Memorandum

CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 7, 2009

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life Committee: Pauline Medrano (Chair), Vonciel Jones Hill (Vice Chair), Carolyn R. Davis, Angela Hunt, Sheffie Kadane, David A. Neumann, Steve Salazar

Thru: Forest E. Turner
Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT Dallas Trail Network Plan Update

Attached is the Dallas Trail Network Plan Update briefing which will be presented to the Quality of Life Committee on Tuesday, August 11, 2009.

If you have questions or need additional information, please call me at 214-670-4071.

Paul D. Dyer, Director
Park and Recreation Department

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager
Deborah A. Watkins, City Secretary
Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Judge C. Victor Lander, Judiciary
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
David K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager

Dallas Trail Network Plan Update

Quality of Life Committee

August 11, 2009

Introduction

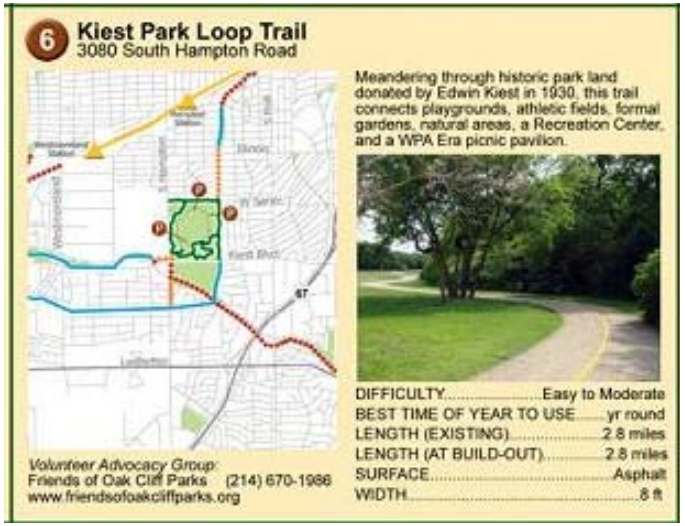
The Park and Recreation Department's Trail Network Master Plan was first adopted in March 2005

- Since adoption:
  - Trail projects included in the 2003 Bond Program are nearing completion,
  - Trail projects included in the 2006 Bond Program are being implemented, and
  - New trail corridors have been identified
  - Trail Network Master Plan Updated in 2008

