

Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program Board

April 3, 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.

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 (COG) and for TxDOT's Preliminary - App on February 21st 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 June**
- **ROW easements have been finalized between City and Developer**





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 for Phase 1
- Design 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
- Phase 1 Progress:
 - Schematic was submitted to TxDOT on October 17th to initiate Environmental (ongoing)
 - 95% plan submittal to TxDOT occurred in March
 - City of Dallas was awarded a 2023 TxDOT TA Set-Aside grant for part of Phase 3

Planning & Programming

Preliminary Design

Primary Design

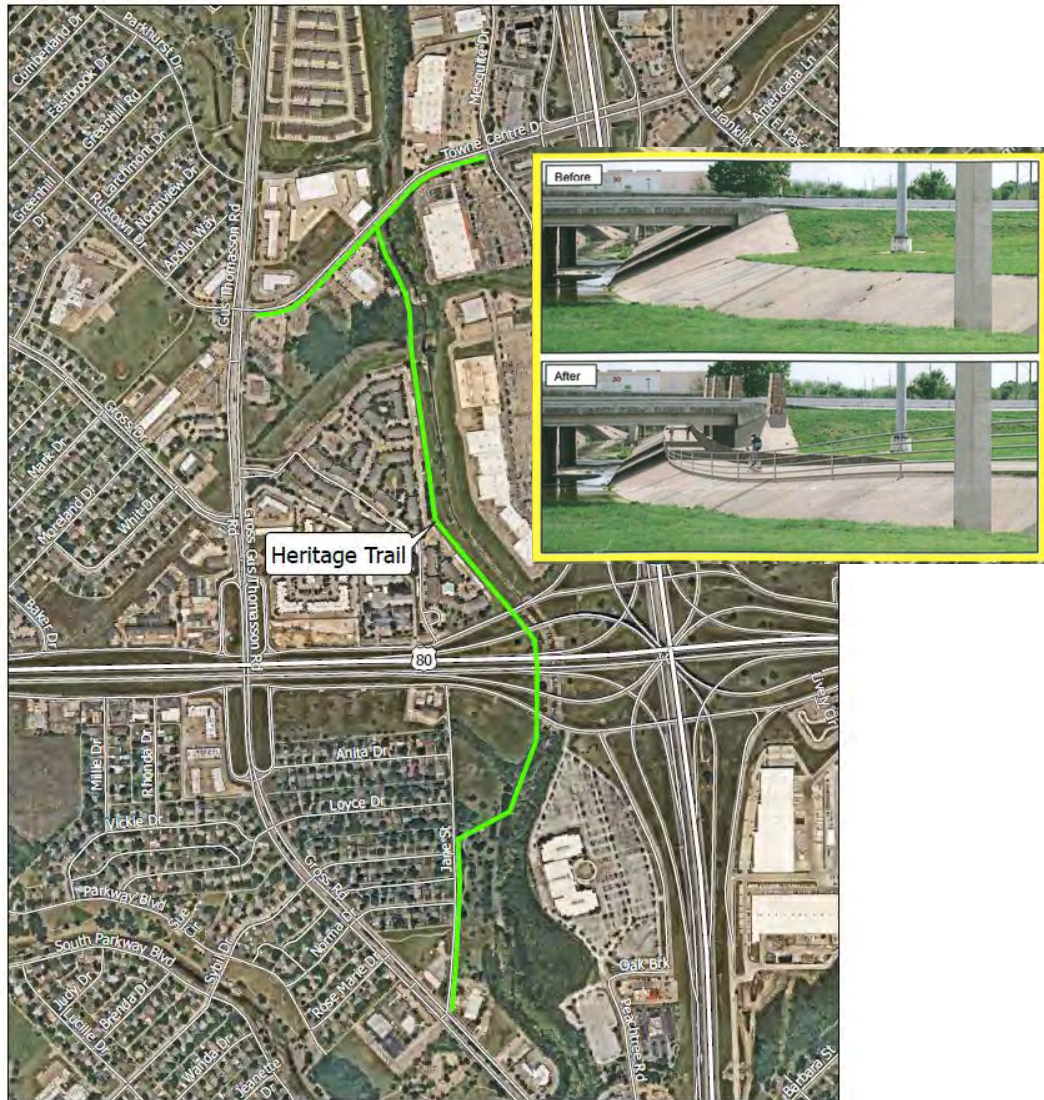
Final Design

Project Letting

Construction

Open to Public

Heritage Trail (Under 80 Trail)

