


# 2021 STATE OF THE PRAIRIE





**THE CONSERVATION WORK WE WERE ABLE TO COMPLETE IN 2021 WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS. LONG-TIME DONORS HUMBLLED US WITH INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS AND NEW DONORS TRUSTED US WITH THEIR PRECIOUS DOLLARS. THIS REPORT IS A FANTASTIC SNAPSHOT OF THE COLLECTIVE IMPACT OF THIS COMMUNITY.**

- MARY ANNE PIACENTINI, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

# LAND CONSERVATION



# Katy Prairie Land Conservation



## ACQUIRED 159 ACRES

immediately adjacent to KPC's Indiangrass Preserve, which now encompasses more than 2,000 acres.

## CREATED NATURE'S BURIAL

to provide a conservation cemetery on the Katy Prairie. Revenue will be used to secure additional protected lands and we hope to begin selling plots in 2022.

## ADVOCATED FOR LANDS, POLICIES, AND PRACTICES

that promote healthy watersheds and enhance conserved lands.

## WALLER COUNTY MASTER PLAN

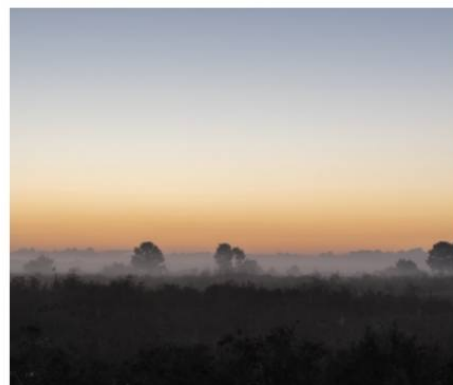
was developed to assist in the creation of a comprehensive park system in Waller County that offers public access opportunities for residents and provides flood mitigation where appropriate.

# Regional Land Conservation



## SECURED A \$2MM NAWCA GRANT

to fund the conservation of more than 3,400 acres of coastal prairie in KPC's expanded regional focus area.



## KPC AND PARTNERS AWARDED \$7MM

from the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Plan for support of the Texas Coastal Prairie Initiative that will protect lands within a 13-county area.



## DONATED CONSERVATION EASEMENT

completed on an 804.5-acre ranch in Matagorda County, rich with wetlands that provide habitat for migratory and wetland-dependent birds.



## 4,714-ACRE CHOCOLATE BAY PRESERVE

was purchased by the Galveston Bay Foundation; KPC will hold the easement so that this preserve will be forever protected as open space and wildlife habitat.

# Regional Land Conservation



## HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

selected a number of KPC land conservation efforts to receive staff assistance through HGAC's Regional Conservation Initiative.



## LAND TRUST ALLIANCE'S *GAINING GROUND* INITIATIVE

selected Headwaters to Baywaters (KPC, GBF, HAS, BPP, BLC) to help develop and launch a bold, impactful digital public engagement campaign.



## *HEADWATERS TO BAYWATERS* INITIATIVE

published a story board about the preservation of lands along waterways that can be seen [here](#).

# LAND STEWARDSHIP



# Land Stewardship



## INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

took place on the Indiangrass Preserve, as KPC's summer intern worked tirelessly to combat woody invasive species. The Texas Conservation Crew cleared tallow trees and other invasive species.



## PRESCRIBED BURNS

were completed in February on three tracts located on the Indiangrass Preserve.



## GRASSLANDS RESTORATION

of the Bing tract on the Indiangrass Preserve was completed in the spring, as was another tract on the Warren Ranch.



## WARREN RANCH

successfully enrolled in the Conservation Stewardship Program. KPC engaged the help of a consultant to develop a land use plan for Warren Ranch.



# Land Stewardship



## SEED COLLECTING

continued despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Seeds collected in 2021 were used for the *Great Grow Out* program, prairie restoration at Indiangrass Preserve, and local prairie restoration projects.



## WILLIAMS PRAIRIE RESTORATION

included work with partners at Wildlife Habitat Federation and landscape architect Beth Clark to clear brush and design a site plan and passive use trail for Williams Prairie in Fort Bend County.



## TIMELY ANNUAL MONITORING

was completed for all KPC protected properties and management plans were updated for all fee-owned properties.



## SHRIKE PRAIRIE RESTORATION

continued at our showcase prairie at the Matt Cook Memorial Wildlife Viewing Platform.

# COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



# Community Resilience



## BUFFALO BAYOU COMMUNITY PLAN

was developed with Houston Stronger to promote opportunities to use nature-based solutions and innovative engineering to reduce flood risk. Many of KPC's Flood Risk Reduction Strategies were incorporated into the BBCP.



## COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

continued to be an important part of KPC's work, including projects with the Conservation Flood Mitigation Group, Harris County Community Flood Resilience Task Force, and the TWDB's Regional Flood Planning Group.



## STREAM CORRIDOR RESTORATION COMMITTEE

worked with KPC and the Bayou Preservation Association to develop guiding principles and checklists to follow when completing stream corridor restoration projects.



## COALITION FOR ENVIRONMENT, EQUITY, AND RESILIENCE (CEER)

advocated for more community participation in flood planning at the local, county, and state levels; Mary Anne Piacentini continues to serve on CEER's Steering Committee.

# COMMUNITY CONSERVATION & RESEARCH



# Community Conservation



## INTERPRETIVE SIGNS AT THE INDIANGRASS PRESERVE

were installed to enhance the visitor experience on the Ann Hamilton Trail. Plans were developed to expand and improve the Field Office with public restrooms, exhibit space, and building upgrades.



## EBIRD WEBINAR

was created to demystify the eBird app while out birding on the Katy Prairie.



## LANDOWNER OUTREACH VIDEOS

were created to tell the story of conservation easements and land management practices throughout the region and to encourage landowner participation in habitat enhancement and land conservation.



## HOW TO PLANT A 9 NATIVES GARDEN VIDEO

was released in March and explains why natives are important for pollinators and how to plant a 9 Natives garden of your own.

# Community Conservation



## OUTREACH AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

such as *Unplugged Adventures* were safely offered through the year both in-person and virtually on topics like waterfowl migration, birding the Katy Prairie, planting for pollinators, all about wetlands, and foraging the prairie.

## ONE-PAGERS

written on issues important to our community were made available for download on the KPC website. Topics include green health, wildlife of the coastal prairie, carbon capture, healthy watersheds, flooding, volunteering, land protection, and more.

## VIEWING PLATFORM AND ANN HAMILTON TRAIL

remained open to the public throughout the year, providing access for all to enjoy the breathtaking beauty of the coastal prairie landscape.

## PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

brought 180 volunteers to the Indiangrass Preserve, who successfully planted over 800 native plants. We thank those who attended for making this year's event the most productive in KPC history.

# Volunteers



## PRESERVE STEWARD VOLUNTEERS

maintained trails, monitored for species diversity, and worked tirelessly to restore prairie habitats. They established a new pollinator garden along the Ann Hamilton Trail and nurtured and supervised the planting of over 1,000 native grasses and wildflowers.



## STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS

were relaunched in September 2021. Volunteers of all ages joined in prairie restoration and trail work at the Indiangrass Preserve. These weekend opportunities will expand to other preserves in 2022.



## THE GREAT GROW OUT PROGRAM

allowed volunteers to continue to aid in restoration work using locally collected seed to grow native plants from the safety of home.



## CORPORATE VOLUNTEER DAYS

brought our corporate partners to the prairie to support KPC's conservation staff with team building volunteer opportunities such as seed collecting, planting native plants, and invasive species removal.

# Research



## WESTERN CHICKEN TURTLE STUDY

continued with Texas A&M University identifying the Katy Prairie as a key habitat for this species.



## SPOTTED SKUNK STUDY

moved forward with Texas Tech and Angelo State University to track the presence of this species on the Katy Prairie.



# FUNDRAISING & EVENTS



# Fundraising & Events



**TERRY HENDRICK**  
joined the KPC staff as our new Marketing and Development Associate.



**PICNIC FOR THE PRAIRIE**  
served as the reimagined KPC BASH and encouraged people to enjoy time in nature while being physically distant. June 12, 2021 was proclaimed Picnic for the Prairie Day by the City of Houston.

**GIVING TUESDAY**

**GIVING TUESDAY**  
online contributions increased by 82%. Over one-third of these generous supporters were first-time KPC donors.



**THE 2021 ANNUAL APPEAL**  
encouraged our supporters to make a gift and then share our story with others. Together, we raised over \$210,000.

# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CORPORATE PARTNERS WHO MAKE MUCH OF THIS WORK POSSIBLE



UNION PACIFIC FOUNDATION





Photographs generously provided by: Chuck Duplant, Carolyn Fannon, Frank Farese, Steve Gast, Jaime González, T. Kibodeaux, Greg Lavaty, Don Pine, Ashley Unbehagen, Mac Womack