

# FOREST STEWARDSHIP BRIEFINGS

Timber ◇ Wildlife ◇ Water ◇ Soil ◇ Best Management Practices ◇ Forest Health ◇ Recreation ◇ Aesthetics

## STATE OF THE DALLAS URBAN FOREST

from the Texas Trees Foundation website

For more information:

- <http://www.texas-trees.org>
- <http://www.trinityrivercorridor.com/recreation/great-trinity-forest.html>

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Dallas' urban forest is comprised of the individual trees and groves in and around the places residents live, work, and play.

Assessment of an urban forest provides a baseline from which to measure changes, trends, and outcomes. Sound urban forest management includes tree maintenance, policy development, and budgetary decisions – based upon understanding the current conditions.

Over the past six years, Texas Trees Foundation, in partnership with the City of Dallas, has compiled data from four studies with a goal of understanding Dallas' urban forest structure, function, and value.

The *State of the Dallas Urban Forest Report* is the first of its kind to focus on our most vital natural resource – trees.

Results have advanced understanding of Dallas' urban forest and provide the framework for quantifying the value of the urban tree canopy to make informed decisions for the future. This data illustrates how trees impact the environment and enhance both human health and the quality of life throughout Dallas and the region. This research provided extensive data about the urban forest's current condition. Trees play an important role in the health, quality of life, and the resiliency of cities.

During the summer of 2014, the Texas Trees Foundation (TTF) completed an assessment for the City of Dallas. With assistance from six college interns and the City of Dallas Urban Forester, Foundation staff assessed 621 randomly selected plots. Data was analyzed, interpreted, and combined with information from two additional studies, producing the *State of the Dallas Urban Forest Report*.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- There are 14.7 million trees within the city limits of Dallas (340.5 square miles) valued at \$9 billion.
- There are nearly 1.8 million potential tree planting sites throughout Dallas.
- Trees provide annual savings of over \$9 million through energy conservation.
- Trees capture 59 million cubic feet of stormwater runoff and save \$4 million in repairs annually.
- Trees clean the air by storing two million tons of carbon valued at \$137 million annually.
- Over 35% of the land in Dallas is covered with buildings, cement, or roads.
- The city's average tree canopy is 28.7% while the USDA Forest Service recommends 40%.
- South of I-30 represents 37% of the total tree canopy while North of I-30 has 17%.

With a goal of adding 3 million trees to the Urban Forest in Dallas by 2022 through the "Tree North Texas" program, the Foundation is committed to moving its vision forward with partnerships.

Trees provide many benefits in urban areas. Trees clean the air we breathe and the water we drink. Trees capture runoff (keeping water out of storm drains and available for irrigation). Trees store carbon to keep it from entering the atmosphere. Trees reduce stress and lower symptoms of ADHD in young people and add to the quality of life. Trees shade our cars, homes, and schools, lowering energy costs. Trees are our "green" civil servants!

## 2015 LONE STAR LAND STEWARDS

from Texas Parks and Wildlife website

For more information:

- <http://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20150423b>
- <http://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20150507a>

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) honors the conservation contributions of private landowners each year with its Lone Star Land Steward Award. This year, winners representing seven of the state's diverse ecological regions join the distinguished roster of landowners who have received this recognition.

This year's winners:

**Edwards Plateau** - Carpe Diem Ranch, Menard County; *Charlie and Marci Granstaff, owner/operators*

**Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes** - Gore Family Farm, Jackson County; *Gore Family, owner/operators*

**Lost Pines** - Rancho Zunzun, Bastrop County; *Elvis and Roxanne Hernandez, owner/operators*

**Post Oaks** - Lavaca Rio, Jackson County; *Wynne Snoots, Jason DeLorenzo, and Marty Phillips, owners; Brent Friedrichs, manager*

**Rolling Plains** - Mill Iron Ranch, Collingsworth County; *Don and Al Allred, owner/operators*

**South Texas Plains** - H. Yturria Land & Cattle Co., Kenedy, Willacy, and Hidalgo Counties; *Butler family, owners Rudy Bazan, manager*

**NGO/Corporation** - Neches Refuge, Houston County; *Forestar Group, Inc., owner; Stan Cook, Jeff Portwood, managers*

The prestigious Leopold Conservation Award is conferred each year by Sand County Foundation, a non-profit organization devoted to private land conservation, in partnership with TPWD as part of its Lone Star Land Steward Awards program. This year's honor was awarded to Dr. Robert McFarlane.

Dr. McFarlane's journey to conserve and restore critical bottomland hardwood habitat on his Anderson County ranch, The BigWoods on the Trinity, began 20 years ago. When Dr. McFarlane acquired the property, it was highly-fragmented and over-grazed. During the last 20 years, he has worked tirelessly to enhance the aquatic resources on the property and the terrestrial systems that are associated with them. In addition to improvements on his own property, Dr. McFarlane has reached out to neighboring landowners in an effort to conserve habitats throughout the Trinity River Basin. He founded the Middle Trinity River Conservation Cooperative (now Trinity Waters) and served as president for five years.

