

Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program Board

February 6, 2025



Approve the October 3rd Meeting Minutes

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 and rendered in a bold, white, sans-serif typeface. The word 'DALLAS' is positioned within the blue band. The words 'COUNTY', 'TRAIL', and 'SYSTEM' are stacked vertically within the red field.

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

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:

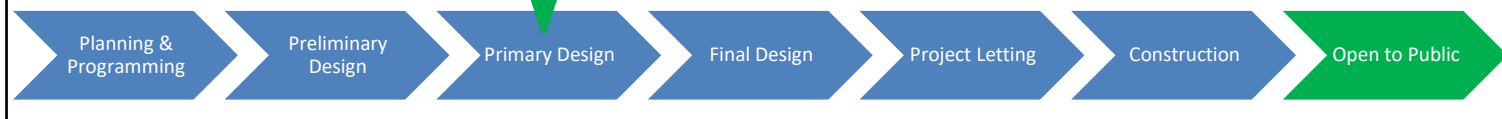
- ILA with City of Dallas was fully executed on August 6th.
- 100% plans were submitted to TxDOT in July and TxDOT has requested the State Letter of Authority (SLOA)
 - SLOA was received in August
- Project Advertised on September 6th
 - Two Pre-Bid Meetings have been held
 - **Dallas County opened Bids on October 10th and awarded Ed Bell Construction on Dec 3rd**
 - **Pre- Con meeting held on Jan. 28th**
 - **NTP will be issued for March**
- **ROW easements have been finalized between City and Developer**



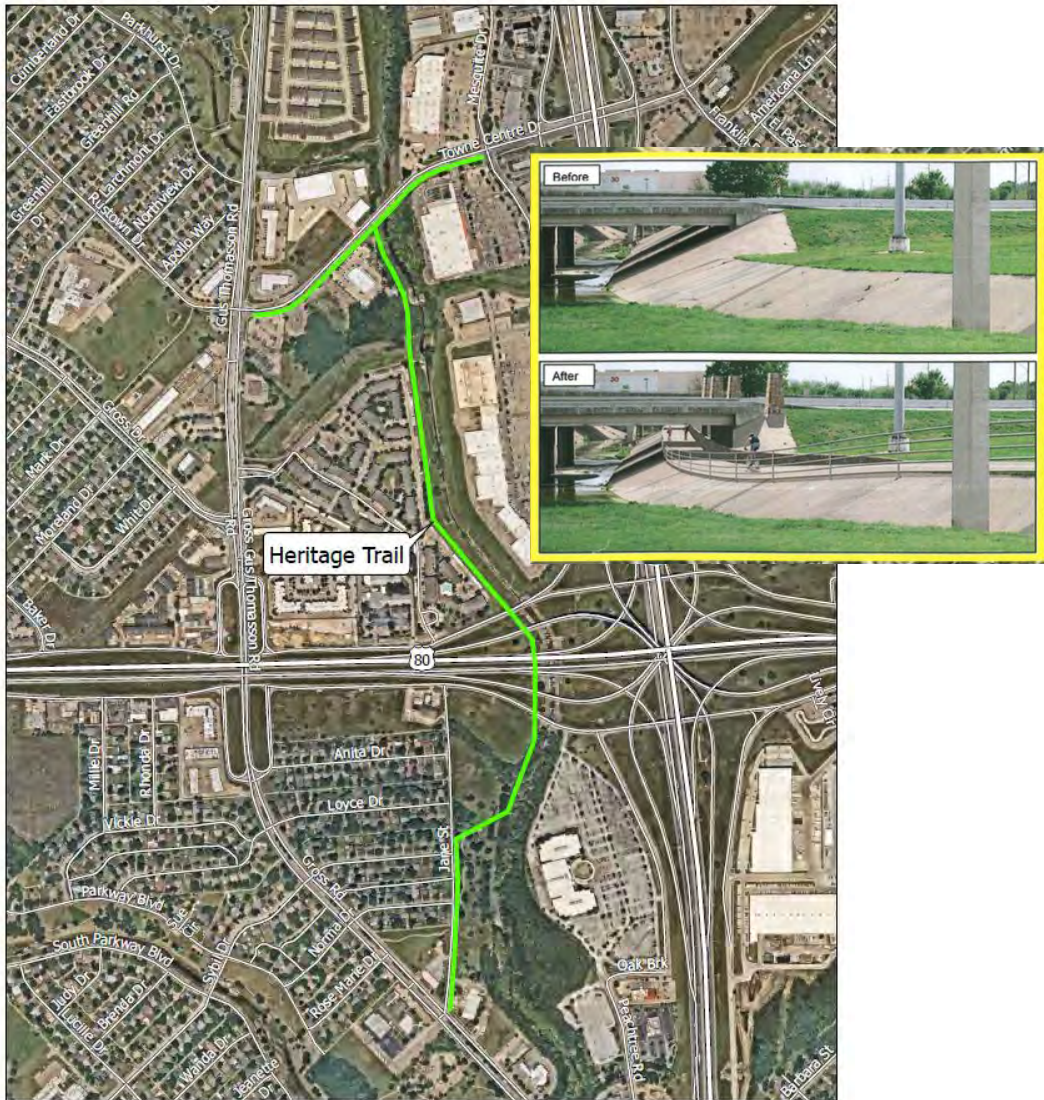
- New Construction of 12 foot wide reinforced concrete Trail with access trails and sidewalk to neighboring communities, 3 bridges, cross drainage culverts and other trail safety appurtenances.

