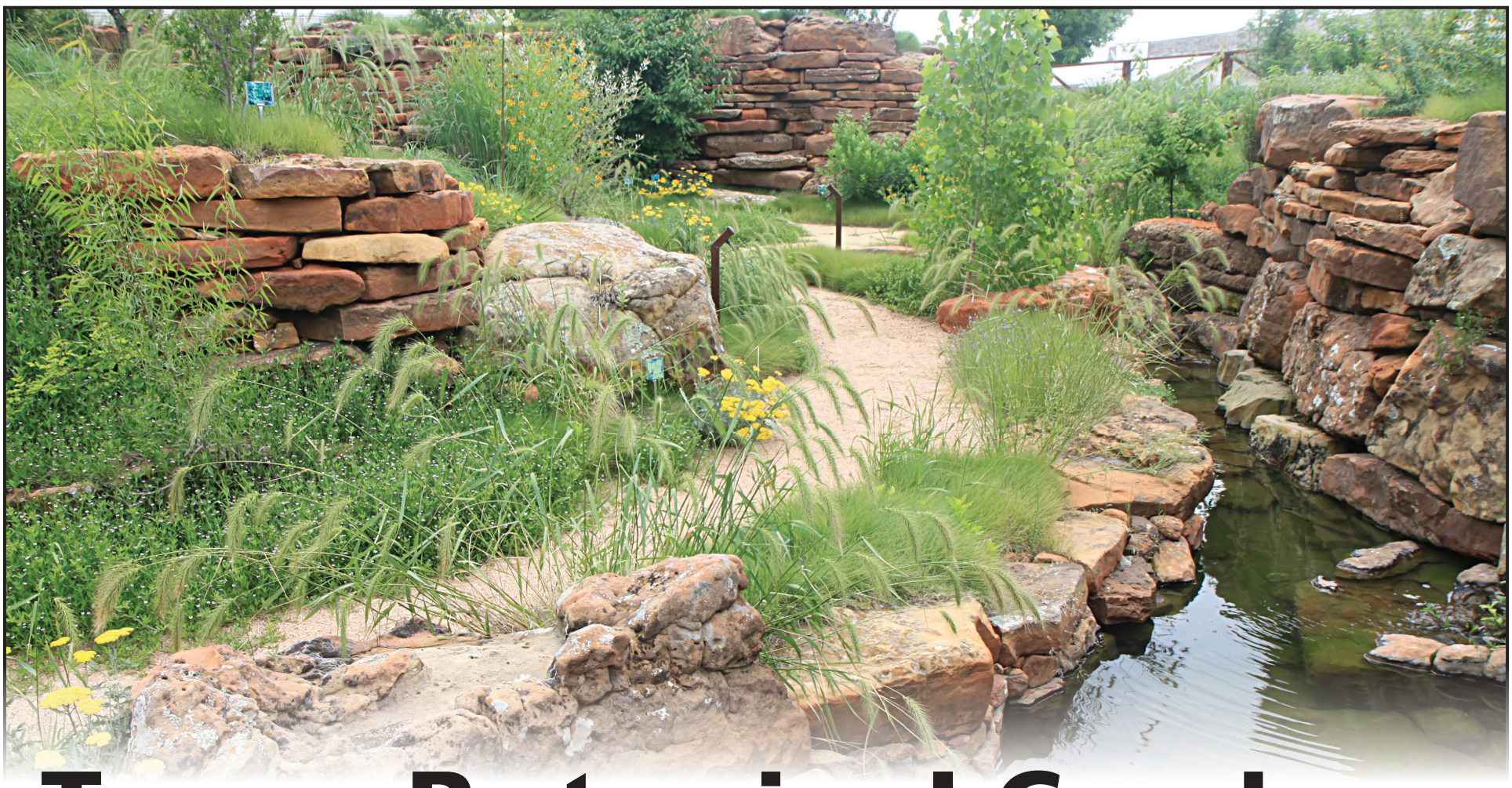

Texas Botanical Gardens

Located in the LEGACY PLAZA

Gaining Acclaim as a Cultural & Educational Center

Legacy Plaza is a cultural and educational center located on Fisher Street in the heart of Goldthwaite that honors and celebrates early Native American history and life while highlighting their dependence on the region's native plants and waterways.

The mission of Legacy Plaza is to provide a dynamic, interactive, life-long learning experience while identifying and preserving the prehistoric and environmental aspects of this rural region of Texas.

Legacy Plaza, consisting of the J. Waddy Bullion Gardens and The Goldthwaite Welcome Center and Pavilion is located on one downtown Goldthwaite city block. The Native American Interpretive Center will follow in coming years.

A fundraising campaign is in progress to develop the Botanical Gardens, open air Pavilion and museum in three phases. The Grand Opening of the Gardens was Saturday, October 11th, 2014. Former First Lady and Texan by Nature Founder Laura W. Bush cut the ribbon to open the Gardens.

Author Fred Afflerbach wrote about the gardens in the April 2015 edition of Tex Appeal Magazine:

"Before barbed wire, railroads and highways carved up Central Texas, prior to the overgrazing practices that diminished native plants and opened the path for invasive species to proliferate, back when native grasses blanketed the hills and valleys — an indigenous people thrived by living lightly on the land.

"A living model of this pristine landscape has sprouted from the imagination and 10 years' hard work of a small Central Texas community. The Texas Botanical Gardens in downtown Goldthwaite, a community of 1,900 in Mills County, celebrates the natural world and the history and culture of the hunter-gatherers who once roamed the banks of the Colorado River thousands of years ago.

"The gardens are just the first phase of a complex called Legacy Plaza, which covers an entire city block. Legacy Plaza is the brainchild of retired elementary and special education teacher Jan Fischer. Back in 2004, engineers said it was impossible to restore the abandoned, 100-year-old Saylor Hotel, so she called in a wrecking crew and had the concrete building hauled away in pieces. Fischer then assembled a board of directors and, working with volunteers and city, county and state agencies, led the community in transforming a forlorn, downtown city block into a destination that already draws visitors from across the state. Like taking an overgrazed pasture and bringing it back to life, an eyesore slowly grew into a garden spot the community now shares with great pride."

Please join us for our 12th Annual Prairie Experience, October 2, 2021.