

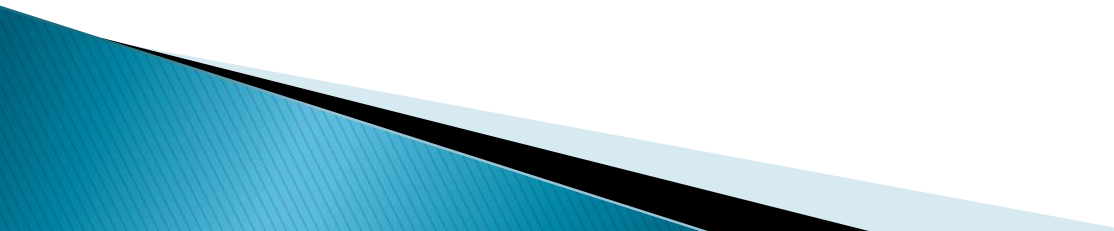
BioBlitz: A Peek Into Biodiversity at Lick Creek Park



Blogs.tamu.edu/BioBlitz
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Objectives

- ▶ Appreciation for the support of the Pebble Creek Community for our nature park
 - ▶ Sharing the results of BioBlitz 2010
 - ▶ Strengthening good neighbor relations in the future
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Thanks to our good neighbors!

- ▶ Lick Creek Park is College Station's only nature park, and it exists thanks to you!
- ▶ BioBlitz – discover and celebrate nature
- ▶ This annual event has been bringing together the university and the local community for over 13 years!



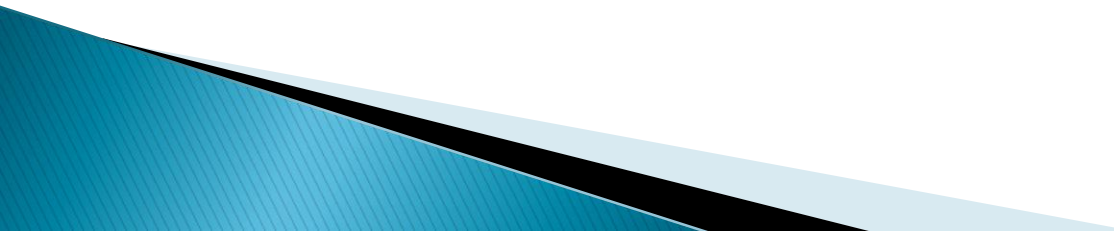
What is BioBlitz?



- ▶ BioBlitz is a comprehensive, twenty-four hour survey that measures local biodiversity in Lick Creek Park.



Terms to Know

- ▶ Biodiversity – the variety of all forms of life
 - ▶ Survey – a method for collecting quantitative information about animals in a population
 - ▶ Habitat – the area or environment where an organism normally occurs
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Lick Creek Park

- ▶ Lick Creek Park = 515 acres
- ▶ Established 1987
- ▶ Home to both rare and familiar species:
 - Kids' first chance to meet deer, raccoon, coyote, bobcats, opossum, armadillo...
 - Birders' delight to discover neotropical migrants, barred owls, swainson's thrush...



Why do we BioBlitz?

- ▶ Awareness of:
 - local biodiversity
 - conservation values
 - science careers
- ▶ Hands-on learning
 - children discover new interesting species
 - college students apply skills and knowledge from their classes
- ▶ Protect our nature park
 - information provided goes to city of College Station for park management
 - think globally, act locally



Outline of Activities

- ▶ Held Friday night and Saturday morning
- ▶ BioBlitz offers a wide variety of activities for our guests:
 - Surveys
 - Walks
 - Talks
 - Booths





Survey – What Lives in the Park?



- ▶ Led by student volunteers
- ▶ Main focus of BioBlitz
- ▶ Volunteers
 - Divide into teams: plants, mammals, birds, herps, fish, and inverts
 - Survey what they can
 - Bring it back to share with the public

Walks

- ▶ Opportunity to take guided interpretive walks through the park
 - Bat/owl walks at night
 - Mammal, bird, plant, and other walks during day
- ▶ Stargazing/Sungazing offered by astronomers
- ▶ Great chance to see animals in their natural habitat



Talks By Survey Team Leaders



- ▶ A chance to learn about
 - Invasive species
 - Indicator species
 - Proactive problem-solving
- ▶ An opportunity to ask questions, share stories, and learn!

Educational Booths

- ▶ Each team booth
 - hands-on activities for kids
 - interactions with volunteers
 - ambassador animals



Kid Blitz Passport Activity

- ▶ Incentive to visit the booths of each team
- ▶ Kids collect stamps at each booth
- ▶ Show stamped passport for reward at the registration booth



BioBlitz 2010 Grand Tally



- ▶ Over 436 people attended
- ▶ Tallied over 388 species of plants, mammals, birds, herptiles, fish, and inverts
- ▶ Over 100 volunteers
- ▶ Huge Success!!



