

Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program Board

August 15 2024



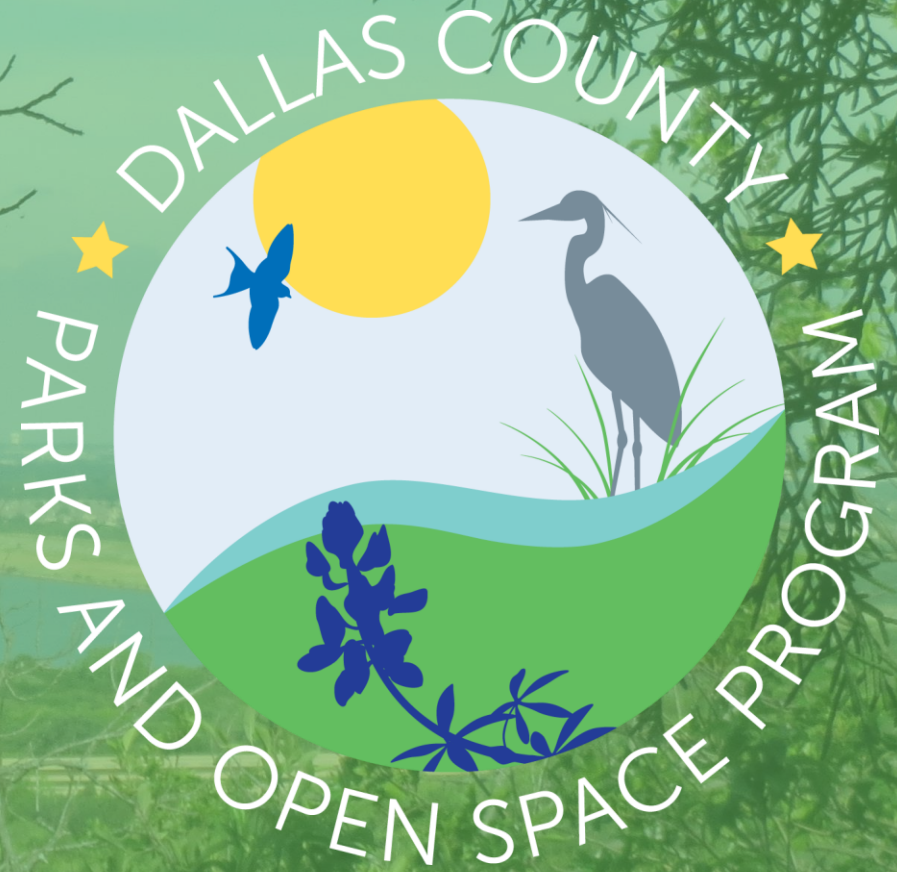
Approve the April 4th and May 9th
Meeting Minutes



