

Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program Board

April 9, 2026



Approve the October 9th Meeting Minutes

The logo is a shield-shaped emblem. The top portion is a solid blue horizontal band. The bottom portion is a solid red area. The text is centered within these sections.

DALLAS

**COUNTY
TRAIL
SYSTEM**

Public Works and
Trails Update

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES



- P&D Trail Program responsibilities transfer to PW effective January 1st 2021
- PW continues assessment of transferred trail projects and attending meetings with our agency partners and stakeholders
- Public Works assisted with several TxDOT TA Set-Aside Support Letters for our Partner Cities for the 2025 Call for Projects. Awards include:

TxDOT District	Project Sponsor	Project Name	Primary/ Secondary Facility	Project Category	TA Funding Source	Federal Funds Requested	Transportation Development Credits (TDC)
Dallas	City of Dallas	Trinity Forest Spine Trail – Bike/Ped Bridge	Shared Use Path	Large Scale	Any Area	\$10,903,200	--
Dallas	Midtown Dallas Inc.	Midtown Dallas Shared Use Trail	Shared Use Path	Large Scale	Any Area	\$10,463,200	--
Dallas	DART	Cotton Belt / Silver Line Rail Trail Phase 3a	Shared Use Path	Large Scale	Any Area	\$25,000,000	--
Dallas	City of Balch Springs	Southeast Trail Phase 1A	Shared Use Path / Sidewalks	Community-based Small Urban	Any Area	\$6,443,000	Yes

- Dallas County submitted application to the 2025 TA Set-Aside Call for Projects on January 24th to NCTCOG –RTC Action occurred in June
- **Westside Trail City Led (Phase 1) was awarded to contractor on October 8th, 2025. The Pre-Construction Meeting was held on November 18th.**

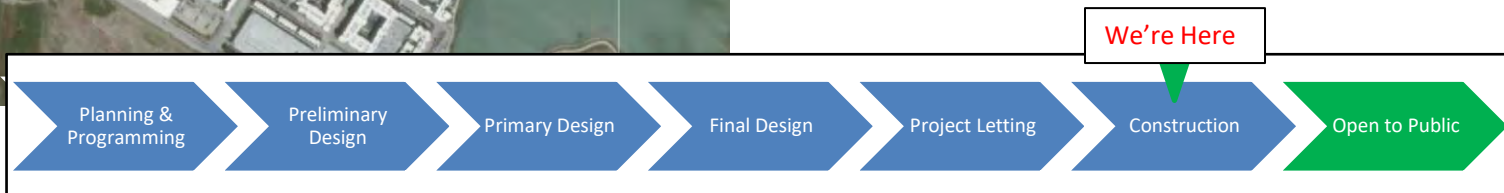
Cypress Waters Trail

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 2025
- 100% plans were submitted to TxDOT in July and the State Letter of Authority (SLOA) was received in August
- Project Advertised on September 6th
 - Dallas County opened Bids on October 10th and awarded Ed Bell Construction on Dec 3rd
 - Pre- Con meeting held on Jan. 28th
- **Construction began on June 2, 2025 (87% Complete)**
 - **Anticipated completion in Summer 2026**
 - **Contractor is working on trail paving**



Cypress Waters Trail

Construction Photos



Culvert 6 boxes installation



Filling up Aqua Barrier with water



Culvert 11 Wingwalls and approach

Chalk Hill Trail Phase 1 (90155) –District 4 County Led

PROPOSED

Chalk Hill Trail Phase 1

Dallas County Public Works



Chalk Hill Trail

Phase

- 1
- 2
- Community Access Points
- Entrance Ramps

Chalk Hill Trail Phase 1
Length: 0.95 Miles



REFERENCE ONLY DALLAS COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, OCTOBER 2024

Chalk Hill Trail Phase 1

Project Scope:

- New Construction of 12' Wide Concrete Trail with 4 access points to community neighborhoods and added drainage and safety features for trail users.

