

Field Trips & Workshops

Note: Some trips require entry fees that are not included in your registration fee. If indicated in the trip description, they are to be paid on arrival to the site.

Thursday, on your way to Denton: Group A

A-1: Woodson Place

Woodson Place is a conservation subdivision midway between Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni in the peaceful countryside of Rains County. Conservation subdivision is a method for preserving natural features of the land when building. While the standard way of land development divides the parcel into as many equal lots as possible, conservation subdivisions build around the trees, waterways, and open space corridors. Homes open to wonderful landscapes shared by a whole community. This development received a prestigious Texas Parks & Wildlife Land Steward award. Tours of the model home with its five—star rating from the Austin Energy Green Building Program will be led by project manager and sustainability consultant, Chris Allen. Guided walks through the subdivision's open space will include both prairie and wooded areas within this Post Oak Savannah ecological region. Prairie grasses and wildflowers are thriving in the wake of the controlled prairie burn last winter.

Leaders: Carol Feldman, Landscape Architect & Chris Allen, Project Manager

Mineola — 95 mi

Thursday, promptly at 11:30 a.m.

repeats as (D-11) on Sunday

Limit: Minimum 5, Maximum 30 participants.

Difficulty Rating: easy.

A-2: Bear Creek Ranch

A 2,100 acre working ranch owned by Dixon Water Foundation and managed holistically, raising organic beef and lambs. Bring a sack lunch to eat at the barn while you look out across the prairie at the skyline of downtown Fort Worth. Hear a brief explanation of management practices used to preserve native habitat by pasture rotation and intensive grazing. An easy to moderate walking tour will view the native plants on the ranch. Diverse native habitat consists of stream—side Cross Timbers, deep soiled tall grass prairie, and limestone glades. The mission of Dixon Water Foundation is education, outreach and research on water issues, with a particular focus on ecologically and financially sustainable land management that will enhance water retention and minimize erosion in watersheds. *Wear a hat, sturdy shoes or boots, and bring water.*

Leaders: Eileen Porter (NPSOT); Nathan Haile (NRCS); Earl Hogan (retired NRCS)

Aledo — 55 mi/1 hr

Thursday, promptly at noon

similar trip repeats as (D-3) on Sunday; with different leaders and emphasis

Limit: none.

Difficulty Rating: moderate