



Lake Creek Preserve News

April 2020



With the county restrictions on social interactions giving some residents cabin fever, now might be a good time to visit the Lake Creek Preserve. The trail is in good shape and the recent projects make it easier to access the preserve either directly from Fish Creek Thoroughfare or from Christine Allen Park in Woodforest. We are beginning to see an increase in return use by area residents of all ages. Several new educational signs have been added along with directional signs showing where you are and the distances to various features. The trail is a tribute to area youth, as the trail and all amenities were constructed by 59 Eagle Scout Projects involving over 7,000 volunteer hours. Maintenance is carried out by both Scouts and community volunteers.

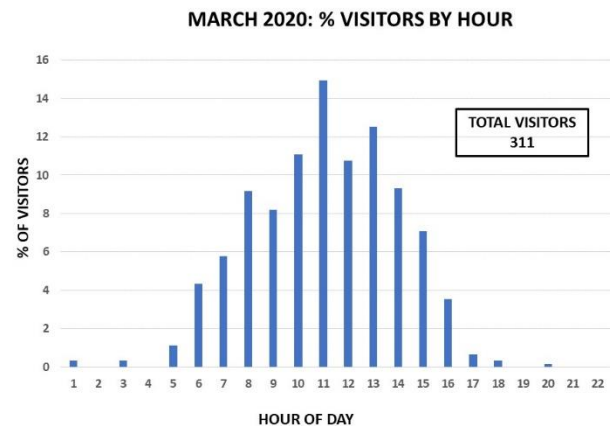
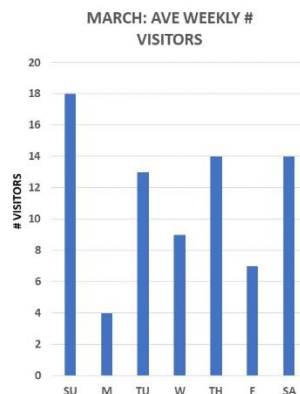
TRAIL USE AND PROGRAMS

In March trail use continued to improve with activity spread throughout the week and most visitors preferring morning to early afternoon. We have noticed several illegal hunters entering during the night and the game warden has been notified. Aside from the fact that unauthorized hunting is illegal in the preserve, night access

without permission is prohibited for safety as we have a person approved to hunt hogs and he needs to know who is in the preserve after dark.

Planned nature programs at the preserve and in cooperation with the Woodforest Development have been put on hold

pending control of the virus outbreak. However, the signs and numbered posts with tree guide (posted on the home page of our web site at lakecreektx.org) offer an opportunity for self-guided tours. We also have a guide for Scouts working on Scouts BSA First and Second Class nature requirements. It may be obtained from glenn@lakecreektx.org. We would also be happy to work with Girl Scout leaders to develop something for their nature requirements. The delay in the planned Project Wild Workshop is covered below.



PROJECT WILD WORKSHOP

The Project Wild Workshop planned for March 21 has been postponed and will be rescheduled. We are working with the Magnolia ISD to encourage teacher participation, but the workshop is open to anyone working with youth groups. Since it is funded by a recent Hauber Foundation grant to the Lake Creek Greenway Partnership, the workshop will be free (except for lunch). If you are interested in attending contact Glenn Buckley at glenn@lakecreektx.org and he will let you know when the workshop is rescheduled.

The following comments summarize status of recent and ongoing projects:

NEW KIOSK

A second informational kiosk was constructed at the NE entrance to the preserve connecting it to the Christine Allen Park. The kiosk and related signage will contain information on the trail layout, and distances as well as information on how to access the tree trail guide. Additionally, improvements have begun to the access area including adding crushed granite and landscaping timber edging as well as additional benches. Additional mulch and one or two more benches are also planned for the section of trail leading to the main north-south portion of the trail. We also hope to work with Woodforest to add signage within Christine Allen Park giving park visitors directions to the preserve from the park. Informational signage on flood risk zones including a flood zone map was also added to the connecting trail.



POLLINATOR GARDEN (PHASE 1)

A pollinator garden has been added along the preserve entrance road adjacent to our equipment storage unit and across from the start of the north-south section of trail. It was populated with 24 species of native plants including one species of milkweed. All plants were selected for their hardiness and flower types. Additional projects are planned to extend linear native pollinator areas along the road in both directions and within the preserve. The plants along the road will include native milkweed and a mix of prairie grasses and flowering plants. Those within the preserve will be more habitat specific.



NEW PROJECTS

Several Eagle Scout projects are on hold pending a change in county and Scout virus prevention regulations. Pending projects include: Further enhancements to the northeast entrance, painting of the observation decks, extending the pollinator garden along the road to the east and adding shelving to our storage container. Additional projects awaiting interested Scouts include: all-weather trail enhancements to the southern portions of blue and orange trails; adding additional pollinator areas, and constructing a small observation deck along the creek loop.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Now that spring has arrived, the trail will need increased maintenance. We depend entirely on volunteers and always need help with maintaining what the Scouts have developed for us. If you are physically able this is a great way to do your community a service and get some exercise. If you haven't already participated in a work day, and are willing to help contact either Bob Wise at bob@hawkpros.com or Glenn Buckley at glenn@lakecreektx.org.