



City of Garden Ridge

"A way of life, not just a place to live"

MINUTES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2018, 6:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Cynthia Shanahan-Segovia
Vice-Chair David Krawczynski
Commissioner Troy Bippert
Commissioner Dawn Hatch
Commissioner Jeremiah McKinney
Commissioner Ken Kneupper
Commissioner Paul Sullivan
Councilmember Robb Erickson (Ex-officio)

Commissioners Absent:

None

City Staff Present:

Nancy Cain, City Administrator
Marisa Spencer, Interim City Secretary

Other Appointed or Elected Officials in Attendance:

Mayor Pro-Tem John McCaw

1. Call to Order

With a quorum of the Wildlife Management Advisory Commission members present, the regular meeting of the Garden Ridge Wildlife Management Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Segovia at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 19, 2018, in the City Council Chambers of the Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas 78266.

2. Roll Call

See above

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Segovia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Chair Statement

Chair Segovia thanked the citizens for attending the meetings and expressing their concerns, adding that everyone in Garden Ridge deeply cares about the wildlife. She briefly reviewed previous actions approved by City Council and the three (3) different permit types currently available through Texas Parks and Wildlife. Chair Segovia reiterated that Texas Parks and Wildlife currently does not endorse sterilization at this time. Chair Segovia concluded by stating the Commission provided City Council with a company to be used for trapping services that is currently being looked into by the City.

5. Citizen Comment Period – limited to 30 minutes total

Tony Frasco, 8802 Wild Wind Park, spoke regarding deer management and the tension the topic has caused, the Humane Society, and the Commission's deer counts.

Martha Stipp, 21007 Cedar Branch, spoke regarding procedures for conducting deer counts, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's website, and the Humane Society of the United States.

Randy Tomasini, Hollywood Park, spoke regarding working for the City as a private contractor and expressed disappointment in what residents of Garden Ridge have previously said about him and his company.

6. Business Items

The Commission may discuss, consider and/or take possible action on the following items:

a) Education/Training Session – Wildlife in Garden Ridge by Commissioner McKinney (limited to 20 minutes total).

Commissioner McKinney went over the presentation "Garden Ridge Texas Wildlife & Habitat Conservation" (see attached).

b) TTT Opportunities (Segovia).

Chair Segovia stated she was contacted by a citizen that offered her land to be used for translocating deer. She further stated she will be speaking to Mr. Hensley to see what needs to be done to allow her land to be used. Commissioner Hatch requested to find out if the Commission will know in advance where the deer will be transported to.

c) Commission Question and Answer Session with Craig Hensley, Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologist for Comal and Kendall Counties, to discuss wildlife management in Garden Ridge.

Chair Segovia thanked Mr. Hensley for taking the time to address questions and concerns from the Commission. Mr. Hensley explained the protocols of conducting deer count surveys and the formula for calculating the overall deer population, adding this formula generates an estimate since there is no way to come up with an exact number. Mr. Hensley stated he was comfortable with the accuracy of the estimate provided. Mr. Hensley offered to work with the Commission to set up dates between August 1 and September 30 to conduct the deer counts. Mr. Hensley discussed the benefits of wildlife management and the potential negative effects of not managing wildlife. The Commission discussed the permit application process as well as the transporting process.

d) Approvals/Recommendations

i. Minutes for October 17, 2018, Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Regular Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Bippert, seconded by Commissioner Kneupper, to approve the minutes for October 17, 2018, Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Regular Meeting. The Commission voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

e) Discussions/Reports

i. Review and discuss wildlife and wildlife incidents within the City of Garden Ridge.

1. Police

The Commission reviewed the wildlife report from the Police Department. Commissioner Hatch requested more information regarding the sick fox referred to in the Police Department report.

2. Animal Control

The Commission reviewed the wildlife report from Animal Services. The Commission asked what kind of predators were referred to in the wildlife report. Marisa Spencer, Interim City Secretary, stated that Steven Steinmetz, Public Works Director, reported these predators most likely consisted of bobcats and coyotes.

ii. Wildlife Management Plan.

1. Deer Survey/Counts.

a. Update on Texas Parks and Wildlife deer count calculations.

