



Minutes Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program Board Meeting

**February 6, 2025
9:00 a.m.**



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

Members Present: Ed Koppman, Rinkesh Desai, William Freeman, Corey Carrasco, Fred Washington, Javier Vilchis, Amy Martin, Kiphani Allen, Raja Chaudhry

Members Absent: Philip Hiatt Haigh, Andy Jones

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ed Koppman at 9:07am.

2. Welcome/Introductions

Corey Corrasco, the new District Two appointee, was introduced to the board.

3. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

4. Review and Approval of the October 3, 2024, Minutes

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes and Mr. Freeman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Status of Trails

Micah Baker, Mobility Planning Manager with the Dallas County Public Works Department, provided the trails update.

Dallas County submitted an application to the 2025 TA Set-Aside Call for Projects on January 24th for Chalk Hill Phase 2.

Cypress Waters Trail

Dallas County opened Bids on October 10th and awarded Ed Bell Construction the Bid on December 3rd. The Pre-Construction meeting was held on January 28th and the NTP will be issued for March. ROW easements have been finalized between the City and Developer.

Chalk Hill Trail

The kickoff meeting for Phase 1 was hosted in September 2024 and for Phase 2 in November 2024. Phase 1 schematic was submitted to TxDOT on October 17th to initiate the environmental review. The 95% plan submittal is anticipated this Spring.

Heritage Trail (Under 80 Trail)

Construction began in June 2024 and is 60% complete. The estimated completion is in July 2025.

Campion Trail

Phase 1 concrete pavement is complete. Phase 1b is expected to be advertised in early Spring 2025. Dallas County has reviewed the 100% plans for Phase 2. Final Plans and Environmental pending USACE approval and agreement. PSA will need to be approved before construction.

6. Status of County Preserves

Mia Whitham, Open Space Administrator with the Dallas County Planning and Development Department, provided the Parks and Open Space Update.

Staff Update

The new Park Ranger Position was posted to the Dallas County Career Website on February 6th.

Parks and Open Space Property Requests

Trinity River Mountain Creek, Rowlett Creek, and Palmetto-Alligator Slough preserve all currently have ongoing utility easement requests.

Parks and Open Space Projects and Activities

Dallas County purchased a restroom facility for Cottonwood Creek Preserve. The City of Wilmer will be installing a disc golf course, parking and lighting in conjunction with the restroom. Halff Associates completed surveying Goat Island East, and Dallas County staff are exploring options to ensure compliance with the Texas Aggregate Quarry and Pit Safety Act. The Dallas County Parks and Open Space Program is also exploring options to rehabilitate the paved trail at Post Oak Preserve to ADA standards. Hazardous dead trees were removed from the Post Oak Preserve parking lot in January.

UNT ecology students will be completing a habitat management plan for Elm Fork Preserve as part of their Ecological Action Studio Class. They will be working with a consultant, the City of Carrollton and Dallas County Parks and Open Space staff. Their work will consist of three site visits to the preserve throughout February and a presentation of their plan in May.

Parks and Open Space Volunteer Program

On December 7th, volunteers collected trash at Post Oak Preserve in collaboration with Texas Conservation Alliance. On January 25th, volunteers removed invasive privet at Cedar Mountain Preserve. The Spring 2025 tentative volunteer event schedule was also announced and is listed below.

March 22: Tenmile Creek Preserve Beautification Volunteer Event (tentative)

March 29: Guided Hike at Spring Creek Park Preserve with

Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest

April 12: Cedar Hill Earthfest

April 19: Guided Hike at Goat Island Preserve with Amy Martin

April 26: Learn to Disc Golf at Lester Lorch Park (tentative)

May 10: Invasive Species Removal at Post Oak Preserve (tentative)

June 7: Invasive Species Removal at Muddy Creek Preserve (tentative)

7. “Get a Handle on Privet” – Amy Martin

Amy Martin delivered a presentation on the invasive species privet, highlighting its detrimental impact and the significant costs associated with its infestation. She emphasized the urgency of addressing this issue and encouraged board members to engage with their district representatives to advocate for privet removal in green spaces.

8. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

Ms. Martin requested to present part two of her “Get a Handle on Privet” presentation. Mr. Desai requested to discuss the future of the Campion Trail and its planned connections to other trails.

9. Upcoming Events/Board Meetings

a. Next TAPP Board Regular Meeting: April 3, 2025

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:12am.