- Received TA Set-Aside funding from NCTCOG for \$3.4 million in Construction Funding for Phase 1
- AFA with TxDOT is fully executed for Phase 1
- Work Orders for Phase 1 and Phase 2 are were approved in August
 - **Hosted kickoff meeting for Phase 1 in Sept. 2024 and for Phase 2 in Nov. 2024**

- **Schematic was submitted to TxDOT on October 17th to initiate Environmental**
- **95% plan submittal is anticipated in Spring**
- City of Dallas was awarded a 2023 TxDOT TA Set-Aside grant for part of Phase 3



Heritage Trail (Under 80 Trail)

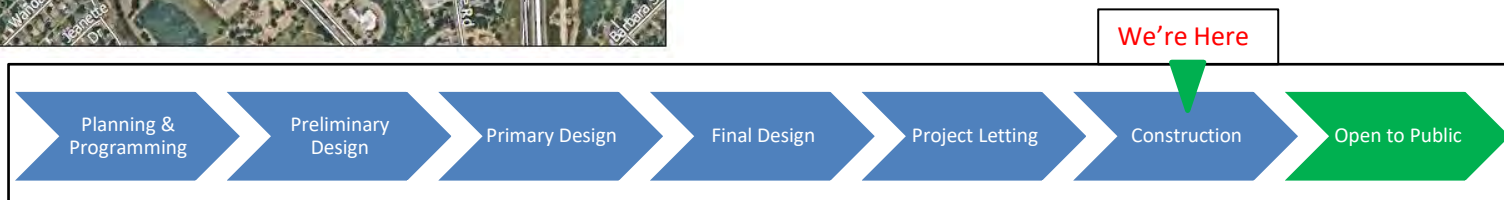


Project Scope:

- 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 held a Pre-Construction Meeting on April 23rd
- **Construction began in June. (60% complete)**
- **Estimated completion in July 2025**



Heritage Trail (Under 80 Trail)

Construction Photos



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:

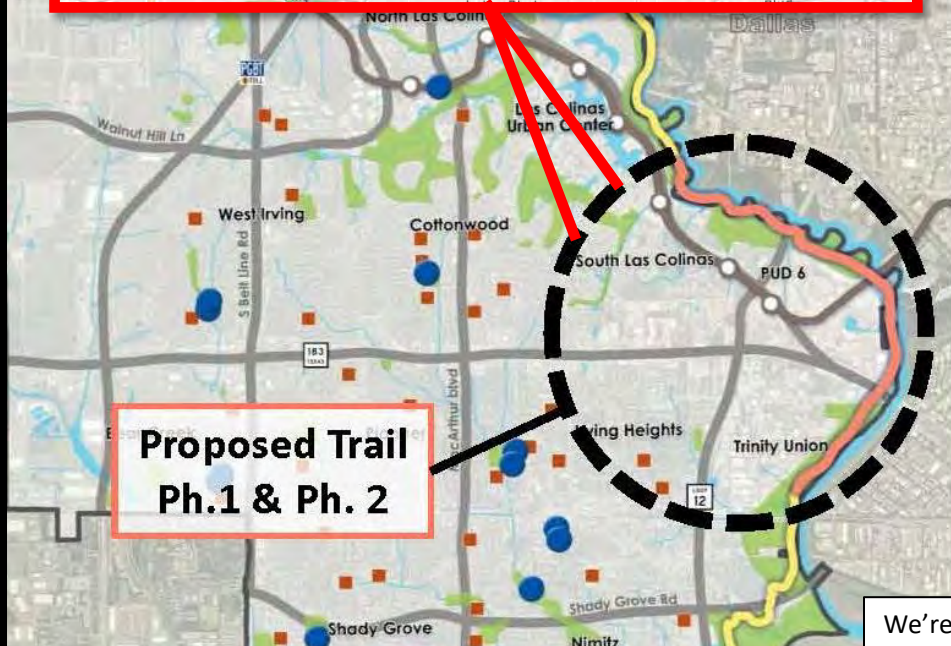
- Phase 1 –River Hills to Frasier Dam (100% Design)
 - Split into two phases due to ROW issues
 - Southern segment began construction in July 2023 (**Concrete Pavement is complete**)
 - **Phase 1B (red segment) is expected to advertise in early Spring 2025**
- Phase 2- Frasier Dam to California Crossing (Dallas County Participation)
 - **Dallas County has reviewed the 100% plans**
 - **Updated alignment at Trinity crossing has been established**
 - **Final Plans and Environmental pending USACE approval and agreements**
 - **PSA will need to be approved before construction**



Campion Trail Elm Folk Extension (Phase 1)

Campion Trail Elm Folk Extension (Phase 2)

Irving



Proposed Trail
Ph.1 & Ph. 2

We're Here

Planning &
Programming

Preliminary
Design

Primary Design

Final Design

Project Letting

Construction

Open to Public

City of
Grand Prairie

Campion Trail Phase 1A

Construction Photos





Parks and Open Space Update

Staff Update

Park Ranger

NEW FY25 Position!

The job opening will be posted soon! Please share within your networks.
Applicants can apply at the [Dallas County Careers website](#).



Parks and Open Space Property Requests

Trinity River Authority Sewer Easements

Trinity River Mountain Creek Preserve

City Sewer Projects

Rowlett Creek Preserve

Oncor Electric Easement

Palmetto-Alligator Slough Preserve

Parks and Open Space Projects & Activities

Cottonwood Creek Preserve

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

Goat Island East

TxDOT Gravel Pit Compliance

Post Oak Preserve

- Future Rehabilitation of paved trail to ADA Standards
- Hazard trees removed from parking lot

Parks and Open Space Projects & Activities

UNT Ecology Students - Habitat Management Plan for Elm Fork Preserve

Students will visit Elm Fork Preserve throughout February to document existing conditions and write a habitat management plan, to be presented on campus in May.