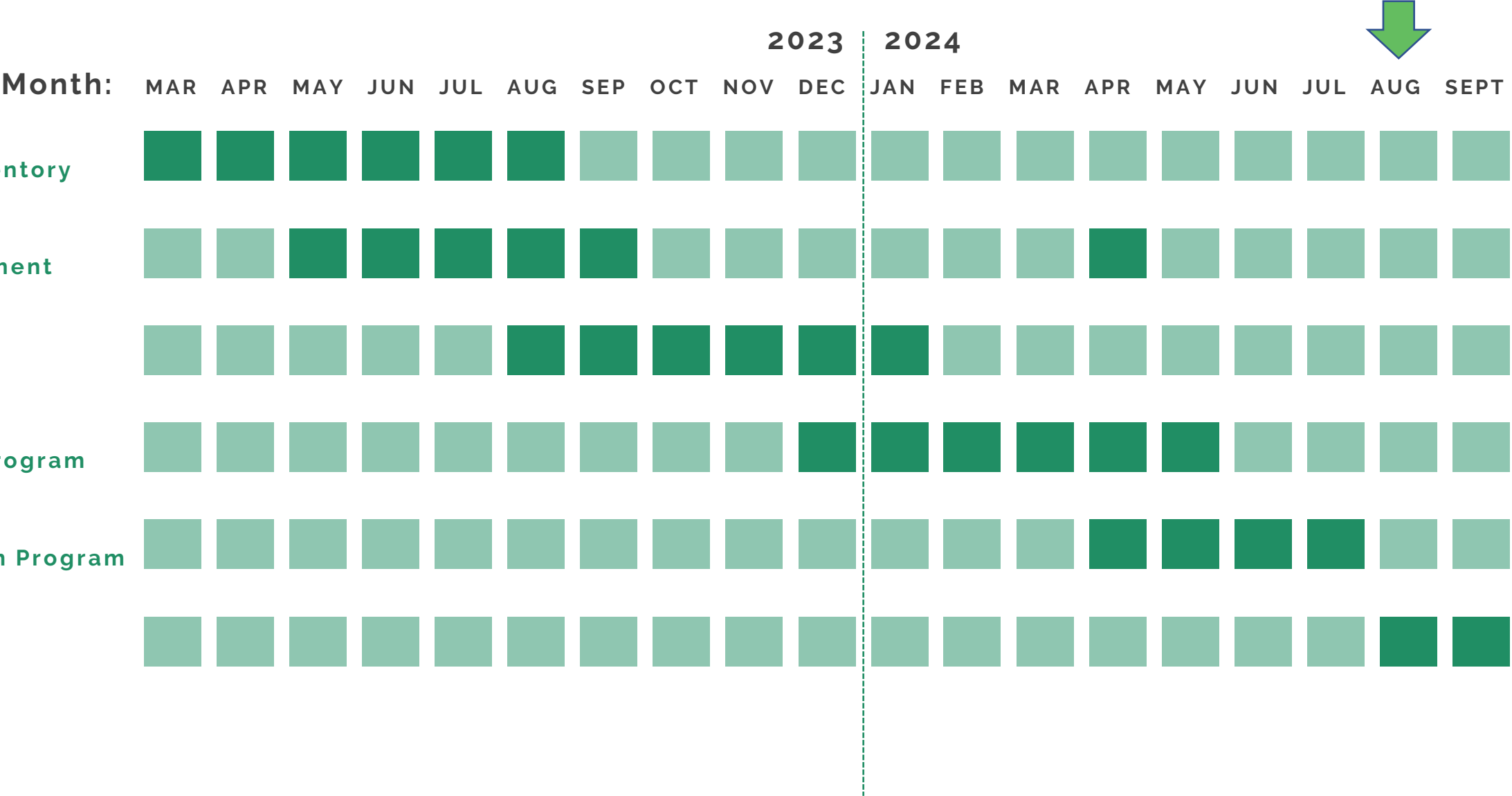
Open Space Plan Update

DALLAS COUNTY OPEN SPACE PLAN

TRAIL AND PRESERVE PROGRAM BOARD
PROJECT BRIEFING #8
August 15, 2024



PROJECT TIMELINE



Schedule is tentative and subject to change.

PLAN BY THE NUMBERS

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT:

- 21 preserves totaling over 4,000 acres
- 14 preserve management partners
- Dallas County owns 92% of preserve acreage and manages 34%

FOUR OVERARCHING GOALS:



ENHANCE



CONNECT



PROTECT



MANAGE

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 8 systemwide recommendation themes
- 50 total systemwide recommendations
- 164 preserve-specific project recommendations

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES:



8 Meetings with the Trail and Preserve Program (TAPP) Board



5 Listening sessions with invited stakeholders



447 Completed statistically valid surveys



188 Responses to the preserve intercept survey



90 Responses to the county-wide online survey



8 Community open houses with follow-up virtual input opportunities

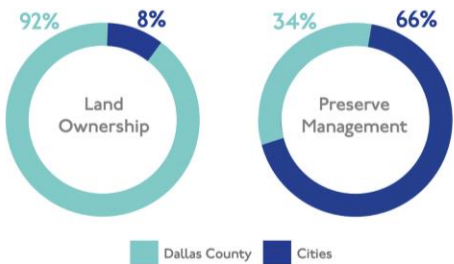
CHAPTER 1: CONTEXT

PRESERVE SYSTEM OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE

Dallas County serves as the property owner for the majority of the preserve acreage within the Parks and Open Space Program, however, external partners manage the majority of the preserves. The County works with 14 preserve management partners who run the daily operations and maintenance of preserves. These partners include:

- Cities of Carrollton, Cedar Hill, Coppell, Dallas, DeSoto, Garland, Grand Prairie, Irving, Lancaster, Mesquite, Sachse, Wilmer, Wylie
- Dallas ISD Environmental Education Center

PRESERVE SYSTEM OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE



NEED FOR PLAN UPDATE

The most recent Open Space Plan was completed in 1991. Dallas County has since added about 800,000 residents and acquired additional preserve land. Significant change has taken place both within the County and the Parks and Open Space Program, which requires management approaches specific to the current environment. This Open Space Plan provides the County and its partners with the tools to work together towards shared goals of enhancing the existing preserve system and collaborating on resources for and management of preserves.



(Image A) Goat Island Preserve is located in the unincorporated area and is therefore managed by Dallas County. (Image B) The City of Garland is a preserve management partner that manages three preserves, including Rowlett Creek Preserve. (Image C) Many of the preserves are located along the Trinity River Greenbelt. (Image D) Lester Lorch Park in Cedar Hill was donated to the County in 1976 and later became the first preserve in the Program.

PLAN GOALS

Based on the public and stakeholder engagement and results of the needs assessment, four overarching goals were developed to serve as the foundation for the recommended plan strategies.



Enhance. Implement context-sensitive improvements to give residents the opportunity to explore and interact with the natural environment in a safe and responsible manner.



Connect. Increase awareness of and access to preserves to better connect residents to nature in their own backyard and throughout the County.



Protect. Conserve and sustain the natural and cultural resources within the County while celebrating the unique features of preserves.



Manage. Employ best practices for managing and funding the preserves and steward strong relationships with partners to ensure longevity of the Parks and Open Space Program.

CHAPTER 2: ASSESSMENT

Assessments conducted include:

- Preserve Profiles
- Demand Assessment
- Resource Assessment
- Access & Connectivity Assessment
- Equity Assessment
- Operations Assessment

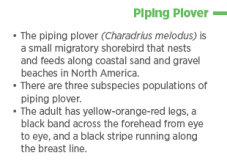
THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) provide a database of state and federally listed species that could potentially occur in Dallas County. The assessment of the 21 preserves was made with consideration of potential habitat for any and all of these species in order to account for their potential presence when creating any future development or wildlife management plans. In the case that any of these species are identified within the preserve, USFWS (federally listed species) or TPWD (state listed species) should be contacted for guidance on the necessary steps following the identification. The species listed on the subsequent pages are federally and/or state listed species that could potentially occur in the preserves based on the observed habitats.



