



# FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION BOARD REGULAR MEETING

City of Dripping Springs

Council Chambers, 511 Mercer St, Dripping Springs, TX

Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM

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## Agenda

### VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

*This meeting will be held via videoconference and the public is encouraged and welcome to participate. Public comment may be given during the videoconference by joining the meeting using the information below. Public comment for this meeting may also be submitted to the City Secretary at [acunningham@cityofdrippingsprings.com](mailto:acunningham@cityofdrippingsprings.com), no later than 9:00 a.m., Thursday, July 16, 2020.*

*The Farmers Market Association Board respectfully requests that all microphones and webcams be disabled unless you are a member of the Board. City staff, consultants and presenters please enable your microphone and webcam when presenting to the Board.*

#### ***Join Zoom Meeting***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87275452538?pwd=V0NQSDFZZ1MyN0pPRUQzZ0c3UytGQT09>

***Meeting ID:*** 872 7545 2538

***Passcode:*** 587414

#### ***Dial Toll Free***

877 853 5257 US Toll-free

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

***Find your local number:*** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87275452538>

***Join by Skype for Business:*** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87275452538>

### CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

#### ***Board Members***

Gouri Johannsen, Chair

Marianne Simmons, Vice Chair

Teresa Strube, Secretary

David Vincent

Nikki Dahlin

Claudia Oney

Janet Musgrove

City Staff, Consultants and Appointed/Elected Officials

Parks & Community Services Director Kelly Schmidt

Farmers Market Manager Laurel Robertson

Events & Programs Specialist Maggie Martin

Mayor Pro Tem Taline Manassian

TIRZ Project Manager Keenan Smith

## **PRESENTATION OF CITIZENS**

*A member of the public who desires to address the Board regarding any item on an agenda for an open meeting may do so at presentation of citizens before an item or at a public hearing for an item during the Board's consideration of that item. Citizens wishing to discuss matters not contained within the current agenda may do so, but only during the time allotted for presentation of citizens. Speakers are allowed two (2) minutes to speak during presentation of citizens or during each public hearing. Speakers may not cede or pool time. Members of the public requiring the assistance of a translator will be given twice the amount of time as a member of the public who does not require the assistance of a translator to address the Board. It is the request of the Board that members of the public wishing to speak on item(s) on the agenda with a noticed Public Hearing hold their comments until the item(s) are presented for consideration. Speakers are encouraged to sign in. Anyone may request a copy of the City's policy on presentation of citizens from the city secretary. By law no action may be taken during Presentations of Citizens.*

## **MINUTES**

1. Discuss and consider approval of the Farmers Market Association Board July 16, 2020 regular meeting minutes.

## **REPORTS**

2. Parks & Community Services Director Report  
*Kelly Schmidt, PCS Director*
3. Farmers Market Manager Report  
*Laurel Robertson, Farmers Market Manager*
4. Farmers Market July 2020 Income Statement

## **MARKET VENUE**

5. Presentation on Hays County Parks & Open Space Commission's Recommended Projects submitted by the City of Dripping Springs, the Dripping Springs TIRZ Board No. 1 & 2 related to the Town Center Project.
6. Discuss and consider possible action regarding the Hays County Master Gardeners Plant Sale Event.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

7. Update regarding the Farmers Market approved Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Farmers Market Association Board Meetings

September 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

October 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

November 19, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

### City Council Meetings

September 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. (Workshop 6:00 / Regular Meeting 6:30 p.m.)

September 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

## ADJOURN

## TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT PUBLIC NOTIFICATION & POSTING OF MEETING

All agenda items listed above are eligible for discussion and action unless otherwise specifically noted. This notice of meeting is posted in accordance with Chapter 551, Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes. Annotated. In addition, the Board may consider a vote to excuse the absence of any Board Member for absence from this meeting.

Due to the Texas Governor Order, Hays County Order, City of Dripping Springs Disaster Declaration, and Center for Disease Control guidelines related to COVID-19, a quorum of this body could not be gathered in one place, and this meeting will be conducted through videoconferencing. Texas Government Code Sections 551.045; 551.125; and 551.127.

I certify that this notice of meeting was posted at the City of Dripping Springs City Hall and website, [www.cityofdrippingsprings.com](http://www.cityofdrippingsprings.com), on August 14, 2020 at 12:15 p.m.

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*City Secretary*

*This facility is wheelchair accessible. Accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for auxiliary aids and services must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting by calling (512) 858-4725.*



## Farmers Market Association Board

### Regular Meeting Minutes July 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

A Regular Meeting of the Farmers Market Association Board was held Thursday, July 16, 2020 beginning at 10:00 a.m. via Videoconference and in City Hall Conference Room No. 1 located at 511 Mercer Street, Dripping Springs, Texas

#### I. VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

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#### *Join Zoom Meeting*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84337543698?pwd=YWxUdWNjcVUrMTJZOHFYOHpqcUtrdz09>

*Meeting ID: 843 3754 3698*

*Password: 792167*

#### *One tap mobile*

*+13462487799,,84337543698#,,,0#,,792167# US (Houston)*

*+12532158782,,84337543698#,,,0#,,792167# US (Tacoma)*

#### *Dial by your location*

*+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)*

*+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)*

*+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)*

*+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)*

*+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)*

*+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)*

*877 853 5257 US Toll-free*

*888 475 4499 US Toll-free*

*Meeting ID: 843 3754 3698*

*Password: 792167*

*Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdjhhGnxSf>*

#### *Join by Skype for Business*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/skype/84337543698>

## II. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

### Board Members present were:

Gouri Johannsen, Chair  
 Marianne Simmons, Vice Chair  
 Teresa Strube, Secretary  
 Nikki Dahlin  
 Janet Musgrove  
 Claudia Oney  
 David Vincent

### City Staff/Appointed Officials present were:

Farmers Market Manager Laurel Robertson  
 Events & Programs Specialists Maggie Martin  
 Parks & Community Services Director Kelly Schmidt

## III. PRESENTATION OF CITIZENS

*A member of the public who desires to address the Board regarding any item on an agenda for an open meeting may do so at presentation of citizens before an item or at a public hearing for an item during the Board's consideration of that item. Citizens wishing to discuss matters not contained within the current agenda may do so, but only during the time allotted for presentation of citizens. Speakers are allowed two (2) minutes to speak during presentation of citizens or during each public hearing. Speakers may not cede or pool time. Members of the public requiring the assistance of a translator will be given twice the amount of time as a member of the public who does not require the assistance of a translator to address the Board. It is the request of the Board that members of the public wishing to speak on item(s) on the agenda with a noticed Public Hearing hold their comments until the item(s) are presented for consideration. Speakers are encouraged to sign in. Anyone may request a copy of the City's policy on presentation of citizens from the city secretary. By law no action may be taken during Presentations of Citizens.*

No one spoke during Presentation of Citizens.

## IV. MINUTES

### A. Discuss and consider approval of the June 18, 2020 Farmers Market Association Board regular meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Simmons to approve the June 18, 2020 Farmers Market Association Board regular meeting minutes. Board Member Vincent seconded the motion which carried unanimously 7 to 0.

## V. REPORTS

### A. Parks and Community Services Director Monthly Report

Kelly Schmidt presented the report, which is on file, and reviewed the Market Manager position requirements. She suggested changes to help reduce the Manager's time such as digitizing booth fees which will begin at the next market.

**B. Farmers Market Manager Report**

Laurel Robertson's Manager Report is embedded in the Parks & Community Services Director's report.

**C. Farmers Market May and June 2020 Income Statement**

Report is on file and available for review by request.

**VI. MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**A. Update and discussion regarding the Fee Schedule for Newsletter Ads.**

Laurel Robertson presented the item. She will determine the specifications for the space to sell in the newsletter for vendor purchase.

**VII. MARKET VENUE**

**A. Update and discussion regarding activities related to the Farmers Market Tomato Time! Event.**

This item was tabled.

**VIII. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**A. Farmers Market Association Board Meetings**

August 20, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

September 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

October 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

**B. City Council & Board of Adjustment Meetings**

July 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

August 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. (6:00 Workshop / 6:30 Regular Meeting)

August 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

**IX. ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Chair Johannsen to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Strube seconded the motion which carried unanimously 7 to 0.

This regular meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

***Submitted By:***

***Teresa Strube, Board Secretary***

JULY 2020

## Director's Monthly Report

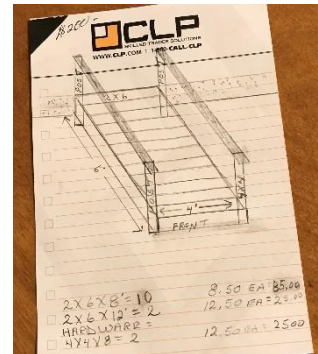
SUBMITTED BY: Director, Kelly Schmidt &amp; PCS Team

## PARKS

### Charro Ranch Park

Programs & Events Specialist Maggie Martin is working on updating the bird identification kiosk and interpretive trailhead kiosk as a part of her programs support scope. A schematic has been created for the new ADA ramp to the pavilion and is slated for construction in August by the DS Maintenance Crew.

Hays County Master Naturalists lead by Sue Harding have returned to Charro Park and are again hosting their monthly volunteer work groups.



### Dripping Springs Ranch Park

Improvements continue to occur at DSRP and the Master Naturalists & Gardeners have returned to continue their much needed and treasured partnership.

### Founders Memorial Park & Pool – Emily Long, Pool Manager

The month of July was a month of polishing lifeguard skills. Both during in services and during shifts, the lifeguards at Founders Pool worked hard to improve on their skills. In-services consisted of practicing rescues with social distancing protocols. These protocols included hands only CPR as well as the use of a BVM. Head Lifeguard, Mick Bailey led an in-service this month where he instructed scenarios involving sudden illnesses. Mick has ample experience with sudden illnesses because he is certified in Wilderness First Aid and Epinephrine. Mick embraced the opportunity to gain some additional leadership and teaching experience. Mick is studying Outdoor Recreation and Tourism at the University of Wyoming and is hoping to become a Rock-Climbing Guide after graduation. The lifeguards found his sudden illness training to be extremely helpful. Mick also brought the Hays County Fire Department out to the pool once again. With the help of the fire department, we preformed extractions from the water with and without a spinal injury. Each scenario also consisted of practicing CPR with a BVM and an AED out of the water. The lifeguards learned the importance of teamwork and urgency in a life-threatening situation. Huge thank you to Mick Bailey and the Hays County Fire Department!



**Rathgeber Natural Resource Park (Pending)**

Rathgeber Natural Resource Park was chosen as one of Hays County's Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission's Tier 1 projects for funding by the future November Parks and Open Space Bond Measure. Next steps consist of receiving the Rathgeber tract of land into the CODS Park System. Developing a conceptual operating budget that will reflect costs associated with bringing the park on-line and operating the park in phases. Important to begin the conversation around the park development plan and public input-process.

**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION (POSAC)**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMMISSIONERS COURT**

The following recommendations are respectfully submitted by members of the Hays County Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC) on July 28, 2020.

This document is a synthesis of the Powerpoint presentation to be made to the Court on above date and is meant to provide an easy visual overview of the projects submitted by various entities which were evaluated by the POSAC through the lens of the 2012 Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan.

These project recommendations demonstrate a substantial need for additional resources available for parks and open space within Hays County.

The named projects below are presented by category and ranked within the tiers showing highest ratings from top down within each category. Included also are project sponsor and funding request. The numbering of projects relates to the attached project map.

<b>TIER ONE PROJECTS ("very best"; highly recommend to fund at some level)</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
<b>Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat</b>	
1. Coleman's Canyon Preserve (WVWA)	\$ 2,600,000
2. Sentinel Peak Park & Preserve (Hays County)	10,000,000
3. San Marcos River Recharge Lands (SMRF)	4,380,000
4. Regional Park, water quality/trails, 1200 acres (Hays County/COA via HCC) <sup>1</sup>	10,000,000
5. Purgatory Creek: habitat, clean water preserve (HCC)	17,717,500
6. Rathgeber Natural Resource Park (City of Dripping Springs)	7,500,000

<b>TIER TWO PROJECTS ("very good"; strong recommendation to fund at some level)</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
<b>Urban Parks</b>	
9. Dripping Springs Regional Skate Park (DS Skate Park, Inc, non-profit)	\$ 550,000
10. Dripping Springs Town Center (City of Dripping Springs)	4,480,600
11. Patriot's Hall, near Dripping Springs (PatriotsHall.org; non-profit)	1,500,000
12. Nature Center at Blue Hole Park (City of Wimberley)	3,136,425
<b>Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat</b>	
13. John Knox Ranch Preserve (John Knox Ranch/HCC)	2,500,000
14. Presa Grande, Sink Creek Watershed (Great Springs Project)	8,500,000
<b>Connectivity</b>	
15. Old Fitzhugh Road Trail (City of Dripping Springs)	1,305,000
16. Kyle Fajita Fields (City of Kyle)	14,520,000
<b>TOTAL Tier Two Project Requests</b>	<b>\$ 36,472,025</b>

<b>TOTAL TIER ONE &amp; TWO PROJECT REQUESTS</b>	<b>\$ 94,969,525</b>
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**Sports & Recreation Park**

DSYSA and DSASA resumed practices and games. Both DSYSA's Baseball and Soccer are utilizing the park 7 days a week to catch up from lost spring seasons.

The survey of Sports and Recreation Park was completed for the Sports & Recreation Park lighting project. EMA meeting to be held in August to detail the project at 75% planning completion.

**Veteran's Memorial Park & Triangle**

At this time Council has decided to not take any further applications for renting the Triangle to the public in the traditional sense. The Mayor and Council are reflecting on the park space west of the low water crossing and entertaining a use that could perhaps service multiple local business owners and the Dripping Springs Community at large in a greater capacity. The Farmers Market's location will not be impacted, and it will continue to be hosted at the northeast side of the park on Wednesdays. That side of the park and location will still be available for regular rentals.

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## COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Community Initiatives****Bird City Texas:**

Applications for the 2021 Texas Bird City designation process opened June 15, 2020 with a deadline of December 4, 2020. An application committee was formed and consists of the following partners:

Hope Boatright – Destination Dripping Springs, Visitors Bureau  
 Maggie Martin – CODS Programs & Events Specialist  
 Paul Fushille – CODS Parks & Recreation Commissioner  
 Kelly Schmidt – CODS Parks & Community Services Director  
 Lisa Sullivan – CODS Communications Director  
 Amanda Pena Bustillos – Wild Birds Unlimited  
 Connie Boltz – Hays County Master Naturalists  
 Anne Forish – Hays County Master Gardeners

The committee divided up the extensive application requirements and will be meeting on several occasions during the next several months to support each other through the process of completing the application with the best information. The objective is to insure that our 2021 application accurately assesses and shares the past, current and future work that reflects Dripping Springs' dedication to the preservation and conservation of birds.

**International Dark Sky Association:** On going. Nothing to report.

**It's Time Texas:** On Going- prepping for next year.

**Keep Dripping Springs Beautiful:** On Going - Nothing to report.

**Scenic City:** On Going - Nothing to report.

**Community Outreach Volunteer Services**

Nothing to report for July. Covid still continues to impact normal operations. Beginning our planning for the 2021 volunteer season and creating organizational structure for on-going opportunities for recruitment of community volunteers.

**Banner Requests & Co-Sponsorships**

- Master Gardeners requested Co-Sponsorship for banner to be displayed at Triangle advertising their annual plant sale
- Empty Bowls 2020 requested Co-Sponsorship to advertise their virtual fundraiser.



### **Community Events & Programs – Maggie Martin, Programs and Events Specialist**

Our COVID- friendly camp, Coyote Kids in a Crate, wrapped up last week July 31st that included five weeks of thematic activities delivered to our camp families. The themes included: All Things Wings, Big Sky Fun, Outdoor Adventures, Rock-N-Roll, and Sun and Stars. The bags cost campers \$25 for residents and \$30 for non residents and cost about \$8 to produce brining the cost of each project to less than \$1.60. Each week contained at least five activities for 42 total campers and families to complete on their own with a guided zoom meeting held daily to discuss the activity and get them started. Zoom meeting were also a space for campers to get a dose of camp fun as we played games and shared our experiences. We had a group of 4 campers that returned weekly and have even committed to next years traditional style camp. On the last day of camp awards were given out to campers and we received praise and gratitude for hosting a successful program.

### **Farmers Market – Laurel Robertson, Market Manager**

Following orders from Mayor Foulds, the DS Farmers Market returned to May's Phase II COVID restrictions on July 8: three-foot spacing between booths, eliminating all non-food vendors and live music at market, with picnic tables roped off to discourage shoppers from lingering at market.



Shoppers are now required by state law to wear face coverings while at market, unless they are under the age of two or have a medical condition. Farmers Market staff has been on the alert to spot people entering market without masks and offer them one from market supplies. This strategy has worked well most of the time.

Shopper numbers are still up (though not as high as during March and April); vendor attendance has remained steady at about 30 booths per market. The Salt Lick continues to be a contributing market member from their remote location on the southwest corner of the Triangle; Thai Gourmet pays the regular booth fee each Wednesday to deliver pre-ordered dinners from a designated spot in the parking lot.

In mid-July, PCS director Kelly Schmidt received unexpected news from City Administrators that Manager Robertson had worked nearly 1000 hours during the 2020 fiscal year and couldn't work more hours without paying into the Texas Municipal Employees Retirement system. (The City would be required to match those funds, also.) Their instructions were to immediately cut Laurel's hours to below the retirement trigger until the new fiscal year began in October.

Laurel worked the prescribed 19 hours for one week, then worked with Kelly to find a way to stay within the year's budget, while still devoting 25 hours per week to managing the market. She will maintain the 25-hour per week schedule through August, to be reviewed in September. (Laurel had previously requested, and will take, a two-week unpaid leave from Aug 10-21.)

In late July, the PCS team attempted to launch online vendor booth registration (instead of cancellation) using the City's ActiveNet software. Although the software had performed well in test runs, attempts at using it for online registration by vendors turned up many bugs in the system, so we have delayed its launch until we resolve the problems.

### **Marketing, Website, Social Media, Branding & Communications**

The PCS department continues to expand their website pages to encompass the resource as a tool to provide the full scope of services within the department's span of responsibility. Currently, the "Community Services" aspect of the department is lacking in web presence and ease of service access. Staff is in the process of creating an easier application process and information dissemination platform.

- Road closure requests
- Itinerant Vendor Permits
- Event Permit for events held on city property and events held within City Limits
- Co-Sponsorship Requests

# July Farmers Market Report

Following orders from Mayor Foulds, the DS Farmers Market returned to May's Phase II COVID restrictions on July 8: three-foot spacing between booths, eliminating all non-food vendors and live music at market, with picnic tables roped off to discourage shoppers from lingering at market.

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FMA Board member Nikki Dahlin has helped at market for several weeks, learning the ropes (literally – how to lay out the twine used to mark booth spaces). She's been a huge help to Laurel, especially when market assistant Maggie Martin can't help at market.

On July 29, Nikki helped rescue several vendor tents as they blew across market during a sudden windstorm. Several tents were damaged, tables were blown over and product damaged - market was generally disrupted for more than half an hour. After the storm subsided, Laurel gave vendors the option to pack up and leave, or to stay and sell. Only Johnson's Backyard Garden opted to stay until market closed.

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test runs, attempts at using it for online registration by vendors turned up many bugs in the system, so we have delayed its launch until we resolve the problems.

Submitted on July 31, 2020

By Laurel Robertson, Market Manager

City of Dripping Springs Farmers Market  
Income Statement  
For the Ten Months Ending July 31, 2020

Item 4.

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget
<b>Revenues</b>				
Market Events	\$ 0.00	\$ 33.33	\$ 0.00	\$ 333.30
FM Sponsor	0.00	166.67	0.00	1,666.70
Grant Income	0.00	83.33	0.00	833.30
FM Booth	2,641.00	2,166.67	20,965.00	21,666.70
FM App Fee	175.00	333.33	2,341.00	3,333.30
Interest Income	36.99	47.48	367.46	474.80
	<u>2,852.99</u>	<u>2,830.81</u>	<u>23,673.46</u>	<u>28,308.10</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>				
	<u>2,852.99</u>	<u>2,830.81</u>	<u>23,673.46</u>	<u>28,308.10</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Advertising Expense	200.00	416.67	2,219.09	4,166.70
FM Manager	2,795.46	2,491.67	20,163.47	24,916.70
Entertainment and Activities	(100.00)	83.33	600.00	833.30
Market Events	0.00	41.67	0.00	416.70
Training	0.00	16.67	0.00	166.70
Payroll Tax Expense	248.98	204.11	2,104.81	2,041.10
Dues Fees and Subscriptions	0.00	16.67	75.00	166.70
Office Expense	0.00	16.67	202.90	166.70
Supplies Expense	0.00	33.33	352.04	333.30
Other Expense	0.00	8.33	(1,641.92)	83.30
	<u>3,144.44</u>	<u>3,329.12</u>	<u>24,075.39</u>	<u>33,291.20</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>				
	<u>3,144.44</u>	<u>3,329.12</u>	<u>24,075.39</u>	<u>33,291.20</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	\$ <u>(291.45)</u>	\$ <u>(498.31)</u>	\$ <u>(401.93)</u>	\$ <u>(4,983.10)</u>



**STAFF REPORT**  
**City of Dripping Springs**  
**PO Box 384**  
**511 Mercer Street**  
**Dripping Springs, TX 78602**

**Submitted By:** Kelly Schmidt, Parks & Community Services Director and Michelle Fischer, City Administrator

**Board Meeting Date:** August 20, 2020

**Agenda Item Wording:** Presentation on Hays County Parks & Open Space Commission's Recommended Projects submitted by the City of Dripping Springs, the Dripping Springs TIRZ Board No. 1 & 2 related to the Town Center Project.

**Agenda Item Requestor:** Mayor Bill Foulds

**Summary/Background:** In March of 2020 Hays County and members of POSAC called for projects to be considered for inclusion in a potential Hays County Parks & Open Space bond initiative and/or a partnership program. City of Dripping Springs City Administrator Michelle Fischer and Parks and Community Services Director Kelly Schmidt met with Karen Ford on April 16<sup>th</sup> about the call for projects.

Two projects were identified in the Dripping Springs' Parks and Community Services Department that were stymied due to lack of monetary resources: the Dripping Springs Skateboard Park and the donation of Rathgeber Natural Resource 300 acre park, which is a part of the Headwaters Development Agreement's Parks and Open Space Plan. These two projects met the criteria listed in the Hays County 2012 Master Plan as priorities for Hays County residents in the Dripping Springs area.