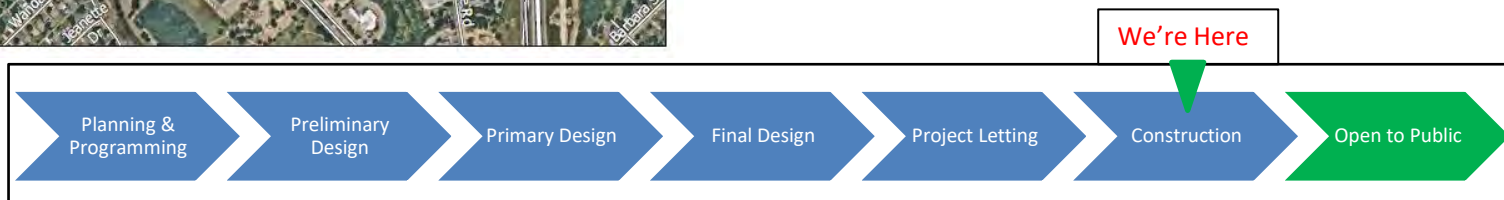


Project Scope:

- 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 2024 (72% 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) was advertised on March 24th 2025**
 - **Phase 1B Construction will begin in Summer 2025 (Bids to open April 25th)**
- 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 must be approved before construction



