

# Completion of Plainview Point celebrated with ribbon cutting

[Ellysa Harris](#), Plainview Herald

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8



On Thursday morning (Sept. 16, 2021), city leaders and a few of those invested got to celebrate the completion of the project with a special ribbon cutting ceremony at the area just a few yards north of the edge of Plainview's cemeteries where a dart point was found back in 1941.

Nathan Giese/Plainview Herald

• • • • • The renovation of Plainview Point was a long time coming.

City leaders and local historians had talked about the idea to pay tribute to the area's history for more than a decade before the actual project began.

On Thursday morning, city leaders and a few of those invested got to celebrate the completion of the project with a special ribbon cutting ceremony at the area just a few yards north of the edge of Plainview's cemeteries where a dart point was found back in 1941.

The first point was discovered by a few Plainview youth along with some members from the local Boy Scout troop.

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The point was turned over to scientists sparking widespread interest and prompting excavations of the area by members of the Texas Memorial Museum and the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology that yielded discoveries of bison skeletons and more artifacts. The point was found to be between 9,000 to 10,000 years old.

Runningwater Draw once had a high embankment, said Sammy Van Hoose, a Wayland Baptist University professor with a special interest in the history of Plainview Point and one of the key players who made Thursday's celebration possible.

"It wasn't like today where you can walk down the dry creek bed," he said.

There was a large stream or small river an estimated 12 to 15 feet high at that point, he explained.

"What the natives would do was run buffalo – American Buffalo (or Bison) – off that cliff," he added.

The bison would fall and sustain injuries that would immobilize them. The natives, Van Hoose said, would finish the job by killing them with dart points or spears. Bison were important for food and clothing and tools and everything else.

"They used every bit of the buffalo," he said. "They didn't let anything go to waste."

Measurements of the historic site are recorded by the Museum of the Llano Estacado, according to Plainview Mayor Charles Starnes.

“The city filled in the site after the last excavation when the city came into possession of the land,” he noted in his remarks Thursday.

The area was later named Plainview Point in recognition of the original point found at the location that sparked interest and research.

“That particular point is residing in the Smithsonian right now,” Van Hoose said.

The site now includes a gazebo, statues of bison, benches and an information marker where visitors can stop by and learn about the rich history of the site or enjoy some peace on a park bench. The amenities are largely donor-funded.

The initiative to develop the site was headed by WBU’s Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) team several years ago. Van Hoose, the SIFE advisor that led the team’s involvement, said it had been started even before SIFE’s involvement but the project fell to the backburner until he learned about it and revived the efforts to memorialize the space. A committee including City Director of Public Works Tim Crosswhite, retired Llano Estacado Museum Curator Rodney Watson, Corky Terrell, Doug McDonough, City Parks Superintendent Ricky Summers, City Manager Jeffrey Snyder and of course, Van Hoose, saw the project through.

It was a big undertaking for the SIFE team, which later became known as the university’s ENACTUS group, said Van Hoose.

“We sold bricks to raise money for this,” he said. “I think some of the donors had given up on us. It took so long to get it going.”

Renovations to the Plainview Point site were completed in 2020 but the celebratory ribbon cutting was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the close of his remarks on Thursday, Starnes dedicated the site “to the benefit of Plainview’s citizens and to all who visit to reflect on the important heritage represented by the Native Americans of the Plains.” He noted Plainview’s historic significance as part of the Quanah Parker Trail memorialized by the giant arrow.

Looking back at what it took to get to this point, Van Hoose said he’s glad to finally celebrate.

“I feel great about it,” he said. “I think it’s a long time coming. I think it’s a well-deserved spot in Plainview history.”

Written By  
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