Golden-cheeked Warbler

- The Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*) is the only bird species whose population nests entirely in Texas.
- Males return to nesting grounds early, so look and listen for this bird from late March until they quiet down in mid-May.
- Although a few Golden-cheeked Warblers inhabit suburbs, most are in pristine juniper-oak woodland habitats in protected parks and refuges of the Edwards Plateau of Central Texas.



Piping Plover

- The piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) is a small migratory shorebird that nests and feeds along coastal sand and gravel beaches in North America.
- There are three subspecies populations of piping plover.
- The adult has yellow-orange-red legs, a black band across the forehead from eye to eye, and a black stripe running along the breast line.



Tricolored Bat

- The tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) is one of the smallest bats native to North America.
- During the winter, tricolored bats are found in caves and mines, although in the southern United States where caves are sparse, tricolored bats are often found roosting in road culverts.
- During the spring, summer and fall, tricolored bats are found in forested habitats where they roost in trees.
- The tricolored bat is a small, insect eating animal that is distinguished by its unique tricolored fur which often appears yellowish to nearly orange.

Red Knot



- The Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) is a migratory shorebird that travels up to 12,000 miles twice a year from its breeding grounds on the high Arctic tundra to its southern non-breeding sites.
- The Red Knot relies on the few large tidal flats with abundant food resources that the world has to offer.
- After nearly doubling its weight, it burns off fat stores during the three or more days of non-stop flying.
- Red Knots from eastern North America have declined sharply in recent decades in part to unsustainable harvest of horseshoe crab eggs, and they have become a flagship species for shorebird conservation in the twenty-first century.

66 DALLAS COUNTY OPEN SPACE PLAN



DALLAS COUNTY OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

HELP US IDENTIFY
IMPROVEMENTS FOR
THE PRESERVES!

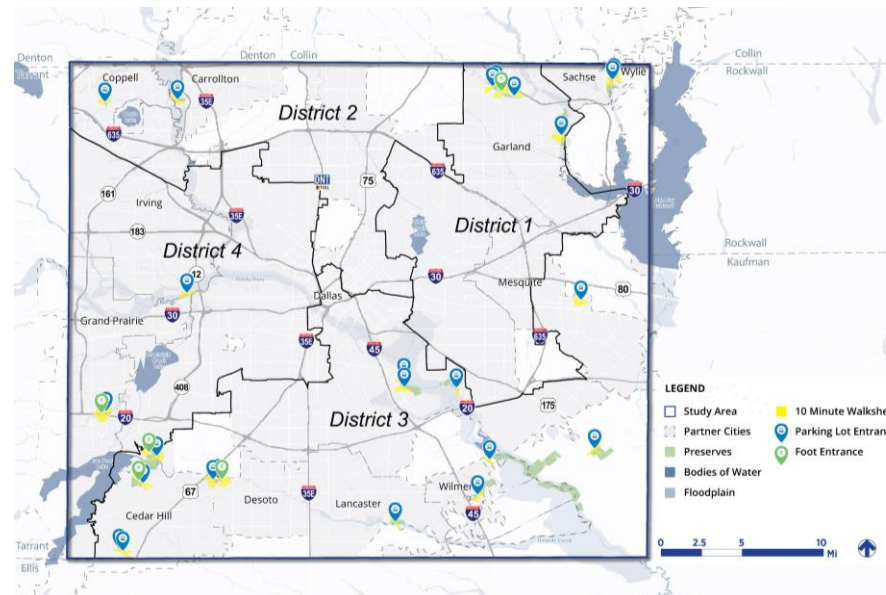


SURVEY WILL TAKE
12-15 MINUTES TO
COMPLETE.

To access the survey, scan the QR code above or visit
www.dallascountysurvey.org

To learn more about the plan and the Parks and Open Space Program, please visit www.dallascounty.org/parks

COMPLETE THE SURVEY
TO BE ENTERED TO WIN
A \$500 VISA GIFT CARD



PRESERVE SCORING RESULTS

The results from the criteria scoring exercise for each preserve are summarized in the following set of figures. These results provide guidance for prioritizing improvement projects necessary to fulfill the needs and intended future for each preserve.

Type 1 Preserves - High Visitation/Popular Amenities



Type 2 Preserves - Moderate Visitation/Placemaking



CHAPTER 3: MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- The management program is divided into **systemwide recommendations** and **preserve-specific recommendations**
- Systemwide recommendations are categorized into **8 themes**:
 - Safety & Security
 - Funding Resources
 - Maintenance
 - Partnerships
 - Program Administration
 - Resource Management
 - Access
 - Awareness
- A list of specific projects were developed for each of the 21 preserves
- The project lists reflect feedback from the preserve management partners, assessments, and results of the preserve scores



CHAPTER 4: IMPLEMENTATION

- Implementation programs for both systemwide and preserve-specific recommendations
- Provides guidance for:
 - Timing of implementation
 - Agency responsible for implementation
 - Potential partners
- For the individual preserves, additional guidance is provided for:
 - High priority projects
 - Planning-level cost estimates
- Potential funding resources at the local, state, and federal level are identified to support implementation

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SYSTEMWIDE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Figure 4.1 (found on pages 163-169) outlines the implementation program for the systemwide recommendations and is organized by the eight themes introduced in **Chapter 3: Management Program**. The systemwide implementation program provides guidance for initiating strategies, identifying partners for future coordination, and serves as a tool to inform future planning and funding opportunities. Additional description for each strategy is found in **Chapter 3: Management Program**.