Status Update:

- Received TA Set-Aside funding from NCTCOG for \$3.4 million in Construction Funding for Phase 1
- Design Work Order for Phase 1 was approved in August 2024
- Amendment 2 to ILA was fully executed in November 2025
- **Phase 1 Design Progress:**
 - Hosted kickoff meeting in late 2024
 - **100% plans approved in September**
 - **Letter of Authority received in November from TxDOT**
 - **Bids opened in January 2026**
 - **Award is scheduled for April 21st**
 - **Construction anticipated to begin in Summer**

We're Here



Chalk Hill Trail Phase 2

Project Scope:

- New Construction of 12 feet wide reinforced concrete Trail with access trails and sidewalk to neighboring communities, 2 bridges, cross drainage culverts and other trail safety appurtenances

Status Update:

- Received TA Set-Aside funding from NCTCOG for \$10.0 Million in construction funding for Phase 2
- TIP Mod submitted in June
 - Signed TIP Mod received in November 2025
- Design Work Order for Phase 2 was approved in August 2024
- Phase 2 Design Progress:
 - Hosted kickoff meeting in late 2024
 - Dallas County received draft AFA from TxDOT in December 2025
 - AFA is pending execution by Dallas County
 - TxDOT is doing a cursory review of 60% Plans and providing comments to allow for progress prior to AFA execution

Chalk Hill Trail Phase 2 (90155) –District 4 County Led

PROPOSED

Chalk Hill Trail Phase 2

Dallas County Public Works



Chalk Hill Trail

Phase

1

2

Interurban Rail Columns

Bridges

Community Access Points

Chalk Hill Trail Phase 2
Length: 1.75 Miles



We're Here

Planning &
Programming

Preliminary
Design

Primary Design

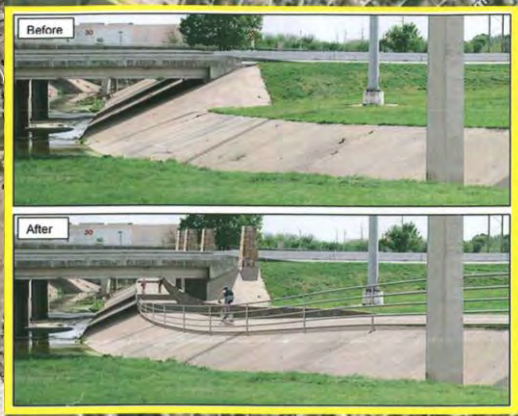
Final Design

Project Letting

Construction

Open to Public

Heritage Trail (Under 80 Trail)

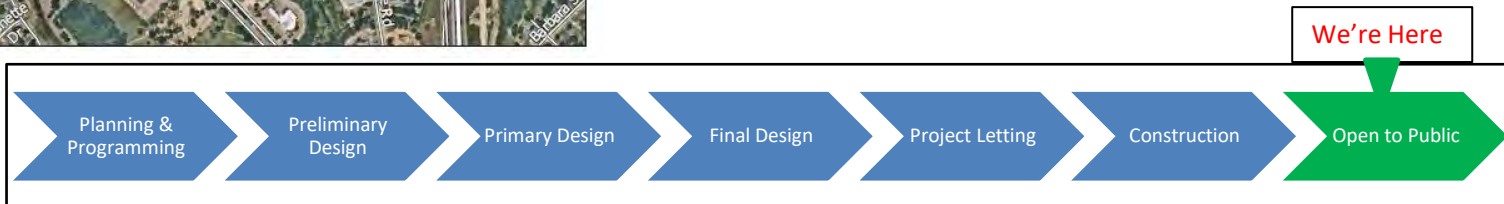


Project Scope:

- 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 (Substantially Complete pending punch list items)**
- **County is awaiting final invoice**



Heritage Trail (Under 80 Trail)

