

DAVID TODD
BLUNN CREEK PARTNERSHIP
1304 MARIPOSA DRIVE, #211
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78704-4404
512-416-0400

25 April 2019

To the SRCC Executive Committee,

On April 18, 2018, the Blunn Creek Partnership submitted a proposal to the SRCC for a \$2500 grant to support restoring native groundcover to Blunn Creek Nature Preserve. Please see a copy of the proposal below.

Over the years, the Preserve has lost most of its groundcover due to overgrazing while the Preserve was a dairy farm, and more recently, due to the spread of invasive canopy trees, such as ligustrum, chinaberry, and paper mulberry, all of which had shaded out the native ground vegetation.

With the loss of the groundcover, the Preserve has been subject to rapid storm runoff, erosion, loss of its topsoil, and consequent sediment pollution of Blunn Creek. In addition, without groundcover, the Preserve had lost many species of wildlife that had relied on the seeds, pollen, nesting material and predator cover that the grasses and forbs and sedges had originally provided.

In June 2018, the SRCC approved the proposal and released a grant to purchase Blackland prairie seed (\$250) and containerized grass seedlings (\$2250) to place in Blunn Creek Nature Preserve.

We would now like to report on the completion of the project and the related use of the money. Please see the financial records below.

For \$2241, we hired Far South Wholesale Nursery to propagate a variety of native prairie grasses, in a mix determined by Rene Barrera, the long-time Preserve manager at Austin Parks and Recreation. The mix included little bluestem, indiagrass, inland sea oats, Virginia wild rye, big bluestem, buffalo grass, and Eastern gamagrass.

This is a typical assortment of plants that would be seen in the local Blackland prairie ecosystem of which Blunn Preserve is a part. The group includes both full-sun plants such as the bluestems, buffalo grass and Eastern gamagrass, as well as shade-tolerant plants such as Virginia wild rye and inland sea oats. We also have a nice mix of both turf-type grasses, such as buffalo grass and inland sea oats, as well as grasses that grow more in bunches, like the bluestems and gamagrasses. The proportions of the plants reflect the typical species weighting of Blackland prairies, with little bluestem and indiagrass dominating (29% and 21%, respectively).

The plants were grown from seed and transferred to us as 1494 4" containerized plants. We find that this 4" size is a good balance of cost and viability: smaller plants tend to dry out when transplanted into the field, while larger plants can be quite costly. After purchase, the plants were installed during the

spring of 2019 in western portions of the Preserve by volunteers and Parks and Recreation rangers. Please see the invoice records below for more detail.

With the generous SRCC grant, we also purchased eight pounds of a mix of grass and wildflower (forb) seed, typical of the local Blackland prairie ecosystem, for \$252. Native American Seed, based in Junction, but using local genotypes, provided the mix. The seed includes grasses such as broomsedge bluestem, buffalograss, Eastern gamagrass, little bluestem, lovegrass, sideoats grama, switchgrass, and Virginia wildrye, and forbs, such as American basketflower, cutleaf daisy, lemon mint, Maximilian sunflower, milkweed, plains coreopsis, Texas yellow star, plus a number of kinds of butterfly-friendly milkweed. With volunteer help, we mixed the seed with sand, spread it in areas that had been raked, and then covered the seed with a light layer of mulch, and last compressed it all. We should see germination by this fall, and good stands within one to two years.

Please note that the full invoice from Native American Seed was for \$360.33. We bought an extra 2 pounds beyond the 8 pounds covered by the grant. This allowed us to qualify for a price break at 10 pounds, and also get extra seed for sowing more area. The extra cost, above the \$252 budgeted for the SRCC grant, is covered by money in the SRCC Blunn account from other sources.

Over the years, we have found that this hybrid approach is a good way to get the native groundcover reestablished. We get the economy and broad coverage of seed, and the quick start of containerized seedlings. We see the wide variety of grasses and forbs found in the seed mix, and the representation of the dominant big grasses in the containerized plants. We've also found that planting the seed is fun and easy for young kids, while digging holes and installing the containerized plants appeals more to grownups. In that way, we have a nice mix of tasks for volunteers who come to workdays at the Preserve.