FIGURE 4.1 | SYSTEMWIDE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM SUMMARY

Reference Number	Strategy	Timeframe	Partners	Related Goal(s)
SAFETY & SECURITY				
S1	Add a park ranger to monitor preserves on a more regular basis to increase sense of safety and maintain a regular presence in the preserves that do not have a preserve management or maintenance partner.	Short	N/A	Manage
S2	Establish a program for emergency markers along trails to facilitate emergency response and increase safety within preserves.	Mid	Sheriff Department, Public Works, Municipal Police Departments	Manage
S3	Invest in security cameras to help deter vandalism and illegal dumping and improve the sense of safety within preserves.	Mid	N/A	Manage
FUNDING RESOURCES				
F1	Explore developing a cost sharing program between the County and member cities to show accountability and strengthen relationships with partners.	Long	District Attorney's Office, Preserve Management Partners	Manage
F2	Support the establishment of a Dallas County Parks Foundation to help improve preserves through private donations.	Mid	National Association of Park Foundations, Friends of the Park Groups	Enhance, Manage
F3	Continue to work with partners to pursue grant funding for preserve improvements to diversify funding sources available to accomplish projects.	Short	Preserve Management Partners	Manage
F4	Collaborate with partners to seek donation opportunities from corporations and philanthropists as a way to diversify funding sources.	Mid	Local businesses, national corporations, philanthropic organizations	Enhance
F5	Work with NCTCOG on regional trail initiatives to learn about resources and funding opportunities.	Mid	NCTCOG	Connect

See page 162 for a description of the implementation parameters.

NEXT STEPS

UPCOMING MEETING

- Commissioner's Court Approval Meeting – September 3rd

CONTACT INFORMATION

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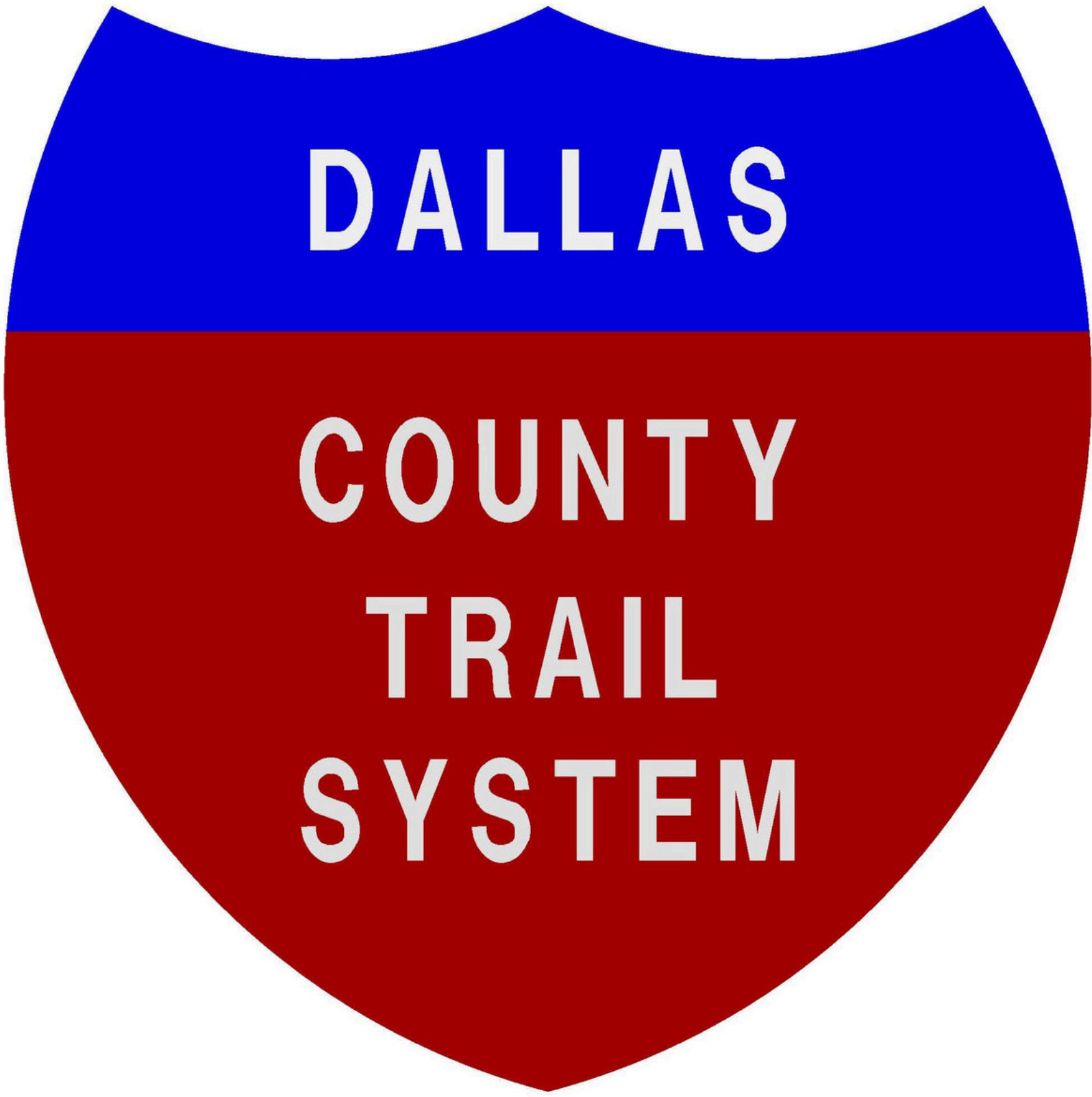
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(214) 346-6318



Action Item: 2024 Dallas County Open Space Plan

Staff request the TAPP Board votes to recommend the 2024 Open Space Plan for approval by the Commissioners Court.

