

# Texas City Prairie Preserve



Texas City Prairie Preserve is host to one of the last two remaining populations of the federally endangered Attwater's Prairie Chicken. A precious island of coastal prairie habitat, the preserve is surrounded by industry and urbanization.

**LOCATION:** The north side of Texas City, bordering Moses Lake to the east and Dickinson Bayou to the north.

**SIZE:** 931.5 ha (2,300 acres)

**HABITAT:** Intensive restoration efforts including prescribed burning and the removal of invasive, non-native Chinese tallow trees have resulted in a notable example of coastal tallgrass prairie, a vital wildlife habitat that is rapidly vanishing. The preserve also includes intertidal marsh and post oak motts.



**BIRDS:** At the turn of the century, there were approximately 1 million Attwater's Prairie Chickens along the Texas Coast. However, loss of coastal prairie habitat over the years devastated the population, and less than 50 remain in the wild today, making the bird one of the most endangered in North America. The varied preserve habitat provides for some 180 species of birds in addition to the Attwater's Prairie Chicken, including Brown Pelican, nesting Mottled Duck, White-tailed Hawk, Black Rail, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Sprague's Pipit, American Pipit, LeConte's Sparrow and Seaside Sparrow.

**CONSERVATION:** During the spring breeding season, visitors have a rare chance to see the mating display of the male Attwater's Prairie Chicken, likened to the dances of some Native American prairie dwellers. In a demonstration of compatible agriculture, preserve management includes rotational grazing of cattle, prescribed fire, invasive species control and shore-line erosion protection. Restoration of the coastal prairie is a primary stewardship activity on the preserve. Cattle grazing, which has occurred on the prairie since the late 1800s, continues to provide a substitute for the wandering herds of bison that are no longer present.



## Site Partner:

The Nature Conservancy  
of Texas

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## WEBSITE:

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