



Planning & Development

FY 2025 Budget Requests

Parks and Open Space Program

- 4,215 acres of land.
 - 1,349 acres is exclusively managed by Dallas County due to its location in the unincorporated area.
 - 2,866 acres are managed by our 13 municipal partners and DISD.
- The 1980 Open Space Plan recommended one staff member to manage the preserve manager partnerships.
 - “It is not recommended that Dallas County, at this time, become an operator of parks and open space...”
- The 1991 Open Space Plan recommended acquisition in the unincorporated area but did not recommend a mechanism for property management and park operation.
 - “The development of an appropriate County operations and maintenance capability should be carefully considered by the County as part of its deliberations on the suitability of the proposed Open Space Plan and its implementation strategy.”
- The 2024 Open Space Plan provides cost-effective recommendations to direct the Parks and Open Space Program to current practices and account for the more active role needed in unincorporated Dallas County not foreseen in 1980.
 - “Continue to grow the Volunteer Program run by the Open Space Coordinator to improve the preserves and reduce overall maintenance costs.”



ARPA Position Requests

Priority Ranking	Position Title	Salary Grade	Quantity	Cost
1	Open Space Coordinator	12	1	

- Historically, Dallas County has not actively managed its unincorporated area preserves or its relationships with preserve management partners.
- A lack of active management has resulted in deferred maintenance, low feelings of safety, and illegal dumping in the preserves.
- The volunteer program accomplishes two major goals:
 - Improving relationships with preserve management partners
 - Addressing maintenance needs in the County-managed preserves (that are appropriate for volunteers).
- Volunteers provide labor that would otherwise need to be performed by County employees or contractors. One staff member managing volunteer labor provides major cost savings to Dallas County.



Metrics & Performance Data

In addition to creating the initial foundation of the volunteer program (policies, procedures, a volunteer registration website and volunteer management system), this position has participated in numerous volunteer and outreach events in the last two years.

- 10 Outreach Events
 - These community events each had hundreds of attendees (or more).
- 6 Volunteer Events: 75 volunteers
 - Approximately 190 volunteer hours
 - 2024 value of a volunteer hour is \$33.49*
- More volunteer events are being planned for 2024-2025.
- Social Media Outreach: Facebook and Instagram
@dallascountyparksopenspace

*Value calculated annually by Independent Sector, a coalition of nonprofits, foundations, and corporations.

