

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

**Katy
Prairie
Conservancy**





IN A YEAR OF UNCERTAINTY AND CHALLENGE, WE REVISED BUDGETS, SOUGHT OUT NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, AND DEVELOPED NEW PRACTICES TO WEATHER THE PANDEMIC, REDUCING OUR COSTS WHILE MAINTAINING OUR QUALITY, AND RETAINING 100% OF OUR STAFF.

- MARY ANNE PIACENTINI, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LAND CONSERVATION



Katy Prairie Land Conservation



PROTECTED 152 ACRES

with a conservation easement on Harris County Flood Control District's Hornberger Tract.



SECURED A FLOOD PLAIN EASEMENT

worth \$2.3MM to permanently protect 277 acres through NRCS's Emergency Watershed Protection Program.



\$1MM FOR LAND PROTECTION

was awarded to protect 470 acres and restore 605 acres of wetlands through a NAWCA grant; we also completed all goals and objectives to close out a similar 2015 grant.



WALLER COUNTY MASTER PLAN

commenced to develop a comprehensive park system in Waller County; the plan includes financing options and flood management tools.

Katy Prairie Land Conservation



GREEN BURIAL INITIATIVE

was chosen for the Texas Outcomes Based Challenge and work will begin immediately to make this project a reality.



SUBMITTED A MITIGATION BANKING INSTRUMENT

to ensure better conservation values in the stream mitigation bank.



PROTECTED THE LAND'S CONSERVATION VALUES

by working to reduce roads on the prairie.

Regional Land Conservation



THE TEXAS COASTAL PRAIRIE INITIATIVE

proposal for \$10MM was submitted to NRCS for regional conservation and restoration.



HAWKINS RANCH

was identified as a conservation priority in Matagorda County; two NRCS grants were submitted to protect 9,000 acres of the ranch.



STRATEGIC CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT TEAM

selected KPC to serve as a case study using regional land conservation tools and resources.



HEADWATERS TO BAYWATERS INITIATIVE

was chosen to participate in the Land Trust Alliance's *Gaining Ground* initiative, one of only ten groups in the country.

LAND STEWARDSHIP



Land Stewardship



MIKAYLA HOUSE

joined the KPC staff as our new Stewardship Manager.



PRESCRIBED BURNS

were completed on the Indiangrass Preserve and Nelson Farms in early spring.



THE NATIVE SEED NURSERY

received a new irrigation system and seed collecting resumed with a new pandemic protocol.



INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

remained a priority across the Katy Prairie Preserve.

Land Stewardship



RESTORATION

began on Bing and Warren Ranch with the planting of spring and winter cover crops.

WETLANDS

were created totaling 416 acres; another project is planned for Nelson Farms in 2021.

TIMELY ANNUAL MONITORING

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

SHRIKE PRAIRIE RESTORATION

was completed as the Matt Cook Memorial Wildlife Viewing Platform remained open to the public.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



Community Resilience



THE ADDICKS RESERVOIR RESILIENCY STUDY

was completed, identifying alternatives to reduce downstream flooding.



THE PRAIRIE SOLUTION FOR REDUCING FLOODING

was created to show the value of prairies to absorb, slow down, and store water.



AIA VISION PROJECT

selected KPC to exhibit displays on flooding and conservation for the opening of the AIA renovated building.



HEADWATERS TO BAYWATERS INITIATIVE

released a story board identifying the value of protecting riparian corridors.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION & RESEARCH



Community Conservation



VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

increased as we responded to the pandemic to bring nature to all, including Unplugged Adventures in a virtual format.



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT

was completed and included how DEI intersects with our core mission and the importance of deepening this focus.



VIEWING PLATFORM AND THE ANN HAMILTON TRAIL

remained open to the public during the pandemic.



INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE PROJECT

began to improve visitor experience on the Ann Hamilton Trail.

Volunteers



STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS

allowed volunteers to help with important restoration and enhancement during the first quarter of the year.



NATIVE SEED NURSERY

continued to grow and plant natives species for restoration projects with help of longtime volunteers.



VOLUNTEER HOURS

continued and helped KPC meet its mission despite the pandemic with select volunteers contributing 850 hours.



SEED COLLECTING

resulted in 14 trips to 7 different prairies with small groups attending at a safe social distance.

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



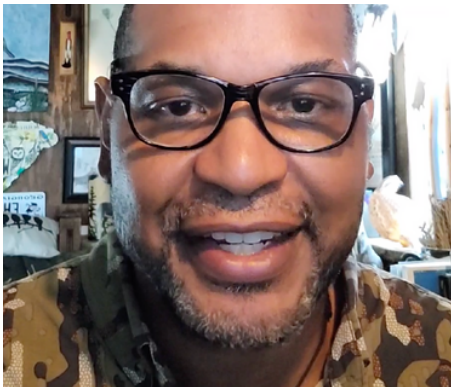
IN CELEBRATION • BASH •
Rare
BIRDS
—2020—
PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY • KATY

CHAIRS
NICOLE AND SAM HIX
RENE AND MAURI PINEDA

HONORING
DONORS FOR A DECADE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20
A STAY-AT-HOME
VIRTUAL EVENT

Fundraising & Events



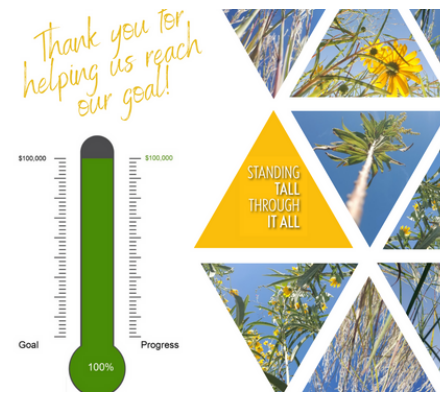
J. DREW LANHAM

served as the keynote speaker for the virtual 2020 KPC Bash, which raised over \$150,000.



THE 2020 ANNUAL APPEAL

raised over \$100,000 before the last day of the year.



DONOR RETENTION AT 53%

serves as an extraordinary testament to donor loyalty and KPC's ability to steward its supporters.



ENGAGEMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

increased throughout the pandemic, bringing in 100 new donors in 2020.

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





Photographs generously provided by: Chuck Duplant, Carolyn Fannon, T. Kibodeaux, Alisa Kline, Greg Lavaty, Christine Mansfield, Julie Mintzer, Michael Morton, Clint Perkins, Don Pine, and Karen Sachar.