



MINUTES

Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program Board Meeting



**August 14, 2025
9:30 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, Fernando Rojas, Amy Martin, Kiphani Allen, Andy Jones

Members Absent: Philip Hiatt Haigh, Corey Carrasco, Javier Vilchis, Raja Chaudhry

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ed Koppman at 9:37am.

2. Welcome/Introductions

3. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

4. Review and Approval of the June 5, 2025, Minutes

Mr. Freeman made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes and Mr. Jones 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

Construction began on June 2, 2025, and is anticipated to be completed in summer 2026.

Chalk Hill Trail

Chalk Hill Trail received TA Set-Aside funding from NCTCOG for \$10.0 Million in construction funding for Phase 2. The grant was submitted to the Transportation Improvement Program Modification in June. Phase 1 Environmental has been approved by TxDOT and 100% plan submittal to TxDOT is expected in August.

Heritage Trail

Construction began in June 2024 and is 87% complete. Completion for Heritage Trail is estimated for Fall 2025.

Campion Trail

Phase 1B was awarded to A&C Construction in June. Phase 1B construction will begin in Fall 2025 pending USACE Letter of Approval for Construction. Final Plans and Environmental for Phase 2 are pending USACE approval and agreements. The City has addressed all TxDOT comments pending TxDOT approval. The City is in the process of acquiring ROW.

Westside Trail

At the last meeting, Mr. Jones and Mr. Desai requested an update from the Public Works Department on the Farmers Branch Westside trail. A map of the trail alignment and construction responsibility was shown as well as photos of the paved trail.

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.

Casey Carter, the new Dallas County Parks and Open Space Park Ranger, was introduced to the board. It was also announced that the 2024 Dallas County Open Space Plan received the Gold Award in Environmental Planning from the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). The award ceremony will be held in October at the Texas APA Annual Conference.

Parks and Open Space Property Requests

Trinity River Mountain Creek Preserve, Rowlett Creek Preserve, 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 scheduled for installation at the end of August. 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. Dallas County staff have been working with a consultant for a scope and fee for design of Goat Island East and the parking lot at Goat Island Preserve. The Dallas County Parks and Open Space Program is working towards bidding out the paved trail rehabilitation project at Post Oak Preserve.

The damage to Dallas County property at Spring Creek Forest Preserve was addressed. The board was provided with a map showing the affected areas, photographs documenting the damage, and a timeline of events. Going forward,

Dallas County staff will work closely with Garland on remediation methods and future access for work on the Spring Creek Interceptor.

Parks and Open Space Volunteer Program

On June 7th, Amy Martin led a National Trails Day Guided Hike at Goat Island Preserve. On July 11th, The Trinity River Crew, a program created by Trinity Park Conservancy and Greenspace Dallas that provides meaningful, paid conservation work experience to youth from historically marginalized areas along the Trinity River, removed invasive species at Joppa Preserve. On July 12th, in collaboration with the City of Carrollton and Texas Conservation Alliance, volunteers removed invasive species at Elm Fork Preserve.

Upcoming Events

August 16: Boots on the Trail Event at Cedar Hill State Park

August 23: Guided Hike at Goat Island Preserve with Ranger Casey

September 13: Privet Removal at Elm Fork Preserve with University of Texas at Dallas students and the City of Carrollton

September 20: Tire Removal or BioBlitz at Goat Island Preserve, pending site conditions

October 4: Guided Hike at Cedar Mountain Preserve with Cedar Hill's Nature and Open Space Coordinator, Katie Christman

October 18: Harvest Heritage Festival at Cedar Hill State Park

October 25: Guided Hike at Post Oak Preserve with Ranger Casey

7. Electric Bicycle Discussion – Bill Freeman

Mr. Freeman discussed the controversy of electric bikes on trails. Mr. Freeman defined electric bikes and went over their history and how they evolved over time. He ended his discussion by concluding that there is a need for restrictions on electric bikes on paved trails and how White Rock Lake has already begun implementing some of these restrictions.

8. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

There were no proposed future agenda items.

9. Upcoming Events/Board Meetings

a. Next TAPP Board Regular Meeting: October 9, 2025

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:46am.