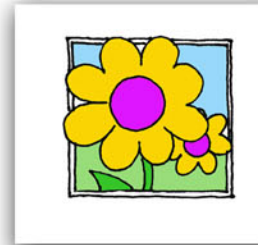


INTERPRETIVE GRAPHIC PROGRAM

Andrew Brown Jr. Park

City of Coppell
Parks & Recreation Department
Coppell, Texas 75019
presented May 16, 2006
contact Mr. Brad Reid



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Andrew Brown Jr. Park

city of Coppell, Texas

INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Goals

- To enhance the visitor experience within Andrew Brown Jr. park
- To foster within the visitor a sense of stewardship for the natural and cultural resources
- Increase Visitor knowledge of common plants, animals and fish found in Andrew Brown Jr. park
- Foster future generations with life long interests in the environment, animal watching, fishing, and preserving

Theme:

An unequalled natural area within the city of Coppell offering a treasure trove of outdoor life.

Sub-themes:

- The natural acres within the 67-acre park consist of a Riparian Forest, Ponds Marsh Lands and Managed Lands
- Life is abundant and available to interact with and enjoy in each distinctive area.
- Enjoying the natural resources more deeply connects us with nature, our community today and forever.
- History connects us with our past, provides a sense of belonging in the present and can help shape our future.



Coppell park and Recreation Department mission statement:

Our mission is to maintain responsible stewardship of natural and allocated resources to promote quality recreational and educational opportunities that enhance the overall health of individuals and the community.





PANEL LOCATION PLAN



Andrew Brown Jr. Park

W

Welcome to a Treasure Trove of Outdoor Life

This 148 acre park is the jewel of the City of Coppel park and recreation department. The large open areas provide unequalled opportunities for a wide array of activities for all ages. Year-round this park offers wildlife, athletics, children's area and numerous festive celebrations. The entire Andrew Brown Jr. Park (ABJP) consists of three individual parks; West, Central and East.

The master plan for the park and trail system was created in 1981, and the Parks and Recreation Department has made the development of the park a priority for many years. The park features many natural and made-made treasures. Along the north edge, the Denton Creek provide a riparian corridor, along the south edge natural Marsh, Grass and Pond areas exist and centrally located three large ponds.

Kid Kountry, a child favorite nestled inside an Oak tree grove, the immense maze of tunnels, slides, swings and bridges is a child favorite. The 7 miles of concrete and multi-use trail system is easily accessed by all citizens. Long range plans will connect Coppel's trails to the larger regional trail system linking surrounding communities



- Coppel Parks and Recreation Department offers numerous community programs covering a range of educational topics including:
- Solid Waste and Recycling Education
 - Coppel Community Garden
 - Community Organics Recycling Education
 - Keep Coppel Beautiful Committee
 - Texas Smartscape - developed by the North Central Texas Council of Governments
 - Community Service and Service Learning Projects
 - Arbor Day Posters
 - Clean Coppel Earthfest

The City's average elevation is 579 feet above sea level, sitting in the East Cross Timbers physiographic region of Texas between the Blackland Belt and the Grand Prairie.



Andrew Brown Jr.

Parks and Recreation Department

The Coppel Park and Recreation Mission Statement is – "Our mission is to maintain responsible stewardship of natural and allocated resources to promote quality recreational and educational opportunities that enhance the overall health of individuals and the community."

The Department's offers numerous Community Programs for public education, involvement opportunities, and services that conserves and protects our region's air, water, land, and human resources.



Namesake

Mr. Brown served as mayor of Coppel, Texas for ten years, as testimony to his public service, the City of Coppel named the park system, Andrew Brown Community Parks. Among his community activities, he has served on the board of directors for the Texas Industrial Development Corporation, the Dallas All Sports Association, Circle 10 Boy Scouts of America, and the Dallas Summer Musicals

Map Updated May 15, 2006
Latitude -32.98038 Longitude -96.98554

260 East Parkway Blvd. - 148 acres

MAP KEY



Growing Like a Weed

Home Grown Natural Grass Area



The dominant grasses are Bluestem and Buffalo Grass

Texas Native

The most common native grass species in our climate and soil conditions are: Buffalograss, Fescue, and Prairie Weed. Left to grow wild, these species can range in height from several inches to three feet. This small, preserved "Natural Area" is how all the land would appear if left to grow wild. The thick brush is an ideal habitat for native insects, birds, small reptiles, and mammals.



