

BRINGING TEXAS PRAIRIES BACK TO LIFE Exciting Prairie Restoration News!

Submitted by Marvelyn Granger

Imagine 3,000 acres of vibrant native prairie, alive with monarch butterflies, buzzing bees, singing songbirds, and vibrant wildflowers, where limited diversity and life once stood. Our **NPAT Fayette Prairie Chapter** is partnering to turn this vision into reality through a powerful collaboration with the **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)**!



This team effort is part of the **TPWD Pastures for Upland Birds (PUB) Program**, an ambitious plan to turn former single-species management, such as retired crop fields and single-species non-native pasture, back into the rich, diverse native grasslands that once thrived across Texas.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- At minimum, **3,000 acres** will be transformed into native prairie habitat, providing vital shelter and food sources for monarch butterflies, songbirds, and grassland wildlife
- Volunteers will collect and plant native milkweed seeds, a crucial lifeline for monarch conservation.
- Expanded community events, outreach efforts, and workshops will be conducted, inspiring more people and making our community a champion of prairie conservation.

THE POWER OF TEAMWORK!

- Our Chapter has **pledged \$100,000** to help cover seed and herbicide costs, helping increase the pace of restoration projects in our area over the next two years.
- **TPWD** is providing **\$75,000** from conservation license plate sales, plus additional supplies and support in site preparation and planting valued at over **\$270,000**.
- The **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)**, through private donations, has provided **\$300,000** in support for seeds and herbicides.
- **Landowners** are contributing labor and equipment for site preparation and planting valued at over **\$450,000!**

This remarkable collaboration has already sparked a **doubling** of prairie restoration acres in our chapter area for the coming year. Accelerating the return of native landscapes and creating a ripple effect of habitat recovery will benefit wildlife and our local communities for years to come.



WHY IT MATTERS

This project not only restores land at a lower cost through the power of bulk-purchasing discounts but also supports local native plant industries by creating demand for locally adapted species that are perfect for our region.

LOOKING AHEAD

This current funding runs from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027. If these efforts are successful, there are opportunities for us to expand or extend these efforts into the future with additional collaborations.

**Thanks to strong partnerships,
we're helping to Keep Texas Prairie!**

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<https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/habitat-management/find-a-wildlife-biologist/>