



Minutes Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program Board Meeting



**June 1, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

Dallas County Records Building
Innovation Training Room, 7th Floor
500 Elm Street, Dallas, TX 75202

Members Present: Ed Koppman, William Freeman, Rick Kopf, Fred Washington, Amy Martin, Kiphani Allen, Andrew Albert Jones, James Curl,

Members Absent: Rinkesh Desai, Philip Hiatt Haigh, Javier Vilchis

1. Call Meeting to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ed Koppman at 9:01 am

2. Welcome/Introductions

3. Public Comment

There was no comment given at the meeting.

4. Review and Approval of the April 6, 2023, Minutes

- a. Mr. Freeman made a motion to approve the April 6th minutes, Mr. Jones seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

5. Status of Trails

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

- a. Cypress Waters Trail

- i. Dallas County Public Works met with TxDOT and NCTCOG about the right of way (ROW) easements between the city and the developer.
- ii. Dallas County Public Works will be meeting on June 16th with the City of Dallas to discuss the development of this trail.

- b. Chalk Hill Trail

- i. Dallas County Public Works is anticipating receiving an Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) from TxDOT agreement in October or November. The AFA will help secure funding for the trail.
- c. Heritage Trail
 - i. The City of Mesquite is ready to bid this project. The project specific agreement is being reviewed by Dallas County's District Attorney office. Construction will begin in 2023.
- d. Campion Trail
 - i. The majority of phase one is being bid, with the expectation to be awarded in June.
 - ii. The City of Dallas anticipates 100% of plans to be completed later this year and will be bidding phase two in 2024.

6. Status of County Preserves

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

Utility Easement Requests

- a. Goat Island
 - i. Brazos Electric has continued work on their utility lines.
- b. Trinity River Mountain Creek
 - i. The City of Irving and Trinity River Mountain Authority are working on a sewer line within the preserve.
- c. North Mesquite Creek
 - ii. The City of Mesquite will be rehabilitating an existing sewer line within the preserve.

Road Projects

- a. Spring Creek Forest
 - i. This project will involve elevating the bridge over Spring Creek, adding a turn lane and entrance lighting. This will create a pedestrian connection between Spring Creek Park and Spring Creek Forest Preserves.
- b. Cottonwood Creek
 - ii. The City of Wilmer is exploring the possibility of adding a disc golf course to the preserve. The City of Wilmer recently passed a parks and recreation ordinance.
- c. Goat Island Preserve
 - iii. The Parks and Open Space Program is partnering with the Dallas County Fire Marshal and other organizations for a plan to remove tires in the fall.
- d. McCommas Bluff Preserve
 - iv. County staff are working with the Dallas County Civil District Attorney's Office, Dallas Parks and Recreation Department, and

Dallas Water Utilities on a potential boundary encroachment. The boundary survey is complete.

Upcoming Events

Dallas County Parks and Open Space staff will be at Cedar Ridge Preserve to celebrate National Trails Day Event on June 3rd. Staff anticipate launching the volunteer program in the fall of 2023 after purchasing tools and volunteer management software.

7. Dallas County Open Space Plan Update

Kendall Howard from Halff Associates, discussed the Dallas County Open Space Plan

- a. Halff Associates went on a tour with Dallas County staff to visit the preserves. As part of phase one, the discovery and inventory phase.
- b. Halff Associates is about to start stakeholder listening sessions. They are also starting intercept surveys (survey signs are being placed at all the preserves).
- c. Later this summer, Halff will dive into the assessment phase.
- d. Ms. Howard provided a snapshot of what they discovered in their preserve tour. Dallas County has about 4,085 acres, with 32% of the land in the unincorporated area of Dallas County and 14 preserve management partners.
- e. In their initial observations they discovered that Dallas County preserves have diverse habitats, scenic views, opportunities for education, well used trails, and dedicated partners. The preserves also have many challenges, including conflicting and outdated signage, outdated amenities, illegal dumping and litter issues, amenity equity, ADA compliance issues, safety and security, and public lack of awareness of the program.
- f. Engagement Efforts
 - i. Preserve management partner meetings are currently in process.
 - ii. Preserve intercept surveys have begun.
 - iii. The TAPP Board visioning session will be taking place in June.
 - iv. The stakeholder listening session will be taking place in June.
 - v. The countywide survey will be sent out in July or August.
 - vi. Public open house meetings will take place in August.

8. Presentation: Trust for Public Land – Five Mile Creek Trail

- a. Molly Plummer, Director of Parks and Schoolyards from Trust for Public Land will be talking about the Five Mile Creek Trail – molly.plummer@tpl.org
 - i. Ms. Plummer presented on a new 16.9 hike-bike trail that will cross the Five Mile Creek watershed. This new trail will connect the Chalk

Hill Trail to the LOOP Dallas and provide connection for Oak Cliff to the city's existing trail system.

9. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

There were no proposed future agenda items.

10. Upcoming Events/Board Meetings

- a. TAPP Board Open Space Plan Visioning Session: TBD in June
- b. Next TAPP Board Regular Meeting: August 3, 2023

11. Adjourn

Mr. Jones motioned to adjourn at 10:27 am and Mr. Kopf seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.