

**FARMERSVILLE CITY PARKS AND RECREATIONS BOARD
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 2ND, 2023, AT 5:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
205 S. MAIN ST.
FARMERSVILLE, TX 75442**

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- A. Call to Order by Bryan Wood at 5:01 P.M.
- B. Roll Call Present: Bryan Wood, Marty Shelton, Justin Bates, Jason Casada, and Misty Wiebold. Also, present Council Liaison Coleman Strickland, Assistant City Manager Mike Sullivan, and Staff Audrey Rubadue.
Absent: Beverly Mondy.
- C. Justin Bates led the Prayer and Bryan Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

- A. No one spoke under this item.

III. APPROVE MINUTES

- A. October 5th, 2023.
 - **Jason Casada** made a motion to approve.
 - **Marty Shelton** seconded the motion to approve.
 - The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

IV. REGULAR AGENDA

- A. **“Consider, discuss, and act upon Board officer positions: Chairperson, Vice Chair, and Secretary.”**

Mr. Wood stated that he held the position of Chairperson, Mr. Cathey had been Vice Chair, and Mrs. Wiebold held the position of Secretary.

Mr. Casada nominated Mr. Wood as Chairperson.

Mr. Wood accepted the nomination and abstained from voting.

- **Jason Casada** made a motion to elect Mr. Wood as Chairperson.
- **Misty Wiebold** seconded the motion to approve.
- The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Mrs. Shelton nominated Mr. Casada as Vice Chair.

Mr. Casada accepted the nomination and abstained from voting.

- **Marty Shelton** made a motion to elect Mr. Casada as Vice Chair.
- **Bryan Wood** seconded the motion to approve.
- The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Mr. Wood nominated Mrs. Wiebold as Secretary.

Mrs. Wiebold accepted the nomination and abstained from voting.

- **Bryan Wood** made a motion to elect Mrs. Wiebold as Secretary.
- **Jason Casada** seconded the motion approve.
- The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

B. “Consider, discuss, and act upon Opening Day of Trail Day / Arbor Day.”

The Parks and Recreations board members discussed this item.

- No action was taken on this item.

C. “Consider, discuss, and act upon Onion Shed / Park entrance signs.

Mr. Sullivan and Mrs. Wiebold updated the board members on this item.

- No action was taken on this item.

D. “Consider, discuss, and act upon setting dates and performers for the Winter Series in the Park.”

Mr. Wood confirmed with Mr. Casada that the Blandells are performing on December 15th, at 7:00 P.M. for \$1,200.00.

Mr. Wood suggested donating \$500.00 to the Farmersville ISD Choir for performance on December 8th, at 7:00 P.M. (done the year previous)

- **Bryan Wood** made a motion to approve.
- **Jason Casada** seconded the motion to approve.
- The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Wood suggested donating \$500.00 to the Farmersville ISD Band for performance on December 1st, at 7:00 P.M. (done the year previous)

- **Bryan Wood** made a motion to approve.
- **Marty Shelton** seconded the motion to approve.
- The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

E. “Consider, discuss, and act upon advertisements for Music in the Park.”

The Parks and Recreations board members discussed this item.

- No action was taken on this item.

F. “Blackland Prairie Project presentation and discussion by Misty Wiebold.”

Mrs. Wiebold gave a presentation to the Parks and Recreations board on this item and answered follow-up questions.

V. CITY UPDATE FROM BEN WHITE CITY MANAGER / MIKE SULLIVAN ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

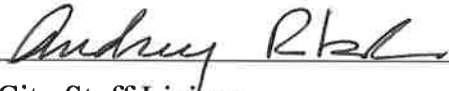
- Related to Parks and Recreations Board activities.
Mr. Sullivan updated the Parks and Recreations Board on the improvements to the Onion Shed.

VI. DISCUSSION OF PLACING ITEMS ON FUTURE AGENDAS

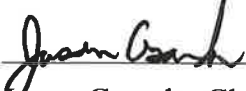
- Discussion on the Opening Day of Trail Day / Arbor Day.
- Discussion on Onion Shed / Park entrance signs.
- Discussion on advertisements for Music in the Park.
- Discussion on updating signage at Southlake to showcase Blackland Prairie.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- **Mr. Wood** adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.



