The *Kids on the Prairie* program is aligned with the National Science Foundation, Next Generation of Science Standards, and Texas State Standards.

This journal was created by the Friends of Tandy Hills Natural Area

TANDYHILLS.ORG

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Some FLORA you might see at THNA

Silver Bluestem
Bothriochloa laguroides

Purple Coneflower
Echinacea angustifolia

Two-Leafed Senna
Senna roemeriana

Antelope Horn
Milkweed
Asclepias asperula

Greenthread and Skullcap
Thelesperma filifolium and Scutellaria wrightii

Sensitive Briar
Mimosa roemeriana

Little Bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium

Purple Paintbrush
Castilleja purpurea

Maximilian Sunflower
Helianthus maximiliani

Indian Blanket
Gaillardia pulchella

Queen’s Delight
Stillingia texana

American Basketflower
Centauraea americana

Horsemint
Monarda citriodora

Indian Grass
Sorghastrum nutans

Poison Ivy
Toxicodendron radicans

Prickly Pear
Opuntia sp.

Gayfeather
Liatris sp.

Sideoats Grama
Bouteloua curtipendula

Texas Walking Stick
Megaphasma denticus

Damsel fly
Order Odonata
Suborder Zygoptera

Ladybug
Coccinella septempunctata

Some FAUNA you might see at THNA

Eastern Cottontail Rabbit
Sylvilagus floridanus

Bobcat
Felis rufus

Coyote
Canis latrans

Greater Roadrunner
Geococcyx californianus

Black Vulture
Coragyps atratus

Cooper’s Hawk
Accipiter cooperi

Rough Green Snake
Opheodrys aestivus

Texas Spiny Lizard
Sceloporus olivaceus

Texas Brown Tarantula
Aphonopelma hentzi

Green Lynx Spider
Peucetia viridans

Queen and caterpillar
Danaus gilippus

Monarch Butterfly and caterpillar
Danaus plexippus

Painted Lady
Vanessa cardui

Yellow Swallowtail
Papilio glaucus

Spittlebug
Philaenus spumarius

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Note to Parents

We invite you to bring your families to Tandy Hills Natural Area (THNA).

Studies have shown that both spending time in nature and exercise have positive effects on the brains of children and adults.*

Tandy Hills Natural Area is free and open to the public, 365 days a year, dawn to dusk.

More information on THNA is available at tandyhills.org

*SFor more information on the links between nature and health, see the many links here: http://depts.washington.edu/hhwb/Thm_Mental.html

Hiking Tips

Be prepared for adventure! We recommend:

1. Bring water.
2. Wear sturdy shoes.
3. Wear a hat and/or use sunscreen.
4. A healthy snack is a great way to break up or conclude a hike.

Note that there are no restroom facilities at THNA except for KOP and special arrangements.

How to get here

Downtown
Fort Worth

Tandy Hills Natural Area

View St
Meadowbrook Dr
Tandy Ave
Oakland Blvd

The Geolocation Code

Latitude/Longitude: 32.7479470 / -97.2741150

SCHEDULE

9:50 Board Bus with name tags on.
10:00 Arrive at Tandy Hills Natural Area, 3400 View Street and get in groups with Naturalist leader and chaperone
10:15 - 12:30 Field investigations
12:30 - 1:00 Picnic lunch and discussion with Naturalist leader
1:00 - 1:15 Giving back – recycling lunch, cleaning up, getting ready for departure
1:15 - 1:30 Group photo and depart for school

DID YOU KNOW?

Texas is a prairie state. Three-quarters were once native grassland and savannah.

Less than 1% of the original 20 million acres of Texas’ beautiful tall grass prairie remains. Prairies used to be the biggest ecosystem in the United States, now they are endangered and the rarest.
Where are we?

The Friends of Tandy Hills Natural Area asks that visitors be respectful while visiting this special place. Respectful guests Practice Good Stewardship.

Recycling after lunch is as easy as 1,2,3...

1. Collect and flatten cardboard boxes
2. Collect empty glass and plastic containers
3. Collect food waste, separate from “Trash”

Bring all recyclables to Headquarters for proper disposal.

Any edible leftovers? Take them with you!

Thank you!

Now let’s recycle this stuff!

Draw a line from each item to where it should go when you are finished with it.

Cardboard Lunch Box
Plastic Fork/Spoon/ Knife
Paper Napkin
Bread/Bun
Lettuce/Tomato
Turkey/Ham/Roast Beef
Cheese
Chips/Pretzels
Granola Bar/Cookie
Fruit
Plastic Fruit Cup
Mustard/ Mayo package
Plastic wrapper for Cookie/Granola Bar
Plastic Water Bottle
The Quadrat Sampling Method

Describe and photograph the living and once living plants, fungi & animals in a small measured part of the habitat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maintained</th>
<th>Natural</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
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</table>

BIG WORD TO KNOW

BioBlitz - to discover and record as many living things as possible within a set location over a limited time period (usually 24-36 hours).

Choose one or more ways of observing where you are right now:

What’s your weather observation?

What do you see?

What do you smell?

What do you hear?
Investigation 1

Find Some Fossils...

All this land was under water once, but in some areas, because of how the land has eroded, you can access fossils easily. These pictures show some fossils that were found at THNA.

Investigation 5

Birding

More than 400 bird species have been recorded in north central Texas. Some are year-round residents and never travel far. Others live with us just during the summer or winter seasons. These travel patterns are called migrations.

Why do some birds make their homes at Tandy Hills and some only visit? Do the seasons influence the bird’s choices of food & shelter? What would you choose if you were a bird?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carolina Chickadee</th>
<th>Parus carolinensis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkey Vulture</td>
<td>Cathartes aura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Roadrunner</td>
<td>Geococcyx californianus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardinal</td>
<td>Cardinalis cardinalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Crow</td>
<td>Corvus brachyrhynchos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Mockingbird</td>
<td>Mimus polyglottos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downy Woodpecker</td>
<td>Picoides pubescens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mourning Dove</td>
<td>Zenaida macroura</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Investigation 2

How does the energy flow?

Draw arrows that show how the energy flows to create different food chains on the prairie. For example, the energy from grasses flows to grasshoppers. A grasshopper might be eaten by a lizard, and that lizard might in turn be eaten by a hawk. This is called a food chain. All of these food chains together form a food web.

Investigation 4

Animal Tracks

Dog

Bobcat

Coyote

Striped Skunk

Armadillo

Cottontail

Opossum

Raccoon

Big Word To Know

What is Carbon Sequestration? Carbon sequestration is the ability to contain, store or hold carbon through time.
Field Activity: Finding Inspiration

Create an impression of Tandy Hills and your experience exploring here. Choose whatever format that speaks to you: a picture, a poem, a song, a story.

Investigation 3

Describe a prairie.

Why are prairies important to our ecosystem?

Why are prairies important to you?

DID YOU KNOW?

Antelope Horns (Asclepias asperula), a prairie wildflower, is the primary food source for Monarch caterpillars. These wildflowers also absorb pollutants from the air, water, and soil.

DID YOU KNOW?

Too much carbon released into the atmosphere causes global warming (climate change).