On May 13, 2020 Skate Park Initiative representative Dennis Baldwin and Parks and Community Services Director Kelly Schmidt presented both projects to the Hays County Parks and Open Space Commission on a Zoom call during one of the Commission's open meetings.

Two site tours of Rathgeber Natural Resource Park were hosted by Parks & Community Services Director Kelly Schmidt & Dick Rathgeber's grandson, Robert Ellis. On June 15, Studio Balcones Architecture team and Park Commissioners Ballman, Fougerat, & Zarbough braved a Texas summer afternoon to explore the Rathgeber site and were inspired by its potential. Studio Balcones was instrumental in assisting with developing a vision for the park that could tell the story of its potential. Collectively the tour inspired the mantra that Dir. Schmidt submitted along with the POSAC Project Information Form; **Preserve** (the land), **Protect** (the resource) & **Connect** (the people).

Director Schmidt was contacted by Karen Ford conveying that the POSAC wanted to tour the Rathgeber site. A second site visit was then scheduled to accommodate the request. On June 27, seven POSAC members along with Karen Ford and City of

Dripping Springs officials, Mayor Bill Foulds, Mayor Pro-Tem Taline Manassian, Parks Commissioner Paul Fushille, City of Dripping Springs Maintenance Director Craig Rice and Capital Area Boy Scouts Support Services Director, Rick Dennison were given a tour of the 300-acre gem.

The TIRZ Town Center Square & Pavilion Project and the Old Fitzhugh Rd. Multi-Use Trail Project were submitted by the city's TIRZ Board and sponsored by Commissioner Walt Smith. TIRZ Project Manager Keenan Smith and City Administrator Michelle Fischer prepared the applications to POSAC and Mr. Smith presented the projects to the POSAC on June 24<sup>th</sup>. These two projects met the criteria listed in the Hays County 2012 Master Plan as priorities and were submitted in the Urban Park and Connectivity categories.

On July 27, the Hays County POSAC presented their recommended projects to the Commissioners Court. Rathgeber Natural Resource Park was named as a Tier 1 project and the Skateboard Park, Town Center Square & Pavilion, and Old Fitzhugh Rd. Multi-Use Trail were named as Tier 2 projects.

Staff worked with consultants and volunteer advisors to estimate the costs of the projects and develop timelines. Based on the estimates, the requested Hays County funding amounts were: Rathgeber Natural Resource Park: \$7,500,00; Skate Park: \$550,00; Town Center Square & Pavilion \$4,480,600; and Old Fitzhugh Rd. Multi-Use Trail: \$1,305,000.

The total funds requested for all Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects submitted to POSAC was \$94,969,525. POSAC recommended a bond initiative in the range of \$75-80 million, with \$60-65 million going to the Tier 1 and 2 projects, and \$15-20 million being set aside for future projects. POSAC has requested to continue to work with the County to evaluate projects and recommend funding levels.

Should the bond initiative pass, staff will prepare grant applications for the projects to Hays County based on the recommendations of the Parks & Recreation Commission and TIRZ Board, and the direction and approval of the City Council.

**Commission  
Recommendations:**

The Parks and Recreation Commission supported both the Dripping Springs Skate Park and Rathgeber Natural Resource Park unanimously as an advisory body to Council. The TIRZ Board unanimously supported the Town Center Square & Pavilion and Old Fitzhugh Rd. Multi-Use Trail projects.

**Recommended  
Council Actions:**

No action needed at this time.

**Attachments:**

POSAC Recommended Project List with Map; POSAC Webinar Presentation to Public; Presentations to POSAC, Studio Balcones Rathgeber Natural Resource Vision report, Letters of Support DSISD & Freehold Communities.

**Next Steps/Schedule:**

Monitor status of bond initiative; continue to work on identifying other funding resources for projects.



## PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION (POSAC) RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMMISSIONERS COURT

The following recommendations are respectfully submitted by members of the Hays County Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC) on July 28, 2020.

This document is a synthesis of the Powerpoint presentation to be made to the Court on above date and is meant to provide an easy visual overview of the projects submitted by various entities which were evaluated by the POSAC through the lens of the 2012 Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan.

These project recommendations demonstrate a substantial need for additional resources available for parks and open space within Hays County.

The named projects below are presented by category and ranked within the tiers showing highest ratings from top down within each category. Included also are project sponsor and funding request. The numbering of projects relates to the attached project map.

TIER ONE PROJECTS ("very best"; highly recommend to fund at some level)	Amount Requested
<b>Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat</b>	
1. Coleman's Canyon Preserve (WVWA)	\$ 2,600,000
2. Sentinel Peak Park & Preserve (Hays County)	10,000,000
3. San Marcos River Recharge Lands (SMRF)	4,380,000
4. Regional Park, water quality/trails, 1200 acres (Hays County/COA via HCC) <sup>1</sup>	10,000,000
5. Purgatory Creek: habitat, clean water preserve (HCC)	17,717,500
6. Rathgeber Natural Resource Park (City of Dripping Springs)	7,500,000
<b>Connectivity</b>	
7. Violet Crown Trail in Hays County (HCC)	3,800,000
8. Cape's Fishing Pond (Hays County)	2,500,000
<b>TOTAL Tier One Project Requests</b>	<b>\$ 58,497,500</b>

TIER TWO PROJECTS ("very good"; strong recommendation to fund at some level)	Amount Requested
<b>Urban Parks</b>	
9. Dripping Springs Regional Skate Park (DS Skate Park, Inc, non-profit)	\$ 550,000
10. Dripping Springs Town Center (City of Dripping Springs)	4,480,600
11. Patriot's Hall, near Dripping Springs (PatriotsHall.org; non-profit)	1,500,000
12. Nature Center at Blue Hole Park (City of Wimberley)	3,136,425
<b>Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat</b>	
13. John Knox Ranch Preserve (John Knox Ranch/HCC)	2,500,000
14. Presa Grande, Sink Creek Watershed (Great Springs Project)	8,500,000
<b>Connectivity</b>	
15. Old Fitzhugh Road Trail (City of Dripping Springs)	1,305,000
16. Kyle Fajita Fields (City of Kyle)	14,520,000
<b>TOTAL Tier Two Project Requests</b>	<b>\$ 36,472,025</b>

<b>TOTAL TIER ONE &amp; TWO PROJECT REQUESTS</b>	<b>\$ 94,969,525</b>
--	----------------------

<sup>1</sup> Recommendation subject to site control.



<b>TIER THREE PROJECTS (for consideration at a future date)</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
<b>Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat</b>	
Regional Conservation Fund for Jacob's Well Groundwater Management Zone (WDWA)	\$20,000,000
Wimberley Dog & Skate Park (City of Wimberley)	450,110
<b>TOTAL Tier Three Project Requests</b>	<b>\$ 20,460,111</b>
<b>TOTAL TIER ONE, TWO, THREE PROJECT REQUESTS</b>	<b>\$115,439,630</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS FOR ALL PROJECTS SUBMITTED</b>	<b>&gt; \$176,000,000</b>

### ADVISEMENTS TO HAYS COUNTY

- 1) Recognize the incredible opportunities that arose within the last few months (March-July) in our County for outdoor recreation, nature experiences, trails, conservation of natural areas, access to rivers/creeks, perpetual scenic vistas, water quality protection, habitat preservation, flood mitigation – and a connection with nature and sense of place – for now and forever.
- 2) Understand that both the applicants and reviewers were functioning to the best of their abilities within a compressed time frame and during a most unusual and challenging time at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, and that further work can be done to evaluate projects and negotiate with sponsors, which may lead to some modifications of the rankings and costs.
- 3) See that there is more opportunity right now than we can fund with County tax dollars to fulfill the visionary goals of the 2012 Hays County Master Plan for Parks, Open Spaces and Natural Areas.
- 4) Be assured there is a solid community of conservationists, non-profit organizations, municipal and government partners ready and willing to invest along with Hays County in order to make sure our plentiful resources are protected, and our citizens have outdoor places to play, explore, experience and treasure.
- 5) Know that POSAC members have exerted a substantial and collective body of time, effort, thought and feeling that hopefully provides a valuable service to all Hays County leaders, residents and visitors for years to come.

- 6) Appreciate that a scientific poll was conducted among Hays County voters, in reflection of our demographics, that revealed strong support (71-77%) for \$75 million in general obligation bonds to be sold to protect our open spaces, water quality lands and natural places – especially when the county's property tax rate would not be affected.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A BOND IN NOVEMBER 2020

**POSAC recommends a total bond initiative in the range of \$75-80 Million.**

Of that total, we see up to \$60-65 million to be used toward the named projects above – with Tier One projects having highest priority and Tier Two to be funded in the best way possible.

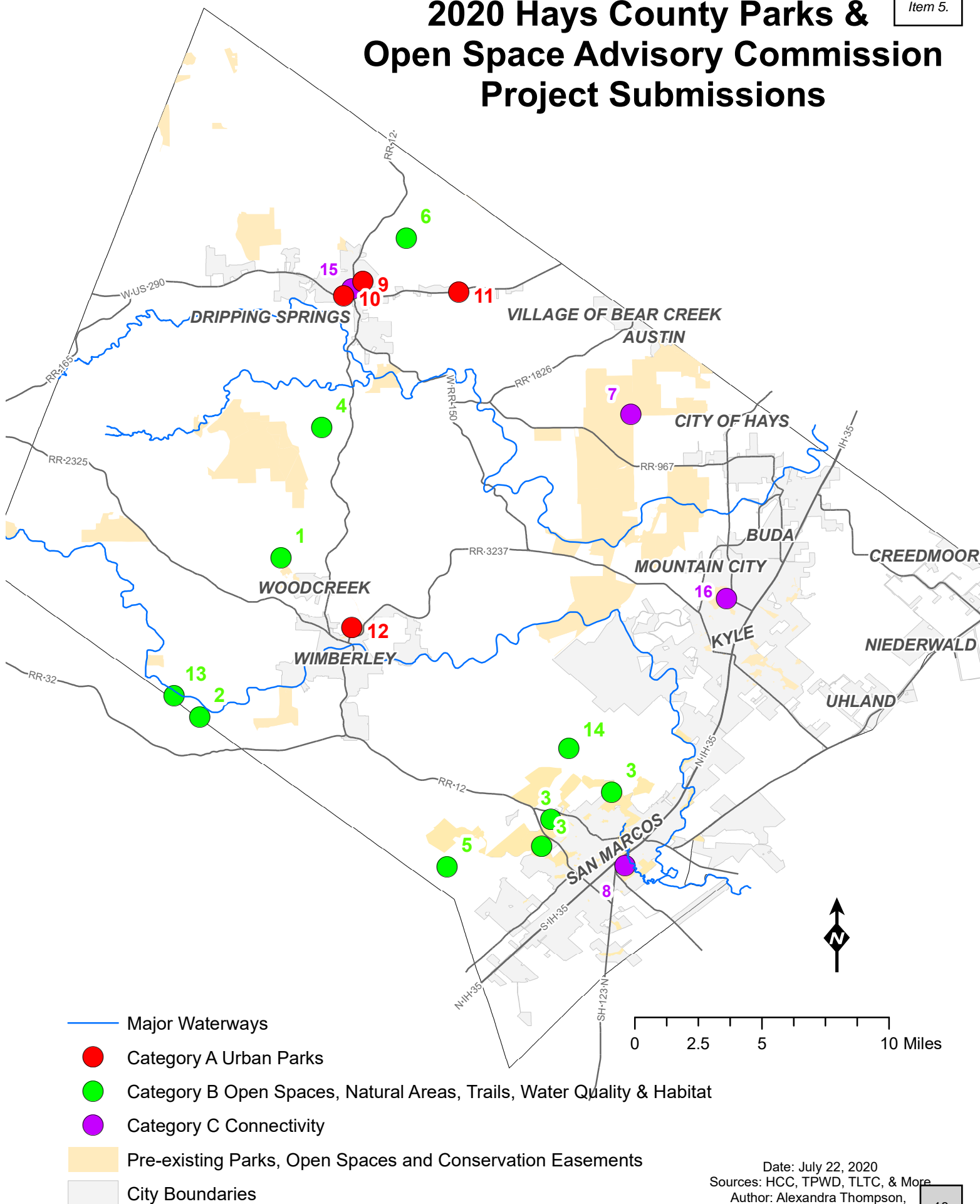
Further, we recommend that \$15-20 million be set aside in a flexible, non-specific fund to accommodate future projects in partnership with municipalities and organizations who were not able to present a viable project at this time, and for potential modifications to existing projects – as well as for unanticipated opportunities for conservation or recreation projects within the next five years.<sup>2</sup>

### REQUEST FOR POSAC TO REMAIN IN ADVISORY/ SUPPORT ROLE

POSAC recognizes the importance of thorough project vetting, evaluation, and negotiation and would be honored to continue to serve in an advisory capacity to the Court and to County staff in order to help further successful bond project implementation. Further, it is the firm desire of POSAC to continue to receive and evaluate projects and review the financial aspects and public benefits for each project.

<sup>2</sup> One member of the commission was not supportive of having unallocated funds as part of the bond package.

# 2020 Hays County Parks & Open Space Advisory Commission Project Submissions







## **PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

### **Recommendations to Commissioners Court Public Webinar Presentation**

**August 4 & 6, 2020**



# WELCOME



Item 5.

**Thank you for your time and interest!**

**Agenda for 1-hour public meeting.**

- Introduction of POSAC panelists
- Visual presentation (25-min)
  - Background on POSAC , our process and evaluation/scoring of projects
  - Review recommended Tier One and Tier Two Projects
  - Bond recommendation to Commissioners Court
- Short participant poll
- Question and Answer: Please use Q&A link in the tool bar at screen bottom
- Next Steps & Contact information



## A SENSE OF PLACE

“As the state’s population becomes more urban and disconnected from our lands, water and wildlife it becomes increasingly important to provide accessible, safe and enjoyable outdoor opportunities and to educate the public about the natural resources of Texas.

Access to parks, neighborhood green spaces and nature centers helps children and people of all ages develop a sense of place. A sense of place describes the relationship with where one lives, and an appreciation of its unique natural and cultural heritage ...





# A SENSE OF BEAUTY AND WONDER

Experiencing nature as a shared heritage combats isolation and builds stronger communities.

Experiences that bond children to the natural world sharpen their senses, inspire a sense of beauty and build emerging concepts of biology, geology, physics and language.”

*Dr. Joe Frost, Professor Emeritus, College of Education University of Texas at Austin*





# POSAC APPOINTED – FEB 2020

## Parks & Open Space Advisory Commission (Court member who appointed)

- Scott Way, Chair (Shell)
- Kathryn Nichols, Vice-Chair (Jones)
- Lori Olson, Vice-Chair (Becerra)
- Jim Camp (Jones)
- Burt Dement (Smith)
- Laura DuPont (Shell)
- Carolyn Gonzales (Ingalsbe)
- Blanca Loya (Ingalsbe)
- Lisa Prewitt (Becerra)
- Scott Tomhave (Smith)



# OUR CHARTER



Item 5.

...to establish a democratic, inclusive process to study a parks, open space, and conservation bond program that will yield project recommendations to the Hays County Commissioners Court meant to ensure the confidence and trust of Hays County voters.

Identify the fundamentally critical needs for Hays County projects that include parks, open space, scenic vistas, water quality, water quantity, endangered species habitat, access to water recreation, trails/trail systems, flood mitigation lands, and any other necessary land or water conservation project(s)....

POSAC goals and priorities are found in the 2012 Hays County Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas MASTER PLAN.



# OUR PATH & COMMITMENT

## POSAC took the Charter and charged ahead

- 11 meetings, March 7 through July 22 (all but first conducted in Zoom meetings)
- Charter accepted; Bylaws adopted
- Consensus-based decision-making process
- Leadership team selected
- Educational and project presentations; site tours (June 20 and June 27)
- Development of criteria, forms, process, evaluation, scoring
- Subcommittee evaluations, July 1–July 22
- Estimated total of 600-700 POSAC person hours for meetings, study, analysis, evaluation, recommendation
- Desire to continue support for Commissioners Court and County staff



# OUR PROCESS & TIMELINE

## Start to finish: March 7 to July 28, 2020

- Background, education, process development (March/April)
- Call for projects (May)
- Project Information Form (PIF) online submission process
- Three categories of projects
  - Urban parks
  - Open space/natural areas/trails/water quality/habitat
  - Connectivity
- Review and scoring by category by sub-committee
- All POSAC reviewed scoring
- Consensus on tiered project list and bond recommendation
  - One member did not support unallocated funds as part of the bond package



# EVALUATION & SCORING CRITERIA

## Developed from Master Plan, Charter, & POSAC community values.

- Meet Master Plan goals
- Provide high priority facilities
- Demonstrate readiness to complete project within 5 years
- Provide leverage — land and/or funds
- Demonstrate on-going management and operations capacity
- Accessibility to the public
- Accommodate variety of users
- Preserve/protect natural resources
- Make significant scale of impact
- Create new recreational opportunities
- Demonstrate broad community support



# HAYS COUNTY HISTORY OF SUCCESS

## 2007 Hays County Parks & Open Space Bond

“The issuance of \$30,000,000 of Hays County Tax Bonds for Parks, Natural Areas, Open space and related projects, and the Preservation of Water Quality, Aquifer Recharge Areas, and Wildlife Habitat, and the Levying of a Tax in Payment thereof.”

- No projects identified BEFORE the bond election
- Voter approved by 2:1 margin (68% YES)
- Citizen committee appointed to score/recommend projects
- Goal of 1:1 matching funds was exceeded
- County invested ~\$30 Million in projects totaling ~ \$76 Million



## HAYS COUNTY HISTORY OF SUCCESS (CONT.)

**By leveraging \$30 Million from 2007 bond, today we enjoy all these projects:**

Five Mile Dam Park | Jacob's Well Natural Area | Winter's Mill/Blue Hole Loop Trail | Dahlstrom Ranch Conservation Easement & Gay Ruby Dahlstrom Nature Preserve | La Cima Conservation Easement & Preserve | Wildenthal Preserve | Buda Stagecoach Park | Buda Tyler Norris Memorial Skateboard Park | Buda Bradfield Park & Trails | Dripping Springs Ranch Park | Kyle City Square Park | Kyle Gregg-Clarke Park | Kyle Plum Creek Preserve/Lake Kyle Park | San Marcos Combined Parks Improvements | Wimberley Blue Hole Regional Park | Dripping Springs Youth Sports Association Sports Fields | Hays County Youth Sports Complex/FM 2770 | Bear Creek Park & Trail (Belterra) | North Hays Optimist Foundation Park (Goforth Road) | Village of San Marcos Youth Sports Fields



# OPPORTUNITY ABOUNDS

## 18 projects submitted, May–July 2020

- Hays County
- Municipalities
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Land trusts for landowners
- Total funding requests to Hays County, \$115,400,000
- Total project costs, more than \$176 Million
- Projects yet to come from cities of San Marcos and Buda
- Unanticipated opportunities
- Explore additional project partners; federal/state funds, loans and grants





# TIERED PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

## TIER ONE: very best; highly recommend to fund at some level

- **Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat**
  - Coleman's Canyon Preserve
  - Sentinel Peak Park & Preserve
  - San Marcos River Recharge Lands
  - 1,200-acre regional park, water quality/trails
  - Purgatory Creek Open Space, Habitat and Clean Waters Preserve
  - Rathgeber Natural Resources Park
- **Connectivity**
  - Violet Crown Trail in Hays County
  - Cape's Fishing Pond



## TIERED PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS (CONT.)

### TIER TWO: very good; strong recommendation to fund at some level

- **Urban Parks**

- Dripping Springs Regional Skate Park
- Dripping Springs Town Center Square
- Patriot's Hall
- Nature Center at Blue Hole Park

- **Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat**

- John Knox Ranch Preserve
- Presa Grande, Sink Creek Watershed

- **Connectivity**

- Old Fitzhugh Road Trail
- Fajita Fields, Festival Grounds, Trails

**2020 Hays County Parks & Open Space Advisory Commission Project Submissions**

**Legend:**

- Major Waterways
- Category A Urban Parks
- Category B Open Spaces, Natural Areas, Trails, Water Quality & Habitat
- Category C Connectivity
- Pre-existing Parks, Open Spaces and Conservation Easements
- City Boundaries

**Map Labels:** DRIPPING SPRINGS, VILLAGE OF BEAR CREEK, AUSTIN, CITY OF HAYS, BUDA, MOUNTAIN CITY, CREEDMOOR, NIEDERWALL, UHLAND, WIMBERLEY, WOODCREEK, SAN MARCOS.