Bird houses are made especially for Bluebirds.

Animals and Critters

The native insects, birds, small reptiles and mammals that inhabit this grassland area include: mosquitoes, grasshoppers, crickets, spiders, Monarch butterflies, bullfrog, and Plains Blackhead Snakes. Numerous birds, including Killdeer and Scissor Tail Flycatcher, make their homes among the tall grasses. The birdhouses you see nestled in the brush are home to these native birds which naturally nest and feed in the thick brush.



Dragon fly



Grasshopper



Texas Rat Snake



Killdeer



Scissor Tail Flycatcher



Common Toad

Ground Cover

The most familiar and common plant ground cover in Coppell has always been grass. Before Coppell became a residential community, the grass covering these native prairie pastures provided rich grazing for the great herds of livestock.



Soaring Above, Diving Below

Our Flying and Swimming Friends



Pekin Duck - most common white duck



*Mockingbird
(State bird of Texas)*



Bluejay



Cardinal

No other area exemplifies the outdoor treasures of Andrew Brown Jr. Park more than the birds, ducks and fish. Totalling nearly 40 acres, the ponds provide the ideal environment for a wide range of both fish and fowl.

Birds

One of the more famous birds found here is the state bird of Texas- the Mockingbird. Other native bird species that reside here year round include: Northern Cardinal, Carolina Chickadee, Blue Jay, Morning Dove, Egret, and Blue Heron.

Andrew Brown Park is located along the migratory route between Canada and the Texas valley that brings numerous seasonal birds such as Painted Buntings, Barn Swallows, and White-eyed Vireos.



Egrets are often seen around the shores



*Yellow-crowned
Night Heron*

Ducks

Rounding out the bird family are the many varieties of ducks- also called "waterfowl" because of their presence in the water. The ducks here are classified as puddle ducks. Puddle ducks can dive but prefer to feed by dabbling or tipping rather than submerging.

The common species of ducks found at Andrew Brown Jr. Park are Mallards, Canadian Geese, Pintails, Canvasback and Teal.



Mallard Ducks



Canadian Goose

Fish

Whether walking the shorelines or casting from a pier, these small lakes are an ideal place to fish. Even the most novice fishermen can boast a grand catch due to the robust quantity and wide variety of species. Several common to north Texas found in Coppell's ponds include: Black Bass, Croppy, Bluegill and Catfish. The largest pond has a water depth of nearly fifty feet, and some fish can grow to considerable size.



Croppy



Black Bass



Bluegill

FISH & FOWL



Swamp life

Wet and Muddy – the ideal marsh life



Wetlands improve the overall health of our environment by recharging and purifying groundwater, moderating floods, reducing soil erosion, and providing recreation. Wetlands are nature's most productive ecosystem, providing critical habitat to 900 wildlife species. Wetlands and marshes are utilized for a myriad of purposes including sediment retention, water supply, animal watering, aesthetics, and recreation.



Cattails



Green Algae grows along edges



Tall grass also grows along edges

Plants

Marshes predominantly contain plants that don't have strong woody stems and branches found with trees. Herbaceous plants, flourish in marshes where they can grow immersed in water of varying levels. The thick brush and wet muddy conditions are ideal for providing a place to nest and hide for many small animals and birds, as well as providing adequate food and water. Common marsh plants include cattails, water lilies, and arrowheads. Some clumps of soft-stemmed plants found in the marshes contain sedges and grasses.

Insects

Insects form an integral part of aquatic ecosystems. They recycle much of the decaying plant and animal material back into the food chain. They are important food for fish and waterfowl. Many of the familiar biting insects (mosquitoes, blackflies, horseflies, and deer flies) start their life cycles in lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. Other common local insects are: dragonflies, caddisflies, mayflies, spiders, stoneflies, beetles, and more.



Mosquito



Monarch Butterfly



Dragonfly



Common Fly

Reptiles

The freshwater marsh is home to a wide variety of reptiles including: turtles, frogs, and the basic black, Texas Rat Snake.



Texas Lyre Snake



Yellow-bellied Slider Turtle



Wood Turtle



Bull Frog



NATURAL MARSH AREA

Working the Fields

Natural grass we can all play on



The predominant grass is Fescue.

