

Establishment of a Native Plant Demonstration Garden in Downtown Midland

Samuel R. Lutfy, Colin S. Shackelford, Anthony D. Falk, Jesse Wood, Keith A. Pawelek, and Forrest S. Smith

The Permian Basin is the largest oil and gas producing region of the country, and Midland is a center of operations for many in the oil and gas industry. Concho Resources, Inc. partnered with the *Permian Basin and Panhandle Native Seed Project* (PBPNSP) to establish and maintain a native plant and restoration demonstration garden in Midland in 2018 to help inform the industry about our efforts. This garden showcases native plant species that can be used in habitat restoration projects throughout the region.

Located near Concho's headquarters, the garden contains plantings of 5 species of native wildflowers and 21 species of native grasses found in the region. Commercial seed of some of these species is available for use. Seed supplies of others used in the project are being developed by the PBPNSP. Each species is displayed in a 10 ft x 10 ft plot with 5 ft walking rows in-between to give visitors easy access for viewing and to showcase the variety of growth habits and aesthetics associated with native plants of the region. In addition, a quarter-acre adjacent to these plots was seeded in spring 2019 with an experimental native seed mixture containing many species displayed to show the potential for restoration seeding efforts.

Interpretive signage describing the plantings and the PBPNSP was added in 2019. This demonstration has facilitated meetings with industry professionals and public organizations that support our desire to educate people about the benefits of native plant restoration and conservation in the Permian Basin.

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