



Dallas Park & Recreation

Dallas Park and Recreation Department Environmental Initiatives 2017-18



Ben Sandifer

Park and Recreation Board
April 5, 2018

Presentation Overview

- Prairie and Wildflower Management
- Feral Hog Trapping
- Upcoming Forestry and Prairie Initiatives
- BioBlitz Events/City Nature Challenge



Kala King

Current Prairie Management

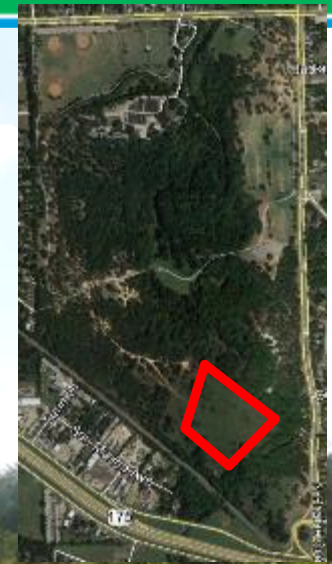
- White Rock Lake Park
 - Started rotational mowing
 - Volunteer, manual invasive species removal
 - Outreach efforts
 - Native Plants and Prairie Day, BioBlitz
- Harry S. Moss Park
 - Beautification Agreement
 - Assistance from TDG with NFWF grant money



Harry S. Moss Park-Mechanical Brush Removal



Crawford Memorial Park



- **Noted during 2017 City Nature Challenge**
- **Texas Discovery Gardens/North Texas Master Naturalist**
- **Minor brush encroachment and Johnsongrass**
- **April 28th BioBlitz**

Volunteer Prairie Efforts



Wildflower Areas

- 2016 - 107 areas, **78.45** acres
- 2017/18 - 127 areas, **97.74** acres - 25% increase
- Prep begins in February, typically start blooming at the end of March, try to maintain until flowers go to seed
- 2018 - changing seed mix
- Maintenance standardization



Feral Hog Abatement

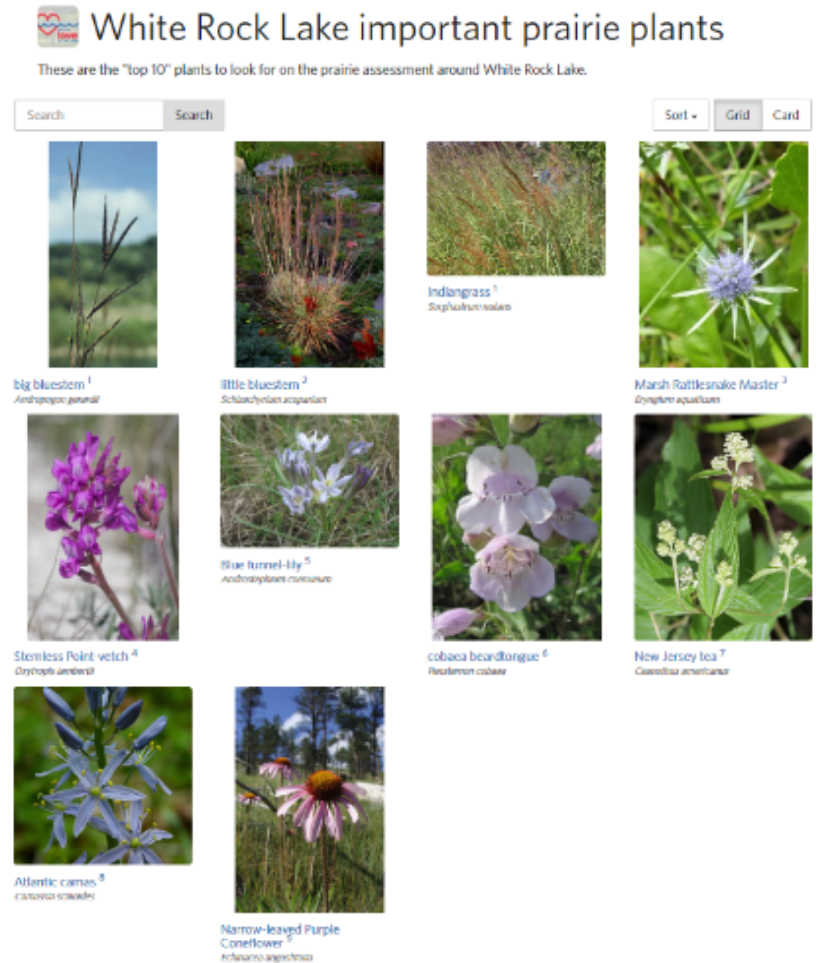
- 2016 “Pilot” Study - 100 pigs
- February 2017 - City Council approves city-wide trapping contract
- Park Focus areas of 2017-19
 - Grover C. Keeton Golf Course
 - Joppa Preserve
 - Great Trinity Forest Trails
 - TRAC
 - 5-Mile Creek/College Park
 - Elm Fork area
- Since April 2017 - Parks 144, city-wide 635 pigs removed
- Visibly reduced damages