We hope you can come visit the Preserve soon, and take a look at the results for yourself. Please tell me if you'd like me to show you around, or if you'd want to meet some of the others who have been involved from the City or the many volunteers.

Thanks very much for your support.

With all best regards,



David Todd

Blunn Creek Partnership

Subject: SRCC grant proposal
From: David Todd <dtodd@wt.org>
Date: 4/18/2018, 10:39 AM
To: Sam Martin <financecommittee@srccatx.org>

To the SRCC Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Blunn Creek Partnership, I would like to ask for a \$2500 grant from the South River City Citizens Neighborhood Association.

The money would go towards native plantings, as part of the ecological restoration of the Blunn Creek Nature Preserve.

A little history may help explain the current situation at the Preserve. While it was operated as a dairy, the Preserve suffered from overgrazing well into the 1950s, removing much of the native groundcover. After the farm was closed, and following its designation as protected land in 1982, invasive plant encroachment took advantage of the bare ground, and continued from the 1950s through the 2010s. By 2005, a Texas State University study indicated that 56% of the Preserve was covered by invasives. By the mid-2010s, portions of the Preserve had 85% coverage by invasive vegetation.

Over the past decade, Rene Barrera (a former SRCC president and the head of the Austin Preserve program) has led volunteers, with help from the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Urban Forestry Division, and the Austin Fire Department, to control and reduce the invasive plant problem. These plants have ranged from foot-tall seedlings to 40-foot tall trees, and have principally included varieties of privet such as wax leaf ligustrum, but have also comprised chinaberry, paper mulberry, Chinese tallow and nandina. At this point, we estimate that we have removed over 1 million invasive plants. During 2016 and 2017, 509,000 pounds of slash were removed from the Preserve and taken to Hornsby Bend for conversion to Dillo Dirt; additional slash was chipped on site to maintain trails. Please see the attached image showing some of the slash that has been removed.

This invasive control work has helped recover the native balance of the Preserve, as tracked by an iNaturalist botanical survey begun in 2017. It has also provided a great opportunity to engage volunteers, build community, and share environmental education lessons with the public. The volunteers have come from the SRCC neighborhood residents, from Travis High School, Travis Heights Elementary, Fulmore Middle School, St. Edward's University, as well as local employers, non-profits, schools, and individuals. Please see the attached photo of one group of recent volunteers. We estimate that volunteers such as these contributed 2434 hours during 2017 alone to the restoration work in the Preserve.

However, removal of the invasive trees and shrubs has exposed bare ground, risking soil erosion and re-sprouting of nonnatives from the soil's seed bed. So, with past financial and in-kind help from the SRCC (in both 2013 and 2014!), as well as from the Austin Parks Foundation, Keep Austin Beautiful, the Urban Forestry program, Tree Folks, and Austin Parks and Recreation, we have planted over 2000 canopy and understory trees (bald cypresses, post oaks, cedar elms, black willows, red buds, mountain laurels, American beautyberries, and others), over 5000 containerized grasses and sedges, and many pounds of prairie seed. The response has been quick and encouraging (please see the attached photo of one recently re-opened, blooming meadow).

To continue with this replanting, we would like to request \$2500 from the SRCC. We propose two purchases and followup volunteer planting, to occur within a year:

1) \$2250: Seed propagation by Far South Nursery, for grow-out as 1500 4" containerized prairie seedlings, including big bluestem, little bluestem, indiagrass, buffalo grass, Eastern gamagrass, inland sea oats, and Virginia wildrye. The first five species are good for sunny locations; the latter two are better for shadier spots.

2) \$250: Blackland prairie seed mix from Native American Seed, to include sufficient seed for an acre's planting. This seed mix allows us to introduce a number of less common wildflowers to add diversity and pollination resources. These species would include American basketflower, cutleaf daisy, lemon mint, Maximilian sunflower, milkweed, plains coreopsis, Texas yellow star, and a number of kinds of butterfly-friendly milkweed.

Please know that we are also seeking support for the Preserve's restoration from the Austin Community Foundation, Austin Parks Foundation, and the Powell Foundation.

Thanks very much for considering this request. Please tell me if you have any questions.

