



Tandy Hills Natural Area Pavilion Competition (THNAPC) Orientation summary

On Saturday, October 22, *Don Young*, President of, Friends of Tandy Hills Natural Area, conducted an on-site walk-through at the park for a group of 10 architects who are planning to enter the competition. Stuart Everett, of the THNAPC planning committee was also present.

After a brief introduction and Q&A at the pavilion site, the group took a 30 minute hike along the Tandy Hills Sunset Trail, to help the group get acquainted with the property and observe some of its unique features.

Perhaps the most obvious feature at Tandy Hills are the hills themselves. The topographic variability has a direct bearing on the significant biological diversity which is exceeded only by the FW Nature Center & Refuge.

Tall grasses are the dominant biological feature of all prairies, including Tandy Hills. *Big & Little Bluestem* and *Indian grass* are the top two, both peaking in the fall. Wildflowers such as *White Rosinweed* and *Engelmann's Sage* are endemic species at Tandy Hills and bloom in spring and summer. *Trout Lily*, are extremely special, rare and iconic, as are *Ladies Tresses Orchid* and *Nipple Cactus*

A recent Bioblitz at Tandy revealed a biological inventory of 884 species that included 28 Arachnids, 318 Insects, 2 Amphibian, 15 mammals, 10 reptiles, 5 Mollusks, 25 fungi and 419 species of Flowering Plants. *Cooper's Hawk* and *Eastern Cottontail Rabbits* are the two most iconic mammal species and observable year round. Also 5 species of bats have been recorded at Tandy. All this information is recorded at the iNaturalist website:

<http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/tandy-hills-natural-area-stratford-park>

Don Young, President

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