



CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Dripping Springs Seeks Public Input for Citywide Trails Plan

DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS – The City of Dripping Springs will host a series of public hearings to gather community input on the proposed Amended City-Wide Trails Plan. The first hearing will be held during the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on Monday, June 8, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, located at 511 Mercer Street.

The City's initial plan was approved in 2012 and by 2014, a grant was secured from the National Park Service (NPS) for professional assistance in creating a master plan for trail development in the city and its surrounding extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Since then, a Dripping Springs Trails Plan Advisory Committee has formed and worked closely with NPS and City staff to conduct a community survey that captured residents' preferences of trail locations, materials, and activities. The 631 responses from the survey indicated that residents within the city limits desired alternative options for access to the central business district and residents of the ETJ preferred recreational trails for leisure use.

Furthermore, Advisory Committee members have been working with NPS to identify feasible trail routes and guidelines for trail development. Reviewing transportation plans and area maps, the committee has examined and identified existing trails, sidewalks, and streets, as well as future potential trails to be included in upcoming development.

City Administrator Michelle Fischer said "the plan proposes to use existing trails in city parks, the city Transportation Plan, and future potential connectors to achieve the goal of increased mobility within the City."

Additionally, she said the Committee anticipates substantial use of trails linking neighborhoods to the central business district and City park system and recommends requiring trails, at a minimum, to be ten feet wide concrete trails, with ten foot buffers on each side unless otherwise approved by the City.

Fischer added that the benefits of these trails are to connect people to places by linking them to natural, cultural, and historical amenities as well as to commercial retail, government, and school sites.

She said the committee's next step will be to expand the trails plan out into the City's ETJ, as well as working on the development of trail standards. Future goals for the planned trail system are to provide regional connectivity and ultimately enhance statewide connectivity efforts, such as the Violet Crown Trail, which would allow individuals to hike, bike, or jog from Zilker Park in Austin all the way into Hays County.

The proposed amendment to the citywide Trails Plan will seek approval and feedback through the following process:

- June 8, 2015 at 6 p.m. – Public hearing and consideration for approval by Parks and Recreation Commission
- June 23, 2015 at 7 p.m. – Public hearing and consideration for approval by Planning and Zoning Commission
- July 14, 2015 at 7 p.m. – Public hearing and consideration for approval by City Council

All public hearings will be held at the Dripping Springs City Hall, located at 511 Mercer Street.

The proposed Amended City-Wide Trails Plan is available for review at City Hall and on the City's website, www.cityofdrippingsprings.com. Any feedback may be emailed to the City Secretary at kcraig@cityofdrippingsprings.com.

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