All best,

David

P.S. - There is more information about the Blunn Preserve work on our website, www.blunncreekpartnership.org, and our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/BlunnCreekPartnership/>

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David Todd
1304 Mariposa Drive, #211
Austin, Texas 78704
512-416-0400

— Attachments: —

Blunn_BloomingMeadow_29April2017.jpeg	3.3 MB
Blunn_SlashPile_17Dec2016.JPG	1.2 MB
Blunn_Volunteers_7October2017.jpeg	3.3 MB

Blunn Creek Partnership						
SRCC 2018 Grant						
Plantings						
BUDGET						
VENDOR	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	DETAILS 1	DETAILS 2	COST	TOTAL
Far South Wholesale Nursery	Containerized plants	Propagation of 4" containerized native prairie bunch grasses	432	Little bluestem	\$ 648.00	
Far South Wholesale Nursery	Containerized plants	Propagation of 4" containerized native prairie bunch grasses	306	Indiangrass	\$ 459.00	
Far South Wholesale Nursery	Containerized plants	Propagation of 4" containerized native prairie bunch grasses	216	Inland sea oats	\$ 324.00	
Far South Wholesale Nursery	Containerized plants	Propagation of 4" containerized native prairie bunch grasses	216	Virginia wildrye	\$ 324.00	
Far South Wholesale Nursery	Containerized plants	Propagation of 4" containerized native prairie bunch grasses	144	Big Bluestem	\$ 216.00	
Far South Wholesale Nursery	Containerized plants	Propagation of 4" containerized native prairie bunch grasses	90	Buffalo grass	\$ 135.00	
Far South Wholesale Nursery	Containerized plants	Propagation of 4" containerized native prairie bunch grasses	90	Eastern gamagrass	\$ 135.00	
						\$ 2,241.00
Native American Seed	Seed	Blackland Prairie Seed mix, including grasses, such as broomsedge bluestem, buffalograss, Eastern gamagrass, little bluestem, lovegrass, sideoats grama, switchgrass, and Virginia wildfye, and forbs, such as American basketflower, cutleaf daisy, lemon mint, Maximilian sunflower, milkweed, plains coreopsis, Texas yellow star, plus a number of kinds of butterfly-friendly milkweed.	8 pounds	\$29/pound	\$ 232.00	
Native American Seed	Shipping				\$ 20.00	
						\$ 252.00
TOTAL					\$ 2,493.00	\$ 2,493.00
ACTUAL						
Far South Wholesale Nursery	Deposit	This is a 20% deposit to hold the order, pay for pots, soil mixes and seed, and to start the propagation work. The bill was invoiced on 10/8/2018, and a request for payment from the account with the Austin Parks Foundation was submitted on 10/8/2018 to pay Far South Wholesale Nursery directly.	Invoice 23269	See PDF	\$ 448.00	\$ (448.00)
Far South Wholesale Nursery	Remainder	This payment covers the remaining 80% cost of the full order for materials, seed, irrigation, fertilizing and other propagation work. We were invoiced on 4/1/2019, and a request for payment from Austin Parks Foundation was filed on 4/5/2019 to pay Far South Wholesale Nursery directly.	Invoice 23269	See PDF	\$ 1,793.00	\$ (1,793.00)
Native American Seed	Partial reimbursement	The bill was Blackland Prairie seed mix was \$360.33, covering 10 pounds and delivery. We had budgeted for 8 pounds, but the price on the seed had increased to \$35/pound. So we ordered 10 pounds, to take advantage of a per-pound price break, and get more seeding done this spring before invasives get too much of the ground covered. However, the SRCC's 2018 grant covered just \$252.00 of the \$360.33 in full cost. The remaining \$108.33 will be covered by general funds in the SRCC Blunn account. David Todd paid the original bill, so the SRCC Blunn account will repay him.	Invoice 87338-1	See PDF	\$ 252.00	\$ (252.00)
TOTAL					\$ 2,493.00	\$ -



Far South Wholesale Nursery
Physical: 1133 Penion Dr. Austin, Texas 78748
Mailing: 911 Penion Dr. Austin, Texas 78748
(512)291-4648 office (512)291-4855 fax
farsouth@farsouthnursery.com

October 8, 2018

CONTRACT GROW AGREEMENT

Far South Wholesale Nursery (Far South) will grow/hold the plant material as shown on Invoice 23269 for the Austin Parks Foundation (APF) per the terms outlined below:

Material will be grown/held upon the receipt of a 20% deposit of \$448.00 (see Invoice 23269).