**Scale:** 0 2.5 5 10 Miles

**Metadata:**  
 Date: July 22, 2020  
 Sources: HCC, TPWD, TLTC, & More  
 Author: Alexandra Thompson,  
 Hays County Natural Resources Coordinator



# 1. COLEMAN'S CANYON PRESERVE

## TIER ONE: Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat

### Project Sponsor: Wimberley Valley Watershed Association (WVWA)

- 117-acre land conservation/restoration
- Contiguous to Jacob's Well Natural Area
- Caves and karst features that recharge Jacob's Well Spring
- Wimberley Bat Cave
- 100 acres Golden-cheeked Warbler habitat
- Camping, hiking, nature-based recreation

Funds requested  
**\$2,600,000**

Fee simple land acquisition,  
117-acres

Potential for re-investment  
of \$2-2.6 million by WVWA  
to secure adjacent lands,  
design and engineering for  
site improvements and  
infrastructure

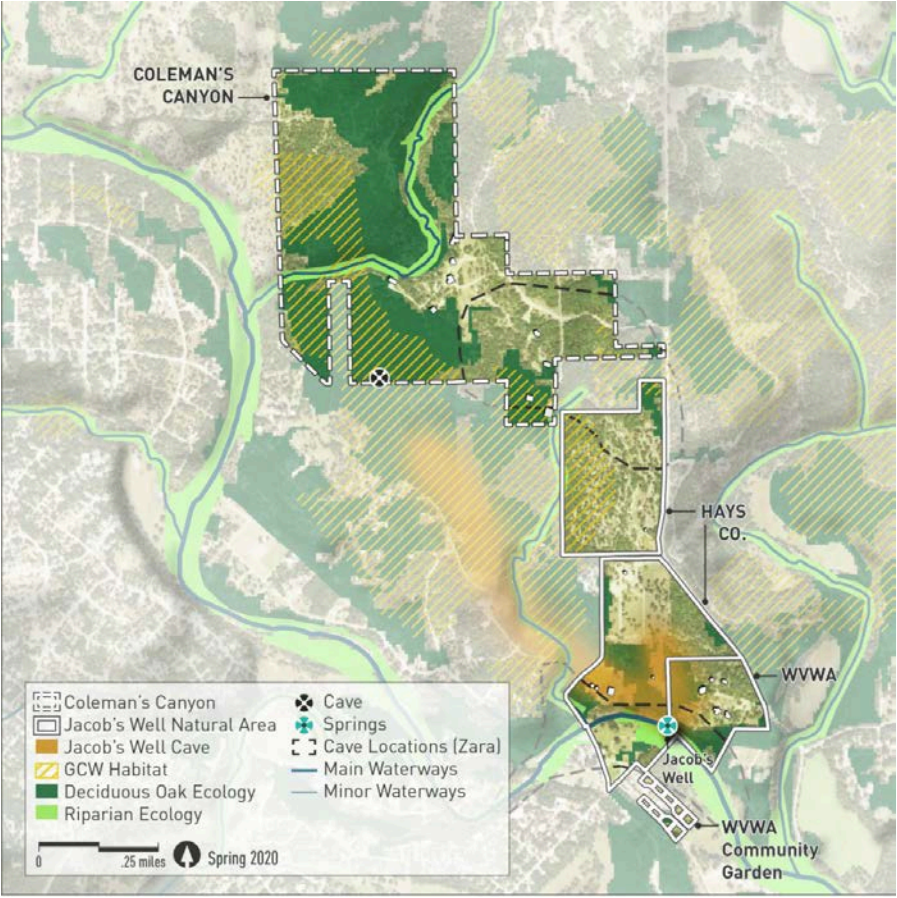




# 1. COLEMAN’S CANYON PRESERVE

## SITE POTENTIAL

- Open space connections
- Recreation opportunities
- Ecological sensitivity







# 1. COLEMAN’S CANYON PRESERVE



“Excellent opportunity to add to the jewel of Hays County parks – Jacob’s Well Natural Area; unique opportunity for long trail system; multiple benefits and partners; camping (new) access in area.”

*From POSAC Review Notes*



## 2. SENTINEL PEAK PARK & PRESERVE

### TIER ONE: Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat

#### Project Sponsor: Hays County

- 535 acres, part of former El Rancho Cima Boy Scout Ranch
- Access to Blanco River
- Golden-cheeked Warbler habitat/preserve
- Managed public access
- Low-impact recreation, trails, camping

**Funds requested**  
**\$10,000,000**

Fee simple land acquisition (535-acres); Facility design and/or construction

Potential for up to \$6 Million from the TWDB Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), if the County is approved, to fund the fee-simple acquisition of the property





# 2. SENTINEL PEAK PARK & PRESERVE



- Sentinel Peak Park & Preserve
- Hays & Comal County Line





## 2. SENTINEL PEAK PARK & PRESERVE



“Excellent!  
Must do!”

*From POSAC Review Notes*



### 3. SAN MARCOS RIVER RECHARGE LANDS

#### TIER ONE: Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat

##### Project Sponsor: San Marcos River Foundation

- Three properties, 233 total acres
  - Geiger tract: 75 Acres; COST: \$225,000-1,130,000 (CE with public trails)
  - Elsik tract: 102.8 Acres; COST: \$2,225,000
  - Icehouse tract: 56 Acres; COST: \$1,000,000
- All properties within planned loop around San Marcos
- Recharge zone for Edwards Aquifer
- Protects San Marcos Springs and River
- Combination of fee simple land acquisition & conservation easement

Funds requested  
**\$3,475,000 – 4,380,000**

Fee simple land acquisition;  
and conservation easement  
(CE) acquisition

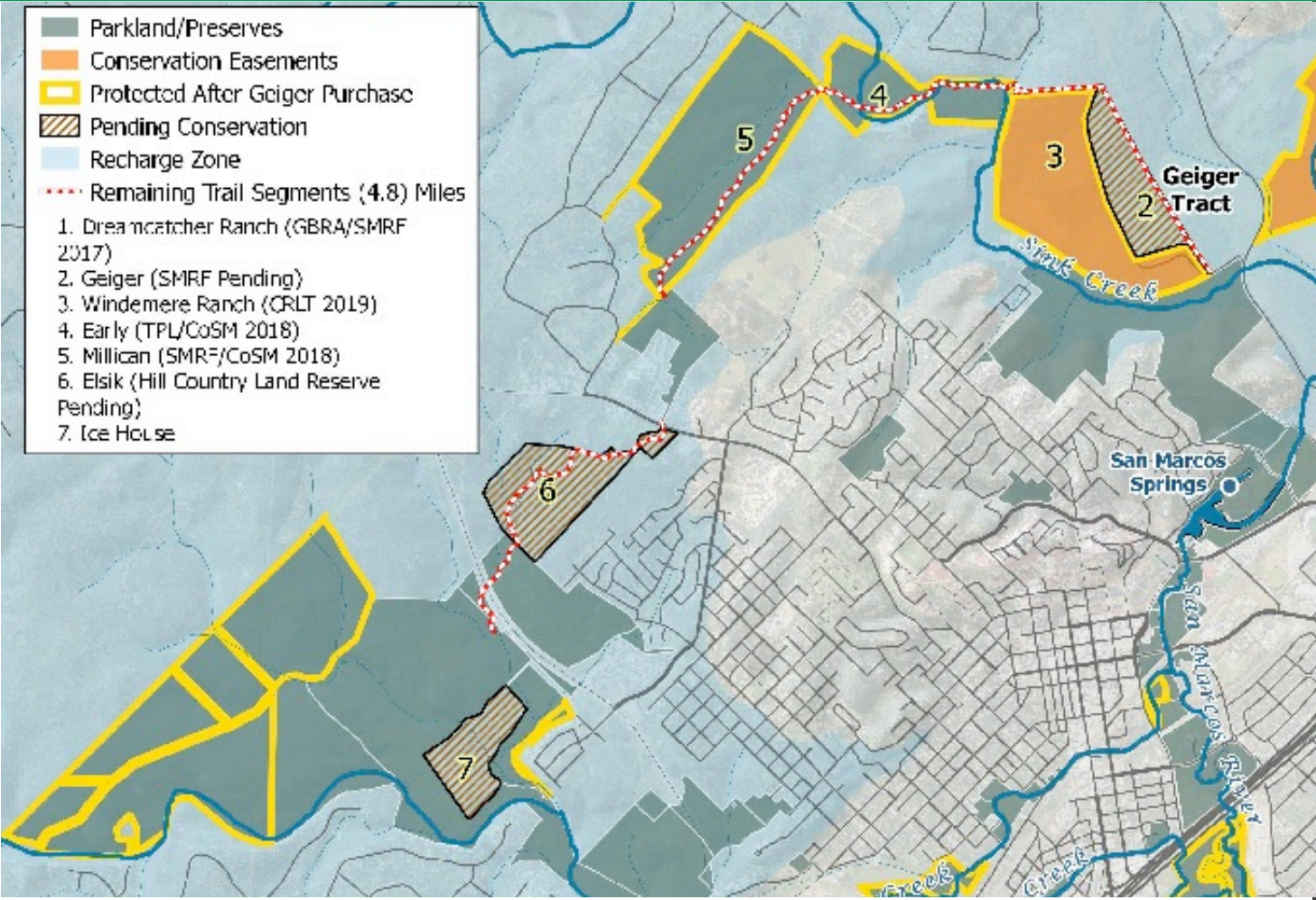
\$782,450 from SMRF and San  
Marcos Greenbelt Alliance





### 3. SAN MARCOS RIVER RECHARGE LANDS

Tract 2: Geiger  
Tract 6: Elsik  
Tract 7: Icehouse



“Excellent opportunity to add to San Marcos greenbelt project; many benefits.”

*From POSAC Review Notes*



## 4. 1,200-AC. REGIONAL PARK (WATER QUALITY/TRAILS)

### TIER ONE: Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat

#### Project Sponsor: Hays County/COA via HCC

- 1,200 acres, adjacent to ~4,700 acres of permanently protected heritage ranch lands
- Scenic watershed and habitat lands
- Within Gatlin Creek and Onion Creek watersheds
- City of Austin, potential for water quality partnership; 1:1 match
- Passive recreation, hiking trails similar to Dahlstrom Nature Preserve
- Recreation consistent with open space protection

Funds requested  
\$10,000,000

A regional, 1,200-acre park for Hays County, surrounded by conserved lands

City of Austin to pay the value attributable to the conservation easement; ~ \$10-11,000,000 providing at least a 1:1 match





# 4. 1,200-AC. REGIONAL PARK (WATER QUALITY/TRAILS)



Protects important watershed lands which are critical to the protection of Onion Creek and the quality of water recharging the Edwards Aquifer at downstream conduits.



# 5. HAYS COUNTY HABITAT, OPEN SPACE AND CLEAN WATERS PRESERVE (PURGATORY CREEK AREA)

## TIER ONE: Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat

### Project Sponsor: Hill Country Conservancy

- 1,069 acres of high-quality habitat, watershed, water quality, recharge and flood mitigation land
- Contiguous to Purgatory Creek Natural Area, La Cima Parkland and Hays County La Cima Preserve
- Public trail expansion
- Golden-cheeked Warbler Mitigation Credits valued at more than \$5.7 million.

Funds requested  
\$17,717,500

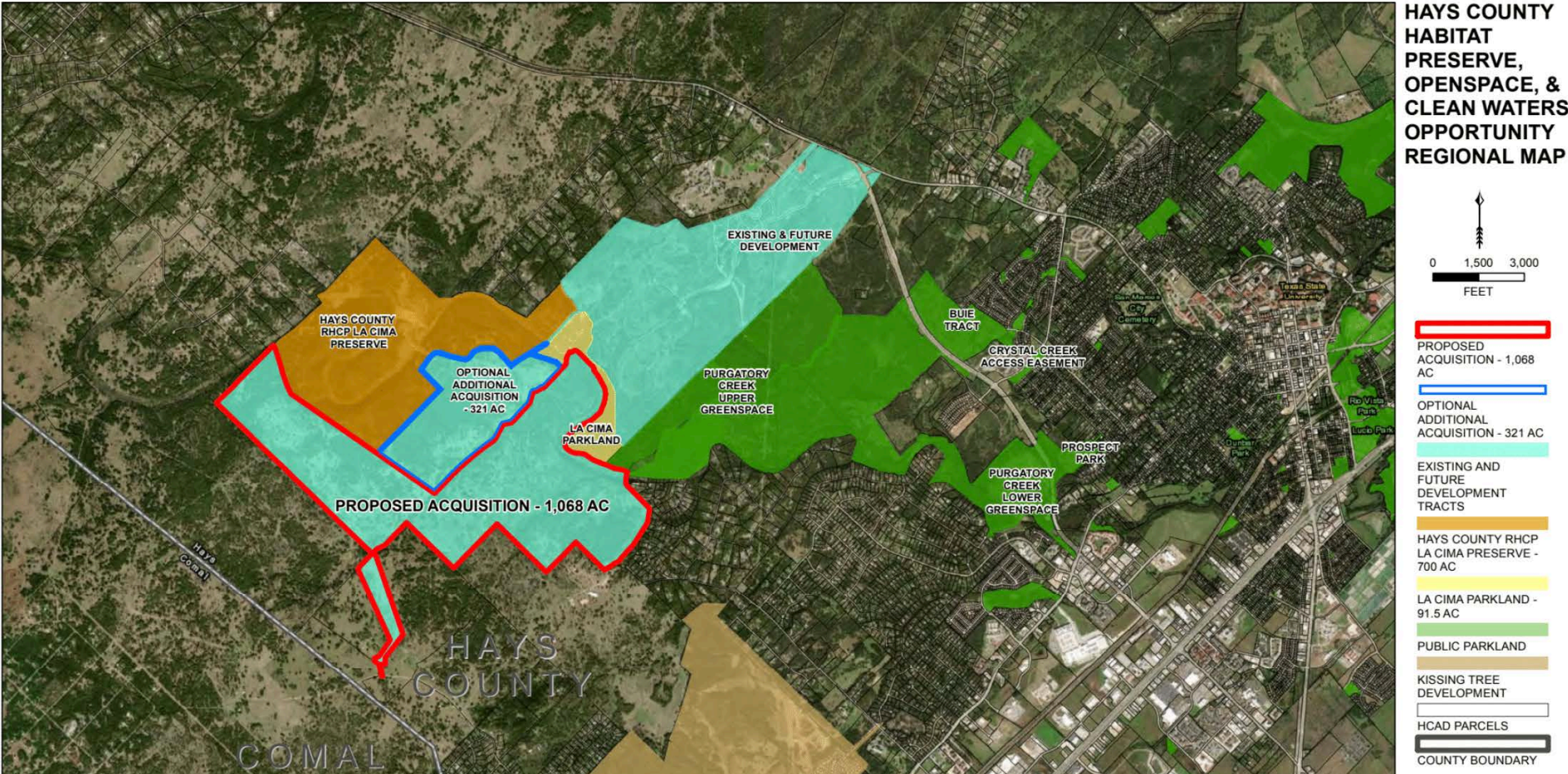
Conservation easement acquisition

Potential for TWDB Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) low interest loan to the County





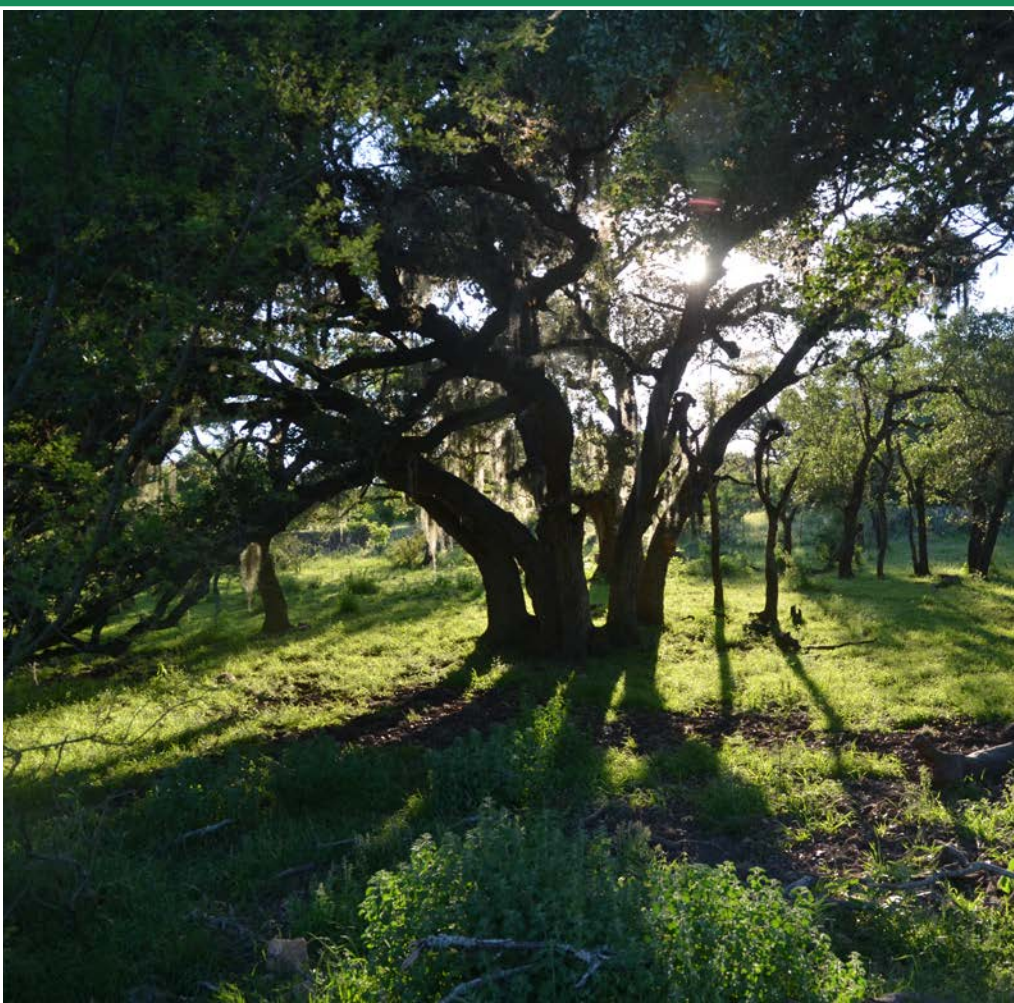
# 5. HAYS COUNTY HABITAT, OPEN SPACE AND CLEAN WATERS PRESERVE (PURGATORY CREEK AREA)







# 5. HAYS COUNTY HABITAT, OPEN SPACE AND CLEAN WATERS PRESERVE (PURGATORY CREEK AREA)



“Great continuous addition to Purgatory Greenspace; Warbler habitat and potential for grant funds; hiking access to regional trail system.”

*From POSAC Review Notes*





## 6. RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCES PARK

### TIER ONE: Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat

#### Project Sponsor: City of Dripping Springs

- 300 acres; regional nature park
- Confluence of Little Barton and Barton Creek
- Preserve, protect, connect people to nature
- Hiking and camping
- Nature center
- Adjacent to Headwaters Development

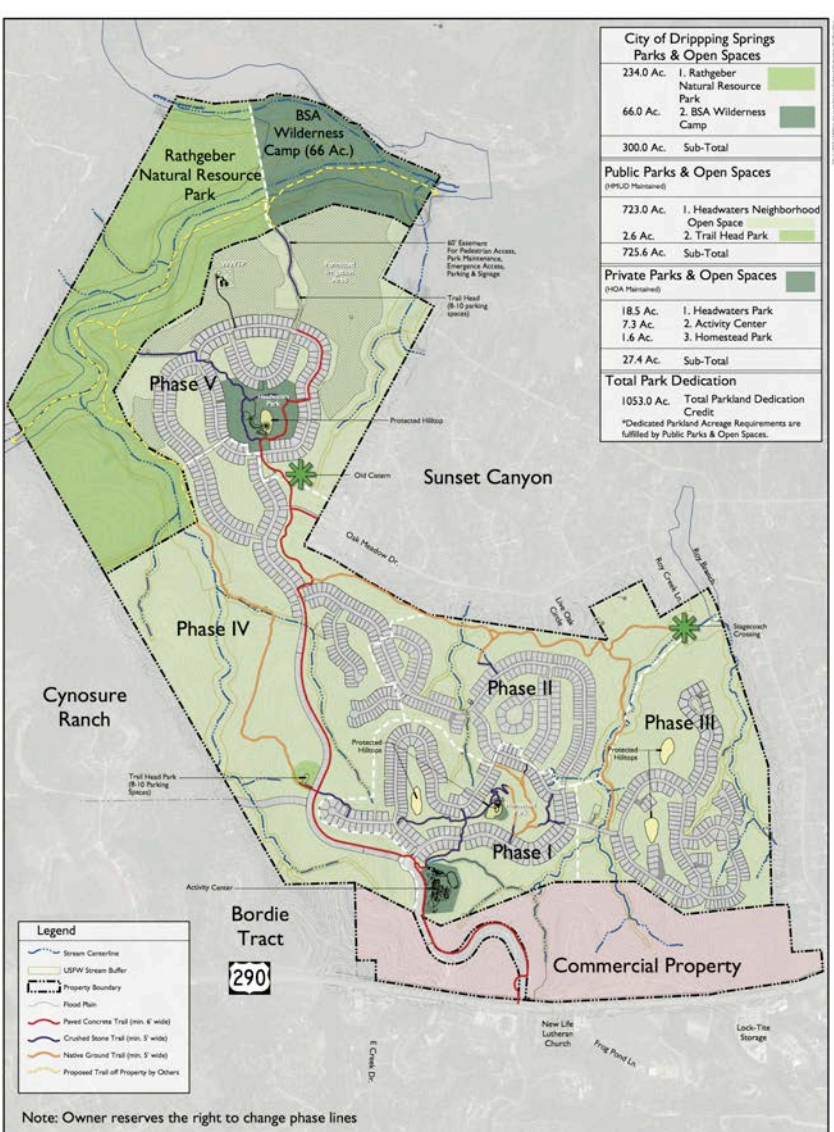
**Funds requested**  
**\$7,500,000**

Land planning, design, engineering. Facility design and/or construction.

Land donated as dedicated parkland in perpetuity; value estimated at \$3,750,000 to \$5,250,000; plus City of DS additional \$110–175,000 for planning, public input, preliminary engineering, environmental studies



# 6. RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCES PARK







## 6. RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCES PARK



“A nearly pristine piece of Texas Hill Country, with both Barton Creek and Little Barton Creek flowing through it.”