2005 Plan

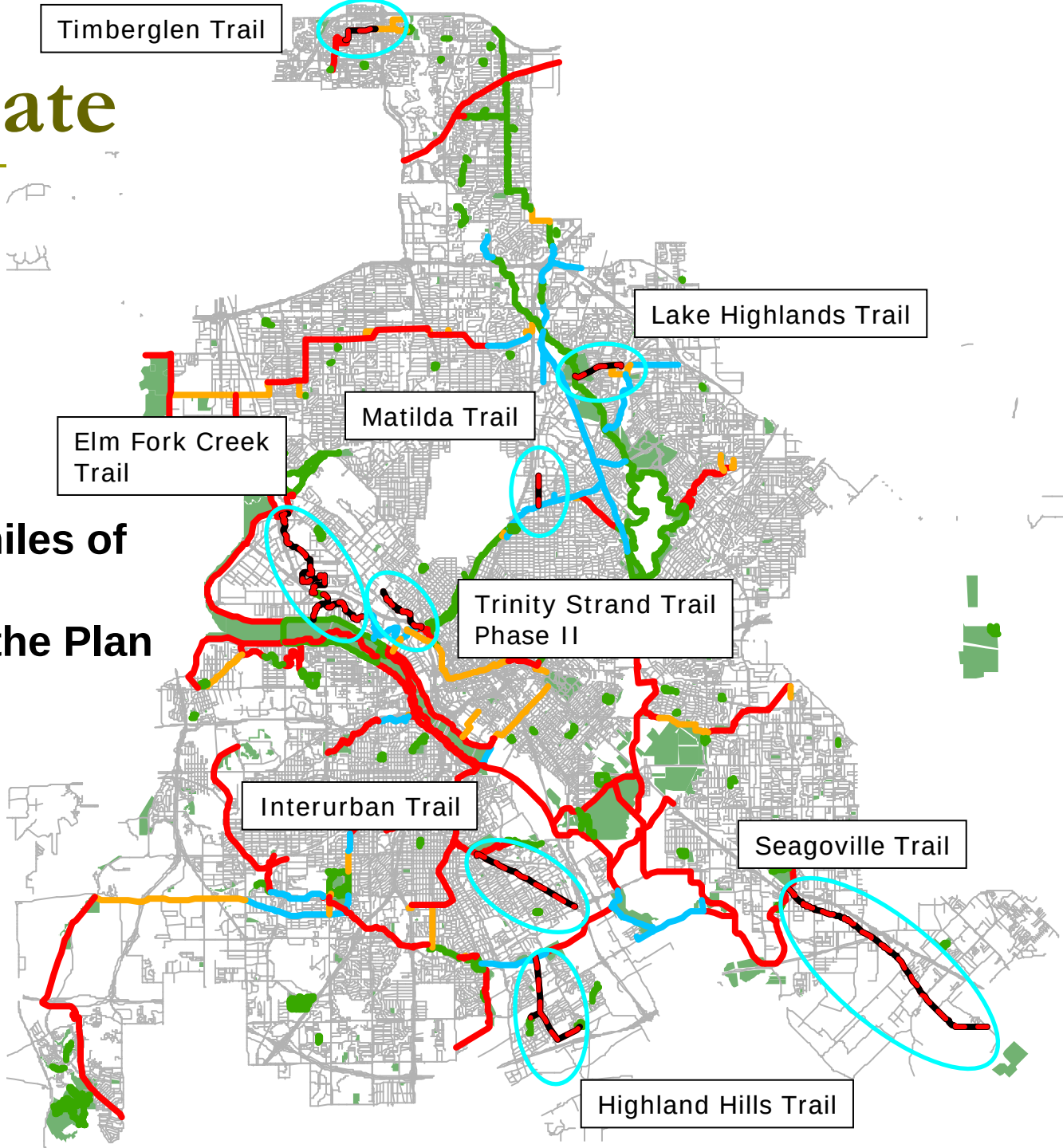
Introduction

- The Trail Network Master Plan Update:
  - Reflects the City's current trail status
  - Adds new trail corridors that have been identified
  - Adds more detailed information on some of the existing trails
  - Adds trail etiquette information
  - Adds a "coming soon" section
  - Adds 911 marker information



Plan Update

Approximately 22 miles of new proposed trail corridors added to the Plan in the 2008 update



Trail Classifications in the Master Plan

- Major Trails
  - Major Linear Trails
  - Major Loop Trails
  - Major Nature Trails
- Neighborhood Trails

Major Loop Trail

Neighborhood Park Trail

Classification

- Major Linear Trails
  - City-wide assets marketed as regional attractions
  - At least one mile in length
  - Typically a minimum of 12-feet in width
  - Essential in promoting alternative modes of transportation and improving air quality
  - Connect multiple parks, greenbelts, schools, neighborhoods, employment centers, entertainment districts and transit centers