Chair Segovia stated the Commission covered this topic earlier in the meeting and asked if any Commissioners had any further information to add. Commissioner Hatch suggested proactively communicating and providing more information in the future.

b. Discussion on frequency of mailout surveys (Kneupper).

Commissioner Kneupper stated since the whole process of conducting mailout surveys is costly, the Commission should consider only doing one every five years. He added that five years should be the minimum amount of time.

2. Discussion of Texas Parks and Wildlife permits.

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, stated that no permits have been filed. Vice-Chair Krawczynski stated that a Wildlife Plan must be constructed first. The Commission discussed the current management plan and constructing a comprehensive plan for wildlife management that includes all wildlife in Garden Ridge.

3. Feral cat issues within the City (Sullivan).

Commissioner Sullivan stated due to conflicting schedules he has not been able to speak with Eric Lowman, Animal Services. Vice-Chair Krawczynski clarified that by City Ordinance once you take custody of a feral cat, or any animal, you cannot release it.

4. Status update on selection of company for trapping and/or transporting of deer in accordance with TTP and TTT permits.

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, stated she is awaiting the proposed contract from RMH Exotics.

f) Updates/Recommendations

i. Commissioner's Projects

1. Update on research performed on non-drug birth control studies (Segovia).

Chair Segovia stated after speaking with Mr. Hensley, it was confirmed that this topic would be a long-term process. Mr. Hensley stated that there are two primary drugs for birth control that have been registered by EPA on a National level; however, Texas is not currently registered for either one. Mr. Hensley added that it is possible that one of those two primary drugs for birth control could be allowed in a research setting only; however, this tends to be costly.

2. Streater Reflective System for deer/vehicle collision reduction, cost and permission from Texas Department of Transportation, State of Texas, and Comal County (Hatch).

Commissioner Hatch stated TxDOT has approved the use of Streater Light Reflectors; however, TxDOT has not currently ordered any. She suggested that it would be a good idea if our area would install the lights and provide the data obtained.

3. Research on processing facilities and recipient wildlife charities for consumption of processed deer meat (Hatch).

Commissioner Hatch stated this is on hold right now.

4. Research on processing facilities and recipient of human charities for consumption of processed deer meat (Segovia).

Chair Segovia stated she does not have any further information on this at the time.

5. The Humane Society of the United States management plan (Hatch).

Commissioner Hatch stated she would like to hear the Commission's thoughts and opinions regarding this management plan. The Commission discussed the components within this particular management plan from the Humane Society. The Commission discussed the possibility of some measures in the document being used in Garden Ridge to avoid confrontation with deer since the provided plan is for conflict management. Chair Segovia suggested to use this as an education session and request a representative from the Humane Society to provide a presentation to the Commission in the future.

6. Health of wildlife in Garden Ridge.

Chair Segovia asked if any Commissioners had anything to add to Commissioner McKinney's presentation of the wildlife in Garden Ridge. The Commissioners did not have anything to add at this time.

7. Update on future education/training sessions and Grapevine articles.

Commissioner Bippert stated his education/training session will be on vehicle/deer collisions at the next Wildlife Management Advisory Commission regular meeting.

ii. City Council Update/Report

1. November 7, 2018, City Council Regular Meeting.

Chair Segovia stated the Commission presented RMH Exotics and Cherokee Capturing Services to City Council. She reported that City Council directed her to contact the references provided by RMH Exotics to obtain more information. She also reported that City Council directed Nancy Cain, City Administrator, to begin negotiating a contract with RMH Exotics and provide a proposed contract to City Council at the December 5 City Council regular meeting.

g) Future Agenda Items.

i. Commissioner input.

Commissioner Hatch requested permission to talk to other wildlife biologists and consultants. Vice-Chair Krawczynski and Commissioner Sullivan requested to add an agenda item to discuss Randy Tomasini's private contracting proposal.

ii. Announcement of next Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Regular Meeting (Monday, January 28, 2019, at 6 p.m. at City Hall).

Chair Segovia announced this date was a clerical error and the next Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, December 17, 2018. at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

7. Citizen Comment Period - limited to 20 minutes total

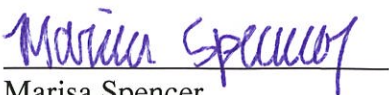
Betsy Eaton, 8228 Park Lane Drive, spoke regarding further education and the current deer population in Garden Ridge.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Monday, November 19, 2018, Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m. by Chair Segovia.