*From project submission letter*



## 7. VIOLET CROWN TRAIL IN HAYS COUNTY

### TIER ONE: Connectivity

#### Project Sponsor: Hill Country Conservancy

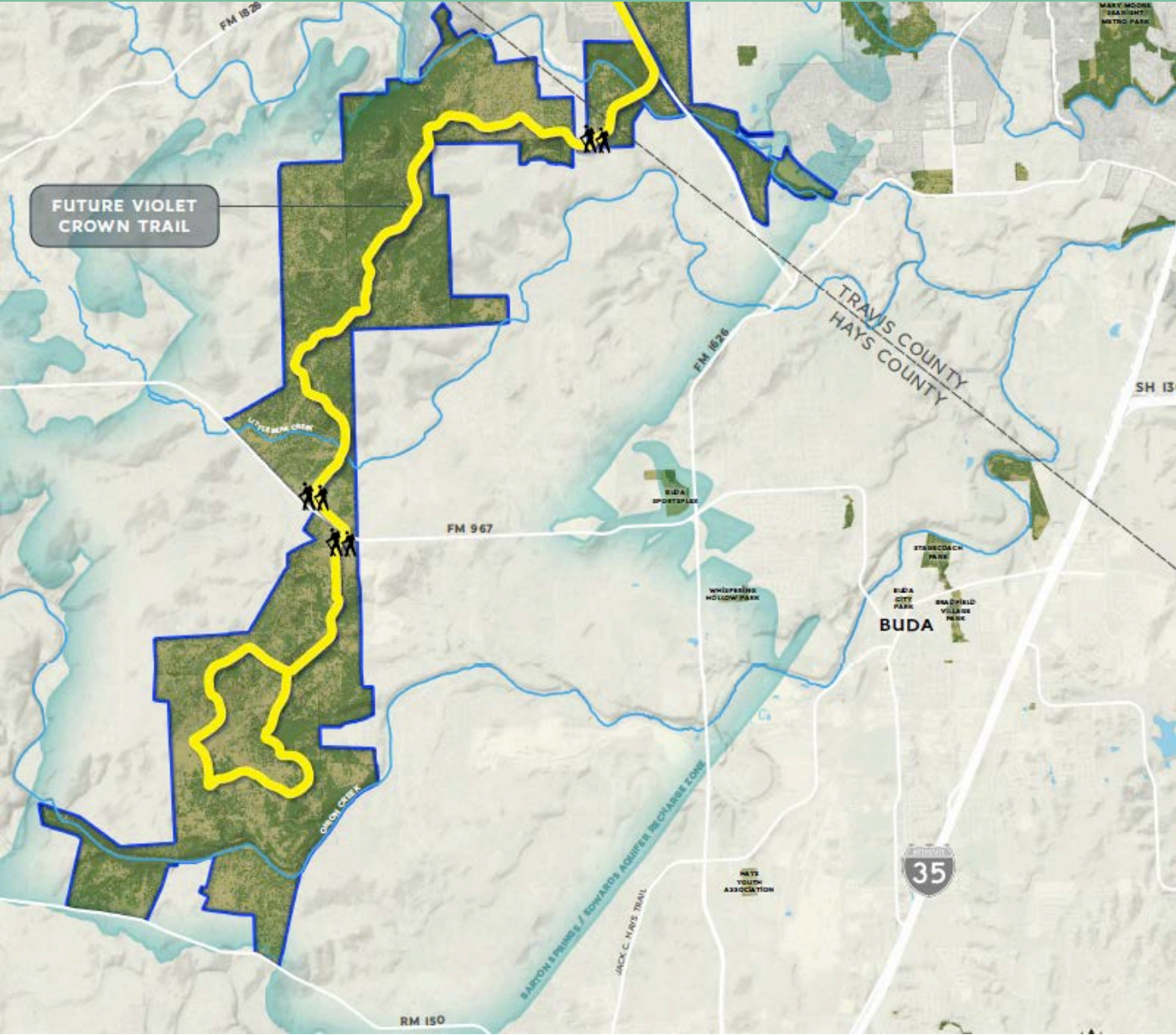
- 14 miles of new, single-track, nature trail
- Extension of the Violet Crown Trail heading south from Barton Springs
- Crosses publicly owned lands, ~6 miles west of Buda
- Trail heads at Bliss Spillar Road and at FM 967 crossing
- Built to high-quality, sustainable trail standards

Funds requested  
**\$3,800,000**

Facility design and/or  
construction

TPWD trails program, \$200K;  
HCC grant, \$500K





“14 miles of trail in the heart of the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone in northern Hays Co. Trail Heads at Bliss Spillar Road and FM 967. Trails would loop south near Onion Creek near FM 150”  
*From POSAC Review Notes*





# 7. VIOLET CROWN TRAIL IN HAYS COUNTY







## 8. CAPE'S FISHING POND

### TIER ONE: Connectivity

#### Project Sponsor: Hays County

- 28.665 acres (pond just under 6 acres)
- Outdoor recreational for local families and children
- Connects areas of San Marcos with local (and proposed regional) hike and bike trail system
- Pond could qualify for TPWD grant program, Neighborhood Fishin'
- Potential demonstration site for rain gardens, bioswales and natural water filtration
- Storm water management potential

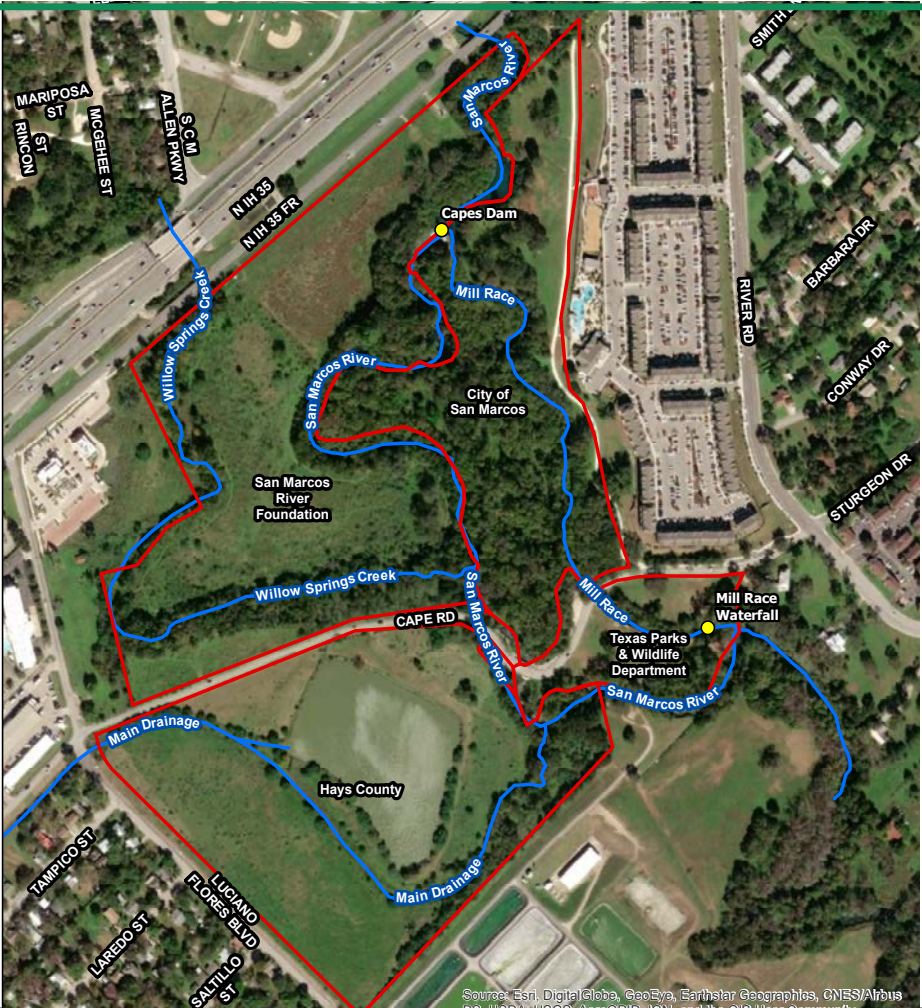
Funds requested  
**\$2,500,000**

Phase I investment in trail improvements, a hike/bike bridge over the San Marcos River, and capital improvements related to the Neighborhood Fishin' program, river viewing areas, and demonstrative drainage facilities

County purchased the land in March 2020 for \$2,600,000.



# 8. CAPE'S FISHING POND





## 8. CAPE'S FISHING POND



Item 5.





## 9. DRIPPING SPRINGS REGIONAL SKATE PARK

### TIER TWO: Urban Parks

#### Project Sponsor: Dripping Springs Skate Park, Inc.

- 14,000 square foot plaza-style skatepark
- Place for young people to pursue athletic activity
- Safe athletic alternative to team sports
- Land donated by City of Dripping Springs
- Strong community support demonstrated

Funds requested  
**\$550,000**

Facility design and/or  
construction

\$178,750 from land donation  
and other philanthropic  
grants/community partners





# 9. DRIPPING SPRINGS REGIONAL SKATE PARK



“This park will provide a fun and safe place for kids of all ages (as well as adults) to get exercise, hone a skill, and enjoy the outdoors.”

*Comment from supporter*



# 10. DRIPPING SPRINGS TOWN CENTER SQUARE

## TIER TWO: Urban Parks

### Project Sponsor: City of Dripping Springs

- Vibrant, open, community space for downtown Dripping Springs
- Green space for festivals, markets, events
- Multiple civic buildings: City, County, School District, Library
- Many community needs served from one place
- Anchor for Mercer St. Historic District
- Draw for residents and visitors

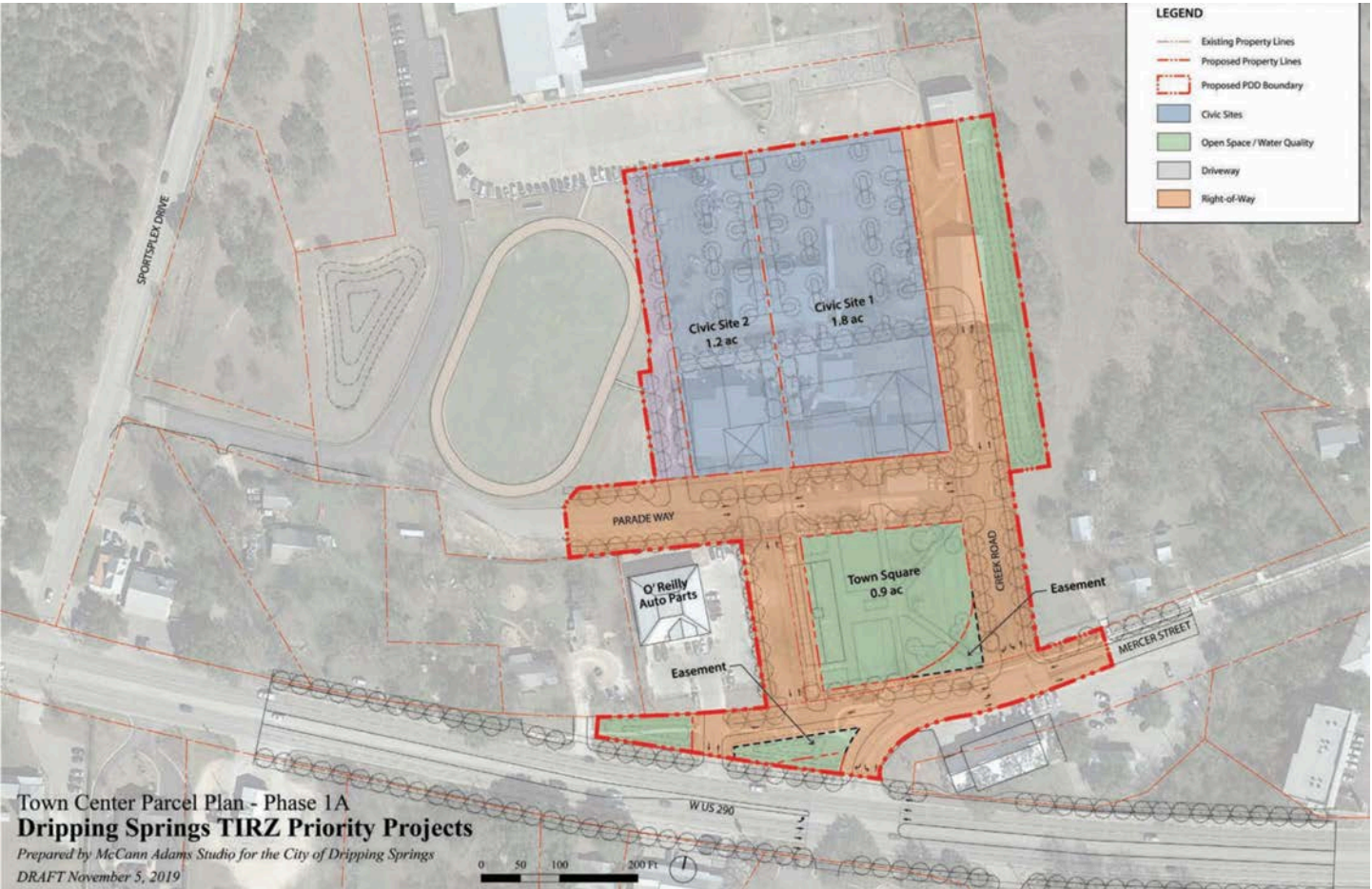
Funds requested  
\$4,480,600

Land acquisition, Planning (land management, design, engineering), Facility design and/or construction

TIRZ partners: City of DS, Hays County, DS Library, DS School District



# 10. DRIPPING SPRINGS TOWN CENTER



“To co-locate the City, the School District, the County, and the Library in a cost-effective way into shared facilities (to provide) Civic Services...to serve future Community needs.”

*From presentation notes*





# 10. DRIPPING SPRINGS TOWN CENTER



“A civic open space in the heart of Dripping Springs ... for festivals, market activities, an events venue ... TIRZ project.”

*From presentation notes*





# 11. PATRIOT'S HALL, NEAR DRIPPING SPRINGS

## TIER TWO: Urban Parks

### Project Sponsor: PatriotsHall.org; Kathryn Chandler

- 10-acre retreat and resource base
- For ALL veterans and their families
- Gathering Hall for therapeutic classes, vet-to-vet mentoring, educational and motivational workshops, job networking
- 60-70% green space for campouts, cookouts, fitness challenges
- Outdoor recreation for nature experience
- Opportunities for gardening, beekeeping
- Broad community support and fundraising from nonprofit organization

**Funds requested**  
**\$1,500,000**

Land, facility design and/or construction

Total project is \$5,900,000; have raised \$1,500,000 from local donors, + \$100K in-kind services.



# 11. PATRIOT’S HALL, NEAR DRIPPING SPRINGS



“Great project and will serve the veteran community with pride.”

*From POSAC Review Notes*



## 12. NATURE CENTER AT BLUE HOLE PARK

### TIER TWO: Urban Parks

#### Project Sponsor: City of Wimberley

- Public nature center
- 7K square feet covered space; 2.5 acres outdoor space
- Indoor/outdoor classrooms; greenhouse
- Nature camp expansion
- Example of sustainable construction; rainwater collection
- Theater to showcase nature documentaries, films
- Prairie and wetland restoration

**Funds requested**  
**\$3,136,425**

Planning (land management, design, engineering), Facility design and/or construction

No match at this time; project received numerous letters of support from Wimberley Community and Friends of Blue Hole





# 12. NATURE CENTER AT BLUE HOLE PARK



“Blue Hole Nature Camps that will utilize facility provide positive revenue for the City of Wimberley. In addition, fees for usage could provide revenue. Wimberley has a parks department that can maintain the facility.”

*From POSAC Review Notes*



## 13. JOHN KNOX RANCH PRESERVE

### TIER TWO: Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat

#### Project Sponsor: John Knox Ranch, Hill Country Conservancy

- Conservation easement on 300 acres
- Summer camp and retreat owned/operated by Mission Presbytery (Presbyterian Church, USA)
- Blanco River frontage
- Location of artesian spring, Blue Hole Spring
- Perpetual protection for waters, grass savannahs, Texas hardwoods, old-growth Ashe juniper, Golden-cheeked Warbler
- Limited, managed public access

Funds requested  
**\$2,500,000**

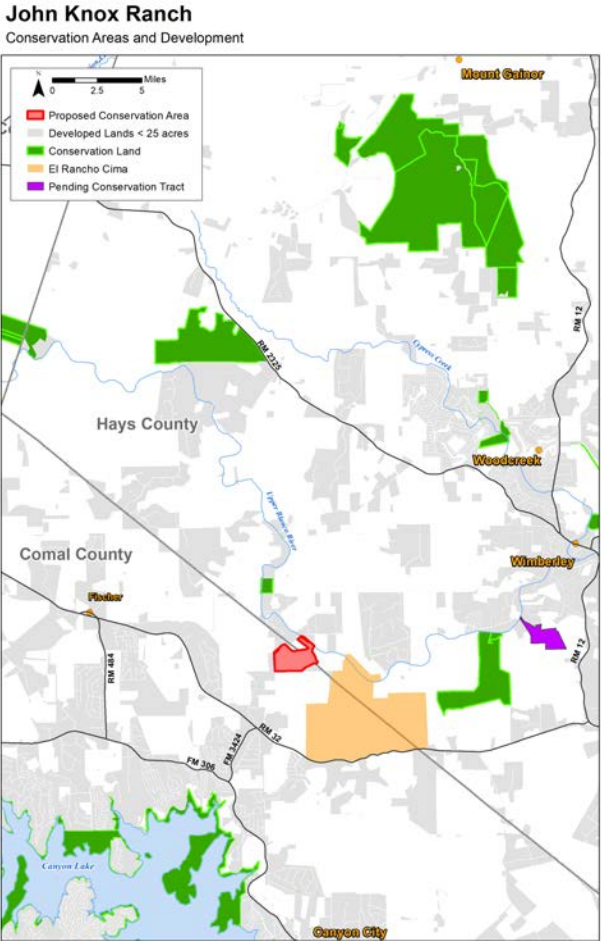
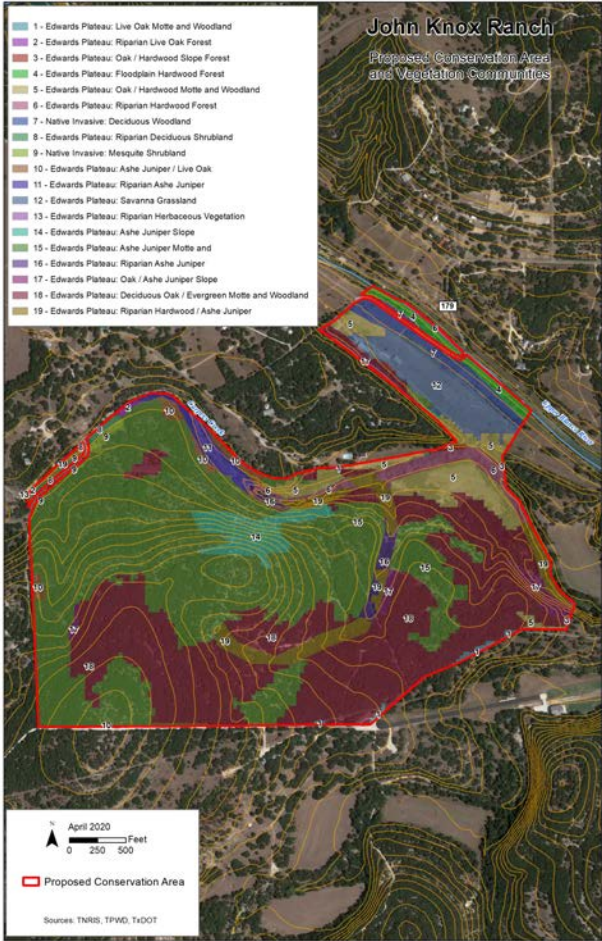
Conservation easement  
acquisition

No match at this time, but  
opportunity for NRCS funding





# 13. JOHN KNOX RANCH PRESERVE

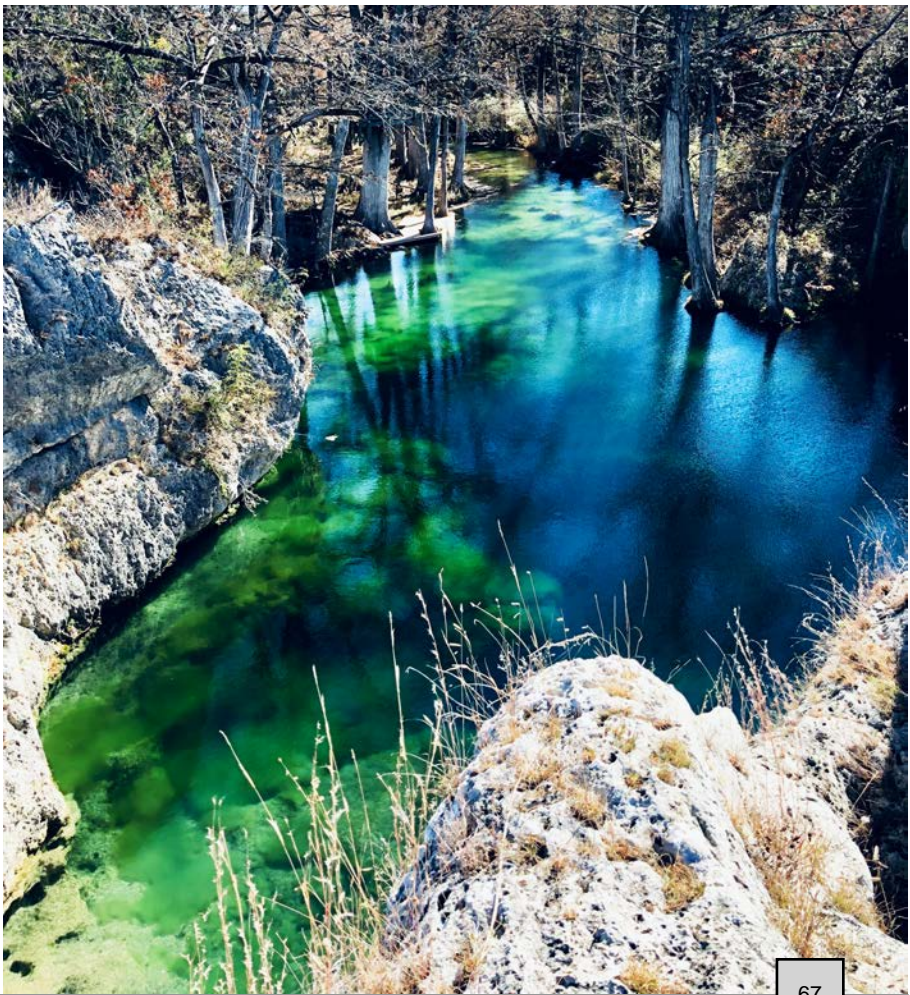


“Presume some public access on conservation easement (seasonal/on certain weekends, etc.) for trail and/or river access;  
Great natural resource protection opportunity.”  
*From POSAC Review Notes*





# 13. JOHN KNOX RANCH PRESERVE







## 14. PRESA GRANDE – SINK CREEK WATERSHED

### TIER TWO: Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat

#### Project Sponsor: Great Springs Project/Hill Country Conservancy

- Fee simple land acquisition or conservation easement
- 844 acres in the Sink Creek watershed (W/NW San Marcos)
- Significant aquifer recharge features, karst areas, water quality and spring buffers.
- Wildlife viewing and general nature enjoyment
- Golden-cheeked Warbler habitat

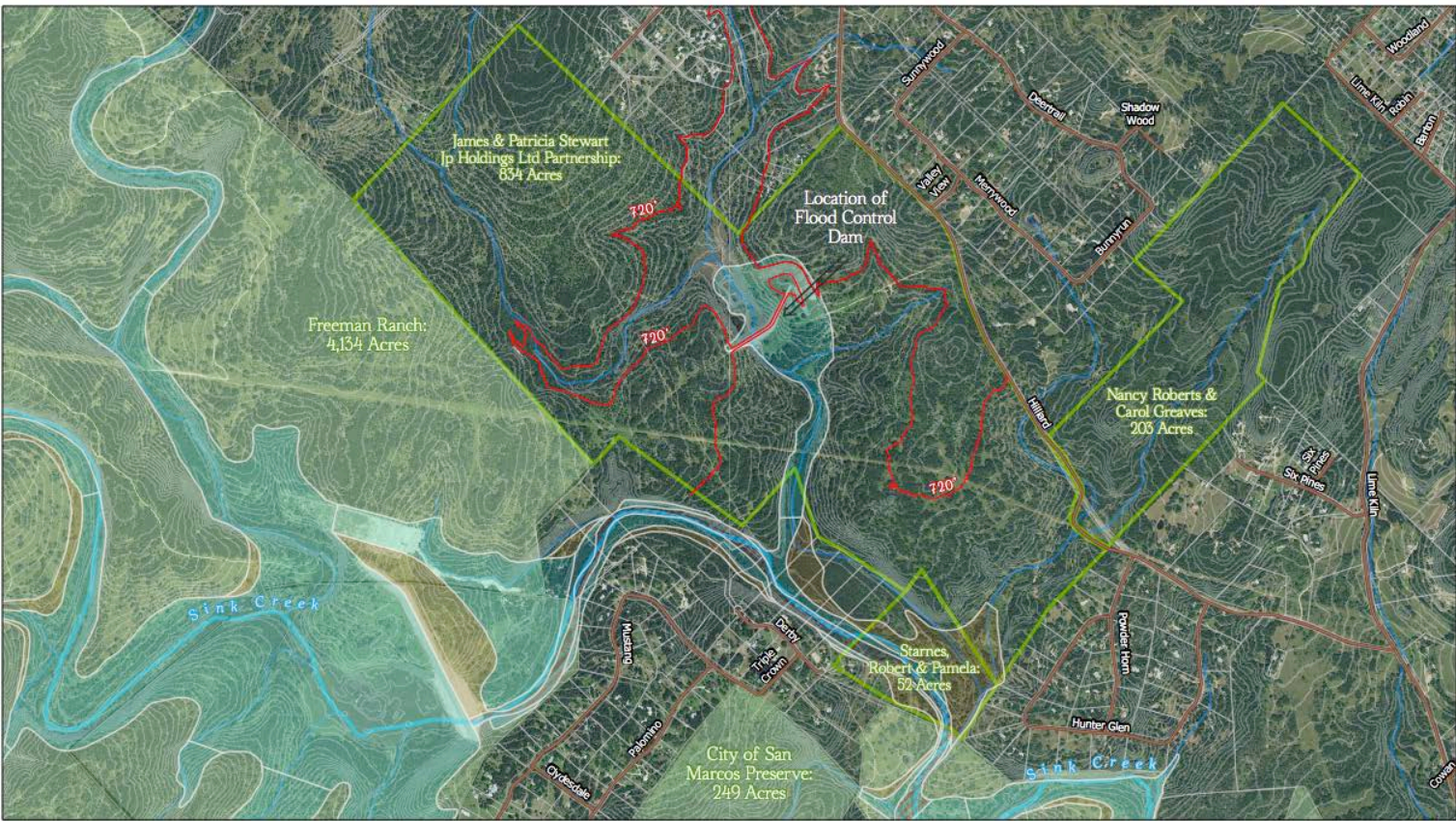
Funds requested  
**\$8,500,000**

Fee simple land acquisition  
(844-acres) at cost above.