Katy Trail

Classification

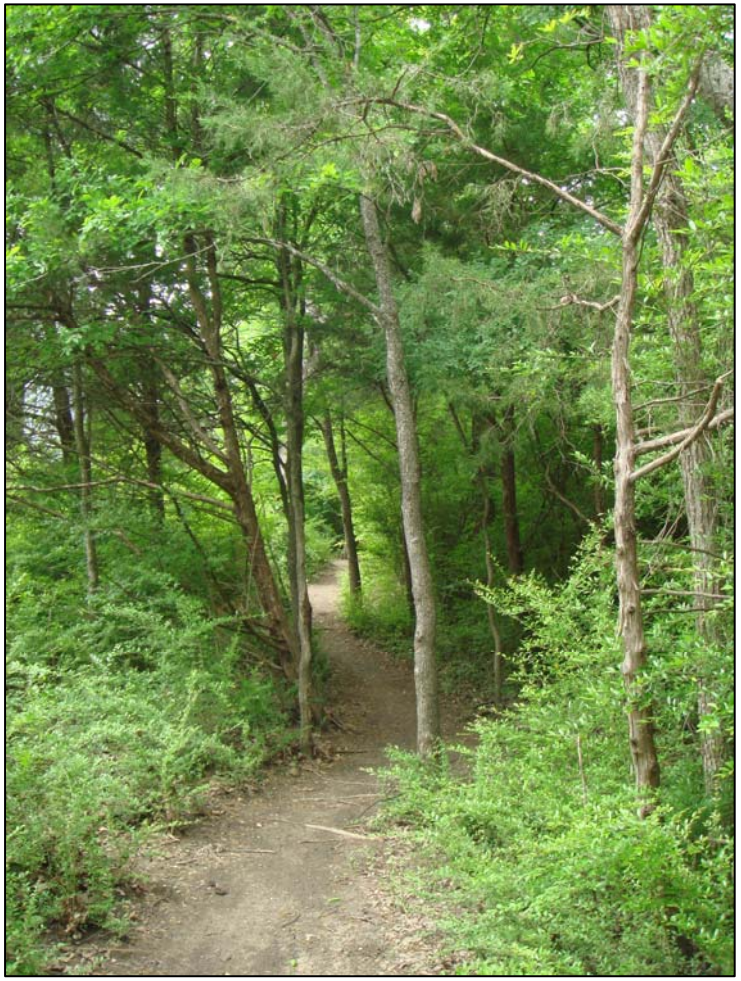
- Major Loop Trails
  - Located wholly within metropolitan, regional and community parks
  - Provide multiple recreation and exercise opportunities while linking amenities within the park

Glendale Park Loop Trail

White Rock Lake Park Loop Trail

Classification

- Major Nature Trails
  - Natural-surfaced trails, located within major greenbelts or natural areas
  - Provide opportunities for environmental education and contemplative seclusion in a natural setting