Cynthia Shanahan-Segovia, Chair

ATTEST:


Marisa Spencer
Interim City Secretary

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**SIGN IN TO SPEAK AT THE NOVEMBER 19, 2018
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD**

Rules for Citizens' Participation:

The City Council welcomes citizen participation and comments at all City Council Meetings. The City Council offers citizens the opportunity to address them by signing up to speak prior to the meeting. If you speak, you follow these guidelines:

- a) Respect and courtesy:
 - i. Direct your comments to the entire City Council, not to an individual member, nor to the audience.
 - ii. Show the City Council the same respect that you would like to be shown.
 - iii. End your speaking at the time allotted below.
- b) Speaking:
 - i. First citizen comment period
 - 1. You are required to sign up to speak.
 - 2. You are limited to one 3 minute period.
 - ii. Business item period
 - 1. You are required to sign up to speak.
 - 2. You are limited to one 3 minute period.
 - iii. Second citizen comment period
 - 1. You are not required to sign up.
 - 2. You are limited to one 2 minute period.
 - iv. State your name and address before your comments begin.
 - v. You are only allowed to speak once per topic, unless also speaking during a posted Public Hearing.

NOTE: The Texas Open Meetings Act permits a member of the public or a member of the governmental body to raise a subject that has not been included in the notice for the meeting. However, any discussion of the subject must be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a future meeting and any response to a question posed to the City Council is limited to either a statement of specific factual information or a recitation of existing policy. TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.042

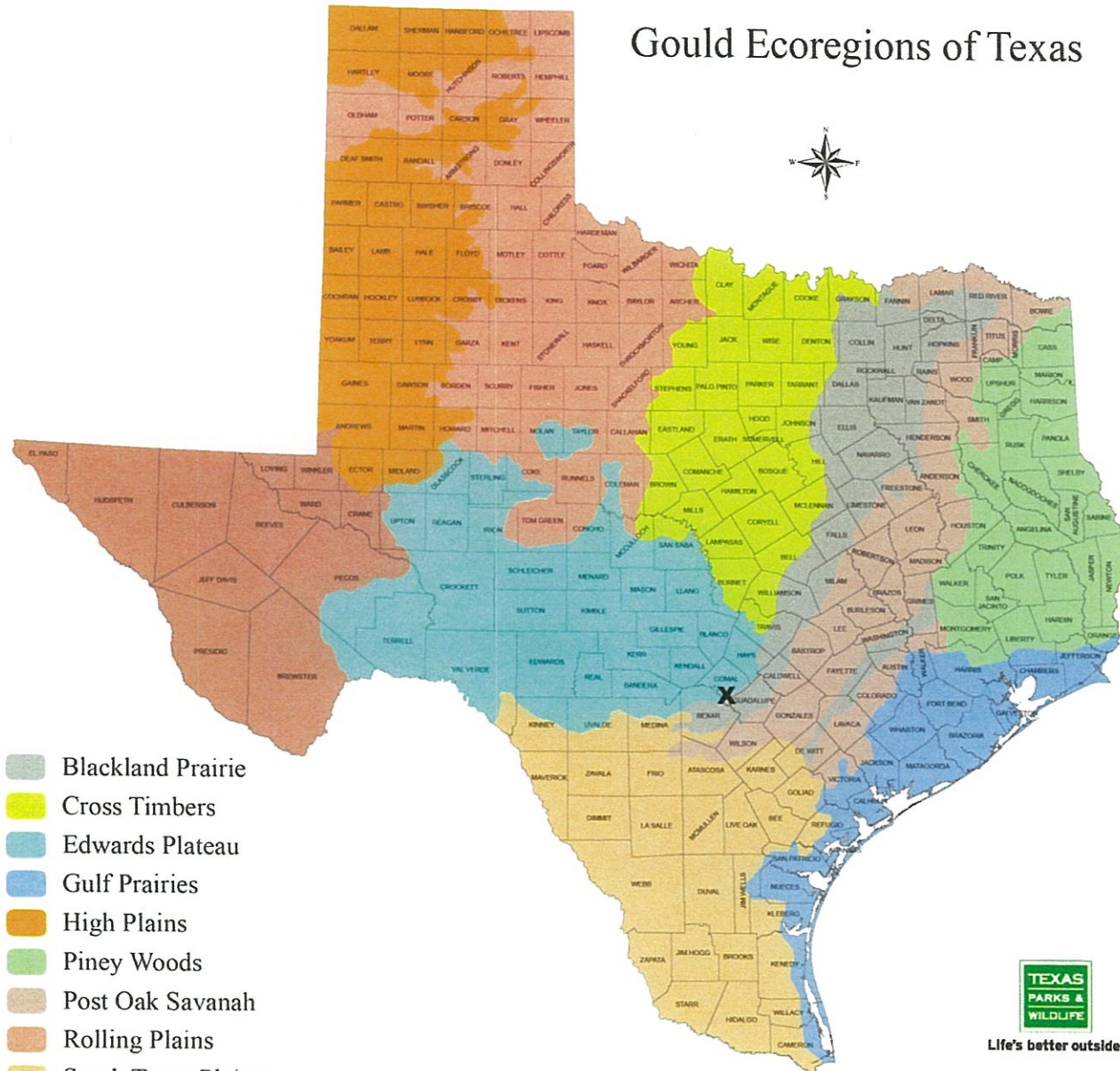
NAME	ADDRESS	SUBJECT
1. <u>Jane FRASCO</u>	<u>8802 WildWind PK</u>	<u>TRUTH</u>
2. <u>Martha Stipp</u>	<u>21007 Cedar Branch</u>	<u>deer counts</u>
3. <u>Bundy Tomasini</u>	<u>Town of Hollywood Park</u>	<u>Deer Management</u>
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
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10. _____	_____	_____