Conservation easement  
acquisition at \$4 Million,  
with \$4,500,000 from  
Conservation Buyer.



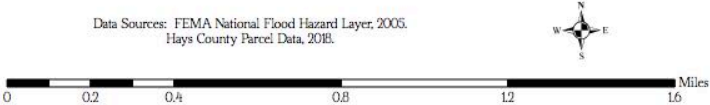
# 14. PRESA GRANDE – SINK CREEK WATERSHED



Flood Hazard Zones  
1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard  
Regulatory Floodway  
0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard

Parcel Ownership  
Priority Parcels  
Hays County Parcels  
Protected Parcels

Data Sources: FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer, 2005.  
Hays County Parcel Data, 2018.



If Conservation Easement purchased, public access to the property would be provided via a trailhead and network of multi-use trails on the property for local connectivity and increased regional connectivity.

*From submission notes*





# 15. OLD FITZHUGH ROAD MULTI-USE TRAIL

## TIER TWO: Connectivity

### Project Sponsor: City of Dripping Springs

- Multi-use, 8-foot wide trail within city limits
- Critical link in citywide trail plan
- Improves pedestrian safety, access and connectivity
- Link between Historic Mercer Street District north to RR12
- Eventual links to Founders Memorial Park, Heritage Development, Dripping Springs Ranch Park
- Located in TIRZ area

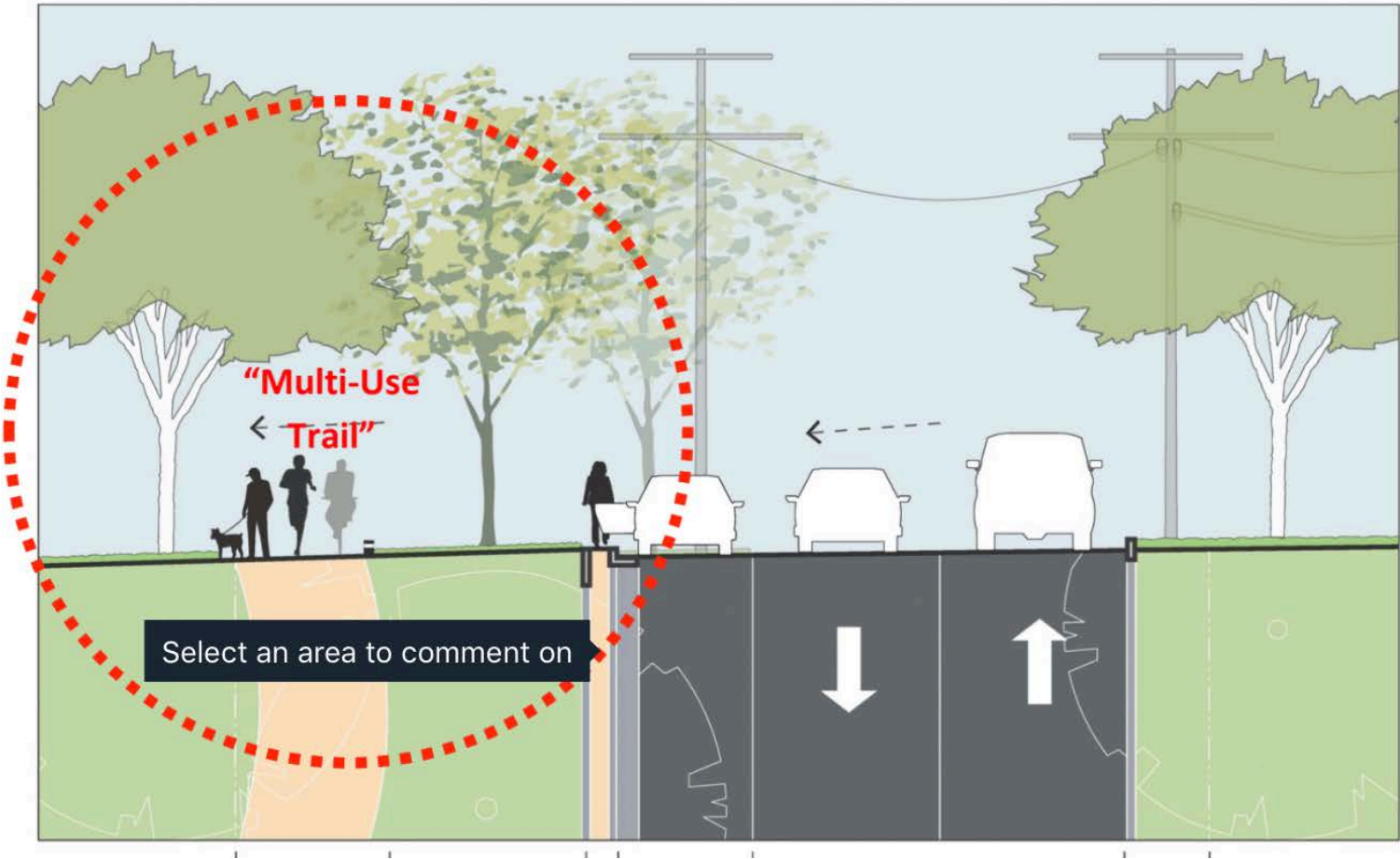
Funds requested  
\$1,305,000

land acquisition, planning (land management, design, engineering), facility design and/or construction

TIRZ, City of Dripping Springs  
(Total Project, \$ 4,822,652.97)



# 15. OLD FITZHUGH ROAD (OFR) MULTI-USE TRAIL



“Improving pedestrian access along OFR from Mercer Street to RR12 (.62 miles) is a plus for a more pedestrian-friendly town center. Ideally if OFR can connect trails with their signature parks ... that might be a bonus for Hays County.”

*From POSAC Review Notes*



## 16. FAJITA FIELDS, FESTIVAL GROUNDS, TRAIL SYSTEM

### TIER TWO: Connectivity

#### Project Sponsor: City of Kyle

- Festival area, sportsplex and amenity area
- 21 acres of competition soccer fields
- 39 acres of open space and practice fields
- 4 acres of greenway
- 1-mile linear trail on 64 acres of undeveloped parkland
- Serving a variety of users
- Future trail connectivity to Violet Crown Trail, Uptown and Heroes Memorial Park
- Potential for enhanced economic development year-round

**Funds requested**  
**\$14,520,000**

land acquisition, facility design  
and/or construction, park  
amenities

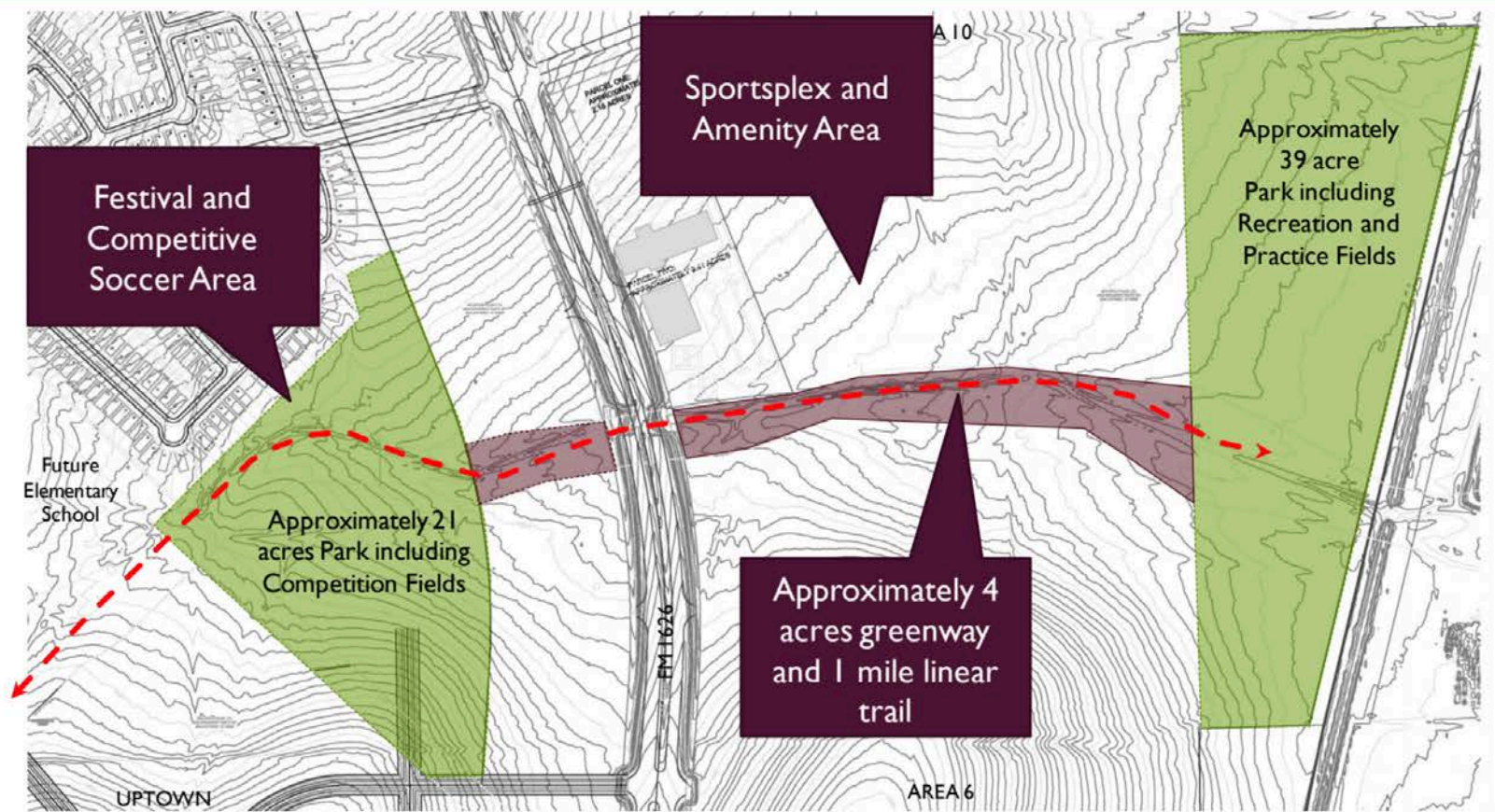
City of Kyle 1:1 match,  
\$14,520,000





# 16. FAJITA FIELDS, FESTIVAL GROUNDS, TRAIL SYSTEM

## DETAILED AREA PLAN

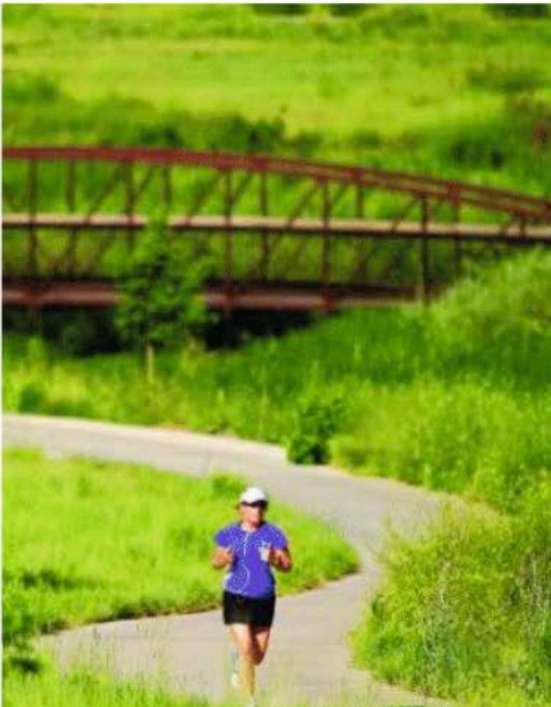




# 16. FAJITA FIELDS, FESTIVAL GROUNDS, TRAIL SYSTEM

“Project that will enhance equity and access for all.”

*From submission document*







# MORE OPPORTUNITY THAN IMAGINED

## TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTS FOR TIER ONE & TIER TWO PROJECTS

**\$ 94,969,525**

- Incredible opportunities arose within a few months
- Solid community of partners willing to invest with Hays County
- Commitment to a bond size covered by existing tax rate
- Privately funded, public poll reveals a strong appetite for a bond now

For parks, outdoor recreation, nature experiences, trails, conservation of natural areas, access to rivers and creeks, perpetual scenic vistas, water quality protection, habitat preservation, flood mitigation...





# PUBLIC POLL SHOWS SUPPORT

**94% AGREED:** “We owe it to future generations of Texans to preserve special places in Central Texas so they can enjoy them as we have.”

## Public poll findings:

- Private phone poll of 408 likely voters
- Statistically accurate within +/- 4.9% at 95% confidence level
- Representative of Hays demographics and geo-graphics (minor exceptions)
- Surveyed amidst the impact of coronavirus and economy
- 71–78% support for \$75 Million bond for parks/open space, if/when
  - Tax rate not affected
  - Sentinel Peak Preserve purchase included



# POSAC BOND RECOMMENDATION

**POSAC recommends a total bond initiative in the range of \$75–80 Million.**

**November 2020 Bond Initiative: \$60-65 Million for the named projects**

- Tier One, highest priority
- Tier Two, second priority
- Not possible to fund all at the full funding request
- POSAC to work with County for recommendations on funding levels

**Flexible Fund: \$15-20 Million for future opportunities**

- Some municipalities unable to present a project within compressed time
- Modifications to existing projects
- Unanticipated opportunities to come

# QUICK POLL



Item 5.

## Short poll for webinar participants.

- 1) Do you plan to vote in the Hays County General Election in November 2020?
- 2) In what Hays County Precinct do you live?
- 3) If you do vote in Hays County in November, are you likely to vote in favor of a County bond measure for \$75-80 Million in general obligation bonds to purchase and preserve parks, open space and natural areas in Hays County if there is no impact to existing County tax rate?
- 4) From the presentation you just watched, what answer below best represents your feelings about the projects recommended for Hays County?
- 5) How did you hear about today's meeting?



# Q&A SESSION



Item 5.

**Please use the Q&A link in the tool bar at bottom of your screen.**

**A member of POSAC will answer.**

**Email future questions to: [7933@co.hays.tx.us](mailto:7933@co.hays.tx.us)**



## NEXT STEPS

### Commissioners Court Must Call for Election by Aug 17

- Next Court Meeting is August 11

### Contact Court members

- County Judge Ruben Becerra
- Precinct 1 Debbie Ingalsbe
- Precinct 2 Mark Jones
- Precinct 3 Lon Shell
- Precinct 4 Walt Smith

[judge.becerra@co.hays.tx.us](mailto:judge.becerra@co.hays.tx.us)

[debbiei@co.hays.tx.us](mailto:debbiei@co.hays.tx.us)

[mark.jones@co.hays.tx.us](mailto:mark.jones@co.hays.tx.us)

[lon.shell@co.hays.tx.us](mailto:lon.shell@co.hays.tx.us)

[walt.smith@co.hays.tx.us](mailto:walt.smith@co.hays.tx.us)



# THANK YOU!

## Next public meeting

- Next POSAC Public Meeting: Thursday, Aug 6, 6 to 7 pm

## Tonight's meeting (8/4/20)

- Video presentation available on Hays County POSAC Facebook page
  - <https://www.facebook.com/HaysCountyPOSAC/>
- Copy of Powerpoint presentation available on POSAC page on Hays County website
  - <https://tinyurl.com/HaysCountyPOSAC>
- Email future questions to: [7933@co.hays.tx.us](mailto:7933@co.hays.tx.us)





## DRIPPING SPRINGS SKATE PARK

## RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCES PARK & BSA WILDERNESS CAMP



# Our Mission

To bring a free, regional skatepark to Dripping Springs residents and neighboring areas. We believe in the need for additional recreational opportunities for our children. Working with community members and organizations we will continue to raise funds and awareness, which will make the skatepark a reality.

Proudly supported by

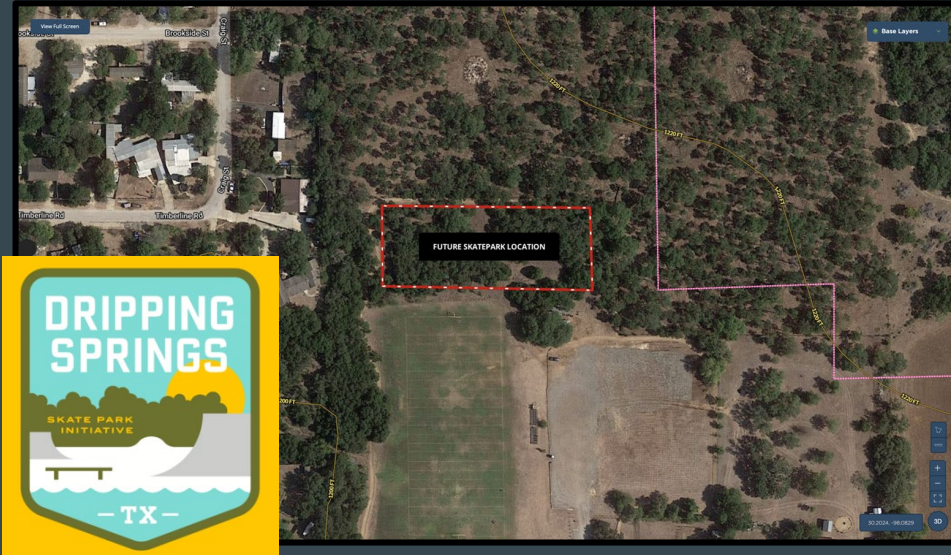


In collaboration with



City of  
**Dripping Springs**  
TEXAS

Item 5.





# Awareness

Item 5.

In 2014, our committee began raising awareness of skateboarding in Dripping Springs. Year after year we've offered skate classes through DSISD Community Services. Students of all ages have been through the program and have become skatepark advocates.

Skateboarding classes with DS Community Services



Founders Day Parade Float





# Awareness City Council

Item 5.

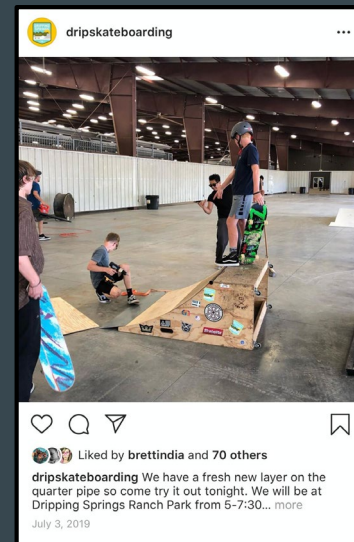
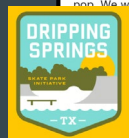
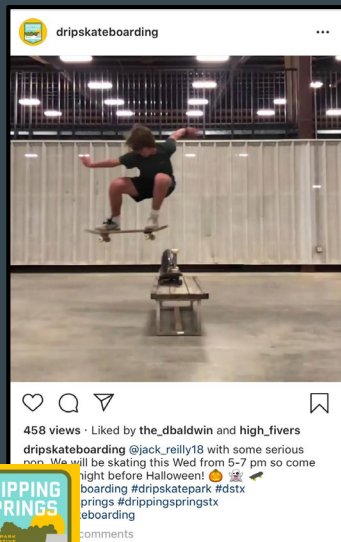
With several years of momentum and over 500 petition signatures, our committee presented the need for a skatepark to Dripping Springs City Council in April of 2017. Over 120 supporters were in attendance. Council unanimously approved our recommendation to dedicate land for a skatepark in Founders Memorial Park.



