

Thank you to everyone who submitted comments and took action to save the preserve!

# EAST TEXANS SUCCEED IN PROTECTING NATURE PRESERVE

Grass roots citizens group, Preserve Mineola, was notified this evening that Representative Cole Hefner and Senator Bryan Hughes made the following announcement regarding the proposed concrete plant near the Mineola Nature Preserve:

*"Each of us has spoken with owners of Bell Concrete and let them know about the community's concerns with the location of the proposed concrete plant. As soon as the company owners learned about the objections, they immediately volunteered to withdraw the permit application and to begin looking for a better location for the plant.*

*"Starting this process over will cost Bell Concrete additional money, but they are willing to do this in response to the residents' concerns. The owners of Bell Concrete have a long history as great neighbors and corporate citizens, and we look forward to working alongside them as they expand operations to the Mineola area.*

*"We are also indebted to Alderman Greg Hollen, County Judge Lucy Hebron and Mayor Kevin White for working with us on this important matter."*

The nearly 3,000-acre Mineola Nature Preserve has served as a place of solitude to thousands of people who utilize this beautiful natural space for exercise, stress relief, outdoor education, organized sports, equestrian use, and memory-making with friends and family. In an effort to preserve this vitally important land, the group, Preserve Mineola worked with local citizens, city and county officials to find a more responsible location for the concrete company, Bell Concrete, Inc., who had requested an air quality permit to place a (24/7) concrete batch plant directly across the street from the Preserve and The Derby Equestrian Campground.

“A concrete batch plant in this location would have been detrimental to all life for miles, even more so because of its proximity to the Sabine River,” said Joe Moore – member of Preserve Mineola. “The well-being and quality of life for the community, along with the ecosystem of the wildlife and plants native to the nature preserve would have been tremendously compromised if this permit had been approved,” added Moore.

“We are thankful that Bell Concrete, Inc. has made the responsible decision to work with the community on this matter,” stated Mary Williams, member of Preserve Mineola. “We are beyond grateful for everyone – the citizens, city, county, and state officials – who came together as a true community to protect this wonderful preserve,” continued Williams.