APF remains financially responsible for any material grown/held under contract whose order changes or is canceled.

Delivery fee is not included on the invoice. Material is currently scheduled for pick up.

Each sale is complete and binding between APF and Far South upon the receipt of material. Payment by check is requested at the time material is received. There is a convenience fee of 3% if paid by credit card. (Visa/MasterCard/American Express accepted).

All claims for errors must be reported upon receipt and confirmed by written memorandum within 24 hours.

A \$35.00 service charge will be imposed for all returned checks.

Customers whose orders are rescheduled/canceled after material has been pulled will be assessed a 20% restocking fee.

Agreed upon this day October 8, 2018

by David Todd position

David Todd

Coordinator,
Blunn Creek Partnership,
acting under the 501(c)(3)
status of the Austin
Parks Foundation

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View Pdf

Far South Wholesale Nursery

Mailing Address: 911 Penion Drive Austin, TX 78748
Physical Address: 1141 Penion Drive, Austin, Texas 78748
Bus: (512) 291-4648 Fax: (512) 291-4855
farsouth@farsouthnursery.com

Date: **Oct 25, 2018**

Invoice: **23269**

City of Austin *no cc fee
Pickup

Terms: Check **P.O./Note:** Austin Parks Foundation/Austin Nature Preserves System.

Quan	Item	Price	Total
432	Bluestem, Little - 4	1.50	648.00
306	Indian Grass - 4	1.50	459.00
216	Inland Sea Oats - 4"	1.50	324.00
216	Wildrye, Virginia - 4	1.50	324.00
144	Bluestem, Big - 4	1.50	216.00
90	Buffalo Grass - 4	1.50	135.00
90	Eastern Gamagrass - 4	1.50	135.00
Subtotal			2,241.00
TOTAL DUE			2,241.00



Far South Wholesale Nursery
911 Penion Dr. (Mailing)
Austin, TX 78748
(512)291-4648
crystal@farsouthnursery.com
www.farsouthnursery.com

Invoice

BILL TO
City of Austin

INVOICE # 23269
DATE 04/01/2019
DUE DATE 04/02/2019
TERMS Due on receipt

P.O. NUMBER
Austin Nature Preserves System

ACTIVITY	AMOUNT
Plants	2,241.00
Misc. Perennials, Shrubs, Trees	
<hr/>	
PAYMENT	2,241.00
BALANCE DUE	\$0.00

PAID



...helping people restore the earth

www.seedsource.com

P.O. Box 285 | Ph 800.728.4043
Junction, TX 76849 | Fx 800.728.3943



INVOICE

Thank you for your order !

Invoice Date: **April 01, 2019** Invoice No: **87338-1**
Customer No: **11719**
Customer Phone: **(512) 442-3130** Salesperson: **ZW**

Sold To:
CITY OF AUSTIN
DAVID TODD
709 E MONROE ST
AUSTIN, TX 78704-3131

Ship To:
DAVID TODD
1304 MARIPOSA DR APT 211
AUSTIN, TX 78704-4404

Ordered	Sent	B/O	Lot	Description	Unit Price	Totals
10.0	10.0	0.0	2800 01031319	BLACKLAND PRAIRIE MIX BULK LBS	\$34.50	\$345.00

Shipped: April 2, 2019

UPS Ground

Tracking info: **1Z3624W90357519495**

The Visa card in the name of
South West Texas Cattle
Company, and ending in 7967
has been charged \$ 360.33 .
Approval #: 00269D

Item Totals	\$345.00
Shipping/Handling	\$15.33
Invoice Total	\$360.33
Payments Applied	\$360.33
Invoice Balance	\$0.00

Paid in Full



Acceptance of these seeds is an agreement they will not be used for breeding purposes with commercial seed increase, selected plant release or patent outcome.