CITY OF DALLAS

TO: Mayor Jim Fairchild and Council Members

FROM: Jerry Wyatt, Pro Tem City Manager

DATE: October 8, 2007

SUBJECT: Oregon Department of Park and Recreation Grant Application

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Request approval for the City to apply for the Oregon Park & Recreation Trail Grant application. Approval to apply would authorize a match estimated at $30,000 or 20%. The deadline for a Letter of Intent to apply for funding is November 2, 2007.

BACKGROUND: The City received funding from the Oregon Park & Recreation Trail Grant in 2003 to fund the construction of the trail in the East Dallas Community Park. This application would focus on funding for the construction of the trail from SE LaCreole Avenue to one lot west of SE Fir Villa Road. Below is the schedule outlined by the Oregon Park & Recreation Department for your reference.

Oregon Park & Recreation Trail Grant Schedule - Nov 2 Letter of Intent is due

October 5, 2007	2008 Grant cycle opens. 2008 Manual and Application available.
November 2, 2007	Deadline for sending a mandatory Letter of Intent to Apply to OPRD.
November – December 2007	Grant Workshops. Time and locations TBA.
January 7, 2008	Grant Application Deadline
March 12-14, 2008	Recreational Trails Advisory Committee will meet to evaluate and rank applications. Location – TBA.

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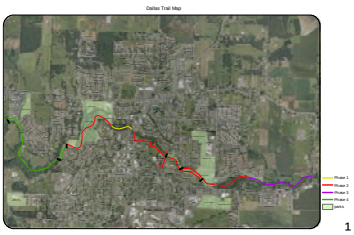

DALLAS CREEK TRAIL PLAN SUMMARY

COUNCIL GOAL

Complete comprehensive and detailed plans to develop a border-to-border Rickreall Creek Trail system. Identify funding sources and adopt a phased construction strategy for completion of the trail system.

BENEFITS OF TRAILS

Nationwide, trails are consistently one of the most requested public projects. An early goal to construct a trail along Rickreall Creek in Dallas came via the 1977 Comprehensive Plan. It is known that, with a system of safe interconnected trails, residents would more often choose to walk or bike to work, school, and other destinations.

WHY TRAILS AND GREENWAYS ARE GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY

1. Alternative transportation to relieve congestion
2. Improve recreational opportunities
3. Improve health through exercise and lower health care costs
4. Reduce stress
5. Provide stream buffers and protect water quality
6. Preserve wildlife travel corridors
7. Increase property values
8. Increase economic viability and business opportunities
9. Reduce air pollution
10. Provide natural classrooms for children
11. Can be utilized by those of all ages, physical abilities, and economic standing
12. Create safe, livable communities
13. Establish a sense of place and trust in each other and provides a great place to meet your neighbors

SYNTHESIS OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Residents who attended the public meeting expressed the following major ideas and concerns regarding trails:

1) Impingement of trail traffic on nearby homeowners' privacy via heavy use, noise, and trespassing
2) Location of trail distance from adjacent properties
4) Negative impact on wildlife and wildlife habitat within trail corridors
5) Trash left by trail users
6) Pet issues: primarily dogs being unleashed and dog waste being left along trails, dog refuse stations
7) Interest in a citizen-based trails supervisory program to ensure proper trail use
8) A Master Plan that identifies guidelines or principles for trail development needs to be adopted; the plan should address or identify public concerns, design features, access, site constraints and trail specifications

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. Transportation.

Goal A: **Trails are an inherent part of Dallas's transportation system.**

Objective A1: Provide pedestrian and bicycle commuter routes throughout Dallas.

Objective A2: Provide a diversity of trail types.

Objective A3: Provide safe routes to schools.

Objective A4: Provide linkages to transit systems.

B. Trail Access & Connectivity.

Goal B: **A continuous network of trails is easily identifiable and readily accessible.**

Objective B1: Provide trails that are readily accessible from all neighborhoods.

Objective B2: Provide parking at trailheads.

Objective B3: Provide connections to important community centers and environmental features.

