



Bastrop State Park

ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2011, the people of Bastrop, Texas, saw three wildfires merge into one—the Bastrop County Complex Fire. Flames quickly spread across drought-stricken central Texas, inflicting serious damage. By the time the fire was finally declared extinguished on Oct. 29, approximately 95 percent of Bastrop State Park and 32,400 acres of the Lost Pines Forest ecosystem had been severely damaged.

Wildfire restoration efforts at Bastrop State Park consist of a five-year planting plan to boost the Lost Pines Forest on its path to recovery. With a multitude of recovery projects occurring during the winter season, Bastrop State Park has concluded its third year of reforestation efforts. The 2014-2015 planting season consisted of both contract tree planting and volunteer tree planting through the months of December, January and February.

Due to the efforts and cooperation of Texas Parks and Wildlife, Arbor Day Foundation, The Nobility Project, TreeFolks, Texas A&M Forest Service, Superior Forestry and other corporate partners, 2014-2015 was the most productive tree planting season to date. Bastrop State Park is moving toward the goal of 1.8 million trees over five years. Dedicated volunteers and skilled contractors are creating a promising future for the Lost Pines Forest. Seedlings will be monitored for survival over the next year. And over the next several decades, visitors will be able to enjoy and relax in the shade provided by these efforts.