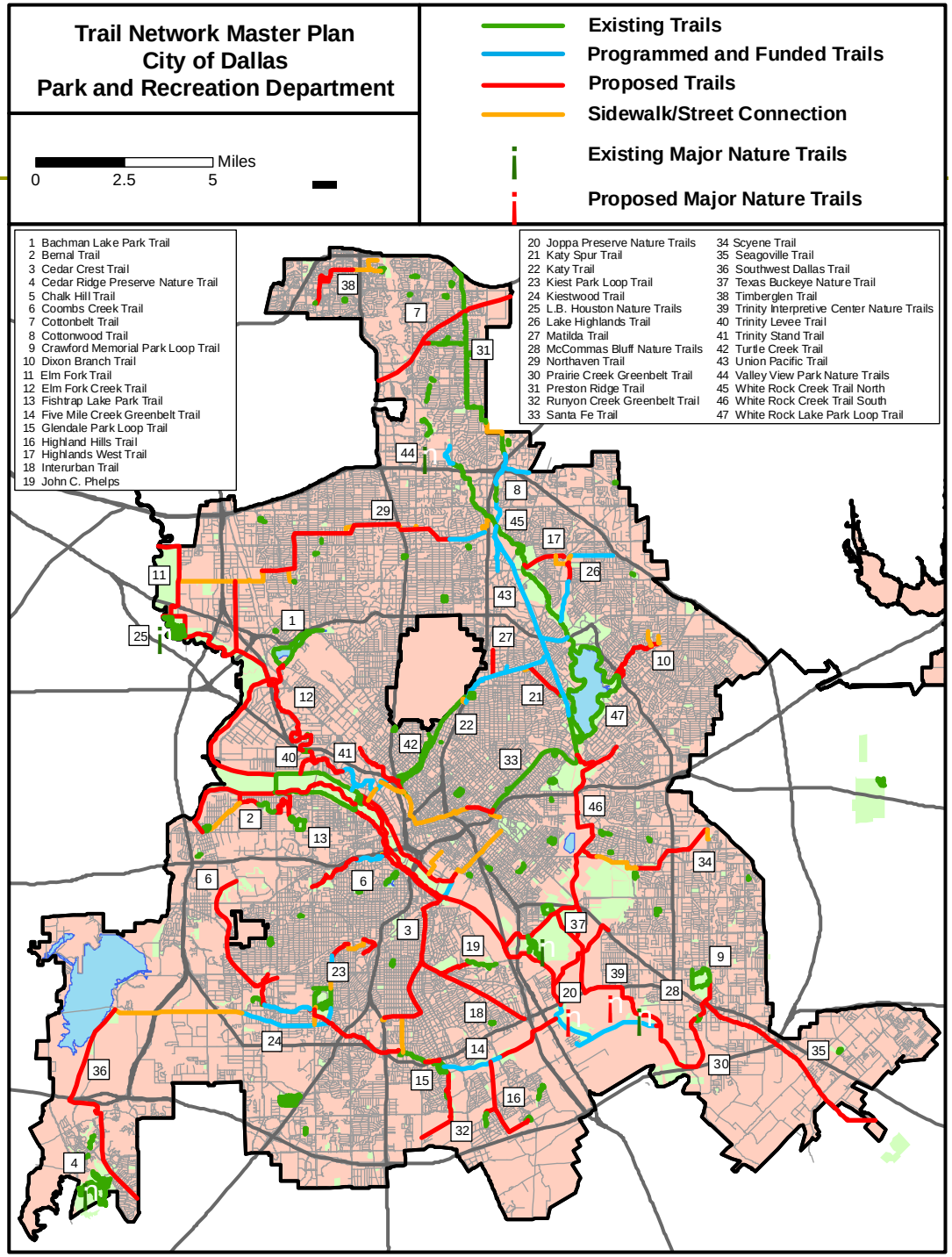


L.B. Houston Nature Trail

Major Trails

Existing Major Linear Trails: 34.9 miles

Existing Major Loop Trails: 20.7 miles



Classification

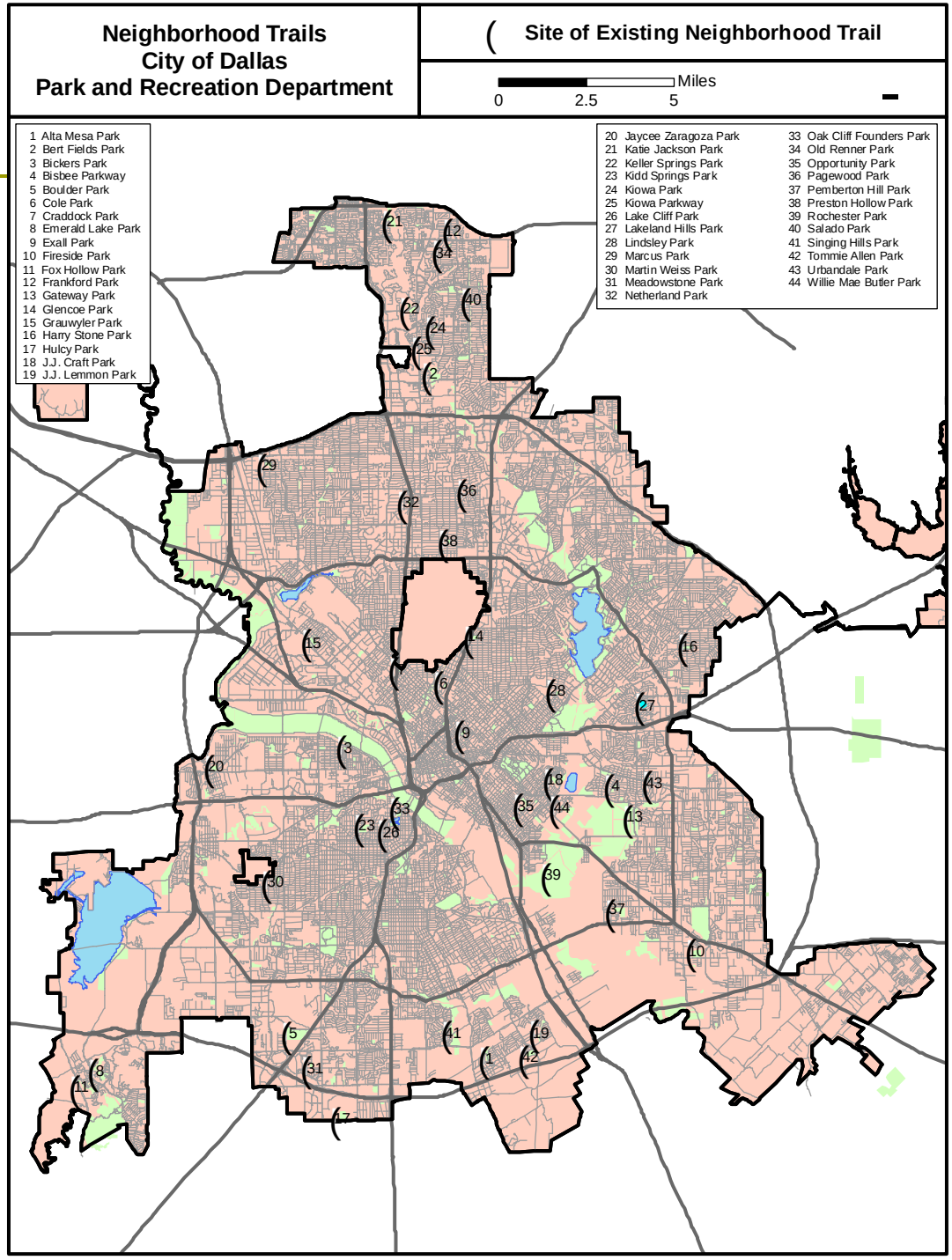
- Neighborhood Park Trails
  - Considered a neighborhood amenity
  - Typically located wholly within community and neighborhood parks
  - Less than one mile in length
  - Can be linear, loop or nature trail
  - Typically no wider than 8 feet
  - Analysis and planning occurs within the individual park development plan

Gateway Park

Neighborhood Trails

Existing Number of Neighborhood Park Trails: 44 locations

Total Trail Mileage: approx. 19.4 miles



Trail Rights-of-Way

- Trail Rights-of-Way Include:
  - City-owned rights-of-way
  - ONCOR and DART rights-of-way
  - Acquisition

Preston Ridge Trail

Trail Rights-of-Way

- City-owned rights-of-way
  - Located wholly within city owned property such as city parks, greenbelts, creek corridors and streets

The Coombs Creek Trail is located within existing city-owned property adjacent to Coombs Creek

Trail Rights-of-Way

- ONCOR and DART rights-of-way
  - Utility and railroad corridors are the most common types of right-of-way for trails that are not owned by the city
  - ONCOR and DART have demonstrated their willingness to allow the usage of their properties for public trail use

The proposed Northaven Trail will be located within an ONCOR utility right-of-way

Trail Rights-of-Way

- Acquisition
  - In some cases, it may be necessary to acquire fee simple title to a proposed trail corridor in order to preserve the corridor from future development that may render a proposed trail project impossible

