



Life's better outside.®

21 April 2023

City of Richardson  
411 W Arapaho Road  
Richardson, TX 75080

To Whomever It May Concern,

My name is Sam Kieschnick, and I am an urban wildlife biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife. I work with public and private land managers on ways to maintain or create wildlife habitat and how to engage naturalist communities. With this in mind, I would like to talk about the incredible gem of the Canyon Creek Wetland and Wildscape in Richardson.

I have been fortunate to come and explore the landscape a few times both by myself and with others. As Dallas/Fort Worth continues to grow in population, these wild areas become more and more valuable, not just for the surrounding property values but also as a draw for the naturalist and nature enthusiast. Spots like this maintain a natural history that gets continually paved over in the metroplex, so these sorts of open areas provide a refuge for urban wildlife like birds, pollinators, wildflowers, and countless other species.

As a matter of fact, citizen scientists and master naturalists have been observing some of the species on the Canyon Creek Wetland and have documented over 370 species! This includes 108 species of birds. Let me honestly say that this is a tremendous amount of biodiversity! I foresee this number to grow and grow as more nature enthusiasts get to engage with nature at this location in Richardson. There are thousands of ecological interactions that thrive in this area, and as a biologist, I'm excited that places like this still exist.

I frequently work with the other nature preserves in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, and I regularly see the pride that the community and visitors place on these spots. The community becomes a steward for the natural area, and people from all around can escape the bustling urban sounds to relax with the sounds, sights, smells, and feels of nature.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at [sam.kieschnick@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:sam.kieschnick@tpwd.texas.gov).

Thank you.

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