Everyone loves to be outdoors. However, the fact is much of the outdoors would simply be too harsh and uncomfortable in its natural state. If the land wasn't a marsh, it might be wooded, grown over with tall grass, or treacherous and rocky. To make nature enjoyable may require an entire team of professionals equip with a plan. The Coppell Parks Department is staffed with landscape architects, soil and hydrology engineers, and arborists. Collectively, their job is to maintain and constantly revise park management plans, considering all facets of park care: planning, improvements, maintenance, repair and operations.

Planning

The park was originally designed in 1981 with the ultimate goal of creating an open nature preserve with dedicated areas for ponds, recreation fields, natural grass areas, woods and architectural structures.

Native and Exotic Plants

The primary native grass for Coppell is the wildlife-friendly Buffalograss. Buffalograss produces a uniform and attractive turf that ranges in color from spring green to blue green. A short-grass prairie native, it reaches a mature height at 4 to 6 inches. Much of the grass here at Andrew Brown Park is a combination of both native and popular exotic species.



Seasonal flowers add color



Shrubs and flower beds are maintained too.



The city maintains the fields year round



Lawn Maintenance

Creating and maintaining quality turfgrass involves more than cutting the grass. A dense, healthy turf demands proper mowing techniques, irrigation, occasional dethatching, and aeration in addition to fertilization and pest control. Today managing the land consists primarily of mowing just as you might do at home.



MAINTAINED GRASS

Clear as day

Tell tale weather conditions

On a clear blue day we might take a deep breath. The air smells clean, we feel invigorated and visibility seems endless. The air has much to do with how we feel and what we do. Good weather conditions play a significant role in planning and enjoying our day outside

Texas Climate

Texas is divided into 10 climate divisions by the National Weather Service. Coppell is located in the division geographically referred to as North Central Texas, approximately 250 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico. The climate is humid subtropical with hot summers. It is also continental, characterized by a wide annual temperature range. Precipitation also varies considerably, ranging from less than 20 to more than 50 inches.

Clouds

Forecasting the weather doesn't require any special equipment or procedures. All you need to do is go outside and look up at the clouds. It's important to know that not all clouds are the same. Clouds can come in different shapes, sizes, and colors. Reading cloud characteristics is a great tool in forecasting the weather



- Cirrus clouds are thin and wispy. They are a sign of fair weather



- Altocumulus clouds are like fuzzy bubbles in long rows indicating a cold front is coming.



- Nimbostratus clouds are dark and low-hanging bringing precipitation.



- Cumulus clouds look like big cotton balls in the sky. Normally they don't carry rain, but during the spring and summer they can.



- Cumulonimbus clouds are thunderstorm clouds that have heavy rain, thunder and lightning



Cumulonimbus can reach heights of 30-50,000 feet



Air Quality

One way weather can affect air quality is through high temperature and bright sunlight - just the right conditions when many of us like to be outside. The higher the temperature and the more direct the sunlight, the more ozone is produced.

During summertime it is important to watch out for unhealthy levels of ozone. Air quality is also affected by other factors including wind speed and wind direction. Poor air quality is an unfortunate issue we must keep in mind when planning our outdoor activities. Knowledge and understanding of the air quality classification is wise.

ACTIVITY	0 to 50 ppb (Good)	51 to 100 ppb (Moderate)	101 to 150 ppb (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups)	151 to 200 ppb (Unhealthy)	201 to 300 ppb (Very Unhealthy)
Persons at Risk	None	Sensitive groups	People with respiratory disease, children, and the elderly	People with respiratory disease, children, and the elderly	People with respiratory disease, children, and the elderly
PM ₁₀ of Day	0-50	51-100	101-150	151-200	201-300
Activities and Planning	None	None	None	None	None
Health Advisories	None	None	None	None	None



Wooded Banks

The Riparian Corridor Forest



This Cedar Elm extends up and over the wooded trail path.

Riparian Ecozone

This beautiful walk in the "urban forest" is made possible by the neighboring Denton Creek. By definition, this is known as a Riparian Forest because of its proximity to the water. This riparian forests form the transition between the aquatic and the terrestrial environment, and helps control sediment. This reduces the damaging effects of flooding and aids in stabilizing stream banks. The creek along the north edge of the park provides the water for beautiful trees and their canopy. Riparian forests produce approximately ninety percent of the tree and plant species found at Andrew Brown Jr. Park. Birds, snakes and insects live here but the most frequently seen animal is the Grey Squirrel.



TREE CITY USA



Cedar Elm leaf

Trees

Beyond beauty, trees perform important functions. Trees clean the air by absorbing air pollutants and releasing oxygen. They reduce erosion, temper climate, and create wildlife habitats.