## TREE TIPS - AFTER THE FLOODS

from Texas A&M Forest Service website

For more information:

- <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/content/article.aspx?id=21926>
- <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/afterthestorm/canmytreebesaved/>
- Find an ISA Certified Arborist at [www.isatexas.com](http://www.isatexas.com)

With all the rain and flooding we have been experiencing in East Texas, there have been some obvious and some not-so-obvious tree problems, not to mention all the hazards involving trees.

One thing to look for: If a mature tree is leaning more than 30 degrees or has uprooted with more than 3 inches of its roots exposed, it should be assessed by a Certified Arborist for possible removal.

If you are still in the process of cleaning up downed trees and limbs, remember to minimize soil disturbance. Put down 6–8 inches of mulch before heavy equipment operates over root systems; a layer of plywood on the mulch adds extra protection.

Spread the mulch out after the work is completed, no more than 2 inches deep.

For the trees that “survived” the flooding and heavy rains, there are some things you can do to help ensure their recovery. For one thing, you should remove any deposited soil that has accumulated under the tree canopy to prevent further damage to root systems. If possible, aerate the soil—perforate with small holes to allow air, water, and nutrients to penetrate the roots, being careful not to damage tree roots.

Also, prune ends off of broken branches. Paint all wounds on oak trees. Restoration pruning may be needed over the next 5-10 years.

## NEW ONLINE TOOL FOR LANDOWNERS

Want to put in a road on your land? Protect your water resources? Enhance wildlife, harvest trees or clear vegetation? Texas A&M Forest Service's (TFS) newest online tool, *Plan My Land Operation*, is designed to help you protect your property and ensure sustainability as you begin your next land improvement project.

Geared toward landowners, contractors, and land managers, *Plan My Land Operation* is key to planning any improvement to your land. This tool helps you plan and layout your project based on your specific terrain, soil, and water resources. As a user, you can quickly map a property boundary, identify sensitive areas, place a buffer around critical features, and determine things needed like the proper size culvert.

"Planning any land operation is a critical first step to protecting your land and water resources. Without a good operational plan, your land may be at risk," Hughes Simpson, program coordinator for Texas A&M Forest Service said.

As a service-based state agency, TFS strives to provide land managers advanced tools to help efficiently and effectively implement land operations.

"Ordinarily, in order to do something like this you need an extensive GIS system or to be a land operation expert. Now, anyone with access to the Internet can map their property and generate detailed operation planning reports," Simpson said.

A unique feature of the *Plan My Land Operation* tool is that it is also useful to hikers and outdoor enthusiasts. Users can map out their trail and it will show the distance, elevation, and slope of that trail. While full capability of the tool is statewide, this function is available nationwide.

*Plan My Land Operation* is the newest online tool added to an already extensive lineup of interactive online tools located at [texasforestinfo.com](http://texasforestinfo.com). This website provides landowners, managers, government officials, local community groups, and the public state-of-the-art access to custom Web mapping applications with capabilities to discover and explore an array of maps depicting forest conditions, and query and download data on a variety of forest interests.

Other tools on the Texas Forest Info website: Map My Property, Forest Products Directory, Timber Decision Simulator, Economic Impact, and more!

*from Texas A&M Forest Service news release, May 13, 2015*

*For more information:*

- <http://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/>

## CEDAR HILL CHIPPING PROJECT

A chipping project was completed in the Cedar Hill subdivision in Bastrop County during the month of June. This project is a cooperative effort between Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS), FireCAP, and the Cedar Hill community.

The reason for this project is to help homeowners help themselves in better protecting their homes against wildfires. Once the home has had a risk assessment, the homeowner can either do the work themselves or hire someone to come in and take out the hazardous material in the yard. The material might be dead trees, ladder fuels (foliage going from ground up into trees), or excessive shrubbery. The

material is then taken out and piled by the side of the road. TFS will come by at a later date and run the debris through a chipper. The homeowner is responsible for what is done with the chips after this process.

The project is open to communities around the state of Texas that are already recognized by Firewise Communities USA or are planning to become recognized as Firewise. The homeowners will need to work with their local Wildland Urban Interface Specialist (which can be found at [texasforestservice.tamu.edu](http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu)) to discuss becoming a Firewise Community and then work on their defensible space plan.

*by Kelly Reeves-Weaver,  
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- <http://Texasfirewise.com>

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- Kelly Reeves-Weaver, TFS, Lufkin, Texas
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## TEXAS NATURE CHALLENGE

The goal of Texas Nature Challenge is to get families and kids outdoors by visiting as many participating parks and nature areas in Texas as they can. At each site, participants complete activity challenges designed for family fun and nature exploration.

To participate, register your team, download challenges, complete those challenges at the sites, then create a notebook about your experiences. Registered participants have a chance to win prizes in their home region based on their notebooks. The state is divided into regions. You can participate in activity challenges in all regions; competition limited to your own region.

<http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/websites/NatureChallenge>

Partners include:

Texas A&M Forest Service—<http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/ConservationEducation/>

Austin Nature and Science Center—<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-nature-and-science-center>

Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve and Learning Center—<https://www.facebook.com/OsoBayWetlandsPreserveandLearningCenter>

Houston Audubon—<http://www.houstonaudubon.org>

Nature Rocks—<http://naturerockstexas.org>



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