Photos



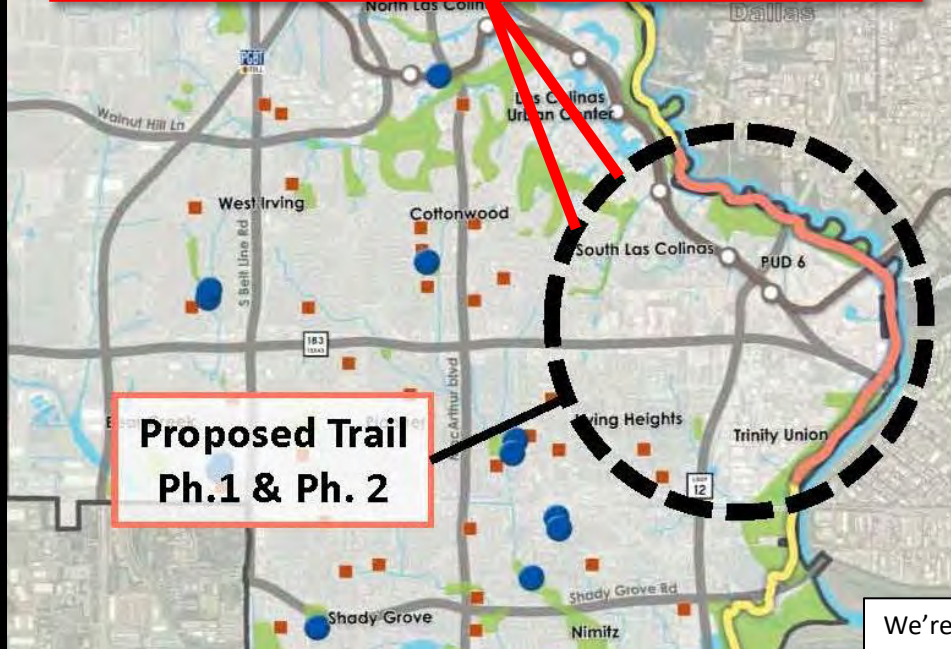
Campion Trail

Project Scope:

- New Construction of 12 feet wide reinforced Concrete Trail includes construction of three bridges, 6 low water crossings & 3 boardwalks.

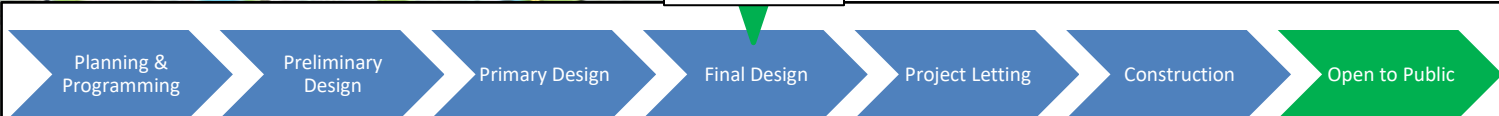
Status Update:

- Phase 1 –River Hills to Frasier Dam (100% Design)
 - Split into two phases due to ROW issues
 - Southern segment (yellow) is complete
 - **Phase 1B (red segment) was awarded to A&C Construction in June 2025**
 - **Construction is 95% complete**
- 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**
 - **City has addressed all TxDOT comments (Pending TxDOT approval)**
 - **City is in the process of acquiring ROW**