# Awareness\$Skate Night

Item 5.

Community skate night is sponsored by the city at Ranch Park and was launched on May 16, 2018. It runs every Wed evening from 5-7pm. Hundreds of skateboarders from all over Central, TX have been served through this weekly event.



# AwarenessCommunity Design Meeting

On October 2, 2019 the skatepark committee held a community design meeting with SPA Skateparks to get feedback on what elements they would like to see in our future skatepark.





# Fundraising

Item 5.

Beginning April 2018 the skatepark committee has worked relentlessly to raise funds from various sources including donations, merchandise sales, events, and grants. With the help of our community partners we've been able to raise \$100k in the past 18 months.



# Fundraising Drop In @ Real Ale

Drop In @ Real Ale was held on June-22, 2019 and consisted of a Friday evening sponsor dinner, custom skateboard auction, and Saturday skateboarding event. Over 1,000 people were in attendance and 1,158 bids were received online. We were able to raise \$57,000 through sponsorships and online bidding.



# Fundraising Grants - Funding

In September of 2019 a professional grant writer was hired to assist in the process of identifying grants and writing proposals to support our initiative. Goal - \$550,000.00

- Burdine Johnson Foundation Awarded \$7,500 on 12/20/2019
- Hill Country Rally for Kids - Awarded \$10,000 on 1/28/2020
- The Lowe Foundation- submitted on 12/1/2019
- Lola Wright Foundation- submitted on 2/27/2020
- DS Wild Game Dinner- submitted on 4/15/2020



THE BURDINE  
JOHNSON  
FOUNDATION



*The Lowe Foundation*  
*Serving the women and children of Texas*



# Where we are now

Over the course of 2020 we will be working hard to accomplish the following:

- Topographic survey - Completed
- Geotechnical survey - (In progress, will be completed in May)
- Preliminary skatepark design with SPA (July/August)
- 2nd skatepark design input meeting (Fall of 2020)
- Continue preparations for Drop In @Real Ale 2021



# Dripping Springs Public Skatepark Timeline



# Rathgeber Natural Resource Park <sup>2</sup> Boy Scout Wilderness Camp

Item 5.

*Dripping Springs Parks & Community Services Mission:  
To foster community by  
preserving parks and open  
space, by connecting people to  
our natural resources and  
cultural history, and by offering  
engaging programs and events.*

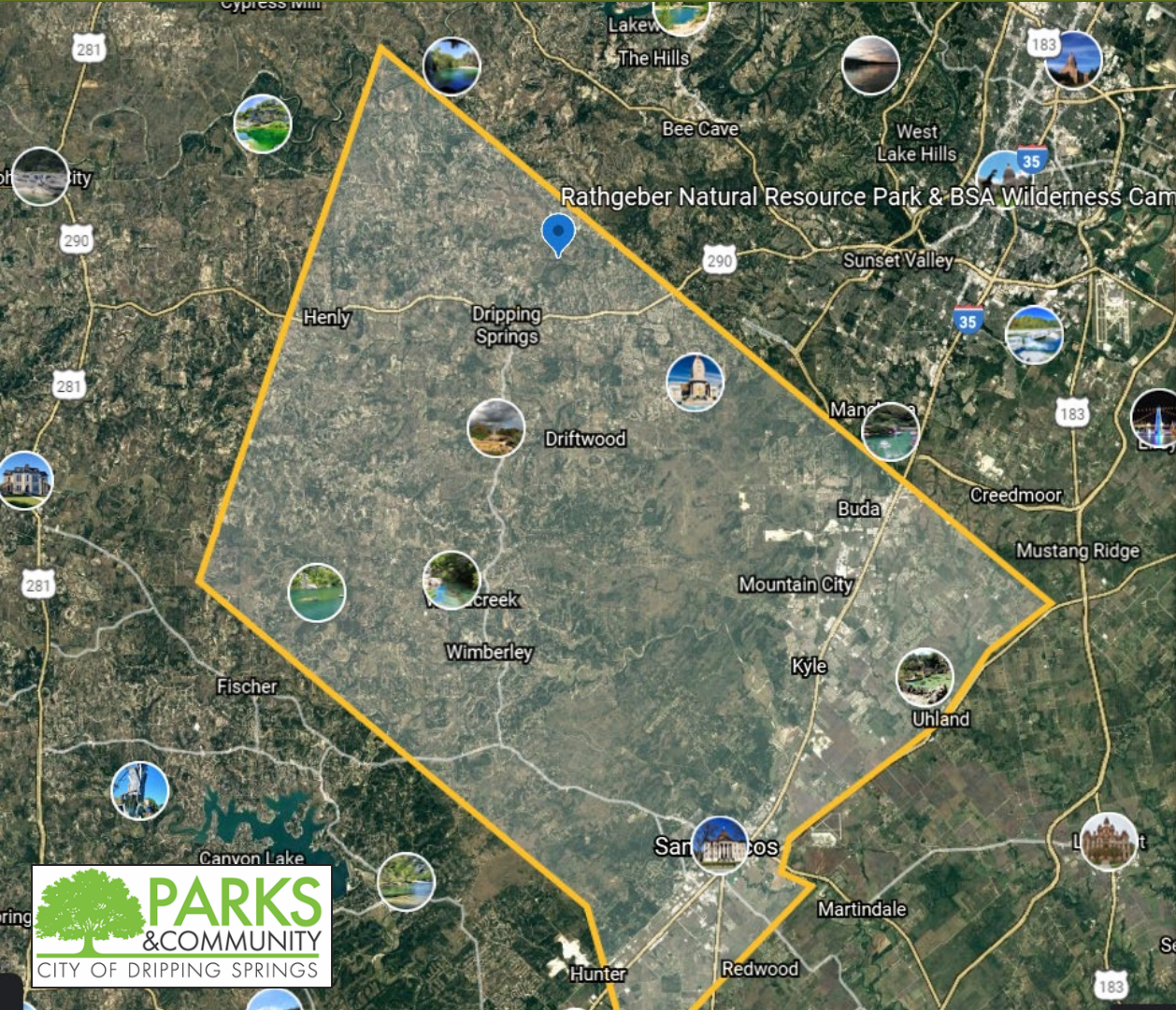
Figure 41: Dripping Springs Area Map

## Planning Area Priorities/ Preferences

1. Multi-Use Trails
2. General Nature Enjoyment Lands
3. River and Creek Access
4. Nature Center
5. Community Gardens









# Hays County 2012 Parks & Open Space Master Plan Priorities for Dripping Springs

## Dripping Springs Planning Area

Preferences for Dripping Springs area were for mostly passive recreation and outdoor activities. There was a strong emphasis in the Dripping Springs area on education opportunities and passive activities. As in all planning areas, trails and river and creek access were high priorities/preferences. The location of the Dripping Springs area along a major highway but in the Hill Country, provides many opportunities for open space and passive activities for that require more access. Due to these factors, the following are priorities/preferences for the Dripping Springs Planning Area:

1. Multi-Use Trails
2. General Nature Enjoyment Lands
3. River and Creek Access
4. Nature Center
5. Community Gardens

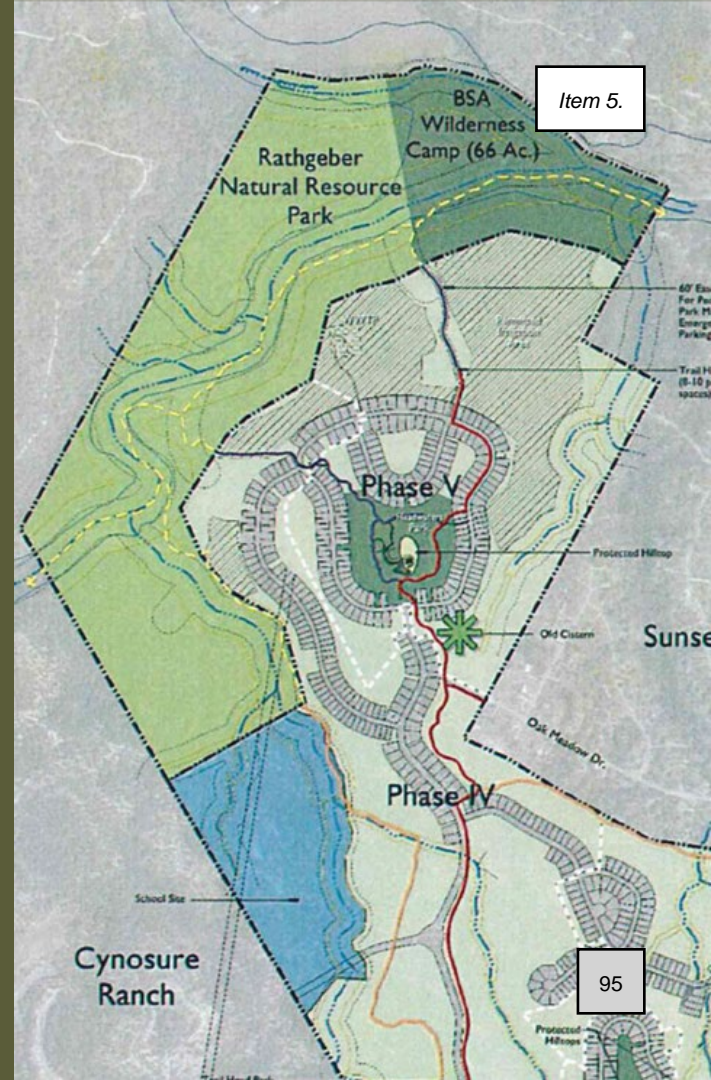
## Headwaters Master Plan Rathgeber & BSA Wilderness Camp Descriptions

**Rathgeber Park (234 acres)** along Barton and Little Barton Creek will be a passive natural resource park as defined by the City of Dripping Springs Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan 2014-2024 dated March 10, 2015. This park may provide land for expansion of the City of Dripping Springs community trail along Little Barton Creek. This park may be developed and will be maintained by the City. Rathgeber park may include:

1. Interpretive trails for exploration, nature education and connectivity
2. Interpretive signage
3. Passive recreation areas and support amenities
4. Naturally shaded seating areas
5. Open native grass and wildflower areas

**Boy Scouts Park (66 acres)** located adjacent and east of Rathgeber Park has been leased to the Boy Scouts of America. Boy Scouts Park may be built in phases and may include:

1. Interpretive Trails for exploration and connectivity
2. Learning play elements
3. Gardens - Benches - Picnic tables
4. Camping grounds and facilities
5. Open native grass and wildflower areas



## Timeline *(w/ Hays County POSAC funding)*







DRIPPING SPRINGS SKATE PARK

RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCES  
PARK & BSA WILDERNESS CAMP

QUESTIONS? THANK YOU!!!





# RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCE PARK





# CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

PHYSICAL: 511 Mercer Street • MAILING: PO Box 384 • Dripping Springs, TX 78620  
512.858.4725 • [www.cityofdrippingsprings.com](http://www.cityofdrippingsprings.com)

June 26, 2020

Hays County Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission  
San Marcos, TX

**Re: Rathgeber Natural Resource Park Funding, Dripping Springs, Texas**

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is to reiterate that The City of Dripping Springs Parks and Community Services Department is seeking funding to create a Natural Resource Park on a 300-acre parcel of land slated to be gifted to the City of Dripping Springs by Dick Rathgeber within the year. The gift of this nearly pristine piece of Texas Hill Country, with both Barton Creek and Little Barton Creek flowing through it, is adjacent to the larger Headwaters Development and Dripping Springs Independent School District properties. After recently walking the site with Robert Ellis, Mr. Rathgeber's grandson, and several local stakeholders, we have refined our vision for this park and together with Studio Balcones Landscape Architecture, and have assembled a package that tells the story of our future hopes for this remarkable site.

The four principles that would guide the creation of this Natural Resource Park (in addition to the Hays County 2012 goals for Dripping Springs & the DS PRO Plan) are as follows:

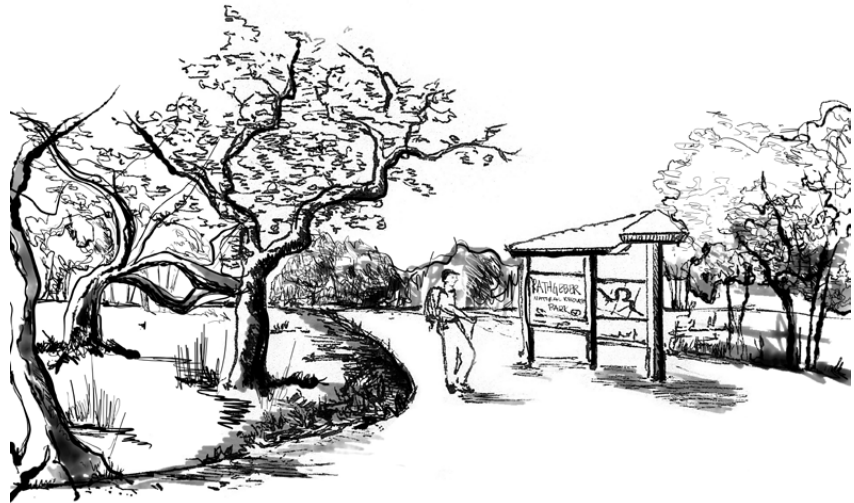
- **Protecting/Improving Water Quality** including all efforts to ensure that the two creeks are kept as pristine as possible as the park is created and used;
- **Environmental Education** including educational programming efforts with DSISD, educational signage throughout the park, and a future Natural Resource/Interpretive educational center on site;
- **Conservation** including a long-term land management plan that protects existing flora and fauna, restores disturbed land, and employs park managers to be on site; and
- **Responsible Recreation** including the creation of unobtrusive connectivity trails and gathering spaces, primitive youth camping & outdoor recreation (with Boy Scouts of America as leading partners), and a plan that balances recreation agendas so that the land is enjoyed through uses that complement the intended goal of a mindful nature immersion experience without land and natural resource degradation.

As Dripping Springs and Hays County continue to grapple with high rates of growth, access to, as well as conservation and proper management of public land becomes vitally important to the health of the Texas Hill Country and its stewards. The Rathgeber Natural Resource Park would not only protect and improve an indispensable piece of Hill Country habitat and watershed, it would also provide the greater Hays County and Dripping Springs community with a one-of-a-kind opportunity to experience and learn from this majestic and endangered landscape. This gifted land is a gem and we feel strongly that time is of the essence to protect and preserve it for future generations to come. Without the contributions of Hays County funding, this park will be decades away from managed public enjoyment and proper natural resource protection.

Sincerely,

  
Kelly Schmidt  
Parks & Community Services Director  
City of Dripping Springs





COVER LETTER PG 2

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BUDGET AND PHASING PG 13

## APPROACH

IMPROVE WATER QUALITY PG 14

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PG 15

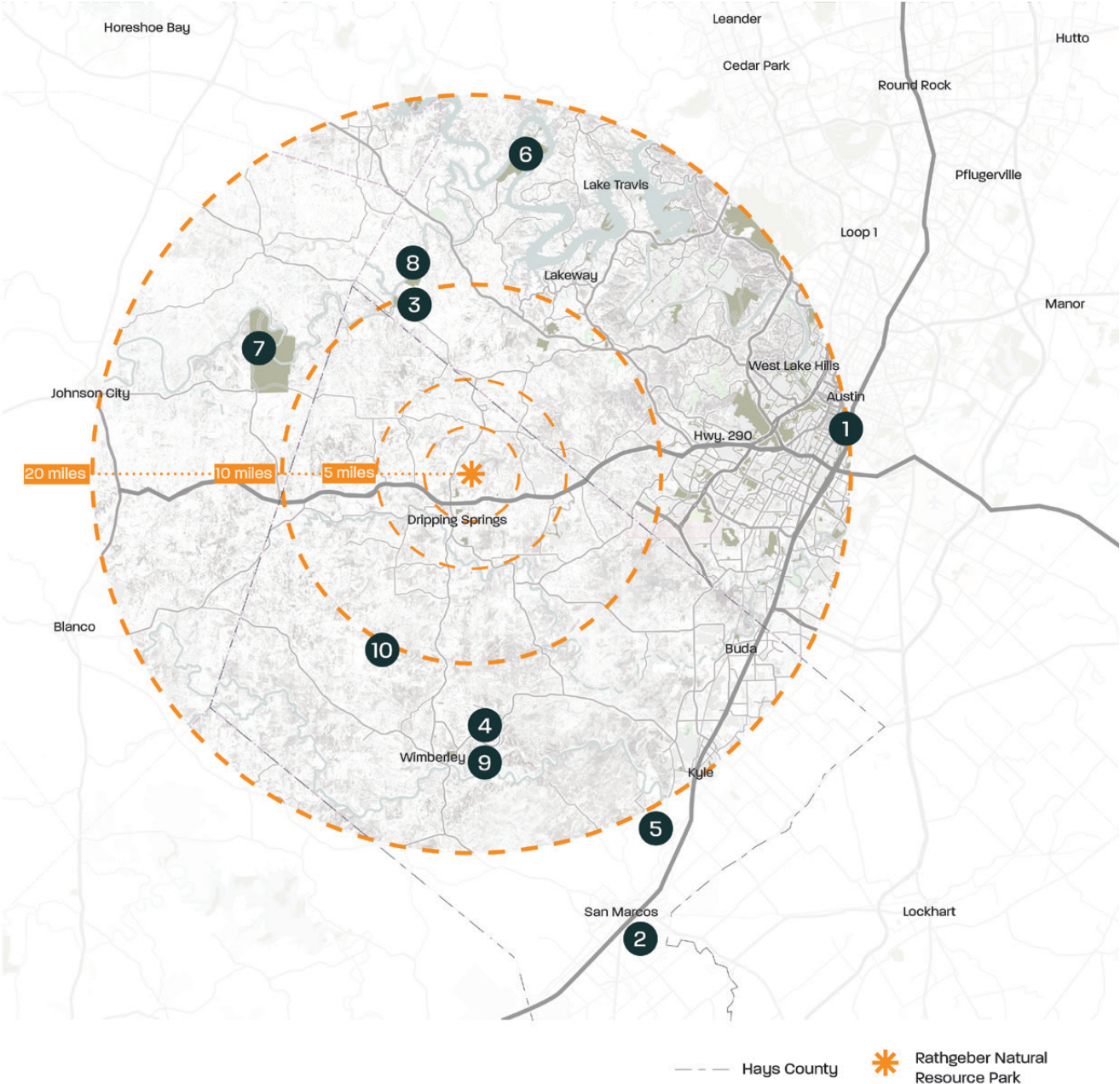
CONSERVATION PG 16


RESPONSIBLE RECREATION PG 17


VISUALIZATIONS PG 18-19


PROJECT OVERVIEW  
SURROUNDING AMENITIES


Item 5.





- 


1. Barton Springs
- 


2. Rio Vista Park
- 


3. Hamilton Pool
- 


4. Blue Hole Park
- 

5. Five Mile Dam Park
- 

6. Pace Bend Park
- 

7. Pedernales Falls
- 

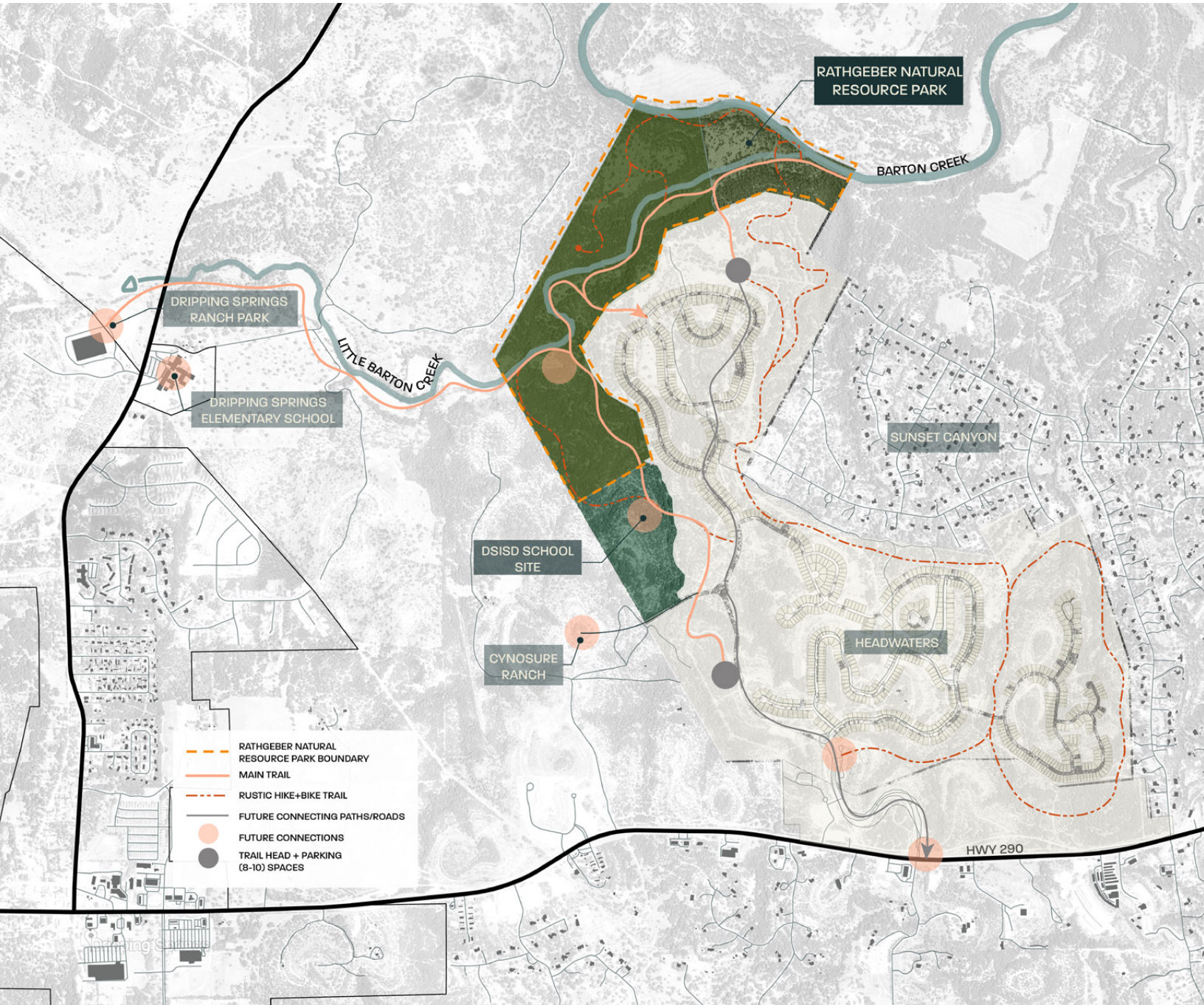
8. Reimers Ranch
- 

9. Cypress Creek Nature Preserve
- 

10. Jacobs Wells



PROJECT OVERVIEW  
SITE MAP





PROJECT OVERVIEW  
SITE FEATURES

Item 5.



- RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCE PARK BOUNDARY
- MAIN TRAIL
- RUSTIC HIKE+BIKE TRAIL
- FUTURE CONNECTING PATHS/ROADS
- FUTURE CONNECTIONS
- TRAIL HEAD + PARKING (8-10) SPACES

- 1 Defunct Dams
- 2 Large Meadows & Forest
- 3 Little Barton Creek
- 4 Barton Creek Confluence



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## SITE FEATURES

Item 5.



**1** Defunct Dams



**2** Large Meadows & Forest



**3** Little Barton Creek



**4** Barton Creek Confluence



PROJECT OVERVIEW  
PROPOSED SITE AMENITIES

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- RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCE PARK BOUNDARY
- MAIN TRAIL
- RUSTIC HIKE+BIKE TRAIL
- FUTURE CONNECTING PATHS/ROADS
- FUTURE CONNECTIONS
- TRAIL HEAD + PARKING (8-10) SPACES

1 Trail Heads and Signage

2 Trail Connectivity

3 Interpretive Center

4 Primitive Camp Sites





**1** Trail Heads and Signage



**2** Trail Connectivity



**3** Interpretive Center



**4** Primitive Camp Sites

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### CONCEPT

Together, The City of Dripping Springs Parks and Community Services and Studio Balconies, who generously donated their time and dedication, have developed the following vision for the Rathgeber Natural Resource Park. Should the Rathgeber Natural Resource Park Project receive grant funding from Hays County, we plan to build on these ideas with our own daily insights and input from the community and various external stakeholders, ultimately building upon the hard work already done by the land donor and their family members.



### PROTECT + IMPROVE WATER QUALITY -

- Restore the stream banks and river forest
- Remove defunct dams
- Manage cedar and non-native vegetation
- Restrict vehicular access and detrimental uses



### PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION -

- Naturalist led walks and talks
- International Dark Sky Certified star gazing programs
- Interpretive & Outdoor Recreation Center (fee based and sponsor driven programming)
- Boy Scout and Youth Nature immersion camping program
- Self guided interpretation panels & trailhead kiosks



### PROMOTE CONSERVATION -

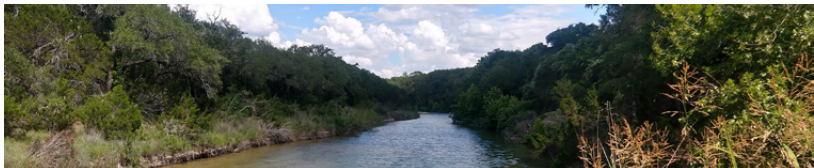
- Continue the land and wildlife management practices and hard work established by the Rathgeber Family to protect the site's natural resources: managing the property for Golden-cheeked Warbler habitat, protecting old growth forest, controlling brush and erosion, and managing wildlife for deer, turkey, invasive species and predators.
- Establish a long term natural resource management plan
- Protect native meadows + forest, remove invasive species and restore damaged areas



### PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE RECREATION -

- Primitive youth camping
- Mountain biking/hiking/bird watching/kayaking
- Park and gathering spaces
- ADA accessible bathrooms and facilities
- Employ park rangers and stewards











# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## BUDGET AND PHASING

Item 5.

### PHASE I (2020-2022)

#### COMMITTED PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION IS ACCEPTED BY THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

- Value \$3,750,000 - \$5,250,000 – 300 acres of pristine Barton and Little Barton Creek riparian area and watershed have been committed via signed agreement by Dick Rathgeber.

#### PROPOSED CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS CONTRIBUTION

- \$50,000 - Master Plan & Public Input Process
- \$60,000 – \$125,000 – Engineering/Environmental studies

### PHASE II (2022 – 2024)

- \$500k – 1m – Trailheads. Parking lots & Park Entrances w/ Signage & ADA compliant  
(Three access points, One may require additional easement or land acquisition)
- \$1.5 - \$2.5m – Connectivity. A mixture of rustic/primitive (DG) & ADA Compliant Trails  
Existing dilapidated low water crossing (dam) redesigned into pedestrian bridge

### PHASE III (2024- 2026)

- \$300,000 - \$500,000 - Interpretive Master Plan & Installation.  
Interpretive Kiosks, trailside interpretive panels, wildflower & pollinator meadows,  
wayfinding signage throughout park and interactive exhibits
- \$300,000- \$500,000 – Boy & Girl Scout / Youth & Family Group Campground.  
Platforms, gathering pavilion, water spickets, firepits, pit toilets or restrooms

### \*\*PHASE IV (2026 - 2028)

- \$3-\$4m – Dripping Springs Natural Resource & Outdoor Recreation Center.  
Restrooms, classrooms, meeting space, staff offices, night sky viewing center, outdoor  
recreation amenities and features (example climbing wall, high element challenge course, hiking, etc.)

---

### \*TOTAL PROJECT COSTS RANGE – \$6,210,500 - \$7,675,000

(without Interpretive/Outdoor Rec Center – project costs \$3,210,500 - \$4,675,000)

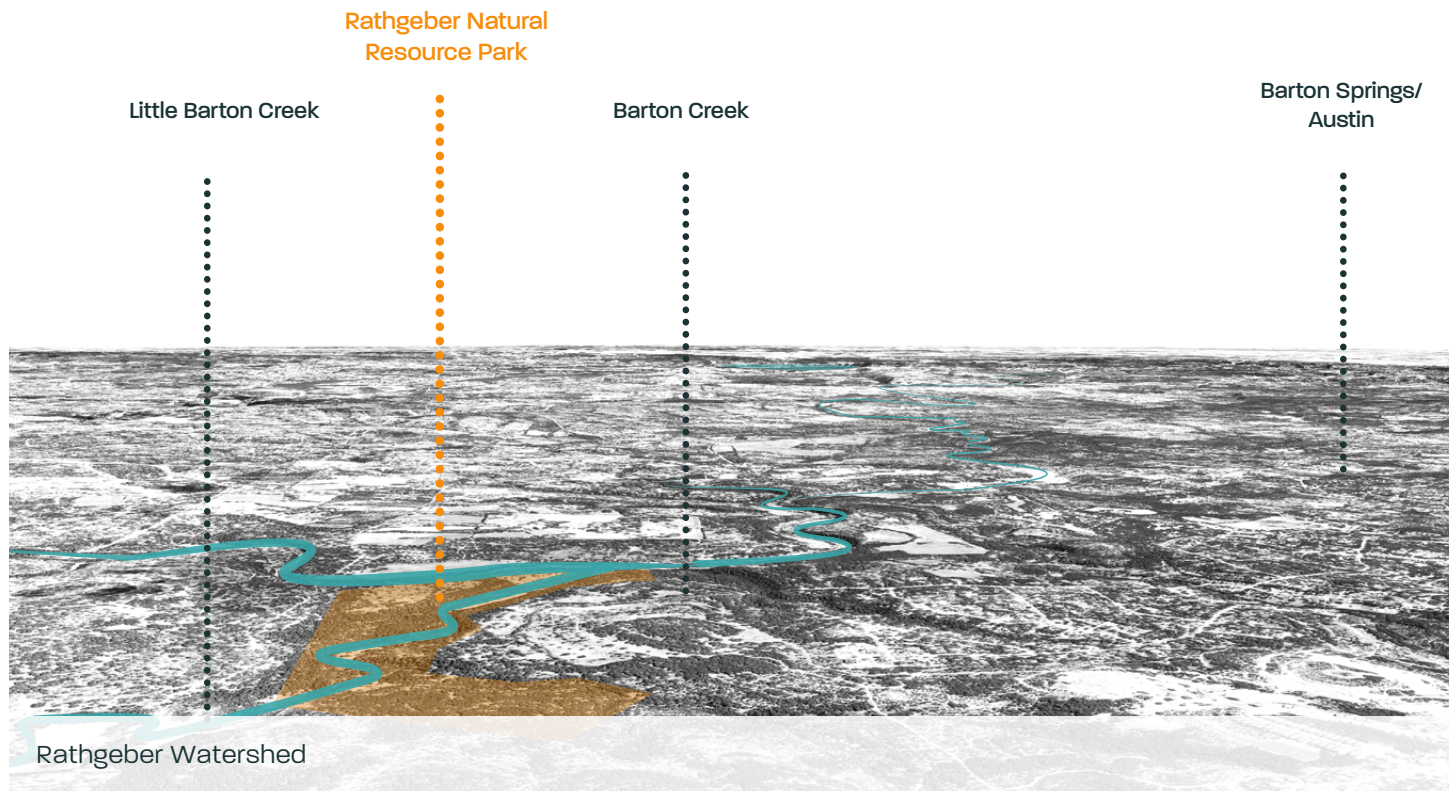
\*This rough budget estimate was compiled from consultation with Rvi Planning and established from nearby similar projects.

\*\* If not awarded funding by the POSAC opportunity, for PHASE IV, our goal is to partner with other potential funding sources for the Natural Resource & Outdoor Recreation Center project – DSISD, TPWD, Private Donations, In-Kind, City funding, etc.)

## PROTECTING + IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

Item 5.

Protect and maintain the existing watercourses including parts of Little Barton Creek, Barton Creek, and their on-site confluence. Keeping them as pristine as possible to preserve existing habitat, water quality, prevent downstream contamination, and ensure the longevity of the watershed for all future generations to enjoy and benefit from.



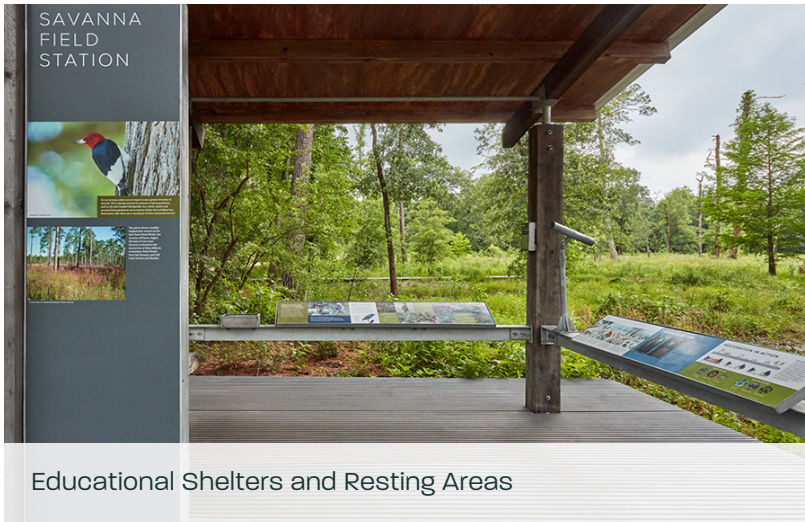
Rathgeber Site - Looking downstream at the Barton Creek and Little Barton Creek confluence



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Item 5.

Provide children access to the outdoors to encourage learning and to develop a sense of environmental stewardship and investment in our future. Incorporate educational programming through collaboration with all educational insitutions in Hays County, educational signage throughout the park, and a future educational center on site.



***“If we want our children to flourish, to become truly empowered, let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it.” - David Sobel***





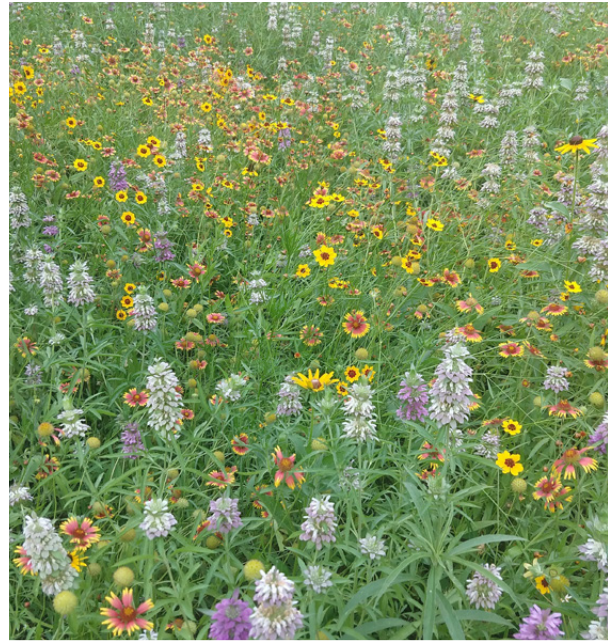
## CONSERVATION

Item 5.

Develop a long-term land management plan that protects existing flora and fauna, restores disturbed land and ecosystems, and employs on-site park managers.



Creek Restoration in West Texas



Native Prairie Mix



Degraded Creek



Restored Creek



## RESPONSIBLE RECREATION

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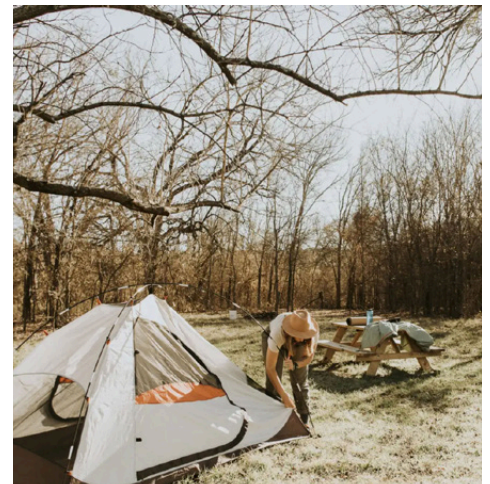
Create unobtrusive trails, gathering spaces, and primitive youth camping. Foster an approach to outdoor recreation that encourages uses which promote a mindful and immersive natural experience without land and resource degradation.



Mountain Bike Trail



Bird Watching Blind



Camping



RESPONSIBLE RECREATION

- BIRD WATCHING
- FISHING
- HIKING
- KAYAKING
- YOUTH CAMPING
- SWIMMING
- BIKING
- ADA ACCESSIBILITY

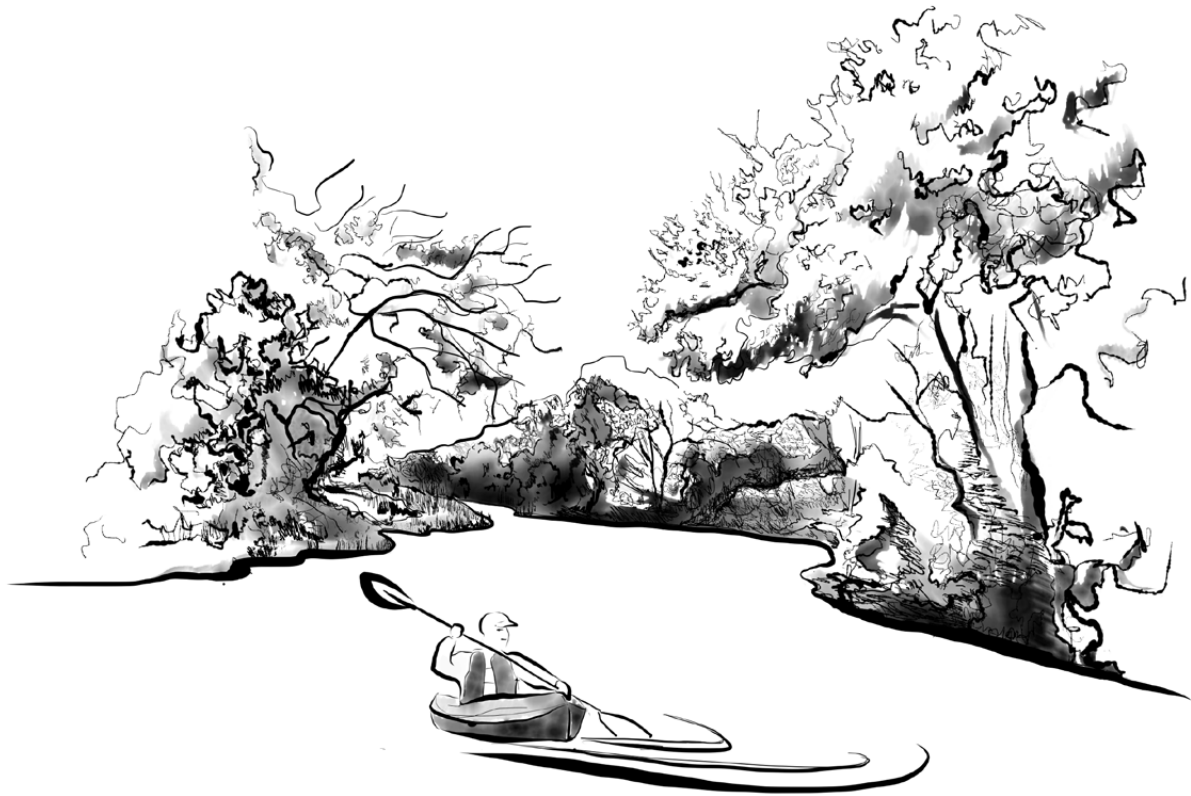
WATER QUALITY + CONSERVATION

- CREEK RESTORATION
- NON-NATIVE VEGETATION REMOVAL
- REMOVE DEFUNCT DAMS
- RESTORE RIVER FOREST











# TOWN CENTER SQUARE

## PROJECT OVERVIEW



*Presentation to:*  
**Hays County POSAC**  
*by: Dripping Springs TIRZ*  
*June 24, 2020*

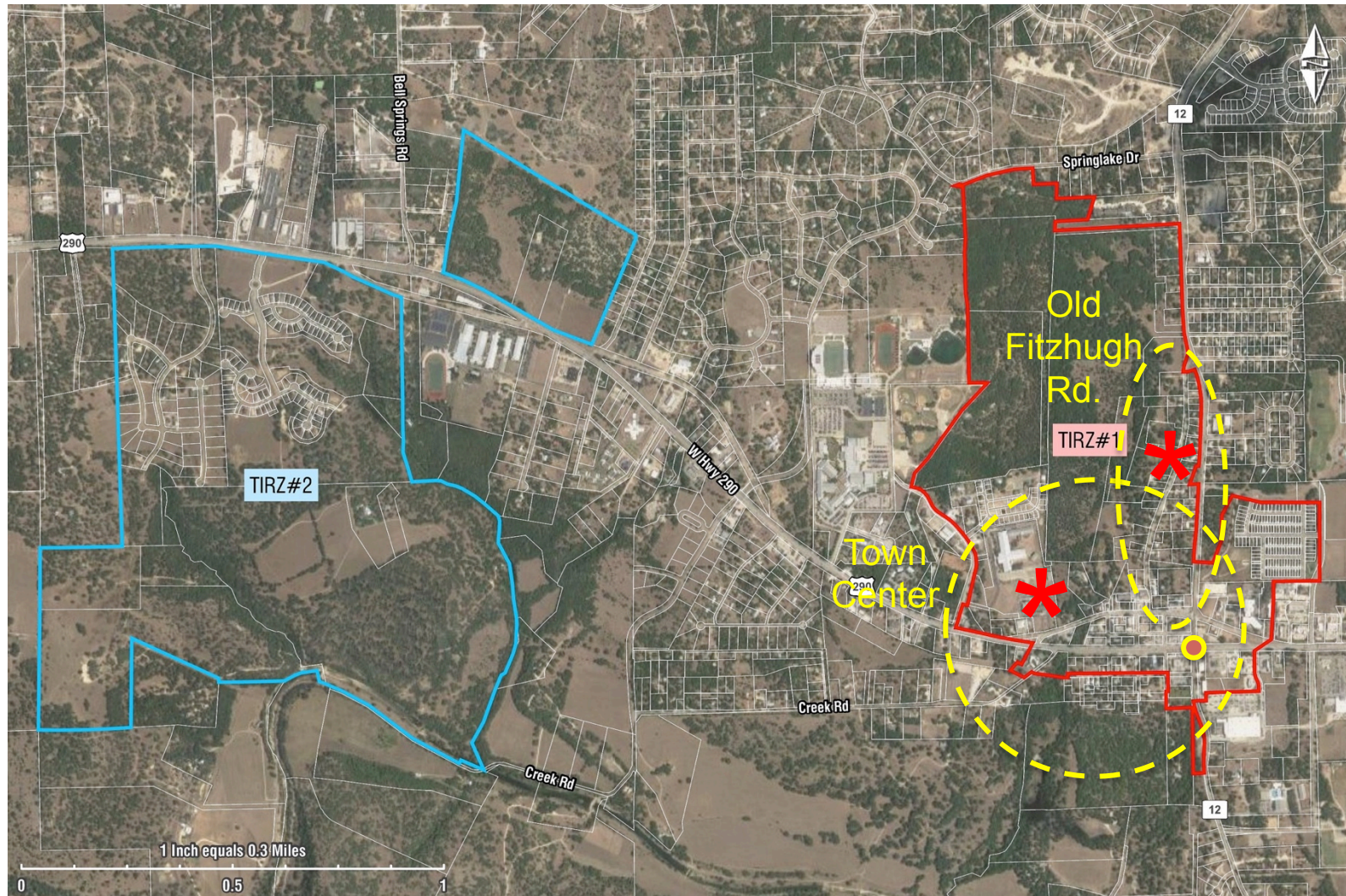
# OVERVIEW / PROJECT SUMMARY

---

- **DS TIRZ Overview–**
  - TIRZ Zones & Mission
  - TIRZ Priority Projects (4)
  - Town Center Project
  
- **Town Center Square–**
  - Project Type & Description
  - Hays Co. POSNA Goals
  - Master Plan Elements
  
- **POSAC Process–**
  - Project Costs & Phasing Strategy
  - PIF Application & Next Steps

