

Post Oak Preserve Interpretive Nature Trail



Phase one: brainstorm and divide responsibilities evenly in the group.

Team members attended Zoom meetings to brainstorm ideas, establish goals, and choose an area of focus (listed below) to maximize efficiency in achieving the project goals.



Phase two: small group clean up of project site, collecting all necessary materials and data, along with planning on the site location for each new trail marker.



Phase three: trail markers or signage. replace/restore trail markers and attach QR codes to direct visitors to a digital format of the trail guide/map

Zoom meetings continue and small groups make visits to the project site. Data and map building continues, along with finding more ways to clearly mark paths and re-use any available signage.

Example of one educational sheet produced by data collection group which will be accessible via QR code and accompany the finished trail guide

Project Description

The Post Oak Preserve, a property of Dallas County Open Spaces, contains one of the last large stands of Post Oak Savannah in southeast Dallas County. The Dallas Independent School District-Environmental Education Center (EEC) uses the Preserve and its trails as an outdoor classroom for almost all 154K students (95% minority) in the District. This project will research and produce a digital and downloadable trail guide, along with updating trail markers, to give the public – especially visiting teachers and students – the tools they need to understand various locations along the trails and interpret the ecological areas of the Post Oak Preserve. This project aligns well with the North Texas Master Naturalists' Diversity and Inclusion goals.

- Sign design and budget Presentation Digital trail guide
- Thor Herrin
 - Adam George
 - Liz Bramlett
 - Jasmine Flores
 - Lauren Patterson
 - Amy Zamora

Data Collection

Team members were able to provide support to other teams along with working on their own assignments.

- Beth Sonnier
- Scout Woodward
- Sue Hall
- Sarah Brodbeck
- Christian Roberts
- Mark Roberts
- Susan Roberts
- Kristina Wolfe



Post Oak Preserve is a Post Oak Savannah

What is a Post Oak Savannah?
Savannah is a transitional zone between prairie and forest with medium-height grasslands spotted by trees. As the name implies, the original plant community associated with this area prior to European settlement was a savannah dominated by native bunch grasses and forbs with scattered clumps of trees, primarily post oaks. The once diverse wildlife communities that occurred on the savannahs have been reduced and continue to decline as they face a variety of threats. Post Oak Preserve is one of the largest remaining examples of this prairie-forest transition zone.




Ecosystem Threats:

- Farming
- Overgrazing by cattle
- Soil depletion
- Urbanization

Nature provides opportunities for recreation, education and research. As our cities continue to grow, green spaces where we can enjoy nature become important for our health. People are able to visit and enjoy nature walks. A growing body of research points to the beneficial effects that exposure to the natural world has on reducing stress and promoting healing.

Common Plant Species

Trees:	Understory:	Sun-tolerant species:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post oak • Live oak • Black hickory • Blackjack oak • Osage orange/bois d'arc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea oats • Coralberry • Invasive vining honeysuckle • Dogwood • Greenbriar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little bluestem • Switchgrass • Indian grass • Various forbs

Post Oak Preserve is a Savannah sources:
Texas A&M University, *Post Oak Savannah Restoration Plan* (n.d.), accessed at: <https://enrta.tamu.edu/restoration/>

Amy Martin, *Freaky Feet: Post Oak Preserve in Seagoville: Bushwhacking the Savannah* – Jan 27, 2018, accessed at: <https://moonlady.com/freaky-feet-post-oak-preserve-in-seagoville-bushwhacking-the-savannah>