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

We're Here

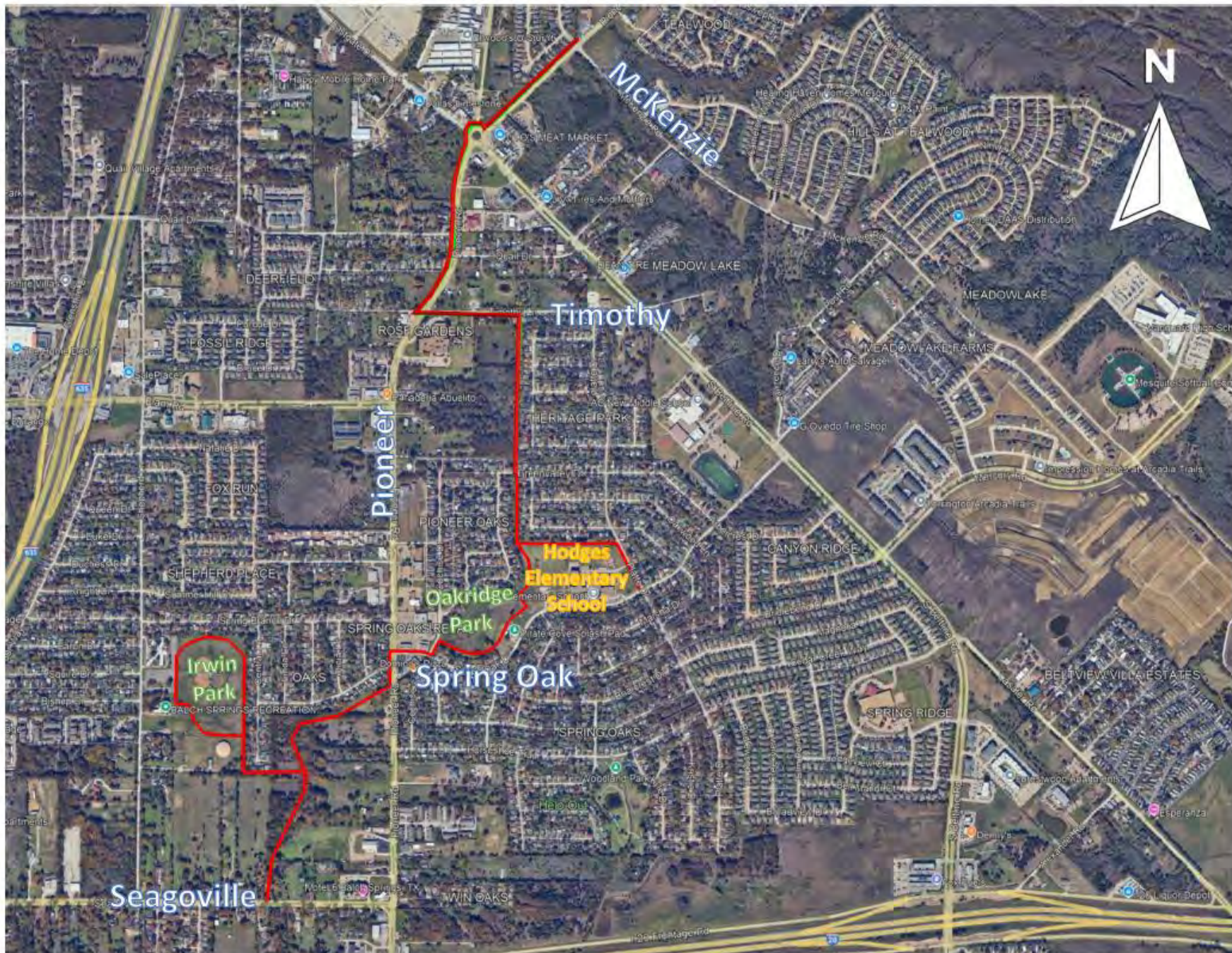


Campion Trail Phase 1B

Construction Photos



Southeast Trail MCIP 11801





Parks and Open Space Update

Welcome, Henry!



My name is Henry Heller, and I am excited to join Dallas County as the new Open Space Coordinator. I recently relocated to Dallas from Michigan, where I earned my bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and a master's degree in Communication. I bring a strong background in land stewardship, developed during my time with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, where I worked closely with volunteers to help maintain nearly 50,000 acres of protected land. Most recently, I worked at Amazon's fulfillment center in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where I managed a team of approximately 70 employees.