Garden Ridge Texas Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

Jeremiah McKinney, Nov 2018

SETTING

Gould Ecoregions of Texas

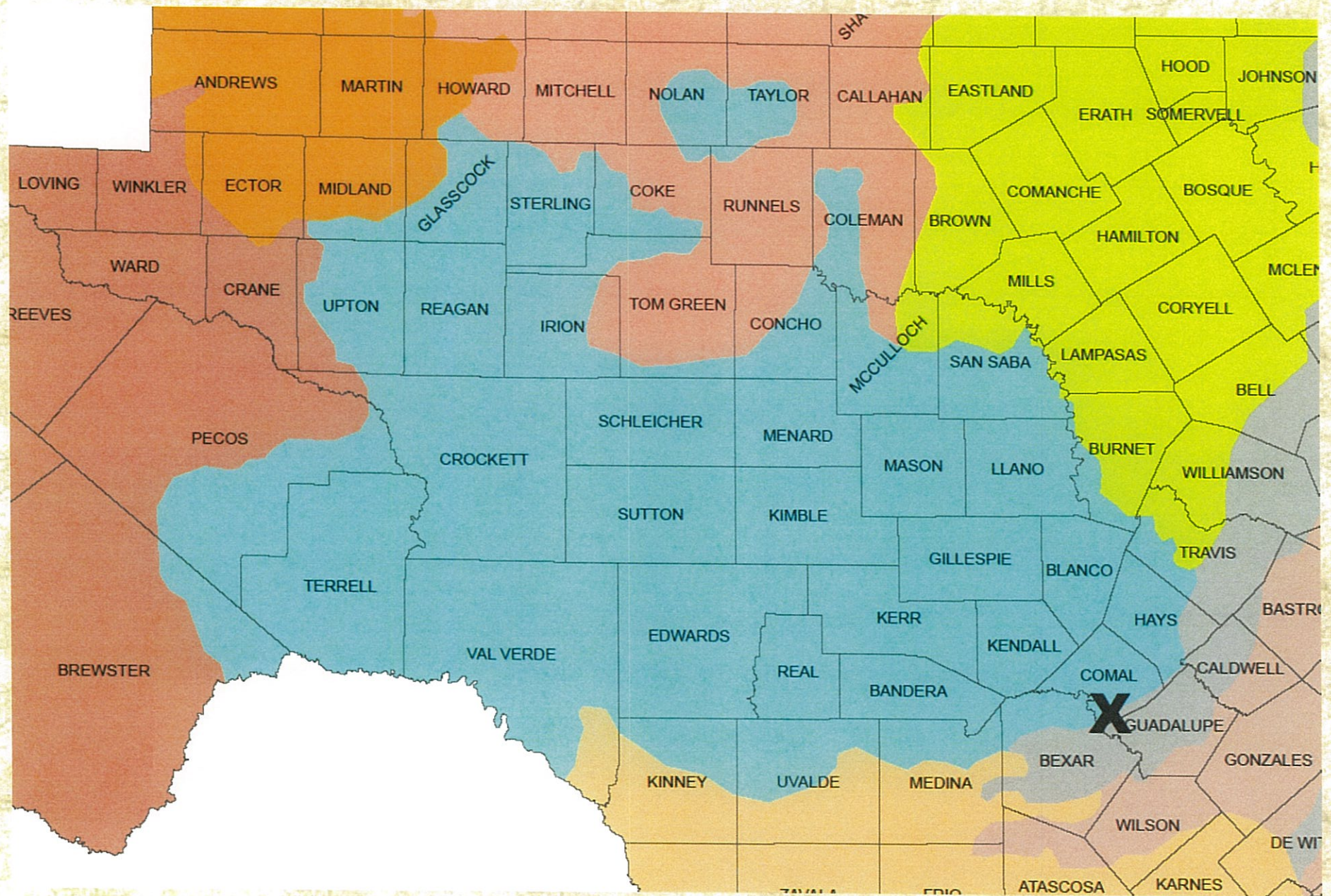


Source: Gould, F. W., Hoffman, G. O., and Reichenbush, C. A. 1960. Vegetational areas of Texas, Texas A & M University, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Leaflet No. 492 (here modified by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

17 January 2011

Prepared by: Texas Statewide Mapping System
Map compiled by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
CPL Lab. This chart is made to the accuracy of the data
as in the resolution of the data to a particular use.

