

The Morning News

Local News for Northwest Arkansas

Woolsey Wet Prairie Wetland Receives Conservation Recognition

By [Skip Descant](#)
THE MORNING NEWS

FAYETTEVILLE — Fayetteville's dedicated wetland next to a sewer treatment plant has been heralded by the [Arkansas Wildlife Federation](#).

For the first time since 1936, the Arkansas Wildlife Federation named a municipality as its Corporate Conservationist of the Year.

The [Woolsey Wet Prairie Wetland](#) was formed four years ago as part of a wetland mitigation site for the Westside Wastewater Treatment plant. It's now home to hundreds of native plants and animals.

"The award is granted for excellence in protecting and managing the wildlife and natural resources in Arkansas, and I am excited about Fayetteville being the first city to receive this prestigious award," said Fayetteville Mayor Lioneld Jordan in a statement Friday.

He and David Jurgens, Fayetteville Utilities Department director, accepted the award Saturday in Little Rock.

The project involved creating and restoring more than 40 acres of rare prairie wetland habitat. Although the original 2005 cost estimate for the wetland construction was \$412,040, it was completed for \$131,578, according to city officials.

The site has generated a surplus of 91 wetland credits that has received U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approval for sale to outside parties, potentially including the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department that will be building new highways in Northwest Arkansas with stimulus funding, Jurgens said.

"This sale of credits is anticipated to generate revenues to fund the expansion of the prairie-savannah complex by an additional 100 acres as the first Wetland Mitigation Bank of its kind in this part of the state," Jurgens added.

For more information about Woolsey Wet Prairie or to schedule a group tour, contact Operations Management International at 443-1815.