City Staff Liaison



Jason Casada, Chairman

An Ancient Discovery and A New Friendship



Matt White

1 review



As the author of *Prairie Time*, published by Texas A&M Press, this is one of the best prairie remnants left in Collin County. The grasses and wildflowers (and the views) preserve for future generations the nature of our county and will be essential for people to understand the natural history of the area.

Matt White

Professor -

American History at Paris Junior College

Author –

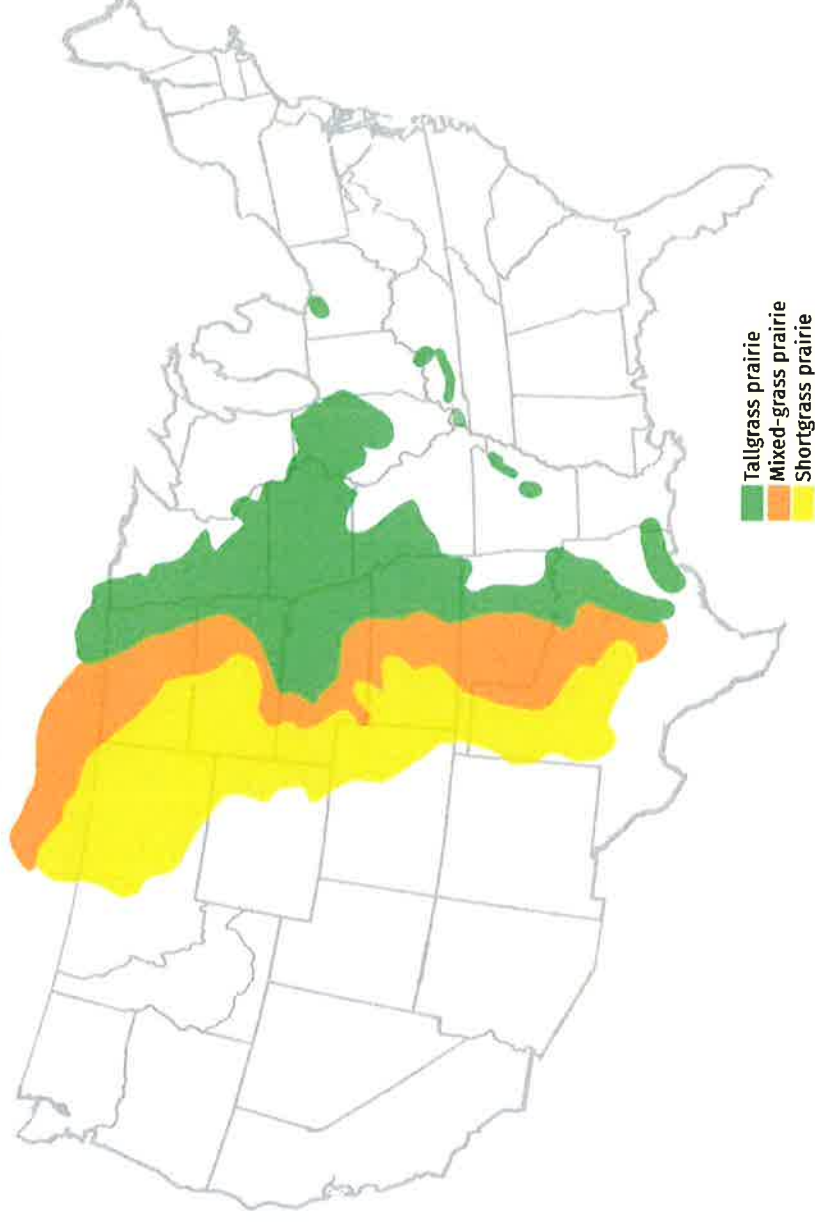
Prairie Time, 2006

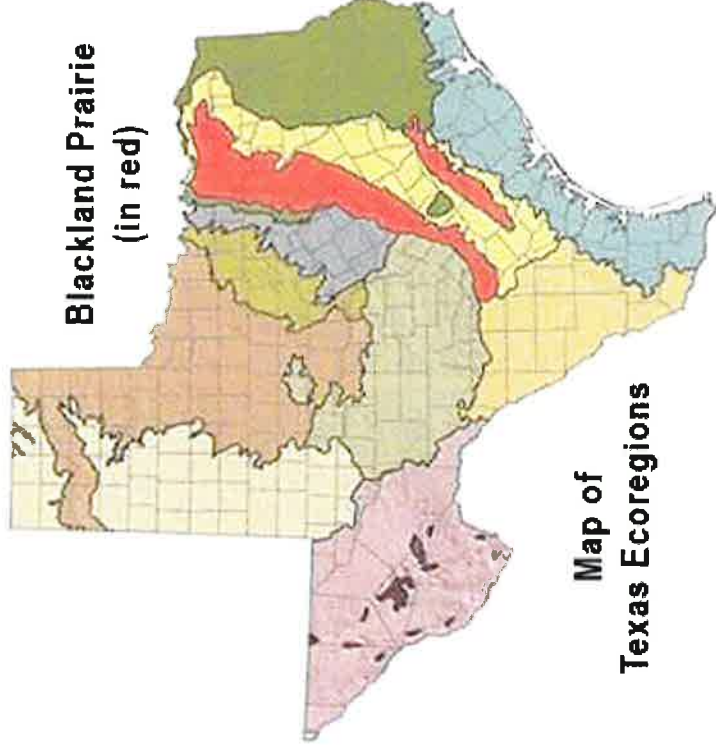
The Birds of Northeast Texas, 2002

“South Lake has one of the best prairie remnants left in Collin County. The grasses and wildflowers preserve for future generation the nature of our county and will be essential for people to understand the natural history of our area.”

What is the Tallgrass Prairie?

HISTORIC RANGE OF THE PRAIRIE





The **Texas Blackland Prairies** are a temperate grassland ecoregion that runs roughly 300 miles from the Red River in North Texas to San Antonio in the south. The prairie was named after its rich, dark soil.

The Texas Blackland Prairies ecoregion covers an area of 19,400 sq miles.

The **Blackland Prairie** ecosystem converted to crop production in late 1800s, has left less than **one percent remaining** (and some groups estimate less than 0.5% to less than **0.1% remaining**) making the tallgrass the **most-endangered large ecosystem in North America**.

First Walk in the Blackland Prairie – August 2020



Mayor Bryon Wiebold
and Misty Wiebold visit site.

Follow up visit with
City Manager – Ben White.



