



Minutes Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program Board Meeting



**April 3, 2025
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, Corey Carrasco, Fernando Rojas, Javier Vilchis, Amy Martin, Kiphani Allen, Raja Chaudhry

Members Absent: Philip Hiatt Haigh, Andy Jones, Rinkesh Desai

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ed Koppman at 9:03am.

2. Welcome/Introductions

Fernando Rojas, the new District One appointee, was introduced to the board.

3. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

4. Review and Approval of the February 6, 2024, Minutes

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve the February 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.

Cypress Waters Trail

The pre-construction meeting was held on January 28. The Notice to Proceed will be issued for June.

Chalk Hill Trail

Phase 1: TxDOT's environmental review began in October and is ongoing. Dallas County submitted 95% plans to TxDOT in March.

Phase 2: Dallas County staff are waiting to see if grant funds will be awarded from either NCTCOG or TxDOT.

Heritage Trail (Under 80 Trail)

Construction began in June 2024 and is 72% complete. The estimated completion is in July 2025.

Campion Trail

Phase 1 concrete pavement is complete. Phase 1b was advertised in on March 24th, bids will be opened April 25th, and construction will begin in Summer 2025. Phase 2 final plans and environmental review are pending USACE approval and agreement. A study has been funded for a consultant to study the feasibility of a connection from Bachman Lake across Frasier Dam to the Campion Trail. Considerations are being taken for the potential connection to also function as a maintenance road.

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.

Parks and Open Space Property Requests

Trinity River Mountain Creek, Rowlett Creek, Paul S. Dryer Preserve at Windmill Hill, and Palmetto-Alligator Slough preserve all currently have ongoing utility easement requests.

Parks and Open Space Projects and Activities

The restroom facility for Cottonwood Creek Preserve is ahead of schedule and is currently scheduled for installation in early June. The City of Wilmer will be installing a disc golf course, parking and lighting in conjunction with the restroom. Dallas County staff continue to work on compliance with the Texas Aggregate Quarry and Pit Safety Act at Goat Island East. The Dallas County Parks and Open Space Program is also exploring options to rehabilitate the paved trail at Post Oak Preserve to ADA standards.

UNT ecology students visited Elm Fork Preserve in February and March to collect data for a habitat management plan 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. A final presentation of their plan will be held at UNT 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.

April 12: Cedar Hill Earthfest

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

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 part two of a presentation on the invasive species privet, highlighting different methods of control. 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

There were no proposed future agenda items.

9. Upcoming Events/Board Meetings

a. Next TAPP Board Regular Meeting: June 5, 2025

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:02am.