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

We're Here

Planning &
Programming

Preliminary
Design

Primary Design

Final Design

Project Letting

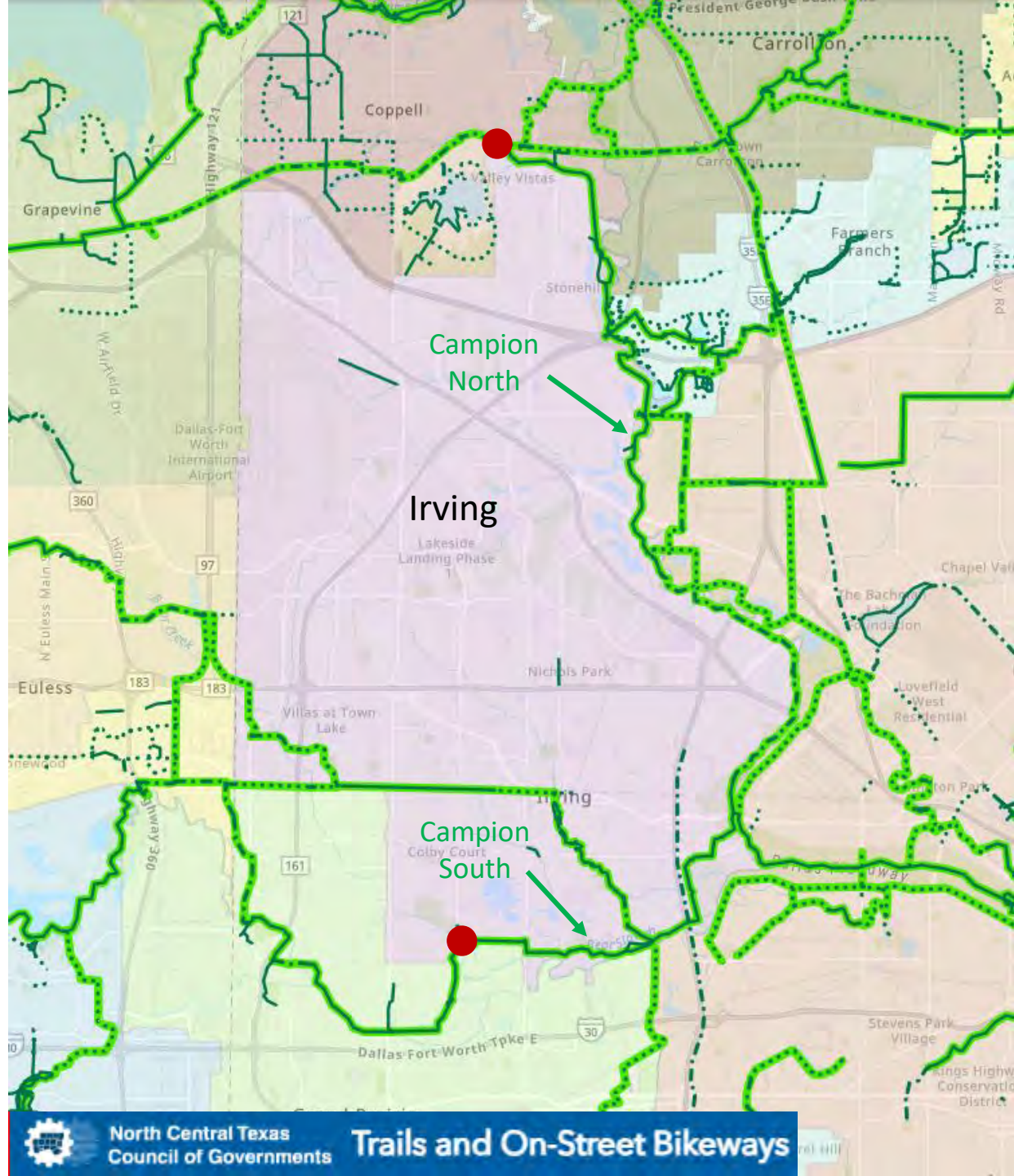
Construction

Open to Public

Campion Trail Network

Google Earth Link:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fearth.google.com%2F&data=05%7C02%7CMicah.Baker%40dallascounty.org%7Ca27e3e32cadb4039285408dd721920da%7C51adcfad72f1479cb28f52412e04014b%7C0%7C0%7C638792174452763905%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMtIklkFOIjoiTWFpbGlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=85dNUVH%2FnfY8CLFmMuPHiEnAXp3%2Fynu1orREOu7pBCw%3D&reserved=0>



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

Paul S. Dryer Preserve at Windmill Hill

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

Past Events

Guided Hike at Paul S. Dryer Preserve at Windmill Hill



Guided Hike at Spring Creek Park Preserve



Spring Events

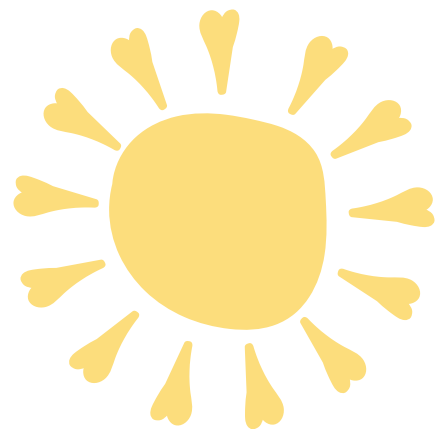
April 12: Cedar Hill Earthfest

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

Beautification Project at Tenmile Creek 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 2: The solution

Amy Martin for
Dallas County Open Space





Privet Recap

- Hides criminals & encampments
- Destroys natural diversity
- Increases erosion
- High humidity caused by privet is a serious health hazard
- 3 species of privet destroy low, medium & high layers
- Privet infestation in most DCOSes
- Worst along creeks & rivers
- Reduces preserve visitation



Privet Primer Part 2:

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





before – Fort Worth Nature Center:
Greer Island



after (left side, done – right side: partial)
– Fort Worth Nature Center: Greer Island



Richard Freiheit with forestry weedeater

Texas Buckeye Trail
Orange tape: plants to preserve
Blue tape: cut privet ready to treat



Texas Buckeye Trail
Volunteers cutting a trail through
Level 4 privet to assess area

- Level 1: Scattered privet shrubs or small copses.
- Level 2: Contiguous privet up to 20 yards, limited understory remaining.
- Level 3: Contiguous privet up to 20 yards, no remaining understory.
- Level 4: Contiguous privet longer than 20 yards or measuring in acres with no remaining understory.