First Walk in the Blackland Prairie – August 2020



What We Learned.

Farmersville has native, never been plowed, Blackland Prairie. Some species of flora and plants are globally rare. Prairie is high quality. Less than 1% remains - anywhere.

City of Farmersville has a 12 - Acre Parcel on West Side of the South Lake

- **City of Farmersville determined the first steps to conservation – Stop Mowing and Observe the growth.**
- **Introduction to Texas State Botanist – Jason Singhurst**

City of Farmersville Blackland Prairie – More Prairie?

East Side of Lake – Aerial provided by State Botanist for demarcation of potential prairie locations.



PRESENTATION BY MISTY WIEBOLD 2023

East Side – State Botanist Visit and Report 2020



Flora and Plant Communities

Prairie Graded – B+
88 Native and 5 Non-Native
recorded in first visit.

Recommendation to remove
Eastern Red Cedar.

“These Blackland Prairies are high quality natural examples of the historical flora that was formally extensive throughout North Texas. They represent the less than 1% of this globally rare tallgrass prairie ecosystem that persists today.”

Jason R. Singhurst
State Botanist/Plant Ecologist

Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant – Cedar Removal

Grant Received and Approved by City of Farmersville



“I do think that removing the cedars is “crucial” to restoring and preserving the prairie grasses and forbs because they disappear in shady environments. Cedars use a lot of water and will ruin or destroy the ageless prairie. Fire would have prevented it but we’ve lost that critical component of the prairie, so we have to take other methods today. It is a very noble pursuit!”

