



June 13, 2016

## Proposed shelter for Tandy Hills Natural Area (FOTHNA)

### Possible uses include:

- Meet up and resting place for various groups including, school groups, birders, hikers, naturalists, families, scientists, researchers, plein air artists, neighbors, etc.
- Parties, celebrations, birthdays, weddings, funerals, picnics, meditation, reading, studying, chess/card playing, escaping sun/rain, writing, drawing/painting.
- Observation spot of prairie hills and wildlife
- HQ for special FOTHNA events such as, New Years Day Hike, Brush Bash, BioBlitz, Kids on the Prairie

### Parameters must include:

- Full protection from elements
- Sustainably derived and vandal-resistant construction materials (locally-sourced when possible)
- Clear, panoramic views in all directions (with possible exception to the west)
- Integrated seating
- Bird-roosting prevention
- \$100K budget

### Possible concerns and considerations:

- Solar roof panels to power nearby light fixture/elec. cutouts ([dark sky approved](#) down lights only)
- Tables
- Ventilation at top
- Recycled or re-purposed materials
- Side-porch
- Possible materials include: concrete, steel, limestone, etc.

## Big Picture

This shelter project proposal is a first for City of Fort Worth Park & Rec Dept. (PARD). Until now, park shelters have been selected from a catalogue of standard designs. In May 2016, Friends of Tandy Hills Natural Area asked the city to consider our request for a distinctive shelter design that reflects the unique character and history of this 160-acre park.

Other than the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, Tandy Hills is the largest natural area in Fort Worth, conveniently located off I-30 just minutes from downtown. The Friends group, founded in 2004 to protest the threat of fracking. At that time, Tandy Hills was a little-known and rarely visited park.

The group has been successful at raising public awareness of Tandy Hills via events including Prairie Fest and the Tandy Hills BioBlitz. FOTHNA also sponsors and organizes science-based field trips for FWISD students.

Why is Tandy Hills unique? Tandy Hills is one of the few remaining indigenous remnants of the original Fort Worth prairie. Noted for its unusually complete collection of prairie flora, THNA contains more than 600 native plant species and a variety of wildlife.

The show of spring wildflowers is unsurpassed in the Metroplex. The land is a living example of how most of Fort Worth and the Great Plains appeared in predevelopment times. The fact that it has never been plowed or developed and survived into the 21st century in relatively pristine condition is remarkable.

Don Young, President

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Friends of Tandy Hills Natural Area, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting Tandy Hills.  
All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.