On a personal note, I got married this past November and am a proud dad to two cats. My wife and I share a long-term goal of starting a homestead together. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, camping, and running, and I am currently training for my first marathon this May. I am truly excited to be joining the Park and Open Space team and look forward to contributing to the important work ahead.

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

Goat Island East

TxDOT Gravel Pit Compliance

Staff will meet with contractors this summer to receive estimates for barrier work.

Post Oak Preserve

Future Rehabilitation of paved trail

Project went out for bid. Award to contractor is pending.

Damage to Dallas County Property at Spring Creek Forest Preserve



Spring Creek Forest Preserve Updates

Since the October TAPP Board meeting:

- The Garland City Council voted to approve the scope of work at the October 20th Council Meeting.
- The kickoff meeting for the project was held November 18th.
- The Garland Audit Committee met 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.

Spring Creek Forest Preserve Updates

Since the October TAPP Board meeting:

- Kimley-Horn's environmental and drainage assessments are complete.
- ACE Pipe Cleaning is continuing to assess 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.

Voting Item

Review and Consider Recommending
Commissioners Court Approval to Name the
Wildscape at Spring Creek Park Preserve
after Judy & Henry Aschner.

Judy and Henry Aschner Native Wildscape

The Wildscape at Spring Creek Park Preserve was originally planted by the Garland Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT). When the Chapter folded, the Society took responsibility for the Wildscape, but it was always a lower priority effort.

Then, Judy and Henry stepped up. Under their nurturing care, the Wildscape thrives throughout the growing season, serving as a bold statement of the beauty and benefits of using native plants in our suburban landscapes. Bilingual NPSOT signage was recently added identifying the importance of native plants in the Wildscape.



Presentation Item

Preservation Society for Spring
Creek Forest

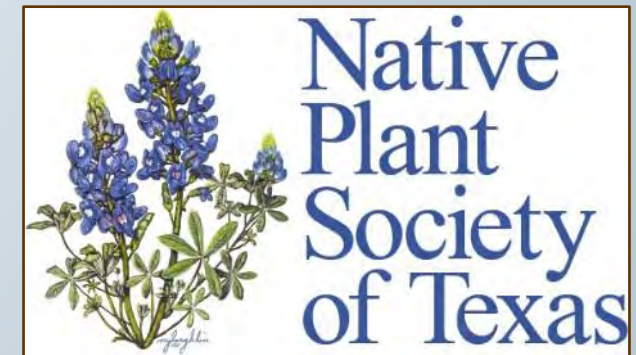


Dallas County Trail & Preserve Advisory Program Board - February 10, 2026

Preservation “Society” for Spring Creek Forest
~ *Preserve* ~ *Educate* ~ *Collaborate* ~