C. Natural Environment and Citizens' Rights.

Goal C: **Stewardship of the natural environment, and rights and concerns of citizens are addressed.**

Objective C1: Consider aquatic, plant, and wildlife habitat and needs when designing trail locations.

Objective C2: Address the concerns of residents and property owners on or near trail corridors in planning, construction, and trail management.

Objective C3: Create and promote a "trail etiquette" protocol.

D. Planning for Trails.

Goal D: **Trail planning is thoroughly integrated with City planning.**

Objective D1: Determine mechanisms for funding land acquisition for trails and trail maintenance.

Objective D2: Create planning guidelines for new trails in subdivisions and rezoned properties, including the creation of a system for flagging parcels of interest for trails.

Objective D3: Create privacy guidelines for trails.

E. Trail Management.

Goal E: **Trail management and maintenance is an integral part of City activities.**

Objective E1: Provide resources for trail maintenance and management.

Objective E2: Continue development of trail maintenance safety and quality guidelines; including dog stations and receptacles (where appropriate).

Objective E3: Adopt trail management guidelines.

Objective E4: Create a "Trails Ambassadors" Program of citizen volunteers to ensure implementation of guidelines.

Objective E5: Ensure that trails are well marked throughout the city.

F. Partners and Collaborators.

Goal F: **The City of Dallas encourages and promotes collaborative partnerships regarding trails planning, implementation, management, and maintenance.**

Objective F1: Develop trail partnerships with Federal, State, businesses, public and private schools, and citizens.

DESCRIPTION

CHARACTER

The route is characterized by groomed parks, public woodlands, urban development, open riparian woodlands and residential neighborhoods. The corridor contains many opportunities for varying views of Rickreall Creek.

EXPECTED USERS

Expected user groups are pedestrians, runners, families with strollers, bicyclists, skaters, wheelchairs and maintenance and emergency vehicles.

TYPICAL TRAIL SECTION

The trail will be multi-use, from six to twelve feet wide, with a paved surface.

TYPES OF TRAILS

Current and future trails fall into three general categories: multi-use, urban, and nature trails. Width, surfacing, and other trail standards may vary from proposed standards based on such things as available land, adjacent development, site-specific concerns, appropriate uses, or wetland and wildlife concerns within riparian areas.

Multi-use Trails
Trails that have community-wide significance will usually be of this type. These improvements are necessary to assure that the trail will accommodate two-way wheelchair, stroller, bicycle, skater, pedestrian, and possibly others, as well as maintenance, security, and emergency vehicles. Multi-use trails will be designed to provide safety for each user group. Design considerations shall include, but not be limited to, site lines, grade, erosion, and regulation development. Multi-use trail surfacing shall be asphaltic concrete or concrete over a compacted crushed rock base (impervious surfaces are preferred). The paved trail width should be a minimum of six to twelve feet, with two- to four-foot wide crushed rock shoulders or planted strips. Soft shoulders of crushed rock or woodchips may be provided for runners should space and approved use allow.

Urban Trails
Urban trails will be ADA compliant. Trails that have local significance, or are in developed open spaces, will usually be of this type. Urban trail surfacing shall be asphaltic concrete or concrete over a compacted crushed rock base. The paved trail width should be a minimum of six to twelve feet.

Nature Trails
In the placement of nature trails, first consideration shall be given to environmental impacts.

Improved nature trail width shall be a minimum of thirty-six inches to a maximum of eight feet wide (preferred width) with one-half-foot wide native soil shoulders. Improved nature trail surfacing shall be compacted crushed rock or wood chip surfacing to limit erosion over a compacted crushed rock base. Crushed rock surfacing shall be fine decomposed granite from the local area.

RECOMMENDED TRAIL DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL PROCESS

The trail development approval process should provide many opportunities for public input. The following describes a proposed trail development approval process:

1) Council Goal
2) Neighborhood meetings
3) Finalize scope of work
4) Prepare concept trail design
5) Seek Funding opportunities (includes plan development)
6) Master Plan development and adoption
7) Apply for Funding for construction
8) Site survey
9) Finalization of trail design plan
10) Application for development permit and construction