



1770 Holford Rd, Garland, TX 75044 | 1787 Holford Rd, Garland, TX 75044
| 6006 N Shiloh Rd, Garland, TX 75044 | www.collectionsfromthefield.com
Facebook: Collections From The Field | Instagram: @collectionsfromthefield

June 14, 2020

Contact: Stephanie Hanson, Founder
Collections From The Field
collectionsfromthefield@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Collaboration Invites Community to Engage
with Nature through the Arts**

GARLAND, TEXAS – Collections From The Field is proud to announce a new place-based community project providing a space for creativity in nature and offering a virtual gallery to share art of various mediums created at or inspired by the Spring Creek Forest Preserve located in Garland, Texas.

The project is open to all ages and encourages creative interaction with nature, providing a space for artistic contemplation, idea sharing, and reflection on the natural beauty inspired by the Preserve. The project experience will add another layer to the landscape of the Preserve, a hidden gem of diversity and greenery amidst the urban sprawl of North Texas.

Initiated by Stephanie Hanson, a Garland resident and college senior, Collections From The Field provides the opportunity to find new ways to look at the world, and in doing so, challenges the idea that facts and numbers must be used to create environmental change. Hanson says, “this project hopes to offer the idea that sometimes building a relationship with the landscape through art is a first step towards creating an ethic of care that will help us tackle the environmental issues we face today.”

Centered around community and connection, the project’s work at the intersection of art and ecology acts as a gateway to fostering deeper connections to the land, building community through the sharing of creativity, and recording ecological and anthropological changes at the Preserve.

This project has come together with the help of Dr. Tiffany Lipsett, a leader in the field of education and the sciences with particular interests in the overlap of nature and art, the Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest, and the City of Garland. Lipsett says, “Stephanie at the heart and helm of this project brings such authenticity, as she has grown up surrounded by the seasons of the Preserve. She understands and visualizes the beauty of art within nature specific to this area. She also has a vested interest in protecting this hidden gem, and what better way to do that than by the beauty and visual experience of one’s own creativity.” The Preserve offers

a perfect space for artistic reflection and connection to the land, which, in this time of pandemic and rapidly changing environmental issues, is especially important.

Here is how you can participate-

Come visit Spring Creek Forest Preserve! Walk the trails with your families, explore the prairies with your friends, or find solitude listening to the wind in the forest and you will find an urban sanctuary for plants, animals, and humans alike. Find something that inspires you! Art created in or about the Preserve can be submitted by posting photographic or written documentation of your creativity on social media and tagging the project using the hashtag #collectionsfromthefield. Photos curated from submissions will be hosted on our website in a virtual gallery space. If you would prefer, you can submit through email via collectionsfromthefield@gmail.com

The work of preserving this natural landscape is an ongoing effort led by the Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest and supported by the City of Garland, who owns the site. Please follow all CDC recommendations and guidelines, as well as City of Garland regulations regarding visiting city parks and protected lands. For more information about the project, check out our website (collectionsfromthefield.com) and follow @CollectionsFromTheField on social media to see featured submissions and to stay up to date with project developments!

Collections From The Field is a place-based, community generated project working at the intersection of art and nature.

Stephanie Hanson is a senior in the Honors College at Stetson University majoring in Environmental Studies and minoring in Biology and Creative Writing. She uses art as a medium for environmental change, inspiring a deeper connection to, and respect for, the Earth and she is a recipient of the 2020 Udall Scholarship for her work in environmental studies. As President of the Stetson Environmental Club, she initiated a series of creative, on-campus events to foster connections between undergraduate students and the environment. Collections From The Field is a continuation of this dialog about art in nature that began at Stetson and is funded in part by a stipend from the Stetson Honors College.

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See attached in email.