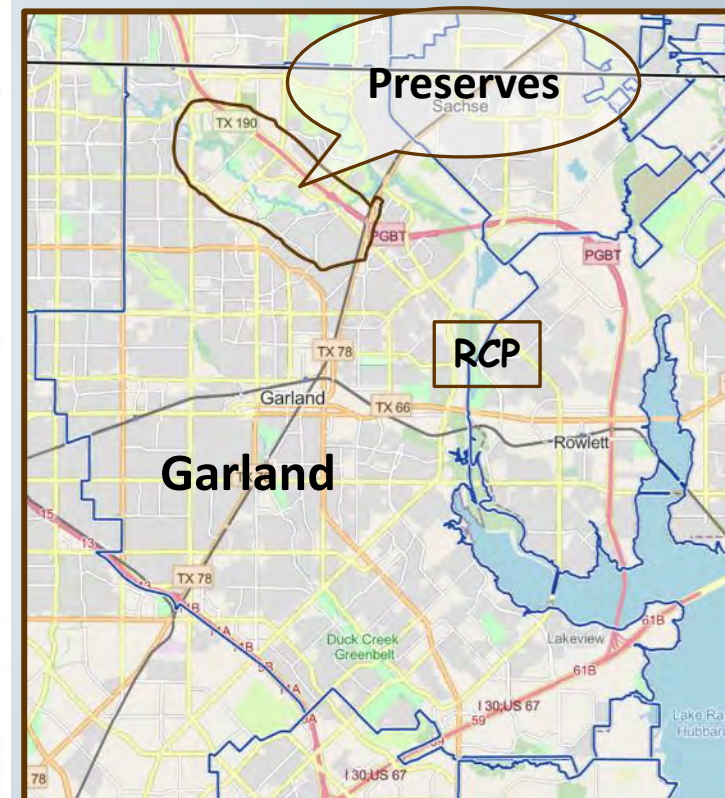
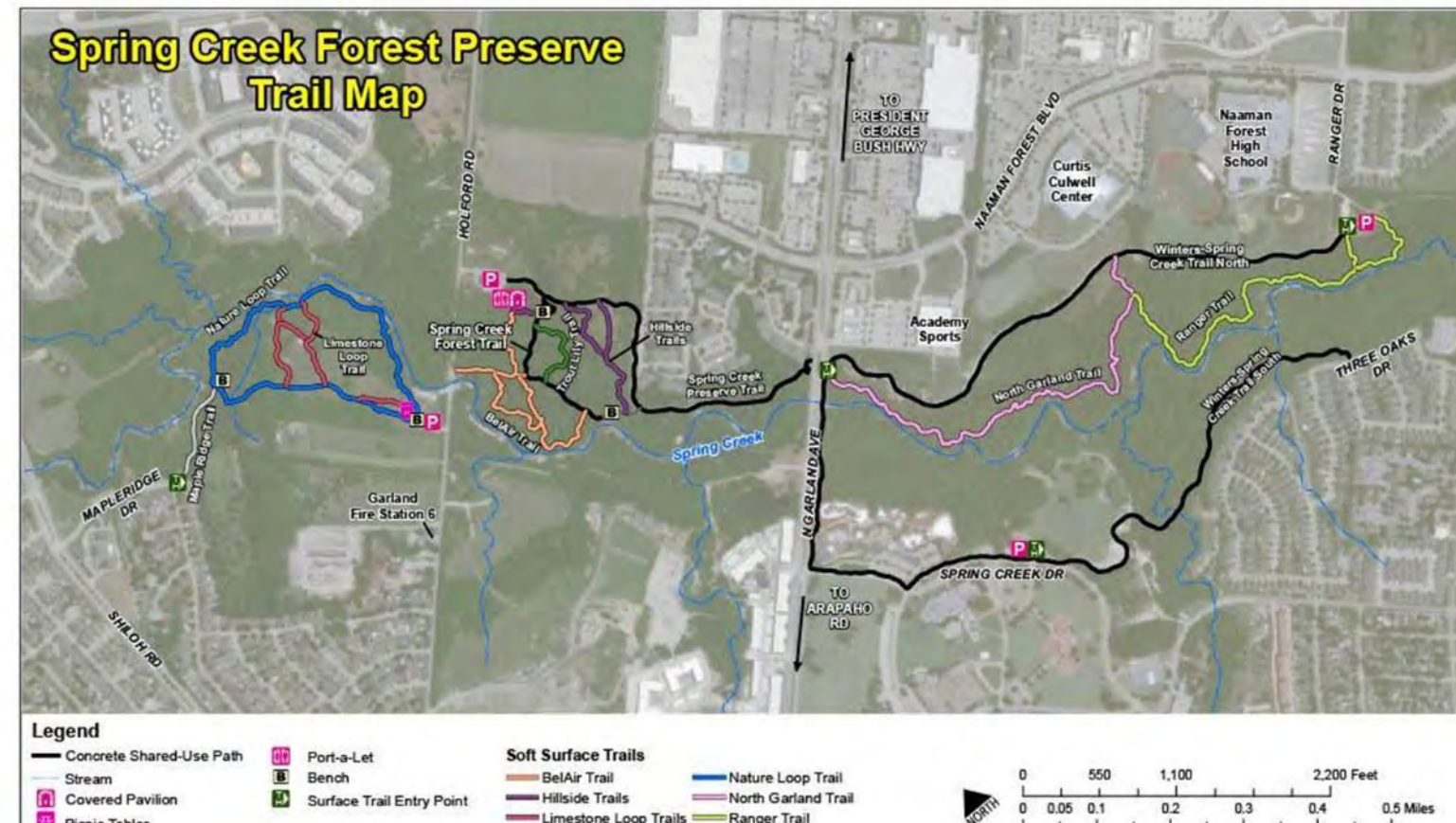
<https://springcreekforest.org/>

