



BUFFALO WALLOWS
Grand Prairie Historic Marker No. 44
Freetown and Corn Valley

The only buffalo wallow known to exist in Grand Prairie and possibly in the Dallas Fort Worth area is at this site, the southwest corner of Freetown and Corn Valley Roads, now part of a protected preserve.

A buffalo wallow is started by buffalo pawing the dry dirt to break up the grass surface. The animals would then roll in the dirt to dust themselves for fly and mosquito control. Over time, the wallows became muddy, the mud acting as even more effective insect control. Today, wallows are seldom found due to farm land cultivation and urban development. The rare buffalo wallow with its large, rounded indentations is the only evidence left of a time when buffalo roamed our prairies freely.

When the railroad came to Grand Prairie around 1875, the area was still thick with buffalo. The Trinity River plains made an excellent home for buffalo. Sometime during the Civil War, due to hunting, farming and development, the buffalo disappeared from the area.

These wallows were discovered by Muriel Adair, whose grandfather, James Alfred Adair came to Texas in the 1880's on a Missouri wagon train, settling the land just north of the existing wallows. The land on which the wallows reside was originally 125 acres settled by generations of the Galloway family beginning in 1911. Most farmers would have tried to plow the wallows and planted crops. However, the different soil conditions found in wallows caused crops to develop poorly. The Galloway's never tilled the wallows on their property and a thicket grew up around the wallows, protecting them.

After the Galloway's left the farm, the land remained vacant. The Grand Prairie Housing Finance Corporation (HFC) bought the land in 2002, building the Mountain Creek Estate Retirement Living Center in 2003-04. At the request of local historian and City Council member Ruthe Jackson, the HFC left the wallows as open space in the design of the complex, preserving the land for all time.

In 2004, a partial prairie restoration project was sponsored by Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful. Volunteers from South Grand Prairie High School's JROTC unit worked every Saturday for four

months to clear the land of brush and dead or blighted trees. Today, the land is left in its unmowed native state, to preserve the integrity of the site's history. With donations provided by Truman Middle School's Junior Historian Club, the city's Parks Department made and installed the buffalo silhouettes that stand in the wallows.