The proposed Chalk Hill Trail will be located on former railroad right-of-way currently being acquired by the City

Implementation

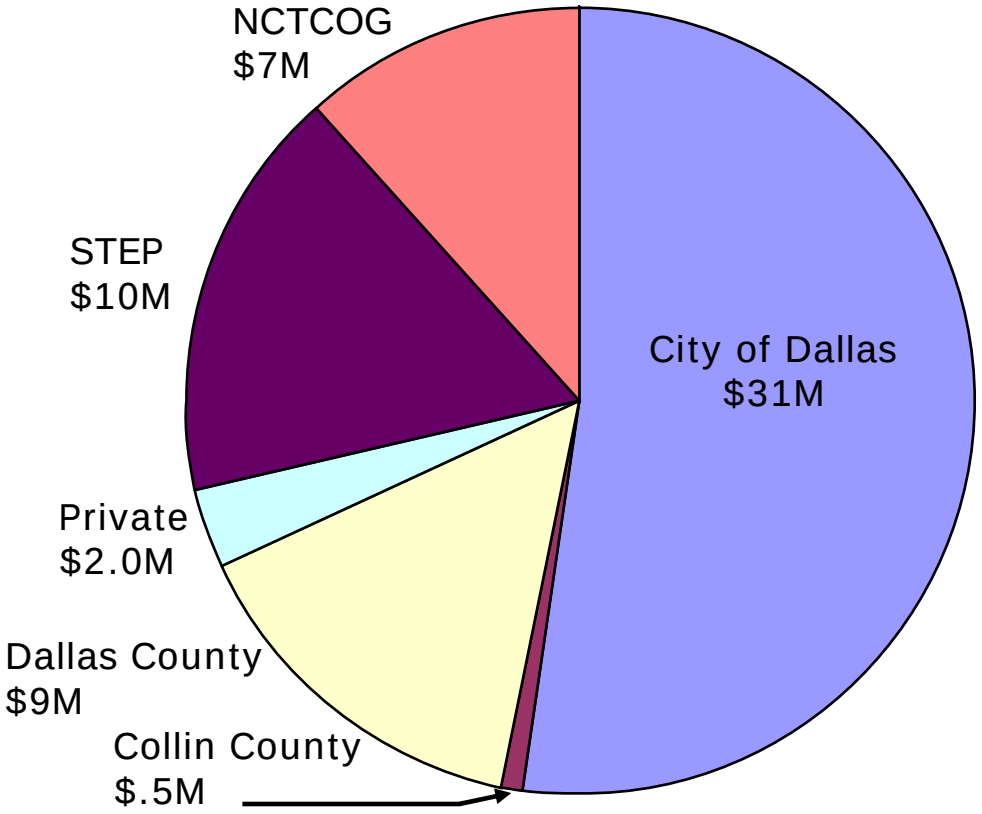
- 2003 and 2006 Bond Program Trail Funding
  - Allocated $31 million for:
    - Rights-of-Way Acquisition
    - Matching Funds
    - Site Amenities
    - Trail Construction
    - Trail Reconstruction
    - Trail Planning

Katy Trail

  - 18 additional miles of trails funded

Implementation

- Leveraged Funding
  - The 2003 and 2006 Bond Programs leveraged an additional $29.5 million through various grant and partnership programs



FUNDING SOURCES:

- City of Dallas 2003 & 2006 Bond Programs $31M
- Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP) $10M
- Dallas County $9M
- North Central Texas Council of Governments $7M
- Private Funds $3M
- Collin County Parks and Open Space Grant $.5M

Implementation

- 2003 and 2006 Bond Programs and Leveraged Trail Funding Allocated $60.5 million for:
  - Right of Way Acquisition
    - Chalk Hill Trail
  - Matching Funds
    - Cottonwood Trail
    - Katy Trail
    - Santa Fe Trail
  - Site Amenities
    - Katy Trail
    - Preston Ridge Trail
    - Valley View West
    - Westhaven Park