The predominant tree here is the Oak. There are over twenty types of oak trees. In this forest, the most common are Pecan, Bur Oak, Live Oak and Red Oak along with Cedar Elms.



A Oak and Cedar stand side by side



Live Oak



Squirrels are especially attracted to Oak nuts.



Red Oak



Bur Oak



Streets and Lawns Flowing into Our Streams and Ponds



This sewer lines comes straight from the street into the pond.



Our wildlife lives in the pond water.



Water Runoff

Did you ever think about what happens to a raindrop that falls in Coppell? It may land on a tree or other vegetation and evaporate in the hot sun. It may land on a lawn and soak into the ground, or it may land on a rooftop, driveway or roadway and travel down the street, into a storm drain. Any rainwater in the Coppell area that does not evaporate or infiltrate the ground, but instead travels down hill is considered water runoff.



Choose not to pollute or litter.



Solid trash washes down from our streets to create problems

We can choose

The choices we make affect the contents of water in runoff. If our car leaks oil, we pour paint thinner down the sewer or pour any containment on the ground, when it rains, those fluids will mix and make it into our streams, creeks and ponds. When improperly disposed of, household hazardous waste can create a potential risk to people and the environment. Household hazardous wastes are sometimes disposed of improperly by individuals pouring wastes down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or putting them out with the trash.



Common household chemicals and cleaners should be disposed of properly.

City of Coppell

The City of Coppell provides information to residents regarding proper disposal of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). HHW items such as pool chemicals, pesticides, household cleansers, automotive wastes, batteries, computer equipment, medical waste, mercury, paint, smoke detectors, and various other items should be discarded only by proper disposal methods.



WATER QUALITY

In Harmony Balancing Community and Nature



The observation overlook showcases a planned community of homes



Wide open spaces provide a respite from urban life



*The entire family
can enjoy the
park.*

We all love the outdoors. Getting outside seeing and interacting with nature is a joy most people cherish. However, the realities of city life require us to build our homes, schools, shops and offices close together. Striving to achieve balance between homeowners, planners, developers, and wildlife is the goal of planning.

Benefits

Wildlife can add to the enjoyment of everyday life. Watching a duck or a squirrel offers periods of relaxation. Wildlife provides opportunities for observing and photographing animals, flowers and seasons right near us. Nature also serves as an educational stimulus by stirring curiosity. Nature and wildlife can provide many benefits including recreation.

Andrew Brown Jr. Park

Andrew Brown Jr. Park is the result of careful planning by Coppel's leaders in 1981. The creation of a 153-acre park would provide a large natural escape for its citizens without ever having to leave town.

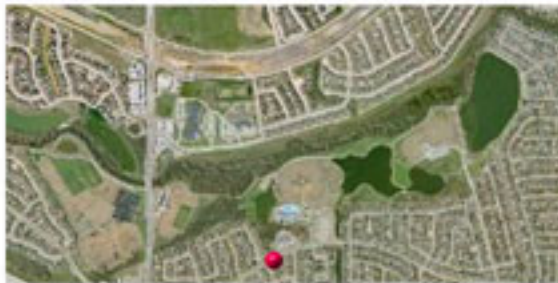


Parks Department Mission

Our mission is to maintain responsible stewardship of natural and allocated resources to promote quality recreational and educational opportunities that enhance the overall health of individuals and the community.



Water has always been a dominant feature in planning Coppel.



Andrew Brown is an urban park among numerous neighborhoods



Blooming Colors

Seasonal Wildflower Show



Wildflowers found here at Andrew Brown Jr. Park.

Experts estimate, there are over 20,000 species of flowering plants in North America. Those that grow in the wild or on their own, without cultivation, are called wildflowers. Wildflowers can be native or naturalized. Both types share one common distinction: they are equipped to grow on their own in nature.

Texas

Texas is home to more than five thousand species of wildflowers blooming all twelve months of the year. During blooming season, March through May, vibrant and stunning flowers paint fresh beauty onto the Texas landscape. The state flower of Texas, the Bluebonnet makes a two or three week appearance every mid April. The Bluebonnet grows only in Texas. The bluebonnet is one of many species of wild lupines. Accompanying the Bluebonnets are several other wildflowers common here: Mexican Red Hat, Black-eyed Susans, Lilies, Pink Evening Primrose, and Indian Blanket among others.



