

WETLANDS AT DALLAS COUNTY'S PALMETTO – ALLIGATOR SLOUGH PRESERVE NAMED IN HONOR OF MARY PHINNEY

In recognition of Mary Phinney's invaluable service to Dallas County and its Trail and Preserve Program, the Dallas County Commissioners Court has formally designated the water features at the County's Palmetto – Alligator Slough Preserve as the "Mary Phinney Wetlands".

Ms. Phinney retired from Dallas County on July 30, 2010 after having been the Administrator of the County's Trail and Preserve Program for twenty-two years.

When Ms. Phinney was first hired by the County in 1988, the promise held by a county-wide open space system, as noted by the Commissioners Court in a resolution honoring Ms. Phinney, largely existed only on paper. However, under Ms. Phinney's leadership, the County's open space system became nationally recognized, it quadrupled in size to 3300 acres, and it now includes some of the most environmentally important sites in the North Central Texas region.

One of the sites that Ms. Phinney identified and recommended for inclusion in the County's open space system is the 268-acre Palmetto – Alligator Slough Preserve in the County's southeastern corner. While this site includes what is thought to be the northern-most grove of palmettos in Texas, what is most striking about the Preserve is the 100,000-year-old Pleistocene-era swamp that occupies the vast majority of it.

As this is perhaps the most environmentally unique site in the County's open space system, the Commissioners Court thought there was no better way to honor Ms. Phinney for her contributions to the County's Trail and Preserve Program than to name the Preserve's wetlands after her.



The Mary Phinney Wetlands
Dallas County Palmetto – Alligator Slough Preserve
Designated July 27, 2010