The logo is a shield-shaped emblem. The top portion is a solid blue horizontal band. The bottom, larger portion is a solid red field. The text is centered within these fields.

DALLAS

**COUNTY
TRAIL
SYSTEM**

Public Works and
Trails Update

Public Works Updates

- P&D Trail Program responsibilities transfer to PW effective January 1st 2021
- Dallas County Mobility Plan published on PW website
 - PW presented to TAPP Board at June 3rd 2021 meeting
- PW continues assessment of transferred trail projects and attending meetings with our agency partners and stakeholders
- Dallas County adopted updated Metes and Bounds for the new Commissioner District Boundaries in November 2022
- Dallas County Awarded TA Set Aside Funding for Chalk Hill Trail and Central Trail in December 2022 from NCTCOG
 - TxDOT AFA's for both projects have been received
- Public Works assisted with several TxDOT TA Set Aside Support Letters for our Partner Cities for the current Call for Projects
 - Cotton Belt Trail and the 5 Mile Creek Trail received funding

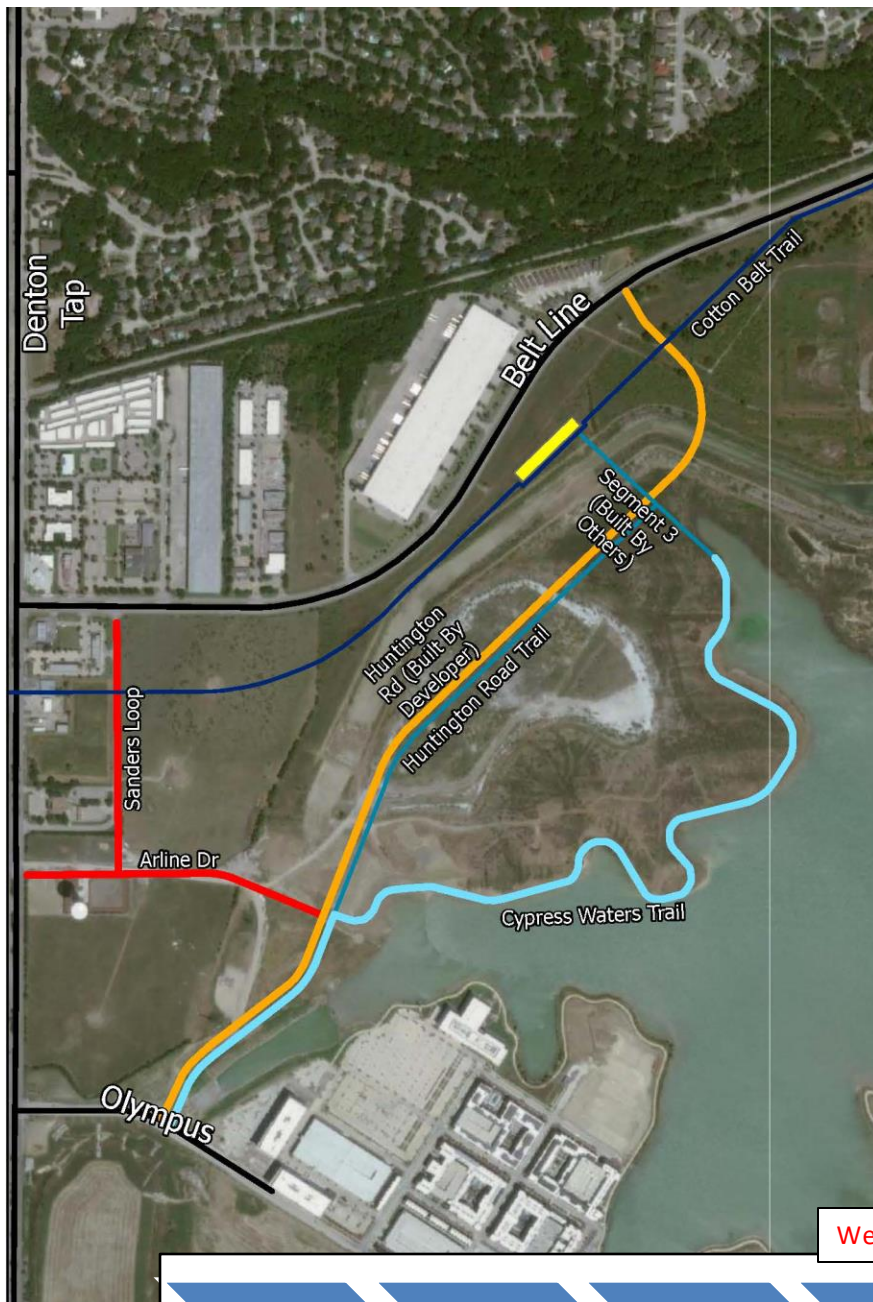
Cypress Waters Trail

Project Scope:

- New Construction of 14 feet wide reinforced concrete trail that includes cross drainage structures and trail safety appurtenances.

