



Minutes Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program Board Meeting



**October 5, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

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

Members Present: Ed Koppman, William Freeman, Amy Martin, Andrew Albert Jones, James Curl, Philip Hiatt Haigh

Members Absent: Rick Kopf, Fred Washington, Kiphani Allen, Rinkesh Desai, Javier Vilchis

1. Call Meeting to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ed Koppman at 9:13 am.

2. Welcome/Introductions

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment given at the meeting.

4. Review and Approval of the June 1 and June 21, 2023, Minutes –

- Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the June 1st and June 21st minutes, Mr. Freeman seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Status of Trails

Andrew Hooker, Transportation Engineer with the Dallas County Public Works Department, provided the trails update.

- Cypress Waters Trail
 - There is a follow-up meeting scheduled on October 30th with all stakeholders to formalize the next steps for the Cypress Water Trail.
- Chalk Hill Trail
 - This trail is in preliminary design and is awaiting the draft advanced funding agreements (AFA) from TxDOT to secure funding.
- Heritage Trail
 - Construction on this trail is estimated to begin in early 2024 and will be led by the City of Dallas.

- Champion Trail
 - Dallas County is in the final design/environmental and plan process and are awaiting USACE approval.

6. Status of County Preserves

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

Utility Easement Requests

Trinity River, Goat Island, Rowlett Creek, North Mesquite and Paul S. Dryer all currently have ongoing utility easement requests.

Road Projects

- Spring Creek Forest – Holford road will be elevated over Spring Creek, while adding a turning lane and entrance lighting, and creating a pedestrian connection between Spring Creek Park and Spring Creek Forest Preserves.

Preserve Project Updates

- Cottonwood Creek Preserve – The City of Wilmer is moving forward with a plan for a disc golf course. The City is working on a plan for parking, bathroom facilities and the course layout.
- Goat Island Preserve – Parks and Open Space staff are working with the Dallas County Fire Marshal and other organizations for a plan to remove tires from the preserve.
- Spring Creek Forest Preserve received the Community Forest Designation from the Old Growth Forest Network. The Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest submitted the nomination. A ceremony is tentatively scheduled for February 25, 2024, in conjunction with the Annual Trout Lily Walk. Learn more at: www.oldgrowthforest.net
- Dallas County Parks and Open Space recently had a booth at the Texas State Fair (September 29th and 30th).
- The Parks and Open Space Program volunteer shed is now fully stocked with tools it needs for events and programs.
- Dallas County Parks and Open Space staff will be at these upcoming events:
 - National Recreation and Park Association Conference in Dallas October 10th-12th
 - Cedar Hill State Park Heritage Festival on October 21st
 - Cedar Ridge Preserve Native Plant Event on November 18th
 - Post Oak Preserve Clean-up on December 9th

7. **Action Item:** The Parks and Open Space Program seeks a vote to recommend the purchase of two properties adjacent to Goat Island Preserve; **3200 Post Oak Road – Bluebird Farm (60.0 acres); 4403 S. Beltline Road – Cottonwood –**

North Parson's (70.82 acres). This will go to Commissioners Court on Oct 17th. The cost will be \$1.48 million in total and will come out of the land improvement fund.

- Mr. Jones motioned to approve the purchase and Mr. Freedman seconded the motion. The purchase of the properties was approved unanimously.

8. Dallas County Open Space Plan Update

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

- We are now in the assessment phase of the plan with a projected completion date of September 2024.
- Halff and Dallas County Parks and Open Space has wrapped up many engagement meetings with partners, cities, and members of the public.
- Public open house meetings were completed in September. Open house attendees prioritized:
 - Amenities such as paved and natural surface trails, scenic overlooks, and restrooms
 - Wayfinding signage
 - Connections to community centers, transit stops, and parks
 - Preserving natural habitat
 - Improving the management of preserves
- Integrated Environmental Solutions (IES) is wrapping up their natural resources assessment and has looked at vegetation communities, water resources, invasive species and threatened and endangered species within ½ mile surrounding each preserve.
- Halff is working on finalizing Chapter One, scoring each preserve, and will soon be conducting equity, access and connectivity, demand, and operations assessments. They will soon begin drafting Chapter Two.

9. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were proposed.

10. Upcoming Events/Board Meetings

Next TAPP Board Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for December 7, 2023

11. Adjourn

Mr. Jones motioned to adjourn at 10:29am and Mr. Koppman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.