Ligustrum lucidum, glossy, wax-leaf, or big-leaf privet – note size of trunk

Ligustrum lucidum destroying a hardwood forest
Dixon Branch Greenbelt Park – note dead tree on upper left



Texas Buckeye Trail volunteers with loppers

Cordless reciprocating saw





Stick hedge aka dead hedge

Elevated base of brush pile so wildlife
can access and burrow beneath



Richard Freiheit of LLELA
with burn pile



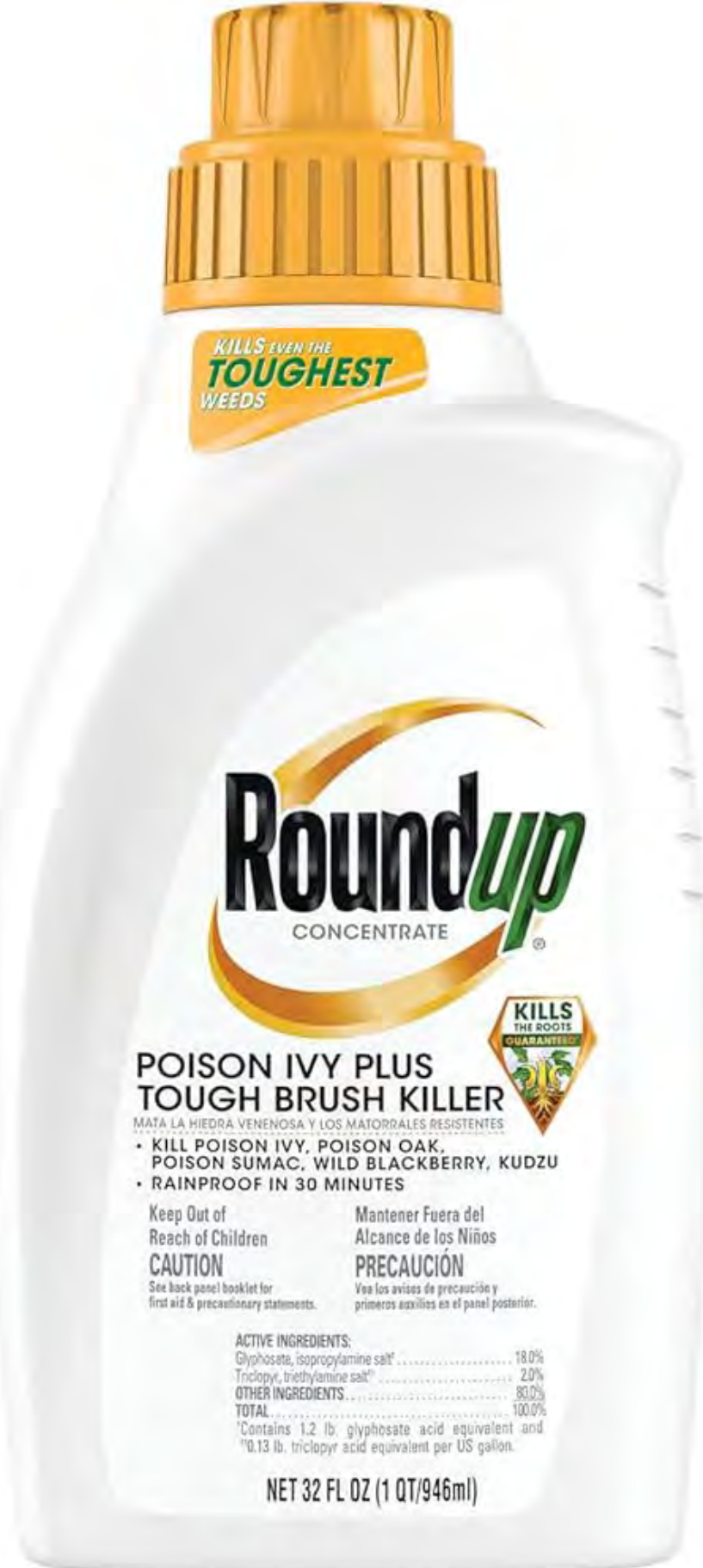


North Texas Master Naturalist volunteers piling privet at
Twelve Hills Nature Center for removal

Privet cut multiple times & still re-sprouting



Privet sprouting from
untreated trunk



Glyphosate with triclopyr

- Use minimally & strategically
- Never use if rain is within 1 week
- Extreme caution near waterways or in damp soil
- Treat only one-fourth of privet within tree dripline
- Use only braads that seal the herbicide in within 30 minutes



Buckthorn Blaster sponge daubers with blue dye

Volunteer waiting to treat privet stumps with herbicide applied by small paintbrush





Get the roots!