Matt White

PRESENTATION BY MISTY WIEBOLD 2023



City of Farmersville with Grant support – Cut Cedars Fall of 2021



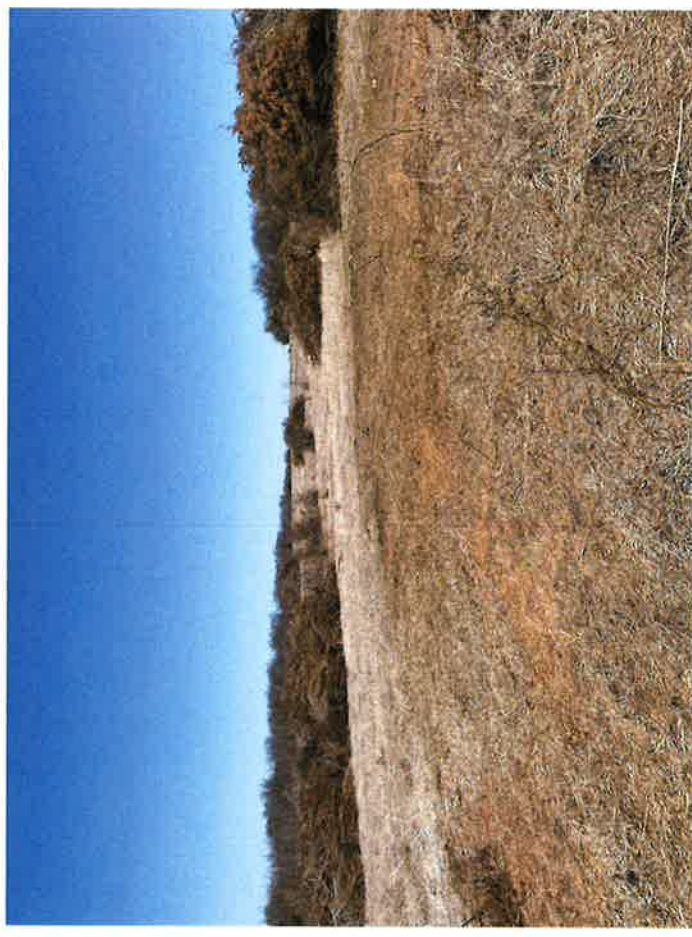
City of Farmersville – Cut Cedars Fall/Winter of 2021



Close- Up - Cut cedars laying on the ground.
Complete Removal completed - Spring 2022.

PRESENTATION BY MISTY WIEBOLD 2023

City of Farmersville – Cedars Removal – March 2022



East Side – Cedar Stacks

Amazing Renewal – East Side 2022



Height of prairie plant merging from previously shaded area of a cedar tree - March to November 2022



Purpose of Survey

Texas Parks and Wildlife Departments Wildlife Diversity Program collects biological information on rare and declining plants, animals, and plant community associations statewide.

Survey Results

One plant community was documented, the Mollisol Blackland Prairie. This plant community association is globally rare and needs further investigation on the Farmersville City Parks Prairies as this site is in relatively high-quality natural condition with very few invasive plants present.

Verbally stated that we had an “A” rated prairie.

