



MINUTES
Dallas County
Trail and Preserve Program Board Meeting
October 6, 2022
9:00 a.m.

Dallas County Records Building
Customer Excellence Conference Room, 7th Floor
500 Elm Street, Dallas TX 75202

Members Present: Ed Koppman, Jesse Tafalla, William Freeman, Philip Haigh, Rick Kopf, Fred Washington, Javier Vilchis, Amy Martin

Members Absent: Rick Perdue

1. Call Meeting to Order

Board Chair Ed Koppman called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Welcome/Introductions

Open Space Coordinator Katie Christman was introduced to the board.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment given at the meeting.

4. Review and Approval of the August 4, 2022, Minutes

Mr. Koppman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Tafalla, seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

5. Status of Trails

Micah Baker, Senior Transportation Planner with County Public Works Department, provided the trails update.

- Cypress Waters Trail
 - The interlocal agreement with the City of Dallas was fully executed through Commissioners Court in August. The design is 95% complete.
- Chalk Hill Trail
 - Public Works submitted a TA Set-Aside application to NCTCOG requesting \$3.4 million in construction funding.

- County staff are reviewing potential project phasing.
- The supplement to the engineering services contract was executed in September to finalize the PS&E for Phase 1 and Phase 2.
- The City is working on the ROW in Phase 3.
- Contract administrators are reviewing an amendment to the ILA with the Civil DA's Office.
- **Campion Trail – Elm Fork Extension**
 - Design for Phase 1 is 90% complete and Phase 2 is 50% complete.
 - The County is waiting on United States Army Corps of Engineers approval.
- **Heritage Trail**
 - County staff recently met with the City of Mesquite. The City is negotiating with TxDOT on improvements.

6. Status of County Preserves

Mia Brown, Open Space Administrator, provided the county preserve update.

- P&D is reviewing utility easement requests for Muddy Creek, Rowlett Creek, Goat Island, and Trinity River Mountain Creek preserves.
- Oncor and Brazos Electric Cooperative each have electric transmission lines within Goat Island Preserve. Oncor recently performed soil testing within their utility easement in preparation for a major reconstruction project. The preserve was closed for two days and preserve closures will be necessary when construction work begins next year. Brazos Electric also has an upcoming transmission line rebuild.
- **Ongoing projects in the preserves:**
 - **Spring Creek Forest Preserve:**
 - The County is planning to sell 0.678 acres of the preserve to the City of Garland for right of way for the Holford Road reconstruction project, a Major Capital Improvement Program project between Dallas County Public Works and the City. The project will elevate a bridge over Spring Creek, add a turning lane and entrance lighting, and create a pedestrian connection to Spring Creek Park Preserve.
 - **Cottonwood Creek Preserve:**
 - The City of Wilmer is revisiting a proposal to build a disc golf course. County staff will meet with the City in August to discuss the proposal.
 - **Lester Lorch Park**
 - County staff are working with the City of Cedar Hill to explore options for restroom facilities. The City is considering a solar powered composting restroom.
 - **Paul S. Dryer Preserve at Windmill Hill**
 - County staff have engaged a vendor to install a new monument sign. Installation was completed in September.
 - **Goat Island Preserve**
 - County staff are partnering exploring partnerships with the Fire Marshal and organizations such as Greenspace Dallas and Texas Conservation Alliance to remove illegally dumped tires.
 - **McCommas Bluff**

- County staff are working with the Civil District Attorney's Office on a potential boundary encroachment.
- The Parks & Open Space Program is rebranding and undertaking efforts to provide better and more accessible information about the preserves.
 - The website content and layout will be updated. A new link accesses the website: <https://www.dallascounty.org/parks>.
 - Dallas County Information Technology designed a new logo for the Parks & Open Space Program.
 - A new email was created: parks.openspace@dallascounty.org
 - New Facebook and Instagram pages will be launched.
- The Request for Proposals for the next Dallas County Open Space Plan closed August 25th. Proposals were scored and a contract with a selected vendor is anticipated to be executed by the end of the year.
- Ms. Christman, the Open Space Coordinator, has been working to start a Parks & Open Space volunteer program. To date she has:
 - Created a handbook, standard operating procedures and proposed updates to the volunteer policy.
 - Reached out to organizations and other volunteer coordinators to establish relationships and partnerships.
 - Created a list of needed tools and supplies.
 - Visited preserves and noted projects that can use volunteer assistance.
 - Evaluated different volunteer management software.
 - Assisted with the rebranding effort.

7. Soft Surface Trails in County Preserves

Amy Martin noted several preserves where soft surface trails could be expanded in the future for hikers and visitors, including Post Oak, Tenmile Creek, Cedar Mountain, Cottonwood Creek, Goat Island, and Riverbend preserves. She recommended several management actions that could be undertaken in each individual preserve to make them more accommodating of soft surface trails and suggested that future trails be built professionally by companies specializing in proper design.

8. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were proposed.

9. Upcoming Events/Board Meetings

- Next meeting December 1, 2022
- A resolution honoring Paul S. Dryer for his 30-plus years of volunteer work will go to Commissioners Court at a future date. Ms. Brown will send out an email with more details.

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Ed Koppman, seconded by Mr. Tafalla. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.