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Russell Farm welcomed visitors from Japan earlier this month during the center's first public tour since its open house in May 2012.

Fifteen Japanese guests, who are part of the Japanese-American Society and Friendship Force of Fort Worth, got a glimpse of beautiful pieces of handwork displayed in quilts and woven coverlets as well as antique furnishings displayed throughout the historic Russell-Boren farmhouse. The farmhouse was built in 1877. The visitors also got an up close look at wood sculpting done by various local artists who had studied with Charles Boren, a nationally-known master wood sculptor.

Gary Burkins, manager of Russell Farm, showed the Japanese audience how he adds crushed turquoise to his wood art that is comprised of different aged woods such as mesquite and oak. Andrea Blair, chef at The Restaurant at Hidden Creek Golf Course, catered the meal for the Japanese guests.



Russell Farm is an historic farm on the south side of Burleson that was donated to the City of Burleson by the Boren family for historical, art and agricultural/natural uses. The 30-acre property is located at 405 W. County Road 714. The public was invited to tour the property during a May Open House. Russell Farm also hosted a car show and art shows in May of this year.

The City envisions Russell Farm to be a "Center for Life, History and Art." Much of the programming at the farm is currently under development.

Historic and art programs are being planned by two advisory committees created by the Burleson City Council. These programs are being conducted in the public areas which comprise about 11 acres of the Farm. A public garden is being planned for this area as well.

Agricultural programs are also under development. The City is in discussions with the Burleson Independent School District to utilize approximately 16 acres of the property for the district's Future Farmers of America (FFA) program. The City and BISD envision FFA participants utilizing the property to house livestock for stock shows and as a "field laboratory" for ranchland training.

Finally, approximately three acres will be preserved as a natural grassland and vegetation reserve.