

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 16, 2017

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life & Environment Committee: Sandy Greyson (Chair),
Tiffinni A. Young (Vice Chair), Rickey D. Callahan, Mark Clayton, Philip T. Kingston, B. Adam McGough

SUBJECT **Sustainable Turf and Prairie Management Program Briefing**

On Monday, May 22, 2017, you will be briefed on the Sustainable Turf and Prairie Management Program. The briefing materials are attached for your review.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Willis Winters'.

Willis C. Winters, FAIA, Director
Park and Recreation Department

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Larry Casto, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
Raquel Favela, Chief of Economic Development & Neighborhood Services
Jo M. (Jody) Puckett, P.E., Assistant City Manager (Interim)
Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Cheritta Johnson, Chief of Community Services (Interim)
Theresa O'Donnell, Chief of Resilience
Directors and Assistant Directors

Sustainable Turf and Prairie Management Program

**Quality of Life Committee Meeting
May 22, 2017**



Dallas Park & Recreation

**Willis Winters
Director
Park and Recreation Department
City of Dallas**



Presentation Overview

- Turf Management Program
- Organics Pilot Program
- Pollinator Conservation Practices
- Prairie Management

Turf Management Program

- Program Target Areas
 - Athletic Fields
 - Recreation Centers
 - High Visibility/Traffic Areas
- Implements and adheres to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles for turf management in parks



Turf Management Program

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Pre-Emergent		Week 3&4	Week 1&2						Week 3&4	Week 1&2	Week 3&4	Week 1&2
Bermuda Release	Jan and Feb											Dec
Post Emergent	Year Round According to Established Thresholds for Weed Pressure											
Fertilizer				April and May					Sept and Oct			
Grub Gontrol			Optional Grub Control									
Nutsedge Control			As Needed According to Established Thresholds for Weed Pressure									
Grassy Weeds			As Needed According to Established Thresholds for Weed Pressure									
Fungicide	Year-round According to Pest Presence											
Aeration			All Month						All Month			
Fire Ant	Year-round According to Pest Presence (although unlikely to be visibly active in winter months)											

PROGRAM STRUCTURE:

Program Schedule

Operation Standards and Thresholds

Approved Program Sites and Associated Acreage

Turf Management Program

- Benefits of Program
 - Maintains safe and aesthetically pleasing parks
 - Maintains quality sports fields
 - Creates recreation and social opportunities on managed turf
 - Controls erosion
 - Reduces heat island effect
 - Improves the filtration of contaminants
 - Reduces mowing cycles once program is fully implemented (esp. late winter/early spring)
 - Reduces pesticide usage over time



Organic Pilot Program

- Program Evaluation Period: 3 years
- Celebration of Life Park
 - Small Downtown Park (0.75 acre)
 - Ornamental Beds
 - Ornamental Trees
 - St. Augustine and Bermuda Turf Mix
 - Moderate Foot Traffic/Usage
 - Irrigated Site



Organic Pilot Objectives

- Minimize or eliminate use of synthetic chemical pesticides
- Minimize or eliminate use of synthetic fertilizer products
- Use aeration and mow at optimal heights
- Use plant species that are less susceptible to pests and diseases which are well-adapted to the environmental conditions of this region



Organic Pilot: Data Tracking and Analytics

- Research less expensive organic products that are comparable to synthetics
- Photo-documentation for the span of the pilot program
- Utilize a tracking sheet with inventory of products that have been used and will continue to be used in the short term and note why they are used.
- Use a cost-capturing database for budgetary comparisons of organic vs synthetics
- Map out progression of IPM to interpret data derived for presentation and decision making



Pollinator Conservation

- Major focus of conservation efforts
- Mayor's Monarch Pledge
- Create "patch" corridors through White Rock Creek east of Downtown, and down the Trinity and along the escarpment west of Downtown
- Achieved through pollinator gardens, wildflower areas, prairie restoration efforts