David Parrish, President, Executive Committee





Spring Creek Forest & Park Preserves (~100 acres) plus ~ 130 acres & growing of Garland Parks Greenbelt) Located in north Garland along Spring Creek





Our Preserve Habitats

When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe. John Muir

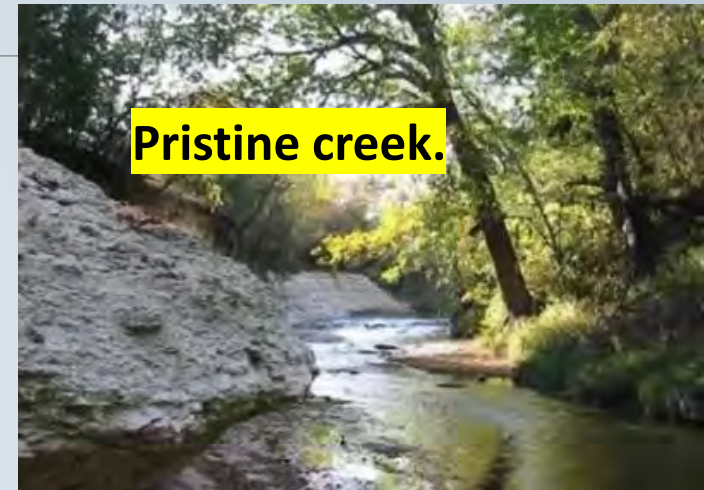


Ancient uncut, bottomland hardwood forests.



Unique limestone prairies with sensitive flora.

Until recently the habitats within the Preserves were protected by a buffer of undeveloped lands. This protection is rapidly disappearing as the PGBT (SH-190) is built out.



Pristine creek.



Encroaching suburbia.



Our Preserve Fauna

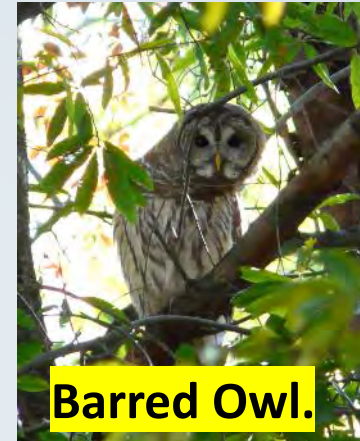
“When you stop and look around, the world is pretty amazing.” Dr. Seuss



Bluebird.



Racoon.



Barred Owl.



Rough Green Snake.



Bobcat.

Great for birding! Mentioned in D Magazine as a destination for birders. Over 180 species recorded so far. Check out our iNaturalist & eBird projects.



Armadillo.



What the Society Does!

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are". Teddy Roosevelt



~ Preserve ~



~ Educate ~



~ Collaborate ~

Our Value = \$58,950 in volunteer time versus our \$3,500 budget gives the Society a ROI of 17-fold.