All Those Involved

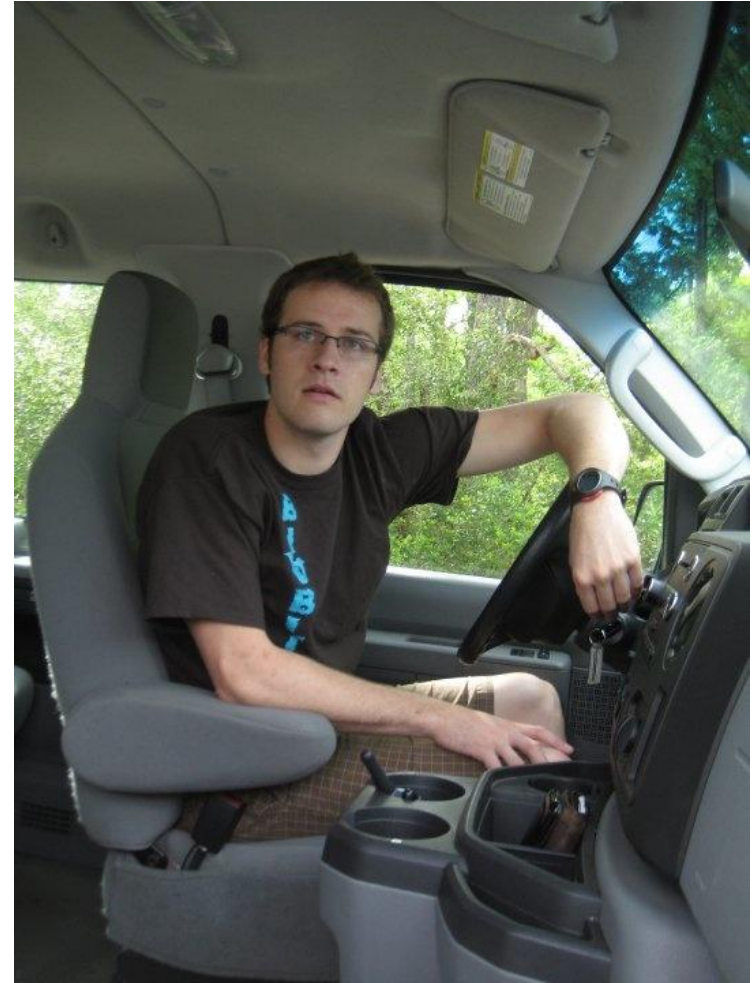
- ▶ Student-Led Event
- ▶ Hosted by TAMU Society for Conservation Biology in conjunction with the City of College Station
- ▶ TAMU Partners
 - TWS: The Wildlife Society
 - AFS: Amer. Fisheries Society
 - TCWC: TX Coop. Wildlife Coll.
 - Zoological Society
 - Entomology Society
- ▶ Community Volunteers:
 - TMN: Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter
 - Brazos Valley Museum
 - Rio Brazos Audubon Society
 - Blinn Aquatic Center
 - BRASS



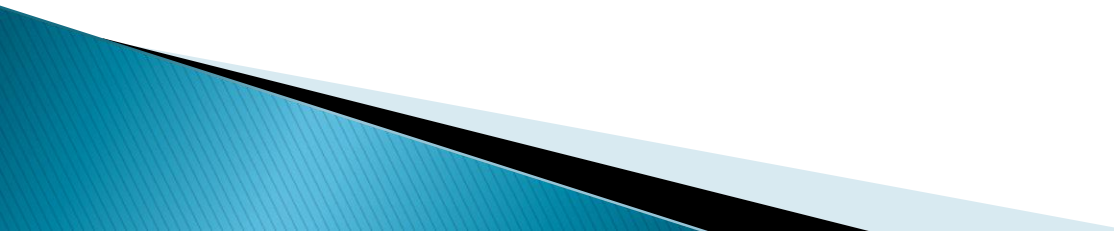


Good Neighbors in the Future

- ▶ Most pressing need for improvement is parking
- ▶ Discourage visitors from parking on Rock Prairie
- ▶ Current Parking Plan:
 - Equestrian Lot – Park and Walk
 - Campbell Court – Park and Shuttle
 - West Gate – Volunteer Parking
- ▶ Wish List:
 - Open gate for West Gate parking
 - Coordinate with Pebble Creek Elementary Science Program
 - More Pebble Creek families participate



Summary

- ▶ BioBlitz has been an asset to the community for over thirteen years
 - ▶ Thanks to the collaboration of over 500 people last year's event was successful in caring for the home of over 450 species
 - ▶ We look forward to strengthening good neighbor relations in the future
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What Are Your Thoughts?