Status Update:

- ILA with City of Dallas was fully executed on August 6th.
- 100% plans were submitted to TxDOT in July and TxDOT has requested the State Letter of Authority (SLOA)
 - SLOA is expected in September
- Dallas County SBE office hosted a Pre-Project Meeting on August 8th in preparation for bidding
- Advertisement is expected in September
- ROW easements are being finalized between City and Developer
 - City of Dallas ROW Dept. is in the process of recording the easements
 - Final agreement with Oncor will be sent to Oncor for signature this week



We're Here

Planning &
Programming

Preliminary
Design

Primary Design

Final Design

Project Letting

Construction

Open to Public

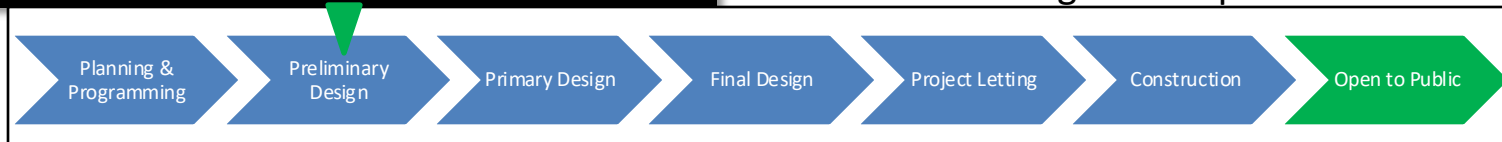
Chalk Hill Trail

Project Scope:

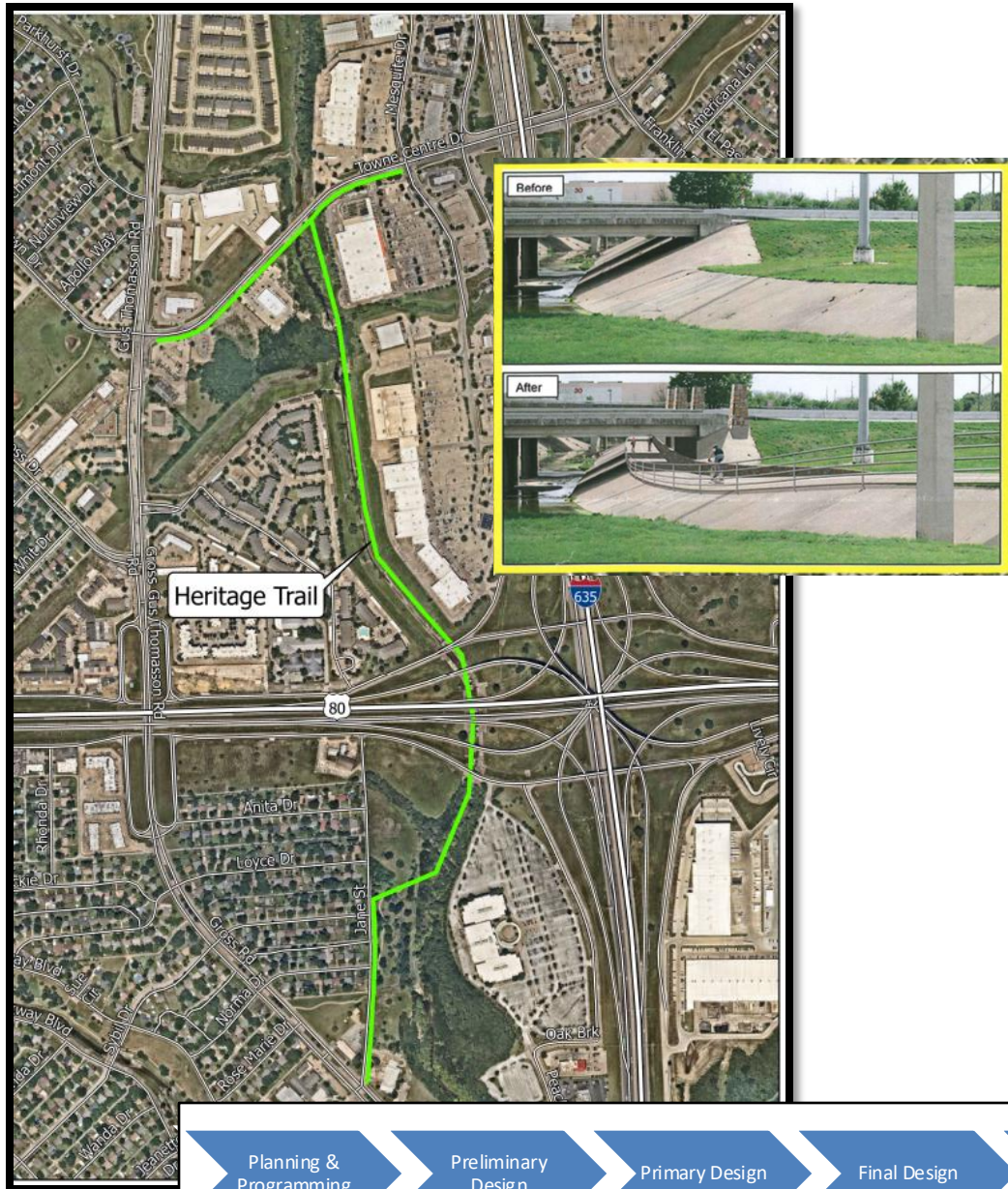
- New Construction of 12 feet wide reinforced concrete Trail with access trails and sidewalk to neighboring communities, 3 bridges, cross drainage culverts and other trail safety appurtenances.

