

Emily Manderson, (SER CERP, LEED AP 2009)

Principal and Senior Environmental Designer of Blackland Collaborative

Role: Senior Environmental Designer

Years with firm: Ecosystem Design Group, LBJWC: 2007 -2013; EDG/Blackland Collaborative: 2020-2023

City of Residence: New Braunfels, TX



Bio

Emily works to provide ecological expertise to a variety of project types such as developing Best Management Practices for the Houston Parks Board to working on Master Plans and facilitating visioning sessions. From 2014-2020, Emily was the Conservation Director at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center; a 155 acre nature sanctuary in the heart of central Houston. She oversaw the restoration and management of the site's ecosystems and the landscape implementation of an ASLA awarded master plan to increase biodiversity and ecosystem resilience in the face of future climatic events.

During this time, in 2018, she was awarded the Dick Benoit Upper +Texas Coast Prairie Award which honors excellence in Coastal Prairie Conservation by the Coastal Prairie Partnership. In 2021 The Arboretum was awarded the Development of Distinction award from the [Urban Land Institute \(ULI\) Houston](#).

Before working at the Arboretum, Emily worked as a Senior Environmental Designer and Consulting Manager at the [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#) in Austin, TX for many years on numerous high-level ecological projects such as the George Bush Presidential Center. She also co-taught UT Architecture graduate students on the practices and principles of Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES). Her educational background is a B.A. in Sociology, a Masters in Physical Geography, and a Masters in Landscape Architecture. She is passionate about restoring human's connection with nature and demonstrating that we have the capacity to increase ecological health and therefore our own. Emily is a Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner (CERP) through the Society of Ecological Restoration.