Volunteer at Texas Buckeye Trail
using Extractigator

Extractigator with Big
Foot attachment







Goats munching privet

Goats behind temporary electric fence

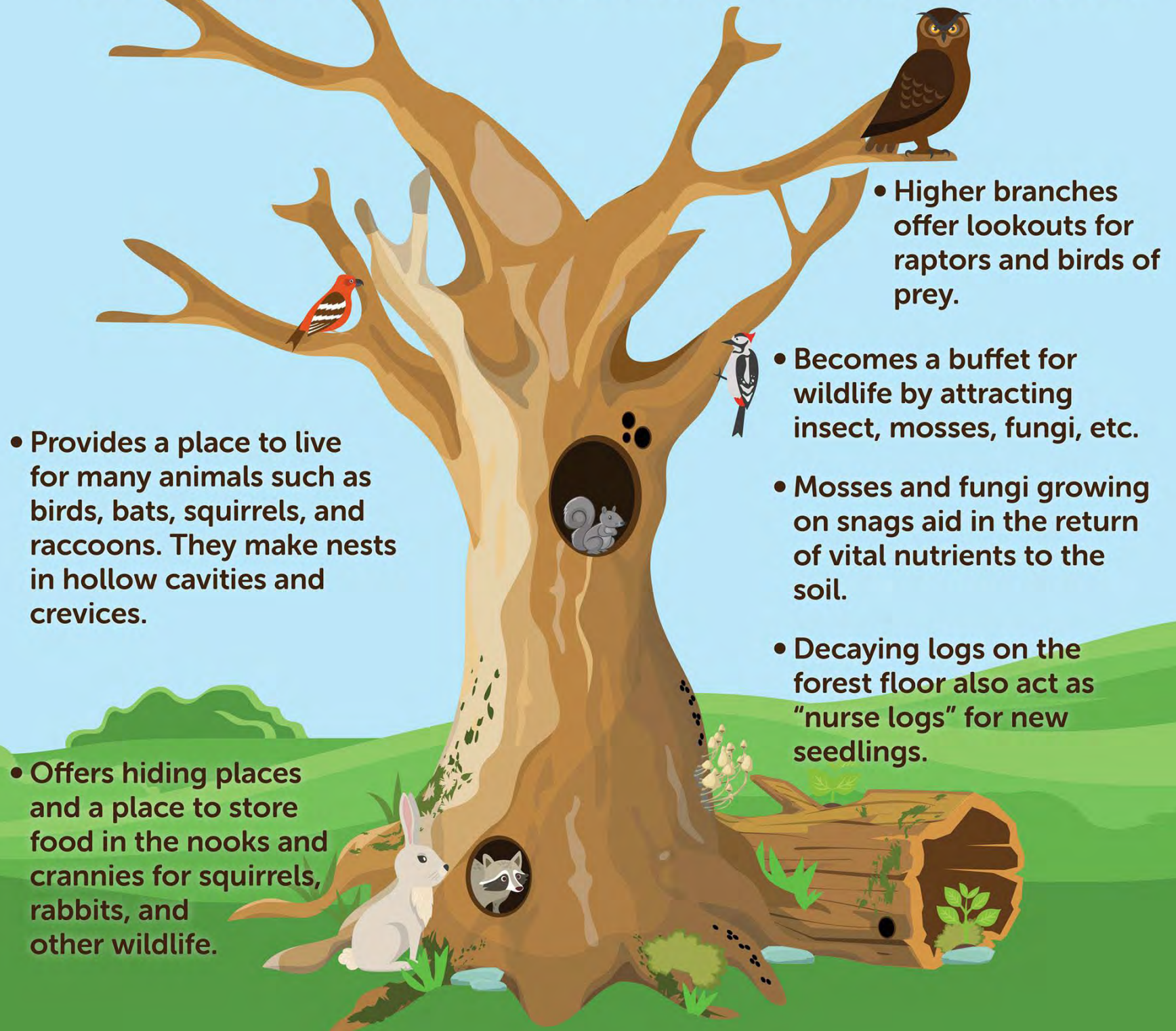




Girded tree

LEAVE *the* SNAGS!

Nearly every part of a dead tree's decay benefits wildlife species.





Level 4 infestation – privet is 20 feet tall

Professional privet control tools
donated to LLELA



Forestry mulchers





So many berries!

Privet berry spouts in cleared area -
should have been treated sooner



Year
1



Tree A



Tree B

10 Years
Later



Tree A



Tree B

Trees planted when small almost always grow faster and more vigorously than taller specimens and soon pass them both size and overall health. Ill.: laidbackgardener.blog

Dibble bar with
bareroot saplings





Black walnut

Mast-
bearing
trees

Oak



Pecan



Wind-blown elm
(L) & ash (R)
seeds





Understory trees

Forest with
understory

- Possumhaw
- Cherry laurel
- Texas redbud
- Hercules club
- Eve's necklace
- Texas persimmon
- Roughleaf dogwood
- Carolina buckthorn
- Rusty blackhaw viburnum



Roughleaf dogwood
in forest

Redbud in forest



Understory shrubs

Turk's caps in
forest



Beautyberry in forest

- Beautyberry
- Possumhaw
- Turks' caps
- Coralberry
- Elderberry



Coralberry in forest



Understory native grasses

Inland sea oats



Tamper



Virginia wildrye



Understory wildflowers

Golden groundsel

Pigeonberry

- Golden groundsel
- Heartleaf skullcap
- Golden Alexander
- False boneset
- Pigeon berry
- Goldenrod
- Fall asters





Why we do this work

Same area 2 years later
with inland sea oats

Privet cut & treated at LLELA



For more information: Texas

- TexasInvasives.org
- Texas Parks and Wildlife — Stop Invasives
- Texas A&M Forest Service — Manage Forests & Land
- The Nature Conservancy — Global Invasive Species
Team Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center — Invaders
of Texas Program

For more information: North Texas

GreenSourceDFW.com

- How North Texas natural areas are battling privet
- Local success stories in the fight against privet

How can DCOS contain privet in their preserves?

- DCOS board reps must urge host cities' park and public works in their region to get active about it.
- DCOS board reps must help staff form citizen friends groups for each preserve in their region and have monthly or quarterly workdays.
- DCOS board reps must reach out to their county commissioner and encourage support of these initiatives.
- Support staff efforts to apply for grants from USDA and NRCS and hire interns from universities with ecology programs such as UNT and UTA.



COVER ART BY MARIELL GUZMAN

Proposal of Future Agenda Items



Next Meeting
June 5, 2025

See you next time!