Prairie Recovery – March and September 2022 Site Visits

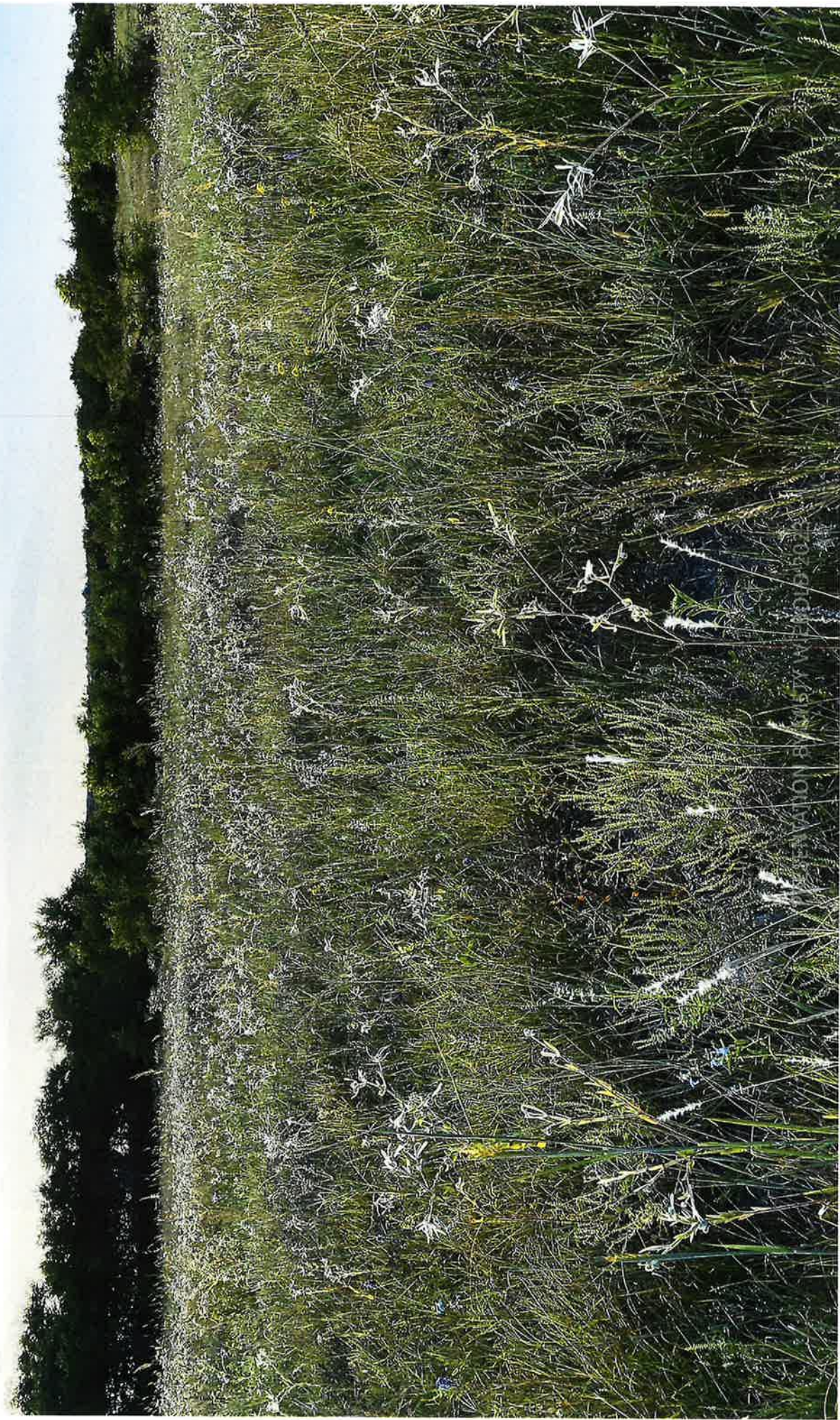


March 2022



September 2022

September 2022





Aster



Dotted Gayfeather

City of Farmersville - Blackland Prairie's Future is Bright

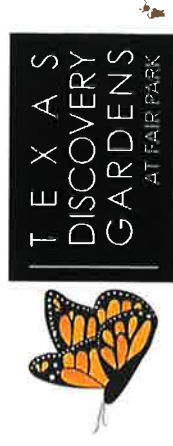


Coneflower

City of Farmersville's Commitment to Conservation

- Recovery of 12 - acre parcel on South-Side
- Cedar Removal of East Side
- City of Farmersville is preparing long-term prescribed burning plan for prairie maintenance with State guidance and Fire Department.
- Hydrilla Removal from Lake is underway – initiated by Councilman Ted Wagner in 2022.

Interpretation and Education



Farmersville Heritage Museum 2023-24
Prairie Project underway.

