

I-20 Wildlife Preserve

& Jenna Welch Nature Study Center

FALL NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Drought Impact on the Preserve
- Phase II Update
- Programs
- Volunteers and Supporters
- Fall 2011 Funding Goal
- Upcoming Events



Photos by Malcom McElwaney



SEPTEMBER
2011



Photo by Nathan Knowles

DROUGHT IMPACT ON THE PRESERVE

The I-20 Wildlife Preserve, like most areas in West Texas, has been hit hard by the drought. The playa dried up in March and the north pond is struggling to hold just a few feet of water. Many ask “How is it a wetland if there isn’t any water?” That’s the beauty of playas: the soil is much different than the surrounding landscape of sand and caliche. The underlying clay soil has a unique ability to hold moisture for long periods of time, even during drought. These dry times also give rise to an array of plants that aren’t seen during wet times. Coreopsis and sunflowers provide a yellow blanket in the playa for doves and red-winged black birds to feast on. Rabbits and various reptiles move into the playa to get needed moisture from plants. During the fall these plants will provide the food needed for migrating waterfowl. Whether it’s a drought or a wet season, there is always something to see and experience at the I-20 Wildlife Preserve.

Nathan Knowles
Preserve Land Manager





I-20 Wildlife Preserve

& Jenna Welch Nature Study Center

MASTER PLAN

PHASE I— CONSERVATION

STATUS: COMPLETE

ELEMENTS: BASELINE STUDIES, WATER & SOIL SAMPLES, DUCKS UNLIMITED FEASIBILITY STUDY, HYDROLOGY RESTORATION DESIGN, CATTAIL REMOVAL

PHASE II— ACCESSIBILITY

STATUS: CONSTRUCTION BEGINS SEPTEMBER, 2011, COMPLETE THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2012

ELEMENTS: TRAILS, BOARDWALKS, BIRD BLINDS, TEACHING PLATFORMS, HAWK TOWER

PHASE III— NATURE STUDY CENTER

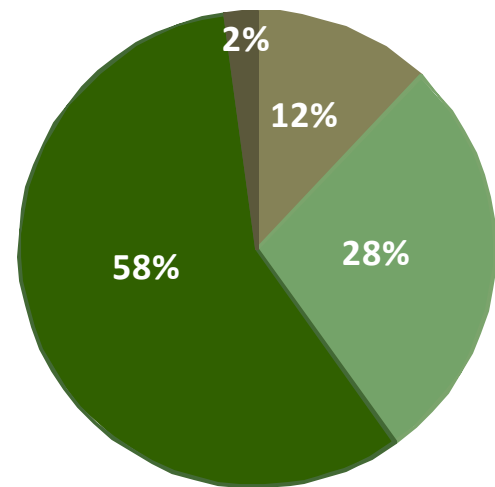
STATUS: PLANNING

ELEMENTS: VISITOR CENTER, AUDITORIUM, CLASSROOMS, LAB, GIFT SHOP, OFFICES, EDUCATIONAL KIOSKS AND MORE...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thanks to our giving community, we have raised 88% of the \$2.75 million goal for Phase II! The Fall 2011 goal of \$605,000 provide the necessary funds for a pavilion, fencing, and a parking area.

FUNDING TO-DATE



- Corporate Donations
- Individual Donations
- Foundations and Charitable Trusts
- In-Kind Donations

FUTURE PROGRAMS

The I-20 Wildlife Preserve staff is developing four new programs in anticipation of opening the preserve in 2012. Program development is to achieve the following:

- **Community Outreach and Awareness:** Town Hall meetings and presentations to organizations with the objective of providing the community a general knowledge of Midland's wetland, what it will provide, and how it can be utilized.
- **General Public Information:** Trail maps and informational signage.
- **Education:** A lecture series for the general public will provide information regarding subjects such as birding, water conservation, and the importance of playa lakes. Curriculum for school visits and field trips is being developed. A priority focus is on higher education in the field of science where students can do research in a living laboratory at the playa.
- **Volunteers:** The staff is coordinating volunteer training and events.

VOLUNTEERS

Hard working volunteers have performed over 275 hours this year! Performing tasks anywhere from clearing brush to picking up trash in the West Texas heat, our volunteers are the hardest working people we could ask for! Thanks again for your time, work, and energy!

Total Volunteer Hours Performed:	275 hours
— In Office:	52 hours
— On Site:	223 hours
Value of Hours Volunteered:	\$5,874.00

* Valued at \$21.36 per hour—Source-Independent Sector

I-20 Wildlife Preserve

& Jenna Welch Nature Study Center
F A L L N E W S L E T T E R

P.O. Box 2906
Midland, Texas 79702

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
MIDLAND TX 79711
PERMIT 94



Phone: 432-853-9453
Toll Free: 1-866-97PLAYA
www.i20wildlifepreserve.org
midlandwetlands@i20wildlifepreserve.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Elaine Magruder

Vice President

Paul Davis, Jr.

Secretary/Treasurer

Terry Wilkinson

Members at Large

Jon Morgan

Duncan Kennedy

Eram Ali

Bill Lupardus

Clayton Williams, Jr.

STAFF

Preserve Land Manager

Nathan Knowles

Marketing & Outreach Director

Chelsea Dey



UPCOMING EVENTS

TOWN HALL MEETING

Tuesday, September 13, 2011 (5:30-6:30 PM)

Carrasco Room, Midland College

Informational presentation about the Preserve,
Phase II, and what will be offered upon its completion.

Refreshments will be provided.

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY AND RECEPTION

Friday, September 23, 2011

3:00-4:00 — Ceremony

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

October 15, 2011 (9:00-11:00 AM)

We are teaming with Keep Midland Beautiful in an
annual city-wide clean-up. Bring your friends!

Gloves and trash bags will be provided.



Photo by Nathan Knowles