Cottonwood Trail under High Five

Implementation

- Trail Planning and Design
  - Bernal Trail – Phase I
  - Cedar Crest Trail – Phase I
  - Elm Fork Trail – Phase I
  - Runyon Creek Greenbelt Trail
  - Union Pacific Trail
    (East Dallas Veloway North)
  - Timberglen Trail

Implementation

- Trail Construction (2003 and 2006 Bond Programs)
  - Arapaho Park Trail
  - Arcadia North Library and School
  - Churchill Park Trail
  - Coombs Creek Greenbelt
  - Cottonwood Trail
  - Elmwood Parkway
  - Five Mile Creek Trail
  - Gannon Park Trail
  - Katy Trail

Coombs Creek Trail

Implementation

- Kiestwood Trail
- Lake Highlands North Park
- Lake Highlands Trail
- Martin Weiss Park Trail
- Northaven Trail
- Oak Cliff Founders Park
- Preston Ridge Trail
- Santa Fe Trail
- Santa Fe Trestle
- Tietze Park Trail
- Trinity Strand Trail

Union Pacific Trail

Implementation

- Trail Reconstruction (2003 and 2006 Bond Program)
  - Arcadia South Park Trail
  - Bachman Lake Park Trail
  - Bert Fields Trail
  - Cox Lane Park
  - Frankford Park
  - Kiowa Park
  - Lakewood Park
  - Maria Luna Park
  - Martin Weiss Park
  - Northaven Park and Greenbelt

White Rock Greenbelt Trail at Northwood Park

Implementation

- Northwood Park
- Peter Pan Park
- Tipton South/Bernal Creek
- Turtle Creek Parkway
- Valley View Park
- White Rock Greenbelt
- White Rock Lake Loop Trail
- Wonderview Park

White Rock Greenbelt Trail

Inventory of Existing Trails

	2005	2009	Funded and Existing Trails
Major Linear Trails	28.8 miles	35.65 miles	66.75 miles
Major Loop Trails	20.1 miles	20.7 miles	20.7 miles
Major Nature Trails	22.8 miles	23.0 miles	23.0 miles
Neighborhood Trails	13.8 miles	19.4 miles	19.4 miles
Total Miles	**85.5 miles**	**98.75 miles**	**129.85 miles**
Additional Proposed Trails	**144.0 miles**	**172.15 miles**	**141.05 miles**
Plan Total	**229.5 miles**	**270.9 miles**	**270.9 miles**

Implementation

- Estimated unfunded need (2009):

Major Linear Trails	$181.4M
Major Loop Trails	$14.0M
Major Nature Trails	$2.0M
Neighborhood trails (not estimated, included in individual Park Development Plans)	
Total	**$197.4M**

2009 Inventory of Existing Trails

Trail Type	Master Plan Trails (miles)	Completed Trails (miles)	Funded Trails (miles)	Completed Trails (%)	Funded & Completed Trails (miles/%)	Unfunded Need (millions)
Major Linear Trails	194.4	35.65	31.1	18.3%	66.75 mi 34.3%	$181.4
Neighborhood Park Trails	19.4	19.4	N/A	N/A	19.4 mi	N/A
Major Nature Trails	30.8	23.0	0	74.7%	23.0 mi 74.7%	$2.0
Major Loop Trails	26.3	20.7	0	78.7%	20.7 mi 78.7%	$14.0
TOTAL	270.9 mi	98.0 mi	31.1 mi	36.2%	129.85 mi/ 47.9%	141.05 mi/ $197.4 m

Trail Network Master Plan Update

- Awards Received in 2009:
  - **Texas Recreation and Parks Society**
    - Excellence in Planning Award
  - **American Planning Association – Texas Chapter**
    - Long Range Planning Award
  - **American Society of Landscape Architects – Texas Chapter**
    - Honor Award in Planning and Analysis Category