In an effort to reduce hazardous fuels that could contribute to the spread of wildfire, Texas A&M Forest Service’s Lost Pines Task Force joined Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Nov. 6-7 for a prescribed burn in northeast Harris county.

The group burned a total of 111 acres, which not only created a safer environment if a wildfire ignites, but also restored the area’s native prairie ecosystem, said Program Coordinator Rich Gray.

“The burn was conducted in an urban environment so the benefits not only included fuel reduction but also public outreach,” he said. “Residents and responders had an opportunity to learn more about prescribed fire as a management tool.”

Glen Gillman, a fire management specialist with Texas Parks and Wildlife, agreed that the effort was an opportunity to showcase the benefits of prescribed fire.

“We often think of prescribed burns as defined, short-term events but in reality, a prescribed fire is part of a much larger fire program and requires lots of ongoing communication, coordination and planning well before, immediately prior to and after the event,” he said. “It’s a long process.”