Future Prairie Initiatives



- Adopt-A-Prairie Program
 - Survey for “Top 10 Plants”
 - iNaturalist
 - Removal of invasive species
 - Seed collection and dispersal
 - 5 areas already adopted
 - Program criteria



Tree Planting Initiative

- Forestry initiative to plant trees in parks with volunteer groups
- 2 parks per maintenance district/year
- Community Program Coordinators recruit volunteer groups
- Volunteers taught proper tree planting and care techniques
- Year to Date - 8 plantings, 132 trees
- Future Goal - 180 trees per year



Dallas Park & Recreation



BRANCHING OUT

Reforesting Your Neighborhood Park





Volunteers and Staff in action!



2017-18 BioBlitz

- **Nature Outreach**
- **Natural Resource Inventory**
- **Volunteer Involvement**
- **Interagency Cooperation**

2017 BioBlitz Events

- April 7 - Corporate Cleanup and BioBlitz at Moore Park
 - 189 observations, 69 species
- April 14-18 - iNaturalist City Nature Challenge
 - April 14 - Bath House
 - 265 observations, 115 species
 - "DFW" won - 2,302 observations, 676 species
- May 6 - Native Plants and Prairies Day
 - Master Naturalists and Youth
 - 148 observations, 82 species
- October 7 - Kiest Conservation Area
 - 291 observations, 138 species



What is a BioBlitz?

Community members will be led by a certified Wildlife Biologist, Master Naturalists and scientists to locate and identify as many different species of vegetation and wildlife within the park using the *iNaturalist* app. Volunteers of all ages are welcome.

2017 Pollinator/Plants Data - City Nature Challenge, April 14-18

The World	2,071 OBSERVATIONS	615 SPECIES	208 IDENTIFIERS	74 OBSERVERS
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20 observations CC

antelope horns
(*Asclepias asperula*)



15 observations CC

Pinkladies
(*Oenothera speciosa*)



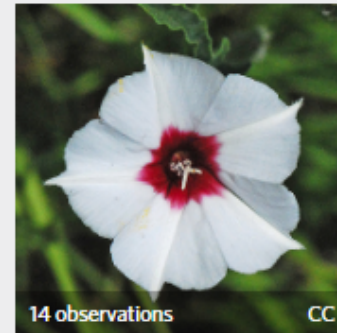
15 observations CC

Dakota mock vervain
(*Glandularia bipinnatifida*)



14 observations CC

Western Honey Bee
(*Apis mellifera*)



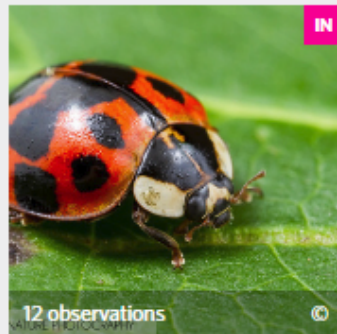
14 observations CC

Texas bindweed
(*Convolvulus equitans*)



13 observations CC

green antelopehorns
(*Asclepias viridis*)



12 observations ©

Asian Lady Beetle
(*Harmonia axyridis*)



11 observations CC

Common Buckeye
(*Junonia coenia*)



11 observations CC

Gray Hairstreak
(*Strymon melinus*)



11 observations CC

poison ivy
(*Toxicodendron radicans*)

2018 City Nature Challenge

- Worldwide competition for 2018
- Dallas part of "DFW" Team
- Regional cooperation coordinated by TPWD biologist
- City of Dallas effort coordinated by Dallas Park and Recreation Department's Urban Biologist
- Park staff will be hosting 3 major events and supporting several others
- GOAL-10,000 observations



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Community members will be led by a certified Wildlife Biologist, Master Naturalists and scientists to locate and identify as many different species of vegetation and wildlife within the park using the *iNaturalist* app. Volunteers of all ages are welcome.

What to Bring: Water bottle, backpack, binoculars, hiking boots, sunscreen, insect repellent, smartphone with *iNaturalist* app downloaded and your curiosity!

Upcoming Dates And Locations

Crawford Park 8700 Elam Rd. Dallas, Texas 75217	L.B. Houston 1775 California Crossing Rd. Dallas, Texas 75220	Emerald Lake 6102 Mountain Creek Pkwy. Dallas, Texas 75249
Saturday April 28 9:00am-Noon	Saturday April 28 2:00pm-5:00pm	Sunday April 29 Noon-3:00pm

Each BioBlitz will consist of volunteer registration, orientation, group discovery walk and final discussion.



To register, visit dallasparke.org • Contact Brett Johnson • jonathan.johnson@dallascityhall.com • 214-670-1625



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