Past Events

Post Oak Preserve
Clean-Up with TCA
Dec. 7



Invasive Species Removal at
Cedar Mountain Preserve
Jan. 25



Spring Events

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

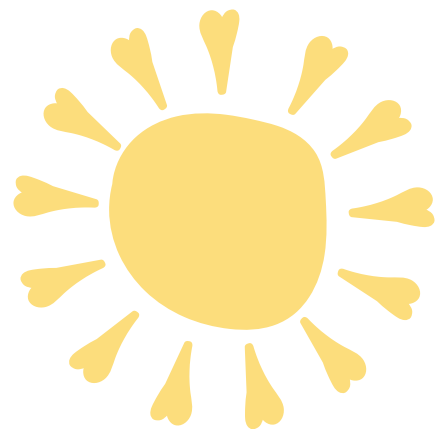
April 12: Cedar Hill Earthfest

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)



Registration for both volunteer events and guided events is at
<https://dallascounty.parks.galaxydigital.com>





PRIVET PRIMER

Part 1: The problem

Amy Martin for
Dallas County Open Space





PRIVET: THE PLAGUE



The Cost Of Privet Infestation

- People stop visiting infested open spaces and preserves
- Criminal elements and homeless encampments move in
- Wildlife except rodents and snakes leave due to lack of food & habitat
- Even native bees and butterflies can't live there
- Plant diversity plunges because privet outcompetes native plants
- Parks and preserves become green wastelands



“But it makes pretty flowers in the summer that bees and butterflies love.”

So do lots of native plants.

- Nectar is not enough
- Butterflies require host plants to feed their larvae
- Bees need healthy trees for nesting.
- Endangered bumblebees require open ground & a healthy understory

“But I see birds eating the berries .”



- Privet berries are low nutrition “popcorn for birds”
- Native trees and shrubs berries have high food value and persist into winter on the stem
- Preferred shrubs include:
 - roughleaf dogwood
 - yaupon holly
 - possumhaw
 - beautyberry
 - elderberry

Privet destroys native understory plants
and with high food & habitat value.

- Virginia wildrye
- inland sea oats
- wildflowers
- pigeonberry
- Turks' caps
- coralberry
- sedges



apant



DANGER Heat index 20% higher than non-privet areas.

◁ In the 90s to 100s degrees, this can kill you. ▷



This hides criminals and encampments!



Glossy privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*)
Up to 40 feet tall — kills trees



Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)

Up to 20 feet tall — kills shrubs & understory trees



Quihoui privet (*Ligustrum quihoui*)
3 to 10 feet tall — kills herbaceous understory

JOPPA PRESERVE

Useless for wildlife

Trinity Forest Trail

Dangerous trail section

Trinity Forest Trail

Blind curve for ambush

Trinity Forest Trail

Dangerous trail section

Everything dark green is privet.

Riparian DCOS preserves with the worst privet infestations:

- Muddy Creek Preserve — Horrible — District 1
- North Mesquite Creek Preserve — Horrible — District 1
- Rowlett Creek Preserve — What a mess — District 1
- Spring Creek Forest Preserve: Lee F. Jackson — Rapidly getting worse — D 1
- Elm Fork Preserve — Rapidly getting worse — District 2
- Goat Island Preserve — Privet on island rapidly getting out of control — D 3
- Joppa Preserve — By far the worst, drastic security issue — District 3
- McCommas Bluff Preserve — Rapidly getting worse, security issue — Dist. 3
- Riverbend Preserve — Who knows how bad; no visits in years — District 3
- Tenmile Creek Preserve — Big infestation off utility corridor — District 3
- Fish Creek Preserve — Horrible — District 4
- Mountain Creek Preserve — Can't see the river for the privet — District 4

Non-riparian DCOS preserves with the worst privet infestations:

- Cedar Ridge Preserve — Some sections are a blight, cedar elm infestation of forests a bigger issue — District 3
- Cedar Mountain Preserve — Horrible – District 3
- Paul S. Dryer Preserve at Windmill Hill — District 3
- Post Oak Preserve — Some sections are a blight, cedar elm infestation of savannas an even worse problem a bigger issue — District 3



Privet Primer Part 2:

- ~ Making a management plan
- ~ Cutting & extracting
- ~ Herbicides
- ~ Post-removal plan





COVER ART BY MARIELL GUZMAN

Proposal of Future Agenda Items



Next Meeting
April 3, 2025

See you next time!