Bluebonnets



Yellow Paint Brush



Bluebonnets



Black-eyed Susans



Indian Blanket



Baby's Breath



Daisy



Prairie Verbena

City of Coppell

Join Keep Coppell Beautiful each fall in wildflower seeding along the trails at Moore Road Park. Directions: Go north on Moore Road to enter parking lot. Reminisce on what Coppell looked like as a prairie and do the buffalo stomp with the herd of seeders. Volunteer Leader Seeders are needed and will be trained in the wonders of Texas Wildflowers. Call 972-462-5100 or email kcb@ci.coppell.tx.us for more information on how to get involved.



Coppell involves the community with seminars and annual seeding events.



WILDFLOWERS

Untouched, Unspoiled Walk and Look Back



The entrance to the nature trail has changed little.



Bridge Over Denton Creek

Getting off the concrete path can not only take us further into a natural surrounding it can provide us a glimpse of how Coppell might have looked 80 to 100 years ago. Although Coppell is thought of as a relatively young city (incorporated in 1955), its roots can be traced back to the early 1880's.

1832

In 1832, the farming community of "Grapevine Springs" was organized in the vicinity of the present-day Grapevine Springs Park. By 1873, the community became known as "Gibbs," in honor of former Texas Senator and Lieutenant Governor Barnett Gibbs. The community changed its name again in 1890 - this time to "Coppell", in honor of George Coppell, the engineer credited with bringing the railroad to the community.

1920

Transportation has played a key role in the history of the City. The Cotton Belt Railroad (part of the St. Louis and Southwestern Texas Railroad) established the "Gibbs Station" in the community in 1889, providing needed transportation for the area's many farms. The railroad was the major form of transportation into the community until the 1920's, when paved roads and automobiles became more prevalent in the area. It was not until the 1960's that the then-new Interstate Highway system extended regional access near, but not through Coppell.

So as you stroll through the forest, duck under a branch and walk on the mulch path take a look around. Much of the nature you see is as just has always been.



Coppell City hall, circa early 1980's



COPPELL HISTORY

Five Ponds

Active Still Waters



The East pond is approximately 5 acres in size with a water depth of nearly 50 feet.

Ponds at Andrew Brown Park

The ponds at Andrew Brown Jr. park were created when construction took place in 1981. All four were dug-out pits prior to filling. The dirt removed was used to raise and create much of the surrounding land.

Anglers will enjoy abundant large fish which are annually replenished as a result of a program carried out in cooperation with Texas Parks and Wildlife.



Lake or Pond?

The main difference between a lake and a pond is the size. A lake is usually defined as a body of water large enough to have at least one wind-swept beach. Ponds usually are not large enough for winds to blow across the water and create waves to wash away the plants that may be trying to take root. There are two types of ponds, permanent and temporary. Permanent ponds exist year-round. The water features here at Andrew Brown Jr. Park are permanent ponds. Although, the east pond does have a small dirt beach and has occasional small waves, it is a pond.



The ponds provide a home to many animals



A small beach is located on the west shore.

Ponds often support a large variety of animal and plant life. Wind and streams can carry in eggs, seeds, and organisms that develop into various life forms. Pond animals include birds, crayfish, fish, frogs, insects, and turtles. Microscopic organisms also thrive in most ponds



POND NATURAL AREA

Something for Everyone

Outdoor Fun, Games and Enjoyment



Large open areas for kite flying

Andrew Brown Jr. Park has something for everyone: athletic fields for baseball, basketball, soccer, trails for jogging, skating, and biking, shuffle board, sand volleyball, open areas for dogs and kites frisbee golf, fishing, duck feeding and much more.

Organized Sports

Coppell supports several sports associations including: baseball, softball, lacrosse, youth football, volleyball and basketball by facilitating supervised, competitive games divided by age groups and set into divisions.



Frisbee-golf course



Kid Country is especially for children

Trails

On any given day, the seven mile Coppell Trail System is brimming with activity. Wide concrete paths allow for joggers, bikers, and walkers.



Loop trails allow for cycling.



Five ponds for fishing

Kids and Family

The City of Coppell Parks and Recreation Department offers seven annual special events to the community. These events are fun for the whole family.

There is one covered pavilion available for reservation at Andrew Brown Jr. Community Park East, (home of Kid Country playground). This pavillion can accommodate up to 60 people and is supported with washrooms and drink fountains.



Paved trails for skating.



Basketball and shuffleboard

