

Pond to Purpose

QUARTER 4 REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Pond to Purpose project continues to make meaningful progress in its mission to transform an underutilized pond area into a dynamic outdoor learning and community space. During Quarter 4 of 2025 (October–December), significant milestones were achieved, including completion of site preparation, approval of a construction contractor, and a successful groundbreaking ceremony attended by community members, partners, and stakeholders. Trail construction is currently underway, with measurable progress in linear feet completed, and fundraising efforts remain strong.

The project's partnerships with Huffman ISD, the Huffman Education Foundation, BRW Architects, Greenscapes Six LLC, and the Texas FFA Ford Leadership Scholars program, along with generous support from sponsors such as Texas Parks and Wildlife, McDonald's and the Casas Family, and others, have been instrumental in achieving these results. Overall, Q4 laid the foundation for trail construction, educational features, and continued community engagement in the coming quarters.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Pond to Purpose was conceived to repurpose a local pond area into an outdoor learning space focused on wildlife education, mental health, and community engagement. The project aims to create a space where students, staff, and community members can connect with nature while exploring the local ecosystem. By integrating trails, educational signage, and areas for reflection and observation, the project addresses both environmental and social needs.

Since its inception, Pond to Purpose has emphasized collaboration, relying on partnerships with schools, local businesses, architects, and state agencies. The project not only provides hands-on educational opportunities but also promotes mental health and well-being by encouraging time outdoors and fostering a connection to nature.



QUARTER 4 OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives for this reporting period were:

1. Approve a contractor – This goal was successfully completed with Greenscapes Six LLC selected to lead construction efforts.
2. Begin construction – Trail construction and other initial site work have commenced and are currently in progress.
3. Secure additional funding – Fundraising efforts continued throughout Q4, with significant contributions obtained and the process near completion.

Achieving these objectives ensured that the project moved from planning and preparation to tangible, on-the-ground progress.



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Site Preparation and Groundbreaking

All site preparation was completed prior to October, including addressing any environmental concerns. The project celebrated a successful groundbreaking ceremony in December, attended by approximately 60 community members, partners, and stakeholders. The event highlighted the collaborative effort between Huffman ISD, the Huffman Education Foundation, BRW Architects, Greenscapes Six LLC, and other supporters, generating excitement and awareness for the project.

Trail Construction

Trail construction began in late December and will continue through Q1 2026. As of the end of the quarter, approximately 3,269 linear feet (0.6 miles) of trail have been constructed, representing measurable progress toward the project's outdoor access goals. A progress bar chart has been included to visually track development and demonstrate milestones achieved to date.

Community Engagement

Community engagement activities during Q4 included public attendance at the groundbreaking ceremony and ongoing communications with local stakeholders. Feedback from these interactions has been positive, reinforcing the project's relevance to both educational and community objectives.



ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOMES

Key Partners:

- Huffman ISD
- Huffman Education Foundation
- BRW Architects
- Greenscapes Six LLC
- Texas FFA Ford Leadership Scholars program

- +/- 3,269 linear feet currently under construction
- 60 attendees
- 28 donors contributing to project progress
- Photographs of the groundbreaking, trail progress, and site plans included in appendices

Key Sponsors:

- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- BRW Architects
- McDonald's and the Casas Family
- Firehouse Mortgage
- Aaron Alexander
- Earthscapes of Texas
- Salgado Family
- Liquid Process Technologies
- Many additional supporters

These metrics demonstrate tangible progress and provide benchmarks for future reporting periods.

These collaborations have been critical in achieving project milestones, providing expertise, funding, and in-kind contributions.



FINANCIALS & CHALLENGES

As of December 2025, total funds raised for Pond to Purpose, including the Texas Parks and Wildlife grant, reflect a strong financial foundation for the project. While a portion of these funds has been spent on ceremonial materials, detailed expenditure reporting is not included, but will be available in Q1 2026. Continued fundraising and support from partners and sponsors remain essential for the completion of trail construction, educational installations, and public programming.



Quarter 4 presented minor challenges, including coordinating schedules and other minor challenges. These challenges have been addressed with flexibility and communication, ensuring the project remains on track. Key lessons learned include the importance of early stakeholder engagement, proactive scheduling, and maintaining transparent communication with partners and the community.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Leading Pond to Purpose this quarter has been a deeply rewarding experience, both personally and professionally. Coordinating with contractors, managing timelines, and engaging with a diverse group of partners strengthened my leadership, communication, and project management skills. Navigating the early construction phase required adaptability, attention to detail, and patience, particularly when balancing multiple stakeholders and evolving project needs.

The strong community turnout and support shown during the groundbreaking ceremony reinforced the significance of this project and affirmed its impact beyond physical construction. Seeing students, educators, partners, and community members invested in the vision of Pond to Purpose inspired me to continue pursuing the integration of outdoor education, mental health awareness, and environmental stewardship. This work aligns closely with my long-term goal of leading community-focused environmental initiatives, and each milestone achieved this quarter has motivated me to maintain momentum and pursue continued progress in the months ahead.



APPENDICES

