



RIVERCANE

Once plentiful along east Texas river and stream banks, rivercane is now a rare plant. It prevents erosion and provides places for fish and animals to live. Native American tribes that call east Texas home consider it an important material. Rivercane is woven into their cultural traditions: it is used to make baskets and mats, shooting darts, and fishing rods. As rivercane disappeared, these art forms were nearly lost.

TxDOT partnered with the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site in Alto to bring rivercane back. Seven Caddo Nation members learned how to identify, harvest, process, and weave rivercane into baskets. The students made the first hand-harvested Caddo rivercane baskets in over 800 years. Caddo Mounds SHS planted new rivercane along a creek for future Caddo basket makers.



Chase Earles and Caddo basket maker Jackie Bullard with her rivercane basket

For more information, visit <https://www.txdot.gov/about/campaigns-outreach/archeology-history.html>