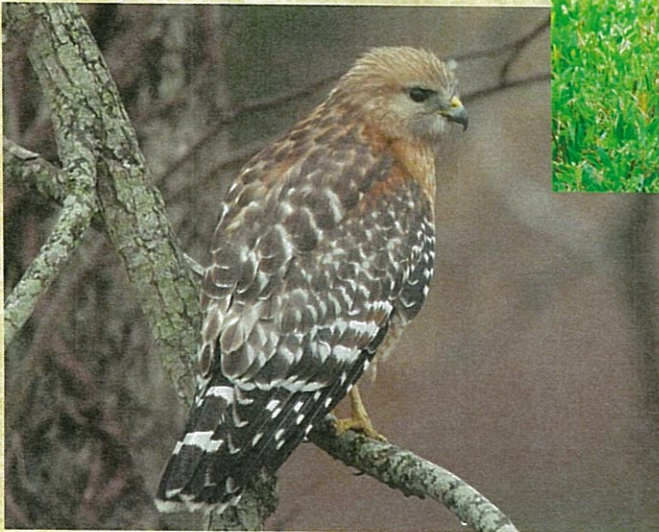
Edwards Plateau



Edwards Plateau



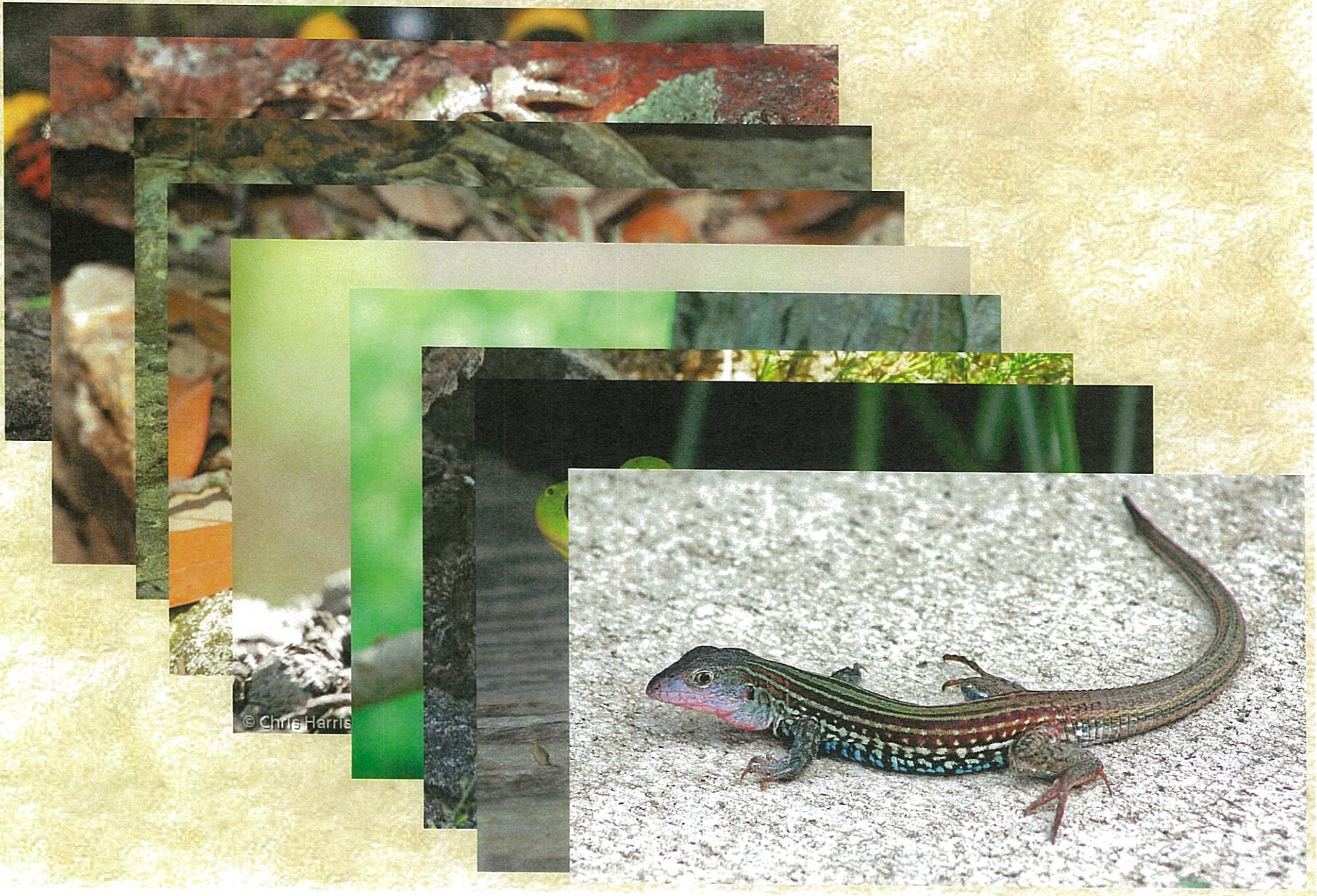
Garden Ridge Wildlife



Garden Ridge Wildlife: Mammals (non-migratory)



Garden Ridge Wildlife: Reptiles & Amphibians (non-migratory)



Garden Ridge Wildlife: Birds (migratory)



Garden Ridge: Habitat Management

- Practices land managers conduct to restore, enhance and maintain suitable c

What Can You Do?

Small Urban Tracts:

1. Select a variety of landscape plants to provide cover and potential food.
2. Provide watering areas
3. Provide man-made shelter such as bird houses & bat boxes
4. Supplemental feed (bird feeders)



Garden Ridge: Habitat Management

- Practices land managers conduct to restore, enhance and maintain suitable c

Large Tracts:

1. Replace non-native cover with natives such as native grasses
2. Clear brush to promote a herbaceous understory to establish
3. Mulch brush in understory to assist in the development of a suitable seedbed
4. Rotational mowing to provide winter cover and nesting cover in spring
5. Supplemental feed (bird feeders)
6. Use brush piles (temporary or permanent to create cover)
7. Prevent over grazing/browsing by livestock and deer to promote plant diversity
8. Narrow strip disking to promote forb development

Garden Ridge Wildlife & Habitat Management

QUESTIONS????