition has worked effectively to continue preserving the rest of the Franklin Mountains so that everyone can enjoy the natural, cultural, and scenic wonders they hold forever. Some of the events in which the Coalition has played a leading role include:

- 1984 – establishment of Planned Mountain Development zoning ensuring environmentally sensitive development occurs in mountainous terrain
- 1986-1988 – siting of Cohen Stadium east of U.S. 54 rather than on Castner Range
- 1987-1989 – conveyance of 6,834 in-holding acres of City land to the State Park
- 1991-1994 – completion of Park Management Plan emphasizing careful stewardship of the Park's outstanding natural features
- 1997 – permanent protection of land below the westside Thunderbird formation and the conveyance of General Land Office mineral rights to its lands within the Park to prevent future mining within the Park's boundaries
- 2000 – produced the first Castner Range educational video
- 2007 – Organized the first annual Poppies Celebration to increase awareness about preserving Castner Range
- 1998 to present – contributed thousands of dollars to the Lone Star Legacy Fund, an endowment that helped fund trail maintenance and other activities in the Park

## Looking Forward

The Coalition remains very active. Current priorities include:

- Options for preserving Castner Range as open space
- Protecting undeveloped lands on the mountain outside of the Park
- Assisting the Park with programs and activities
- Continuing financial support of the Park



## Your Support

If you value the beauty of the Franklin Mountains, we encourage you to join and support our work. Your time and financial contributions are vital to ensuring our unique Franklin Mountains remain a vibrant and viable centerpiece of the El Paso community.

**Application for  
Individual Membership**

Individual membership in the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition is open to all who share our goal of preserving the scenic beauty and wilderness character of the Franklin Mountains. Dues are payable annually in January. **Please join us!**

- Student, \$5.00
- Individual, \$20.00
- Family, \$30.00
- Contributing, \$25 - \$100
- Sustaining, \$101 and up
- Non-profit/civic organizations FREE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(cell) \_\_\_\_\_

(other) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition" and send to:

**Pat White, Treasurer**  
**Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition**  
10525 Texwood  
El Paso Texas 79925

Your contribution is tax deductible

**Member Organizations  
Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition**

- Border Mountain Bike Association
- Bordersenses
- Border Toasters, Toastmasters
- Castner Heights Neighborhood Association
- Celebration of Our Mountains
- Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition
- Chihuahuan Desert Native Wildlife Conservation
- Eco-Club EPCC
- El Paso Archaeological Society
- El Paso Cactus and Rock Club
- El Paso Master Gardeners
- El Paso Native Plant Society
- El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club
- El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society
- El Paso Youth Symphony
- Environmental Advocates at UTEP
- Friends of the Arroyo
- Friends of the Rio Bosque
- League of Women Voters of El Paso
- Mesilla Valley Audubon Society
- Mountain Park Community Association
- Palisades Neighborhood Association
- Photographic Enthusiasts of El Paso
- Rio Grande Soaring Association, LLC
- Southern New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club
- Southwest Environmental Center
- Skyline Optimist Club
- Sunrise Neighborhood Association
- Trans-Pecos Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists
- Trinity First United Methodist Men

**For more information visit our website at:**  
**<http://www.FranklinMountains.org>**

**Franklin Mountains**



**Wilderness Coalition**

The Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition is dedicated to:

- Preserving the scenic beauty and wilderness character of the Franklin Mountains.
- Protecting the plant and animal resources of the Mountains and preserving the whole range as an intact ecosystem.
- Stimulating appreciation of the natural values of the Mountains and promoting understanding of their biological, geological and cultural features.
- Encouraging recreational, scientific and educational uses of the Mountains consistent with preserving their scenic beauty and wilderness character.

**How can you help us continue our Mission? Please read on...**