Upcoming Society Events

An understanding of the natural world is a source of not only great curiosity, but great fulfilment. Sir David Attenborough



4th Sunday Nature Walk - 33rd Annual Trout Lily Walk with Tom Frey

Sunday, February 22, 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.,

1770 Holford Rd, Garland, TX 75044

Speaker Series – Canaan Sutton – Limestone Prairies need Specialized Plants

Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, Webinar

2nd Saturday Work Session - The 8th Annual Death to Privet

Saturday, March 14, 2025, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

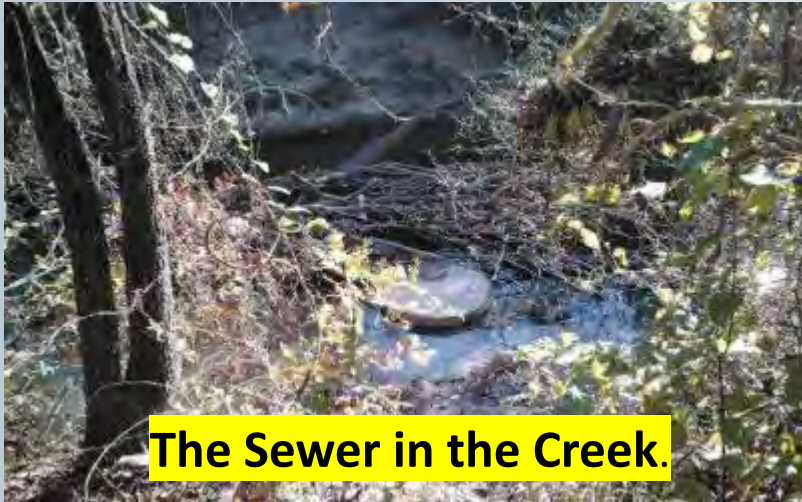
1787 Holford Rd, Garland, TX 75044

For more upcoming event information, visit <https://SpringCreekForest.org>



Some Challenges to the Preserves

Conservation is the state of harmony between men and land. Aldo Leopold



The Sewer in the Creek.



Development- Holford Youth Soccer Complex.



Safety & Security.



Runoff & Stormwater



Some Notable Ventures

Be the change you want to see in the world. Mahatma Gandhi



New NTMN training.



FIFA World Cup Organizing Committee Bioblitz.

Chronological Conservation
Station 1: Limestone Prairie

i This fixed-point photography post is one of several located in the Spring Creek Forest Preserve.

Your submitted photos will be used to create a time-lapse to help the Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest monitor and record how the landscape changes over time.

Step 1 Use the bracket above to align your phone and take a picture.

Step 2 Scan QR Code and upload the photo taken from this location.



Can't get online?
QR code not working?
You can visit the URL below to upload your photo at a later time.
www.springcreekforest.org/fpp/upload/1

Eagle Scout Project dedicated

Fixed Point Photography.



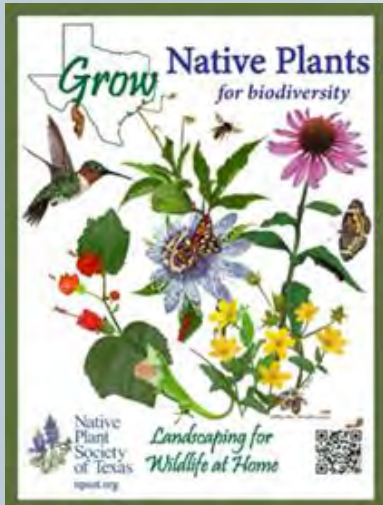
Partners in Preservation.



Native Wildscape Naming

A flower earns its honor in the dirt. Matshona Dhliwayo

Request: The Preservation Society the native wildscape at Spring Creek Park Preserve in honor of Judy and Henry Aschner.







Questions?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life? Mary Preston

Social Media:

 Website: <https://springcreekforest.org/>


 Facebook group: “Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest”

 Instagram, coming soon ...

My Contact Information:

 David Parrish, President, Executive Committee

 dparrish1953@yahoo.com

 469-733-6089 mobile



Proposal of Future Agenda Items



Next Meeting
June 11, 2026

See you next time!