Status Update:

- Received TA Set-Aside funding from NCTCOG for \$3.4 million in Construction Funding
- AFA with TxDOT was partially executed through Commissioners Court in Feb.
- **Consultant Work Orders for Phase 1 and Phase 2 are scheduled to be approved at the August 20th Commissioners Court**
 - **Consultant will begin preparing 95% submittal for TxDOT**
- City is working on the ROW at south end of the project (Phase 3)
- City of Dallas was awarded a 2023 TxDOT TA Set-Aside grant for part of Phase 3



Heritage Trail (Under 80 Trail)

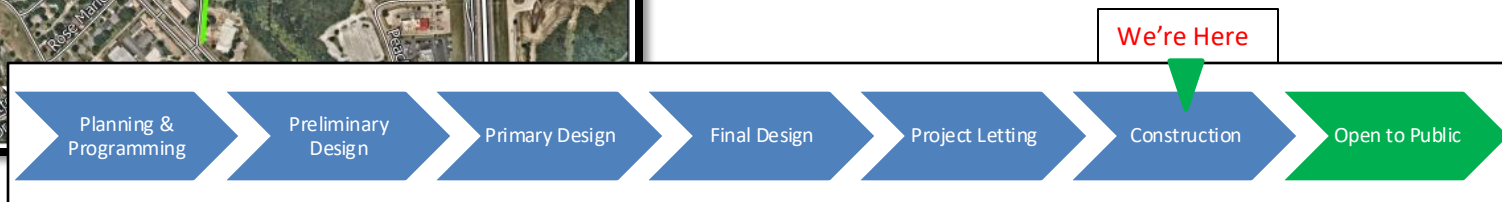


Project Scope:

- New Construction of 12 feet wide reinforced concrete Trail with 2 pedestrian bridges and parking amenities.

Status Update:

- City is coordinating with TxDOT on improvements within State Corridor
- PSA with City of Mesquite was fully executed on October 17th, 2023
- City of Mesquite awarded bid in February to Urban Infrastructure
- City is held a Pre-Construction Meeting on April 23rd
- **Construction began in June. (10% complete)**



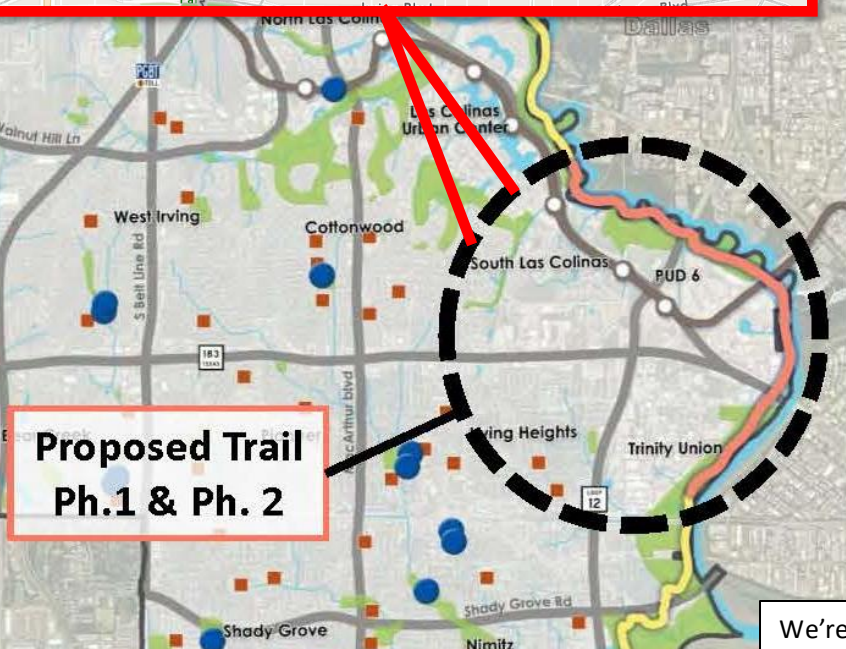
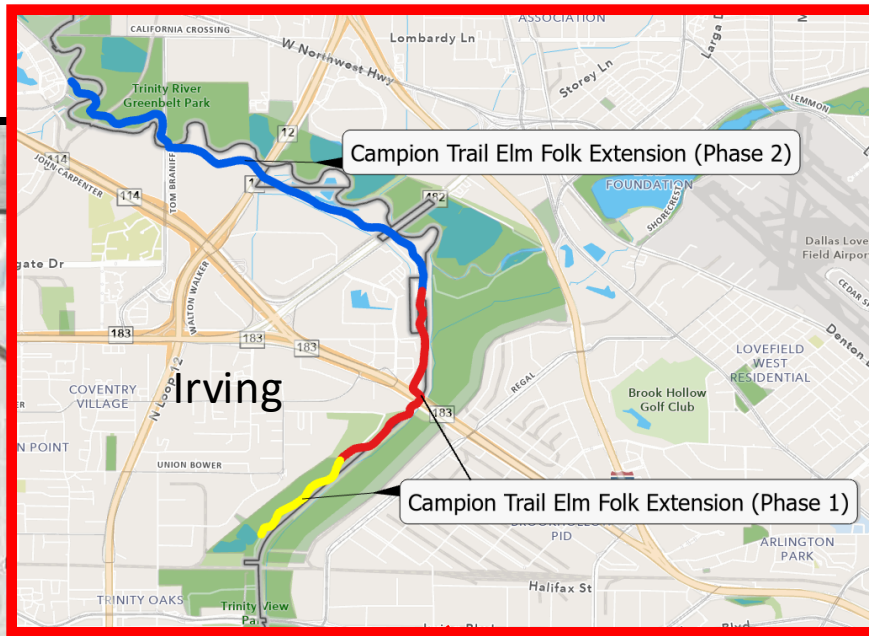
Campion Trail

Project Scope:

- New Construction of 12 feet wide reinforced Concrete Trail includes construction of three bridges, 6 low water crossings & 3 boardwalks.