Pollinator Gardens

- Staff/city and volunteer/community-driven gardens
 - Goal for 1 garden in each maintenance district
- Minimum standard – certifiable as Monarch Waystations
- Texas Discovery Garden – partner and NFWF Grant
- 11 installed, 10 more planned
 - RP Brooks
 - Everglade
 - Crawford
 - Tenison



Crawford Memorial Park

Wildflower Areas

- 107 areas, 78.5 acres
 - Prep begins in February
 - Blooming by end of March
 - Try to maintain until flowers go to seed
- Looking to increase fall blooming plants



Prairie Restoration

- “Blackland Prairie” – endangered ecosystem
- Critical to pollinator “patch” corridor
- Current work
 - White Rock Lake – 162.3 acres
 - Harry S. Moss – 23 acres
- Future work
 - Crawford Memorial Park – 21 acres



Prairie Assessment Team

- Four non-city prairie and plant community experts
- May 11, 2016 – formal assessment of White Rock Lake remnants
- 14/16 remnants were considered “prairie” – rated on condition – 162.3 acres
- “Globally rare” plant community found at Flag Pole Hill Park



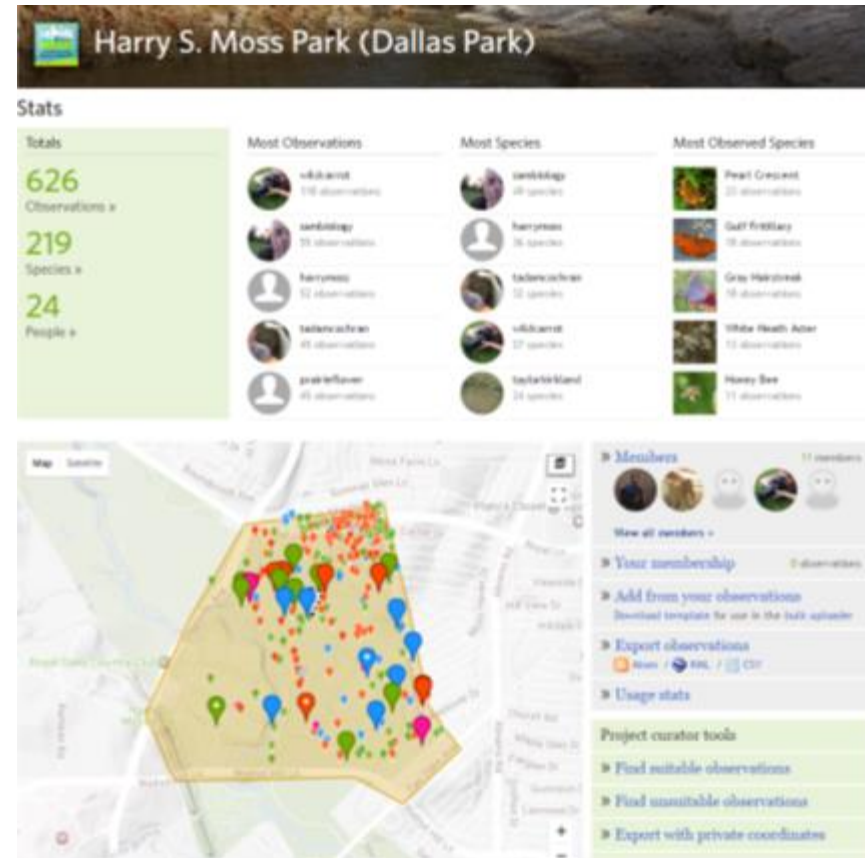
Current Prairie Management

- White Rock Lake Park
 - Started rotational mowing
 - Volunteer, manual invasive species removal
 - Outreach efforts
 - Native Plants and Prairie Day, BioBlitz
- Harry S. Moss Park
 - Beautification Agreement
 - Assistance from TDG with NFWF grant money



Future Prairie Management

- Adopt-A-Prairie
 - Survey for “Top 10 Plants”
 - Manual removal of invasive species
 - Seed collection and dispersal
 - Four areas already adopted
- Crawford Memorial Park
 - Define area
 - Develop a partnership



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