



Cedar Hill State Park

TEXAS BLACKLAND PRAIRIE



Cedar Hill State Park preserves one of the largest remaining remnants of Texas Blackland Prairie.



TEXAS BLACKLAND PRAIRIE

The Texas Blackland Prairie once covered 12 million acres of Texas. Now fewer than 5,000 acres remain.

Two-thirds of the living tissue of the prairie is below the ground. These deep root systems allow the prairie grasses to survive freezing, fire and drought.

Although there are over 250 different grasses and forbs in this tallgrass prairie, the signature grasses are big bluestem, little bluestem, Indiangrass and switchgrass.

The bluestems are named for the bluish color of their stems caused by a waxy layer that prevents water loss. As the waxy layer wears away, the stem becomes more reddish brown.

Pioneers called big bluestem "turkeyfoot" because the seedhead looked like wild turkey tracks.