Status Update:

- Phase 1 –River Hills to Frasier Dam (100% Design)
 - Split into two phases due to ROW issues
 - Southern segment began construction in July 2023 (**Concrete Pavement is complete**)
 - City is working on Agreements with City of Dallas and USACE for remaining section.
- Phase 2- Frasier Dam to California Crossing (Dallas County Participation)
 - **Dallas County is awaiting 100% revised plans from the City to review**
 - **Updated alignment at Trinity crossing has been established**
 - **Final Plans and Environmental pending USACE approval**
 - **PSA will need to be approved before const.**



**Proposed Trail
Ph.1 & Ph. 2**

We're Here

Planning &
Programming

Preliminary
Design

Primary Design

Final Design

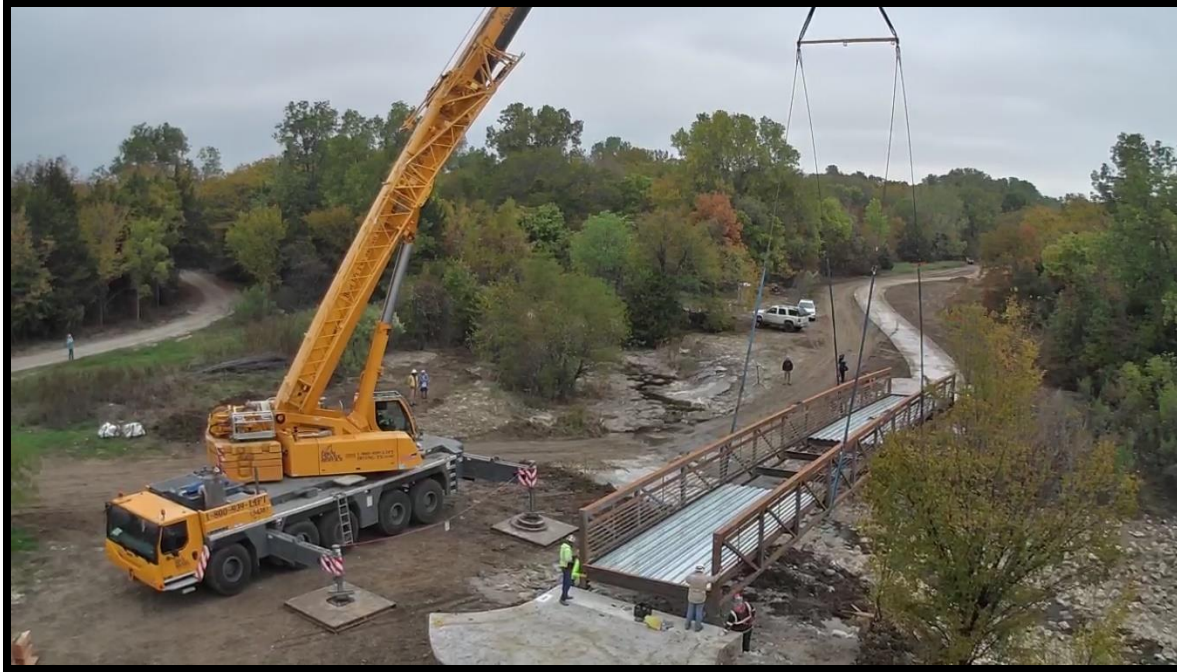
Project Letting

Construction

Open to Public

Campion Trail Phase 1A

Construction Photos





Parks and Open Space Update

Parks and Open Space Property Requests

Trinity River Authority Sewer Easements

Trinity River Mountain Creek Preserve

Brazos Electric Access Easement

Goat Island Preserve

City Sewer Projects

Rowlett Creek Preserve

Oncor Electric Easement

Palmetto-Alligator Slough Preserve

Parks and Open Space Projects

Cottonwood Creek Preserve

Restroom Facility (ARP Funds) - Dallas County
Disc Golf Course, Parking, Lighting - City of Wilmer

Cedar Ridge Preserve

Building Assessment - Dallas County
HVAC Replacement - City of Dallas

Past Events

Trinity River Crew at Joppa Preserve, July 12

The Trinity River Crew, a partnership between Trinity Park Conservancy and Greenspace Dallas, volunteered to remove invasive privet from Joppa Preserve.

We can't wait to work with them again next summer!



Future Events

Opening Weekend of the State Fair of Texas

Dallas County Parks & Open Space
staff will be at the TPWD Booth in the
Poultry Barn at the State Fair of Texas
on Friday, September 27th and
Saturday, September 28th.



Future Events

Tire Cleanup at Goat Island Preserve
Saturday, September 21

Spread the word!

Volunteers can register at

<https://dallascountyparks.galaxydigital.com>

Stay tuned for the release of our Fall volunteer events!

A graphic for a tire removal event at Goat Island Preserve. The background is a photograph of a wooded area with many discarded tires and branches. A dark blue diagonal overlay covers the left side, containing white and yellow text. The Dallas County Parks and Open Space Program logo is in the top right corner.

GOAT ISLAND PRESERVE

TIRE REMOVAL

**Saturday
September 21
9am - 12pm
2800 Post Oak Rd,
Hutchins, TX 75141**

Sign up at
dallascountyparks.galaxydigital.com
Must be 13+ to volunteer and adults must fill out a background check (free of charge)

Discussion Item

DMN Editorial: 50 Mile Loop Trail
Comes Into Focus

Proposal of Future Agenda Items



Next Meeting
October 3,
2024

See you next time!