**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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**Charity 5K In Fort Worth Welcomes Families And Pets***Fun Run Expected to Draw 1000 Participants, Benefits Local Animal Refuge*

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 9, 2015 **Photo Opportunity: 8:30 a.m.**

**WHERE:**
The Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge
9601 Fossil Ridge Rd., Fort Worth, TX 76135

**WHAT:**
A nonprofit organization called the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge will host a charity run to benefit the Nature Center **Saturday, May 9, 2015 from 7 a.m. until the center closes at 5 p.m.**

Participants can visit vendor stalls, make arts and crafts, and have access to the center following the run. All proceeds will be used to cover operating costs at the Nature Center, including food and care for the animals, utilities, and maintenance of the grounds at the center.

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES**

**1. Starting Gun/Race Start - 8:30 a.m. -** Runners will queue at the starting line and will begin the run at the sound of the starting gun.

**2. Children Creating Arts and Crafts, Viewing Educational Exhibits -** Vendors will provide activities for children, including arts and crafts, educational exhibits, and games.

**3. Families Observing Wildlife -** Following the race, all participants will be allowed to stay in the Nature Center and see the animal exhibits. Prominent exhibits include the Bison Herd, Prairie Dog Town, and Wild Ambassador animal exhibits at the Hardwicke Interpretive Visitor Center.

**The Buffalo Boogie is presented by the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge.** For more information, visit <http://naturecenterfriends.org/index.php/buffalo-boogie-2014/>

**About the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge**

* The Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve, protect, and conserve the Nature Center and its inhabitants.
* Friends was established in 1990, ten years after the Nature Center was created, to provide financial and volunteer support to the center.
* The Friends provide volunteers to staff the gift shop at the Nature Center and to assist in the annual Buffalo Boogie. The organization donates approximately $300 thousand each year, $20 thousand of which comes from the Buffalo Boogie.

**About the Buffalo Boogie**

* The event organizers expect the 2015 event to draw over 1,000 participants.
* The Buffalo Boogie is a family-friendly and pet-friendly event; participants are allowed to bring strollers and dogs on leashes to run in the 5K.
* Vendors provide activities for children, such as arts and crafts and games. The Nature Center welcomes participants to stay and enjoy the exhibits after the run.

**About the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge**

* The Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge was designated as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service in 1980. It is one of the largest city-owned nature centers in the United States, with approximately 3,261 acres.
* The center is home to three unique ecosystems and more than 20 miles of hiking trails and offers educational programs and summer activities for children.
* The Nature Center houses a conservation herd of bison and an exhibit of prairie dogs, but other animals at the center are free-roaming, including foxes, turtles, and more than 200 species of birds.