

Exhibit A

Scope of Work

Introduction

The Texas Blackland Prairie once stretched over 12 million acres from the Red River to San Antonio. The advent of cotton agriculture in the late 19th and subsequent urbanization in the 20th century diminished the prairie to 1/100th per cent of its original extent. The Texas Blackland Prairie has become one of the most endangered large ecosystems in North America.

In the mid-1980's Collin County undertook one of the first efforts in north Texas to protect and restore the prairie in its acquisition of the 436-acre Parkhill Prairie. Hailed as "A Texas Heritage for Future Generations", the Park's mission was to avail the public opportunities to appreciate its prairie heritage. Interpretive kiosks, shelters and nature trails provided access for hikers, birdwatchers, school groups and picnickers. Though other scattered small prairie preserves existed, Parkhill Prairie was unique in its attempt to integrate human use, preservation and restoration.

The centerpiece of the Park--essentially the reason for the Park's creation--was a 52-acre remnant prairie. The prairie is a product of an extreme drought which followed the end of the last ice age, about 10,000 years ago. Although the exact age of the prairie is hard to determine, it is likely that it is 5,000 – 8,000 years old. It is relatively easy for us to conceive of an old growth forest, but Parkhill is, in fact, an old growth grassland. Nearly all of the hundreds of species of native plants growing there are perennial—that is—they grow back from roots and tubers each year, with root systems penetrating to a depth of up to 15 feet. Many of the individual plants on Parkhill prairie are certainly decades if not hundreds of years old. One anecdote has it that big bluestem, a grass common on the prairie, may live more than 400 years. Further, the prairie hosts insects and animals known only from tallgrass prairie remnants. For example, in the late 1980's, Dr. Ken Steigman, then with the Heard Museum, discovered a new species of crayfish on Parkhill Prairie. This unusual crayfish lives in burrows on otherwise dry land, burrowing to the water table at depths of more than six feet. In addition to this unusual behavior, eyeless, unpigmented isopods (small, swimming crustaceans) co-habit the burrows.

In order to further expand the prairie, thirty adjoining acres were planted in 1991 with almost 70 species of native grass and wildflower seed harvested from Parkhill's remnant prairie and from the nearby Clymer Meadow, a remnant prairie preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy. The prairie reconstruction became recognized as one of the state's largest and most successful. After 20 years, the reconstruction has become hard to distinguish from the remnant prairie.

Parkhill Prairie is a jewel in the crown of our Texas natural heritage. Collin County citizens and government gave the greater public a great gift in the preservation of this resource.

Beginning in 2005, The Nature Conservancy has contracted with Collin County to treat exotic invasive species, especially tall fescue and Johnsongrass, through herbicide application, and prescribed mowing and fire. This has resulted in the reduction of tall fescue cover from an estimated 40% in some areas to less than 20%. Further, encroachment by trees and shrubs has been drastically reduced.

However, particularly for the control of tall fescue and Johnsongrass, continued management will be necessary. Toward this objective, the County contacted The Nature Conservancy regarding resumption of contractual work on a year to year basis.

Scope of Work

During the 2018 calendar year, and for the next succeeding 4 years, the following tasks will be undertaken:

- Cutting of encroaching brush and trees as needed;
- Herbicide treatments for the control of brush and trees as needed;

- Seasonal herbicide treatments for the control of tall fescue, Johnsongrass, purple scabiosa, and other invasive species as needed
- Vegetation, hydrologic, and other research monitoring as deemed necessary by the Consultant;
- Prescribed fire treatments as needed. Most recent fire included entire unit, March 2017;
- Supervision of mowing and removal (haying) of vegetation as needed.

Budget

Year 1	
Personnel	\$3,700
Supplies	\$800
Direct	\$4,500
Indirect at 23.31%	\$1,048.95
Total Request	\$5,548.95
Year 2	
Personnel	\$3,700
Supplies	\$800
Direct	\$4,500
Indirect at 23.31%	\$1,048.95
Total Request	\$5,548.95
Year 3	
Personnel	\$3,700
Supplies	\$800
Direct	\$4,500
Indirect at 23.31%	\$1,048.95
Total Request	\$5,548.95
Year 4	
Personnel	\$3,700
Supplies	\$800
Direct	\$4,500
Indirect at 23.31%	\$1,048.95
Total Request	\$5,548.95
Year 5	
Personnel	\$3,700
Supplies	\$500
Direct	\$4,500
Indirect at 23.31%	\$1,048.95
Total Request	\$5,548.95
5-year Total Request	\$27,744.75

*Includes NTX staff and fire crew salaries, travel mileage for fire crews, and overtime as deemed necessary by the Consultant to accomplish project objectives.

** Purchase of herbicide as deemed necessary by the Consultant to accomplish project objectives.

*** Includes replacement parts for equipment, small tools

