



MINUTES

Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program Board Meeting



April 09, 2026
9:30 a.m.

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

Members Present: Ed Koppman, William Freeman, Fernando Rojas, Amy Martin, Kiphani Allen, Andy Jones, Philip Hiatt Haigh, Rinkesh Desai, Shahzad Cahudhry, Corey Carrasco

Members Absent: Javier Vilchis

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ed Koppman at 9:35am.

2. Welcome/Introductions

Mr. Koppman discussed assuring quorum is made moving forward.
Introduction of Henry Heller (new Open Space Coordinator)

3. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

4. Review and Approval of the December 11, 2025, Minutes

Mr. Koppman made a motion to approve the December 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

Since construction began on June 2, 2025, the trail is now 87% complete and is anticipated to be completed in summer 2026.

Chalk Hill Trail

Chalk Hill Trail has entered Phase I and is actively taking bids, and the award is set to go out on April 21, 2026. TA has an AFA set-up with TxDOT which will be implemented when Phase is entered.

Heritage Trail

Heritage trail is now open to the public. There was no ribbon cutting ceremony for this opening.

Campion Trail

Phase 1B construction began in August and is now 95% complete.

Southeast Trail

The design phase of the trail is in progress and at roughly 60% completed.

6. Status of County Preserves

Elizabeth Allen, Assistant Director of the Dallas County Planning and Development Department, provided the Parks and Open Space update.

Parks and Open Space Projects and Activities

Staff will be meeting with contractors this summer to receive estimates for barrier work at Goat Island East.

The project to rehabilitate the paved trail at Post Oak Preserve went out to bid. The award to the contractor is pending.

The Garland City Council voted to approve the scope of work for the Kimley-Horn Project at their October 20th Council Meeting. The kickoff meeting was held on November 18th. The Garland Audit Committee met on December 1st to discuss the results of their audit report. A site visit was held on December 3rd with City of Garland, Dallas County, the Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest, Kimley-Horn & Associates, and Ace Pipe Cleaners to discuss access needs.

Kimley-Horn's environmental and drainage assessments are now complete. ACE Pipe Cleaning is still in the process of assessing needs of the sewer lines in and adjacent to the preserve. Kimley-Horn staff will attend the August TAPP Board meeting to provide an overview of the environmental report and recommendations for remediation.

7. Action Item: Review and Consider Approval to Name the wildscape at Spring Creek Park Preserve after Judy & Henry Aschner

To recognize the work done by the volunteer efforts of Judy and Henry Aschner on the wildscape in Spring Creek Forest Preserve a motion was made to rename the area to the Judy and Henry Aschner Native Wildscape. The motion was made by Mr. Jones and Mr. Rojas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Presentation: Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest, David Parrish

Introduction

Mr. Parrish spoke about his affiliations with the Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest, Texas Master Naturalist, and Native Plant Society. He described the importance of Spring Creek Forest Preserve, and the diverse ecosystems it protects, ranging from oak forest to native prairie.

Work of the Preservation for Spring Creek Forest Preserve

The Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest Preserve has coordinated 31 work sessions resulting in 900 volunteer hours. They have also engaged the community through 42 educational events and 16 Eagle Scout Projects. He spotlighted some events and projects, like the fixed point time-lapse camera done by an Eagle Scout, their Evening with Moths event, and an upcoming BioBlitz with the FIFA World Cup Organizing Committee.

9. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

There were no proposals for future agenda items.

10. Upcoming Events/Board Meetings

- a. Next TAPP Board Regular Meeting: June 11, 2026
- b. Mr. Hiatt Haigh spoke about the upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony for Phase II of the Trinity Forest Spine Trail, which will open the one-mile section of elevated trail near Lake June. Mr. Hiatt Haigh and Ms. Martin also spoke about their collaboration to introduce natural surface trails near Lake June.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:41am.