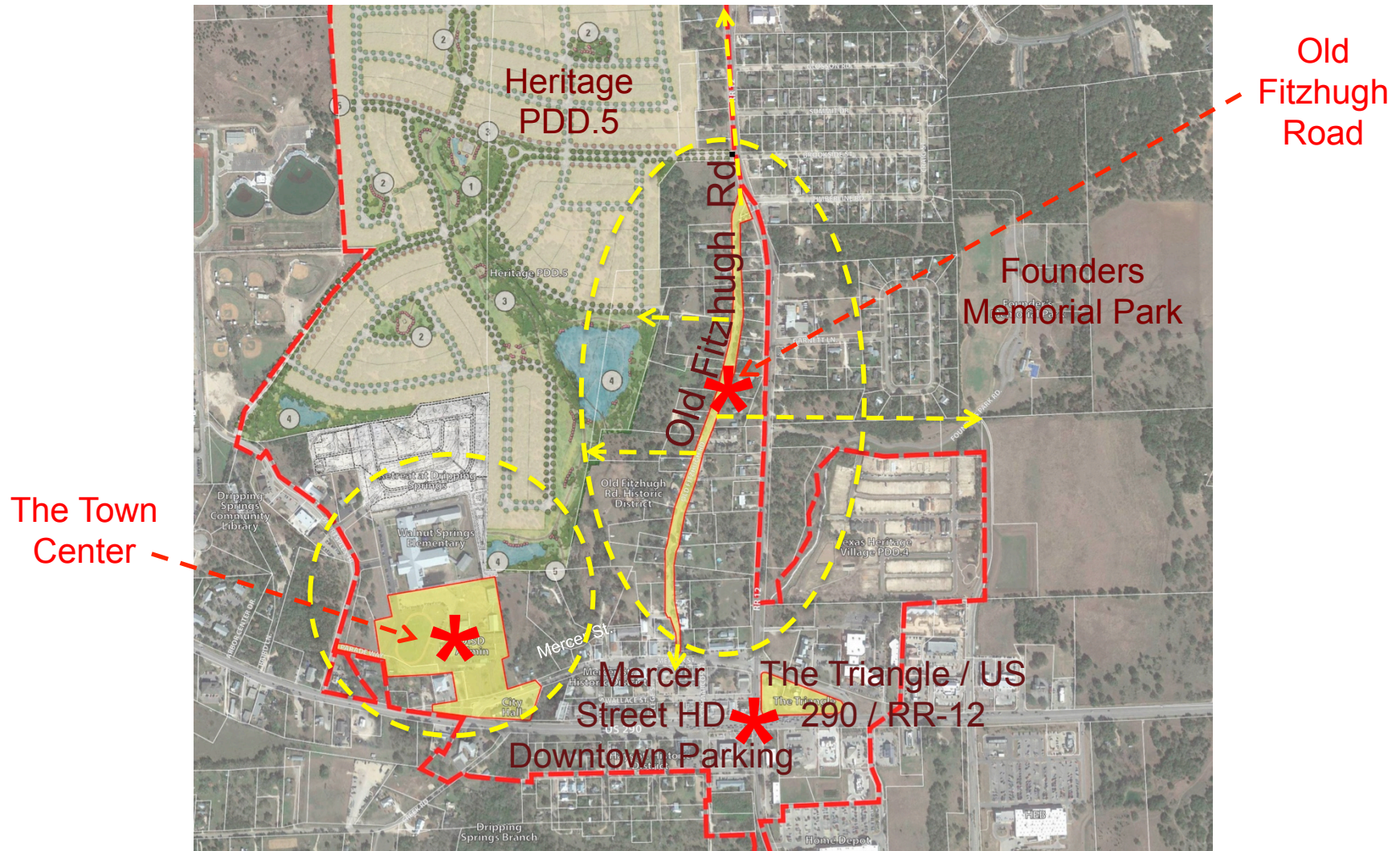


# DS TIRZ #1 & #2 -





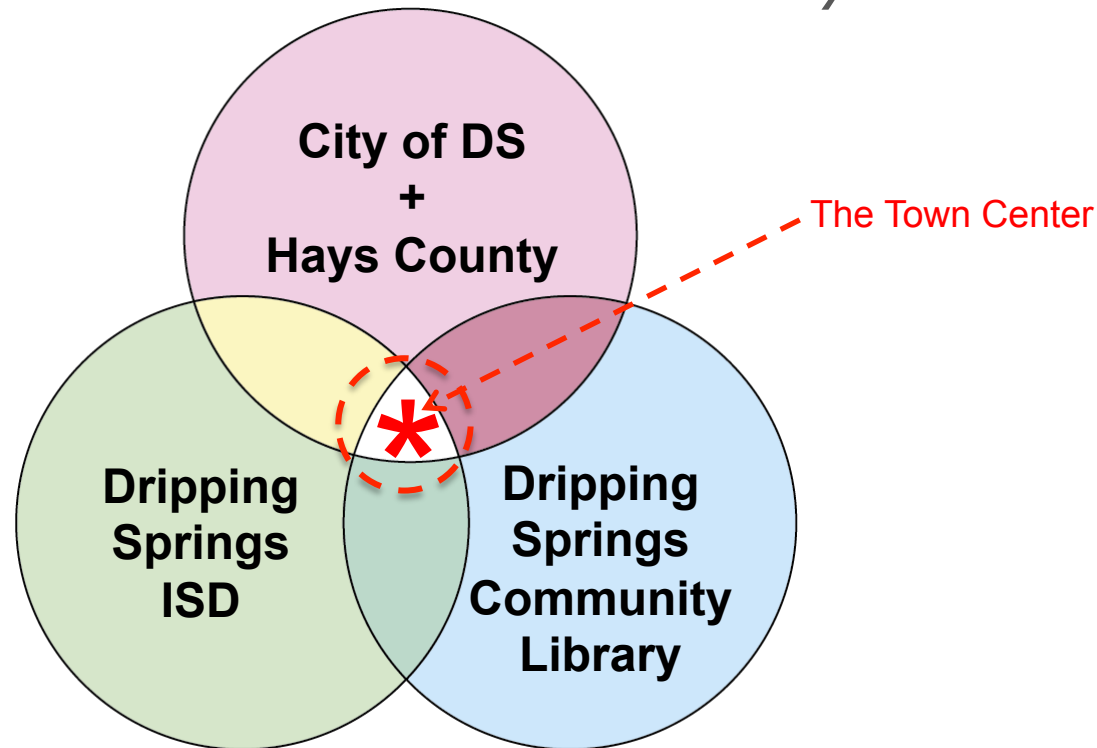
# THE TIRZ PRIORITY PROJECTS (4)





# TOWN CENTER PROJECT / GOALS:

*“... To co-locate the City, the District, the County, and the Library in a cost-effective way into shared facilities (to provide) Civic Services...to serve future Community needs”*



# ALIGNMENT OF NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES

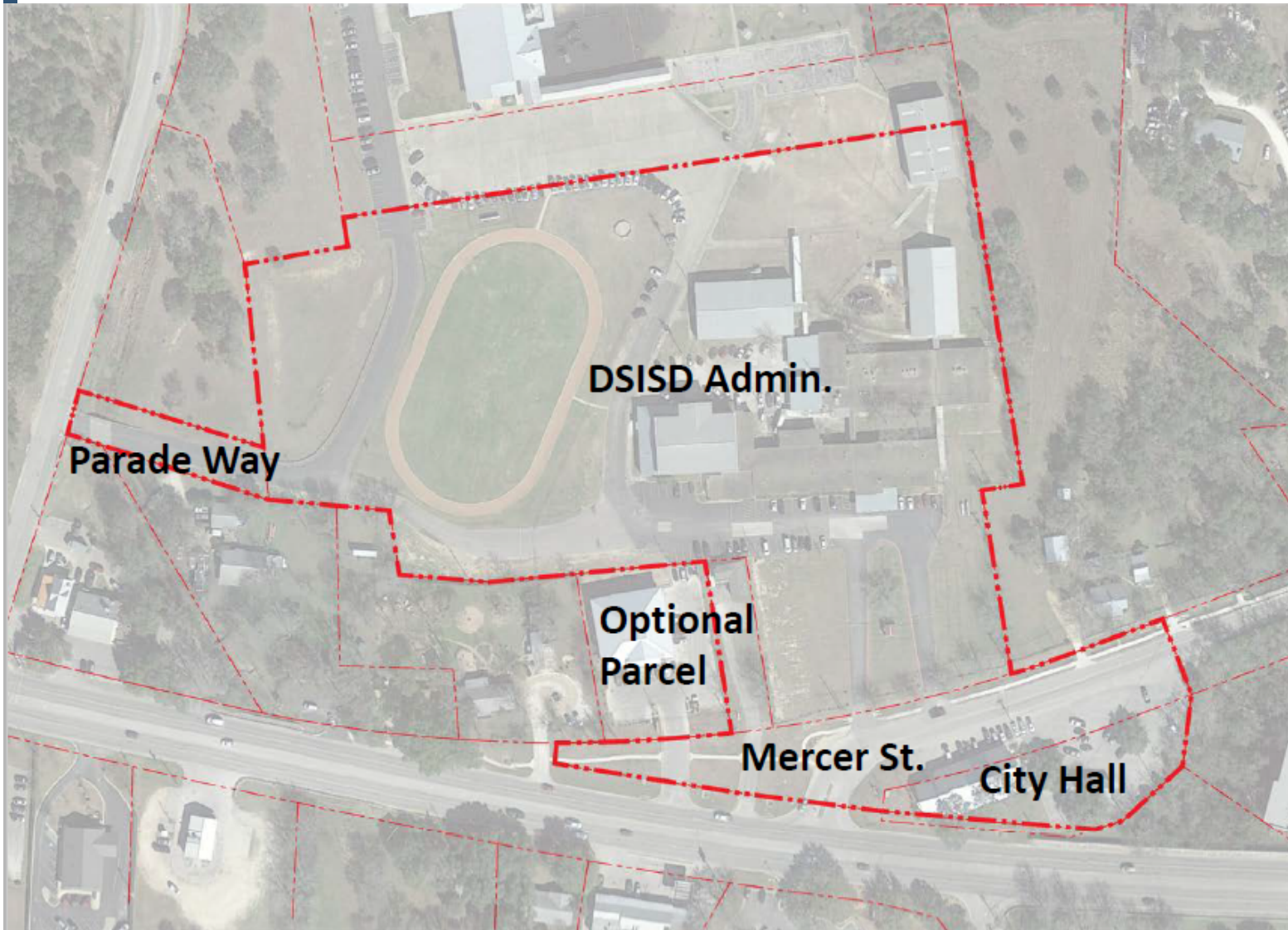
## *Dripping Springs Stakeholders:*

- City of Dripping Springs / Hays County
- Dripping Springs ISD
- Dripping Springs Community Library





# TOWN CENTER PLANNING AREA

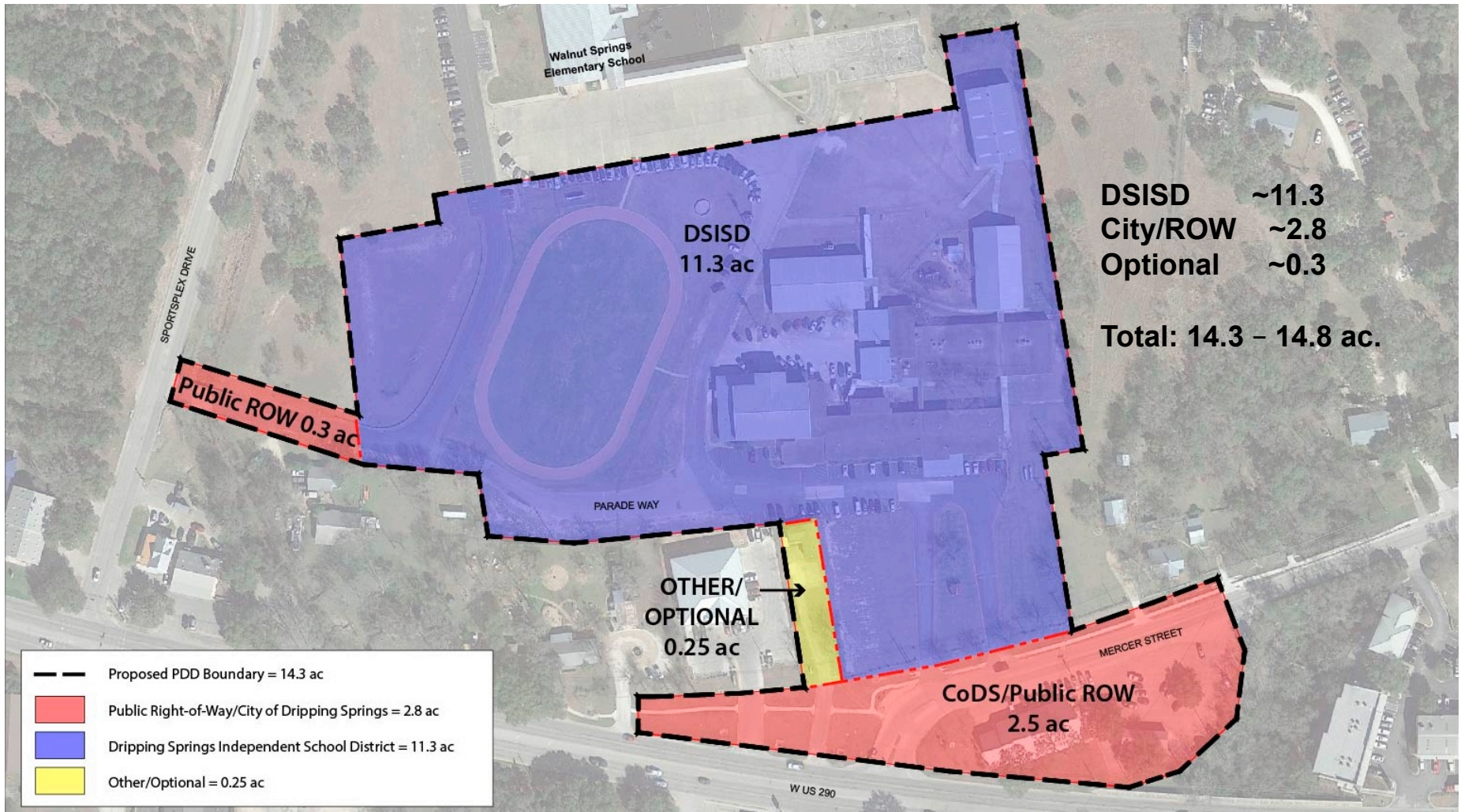


**TOWN CENTER**  
**Existing Sites:**  
**Q4 2019**

**14.8 +/- ac.**



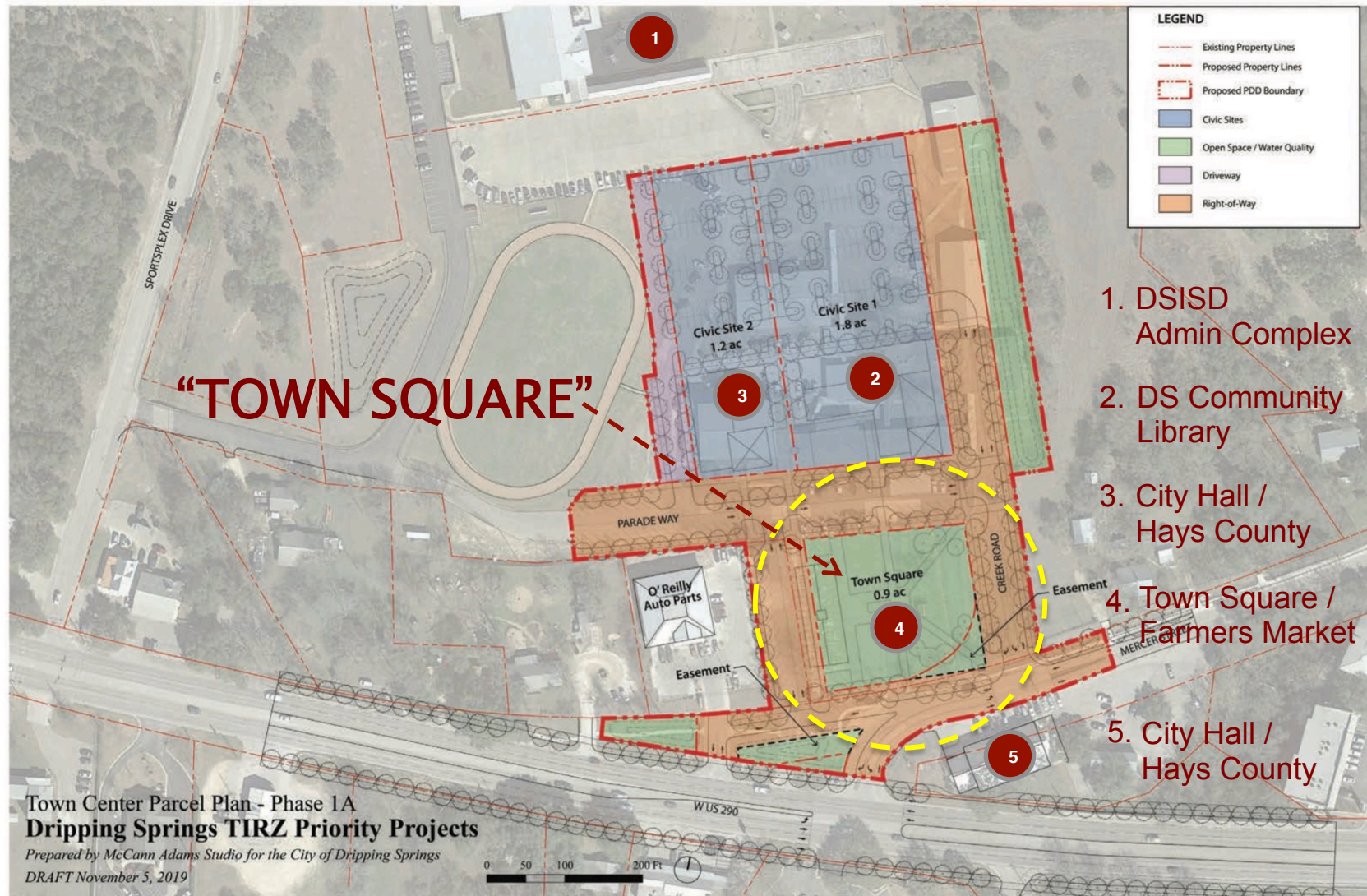
# EXISTING OWNERSHIP





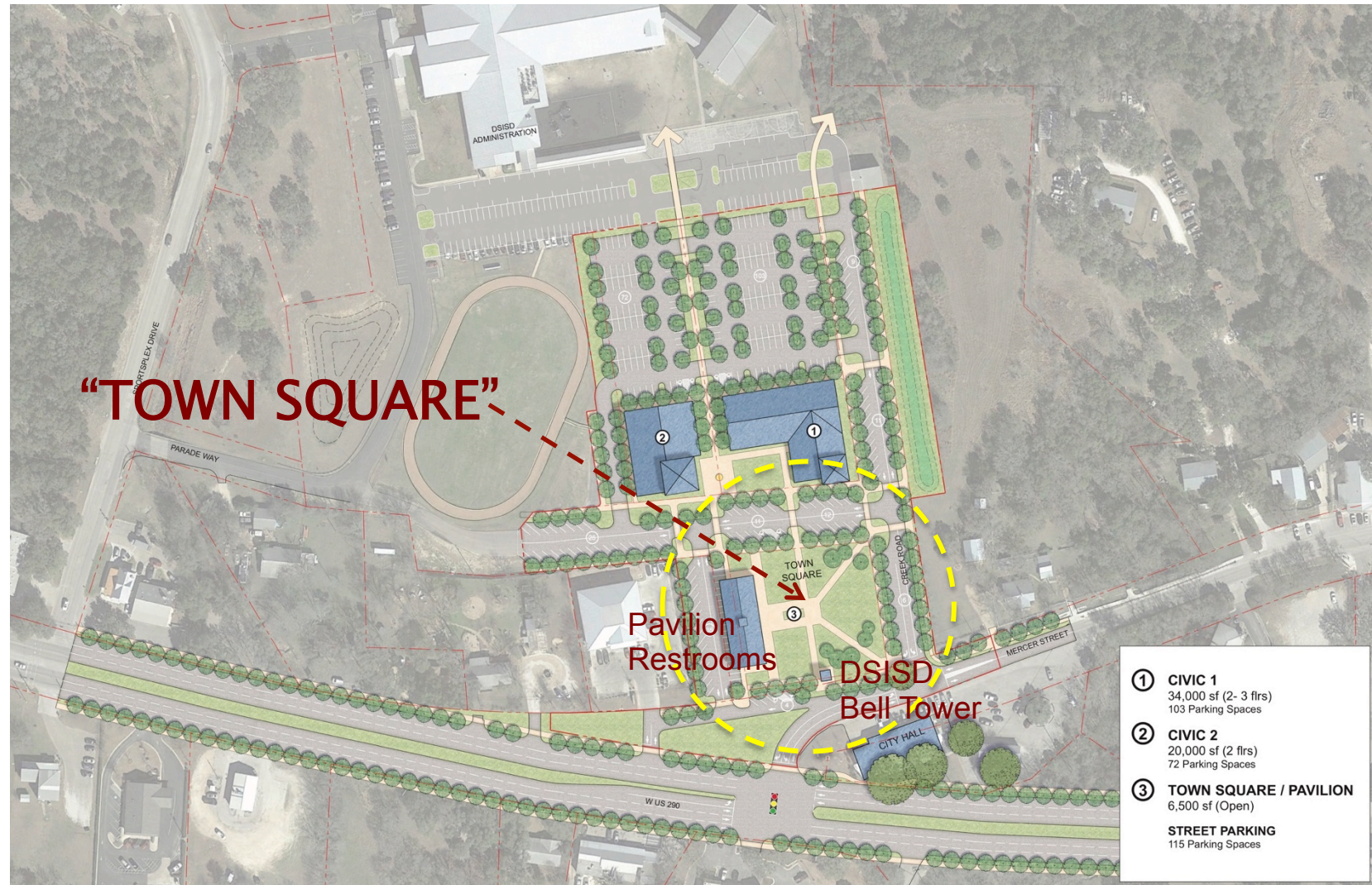
# CURRENT CONCEPT PLAN – (2019)

## INITIAL PHASE – IA:





# DRIPPING SPRINGS: TOWN CENTER PROJECT







Town Center Square – Aerial Perspective: Ph. 1A





Town Center Square – Aerial View



- “Urban Park:” symbolic heart and vibrant public open space for the entire community
- Mercer Street: Historic District Connectivity & Focal Point: Future Civic Buildings
- Public Attraction: Residents and Visitors



Town Square – Ground Level View



# TOWN SQUARE: “COMMUNITY GOALS”

- Contributes civic open space in heart of Dripping Springs- Connected to Mercer St.
- Central Location provides equal availability to all residents
- Consistent w/City Comp. Plan & Historic Preservation Goals & Proximate to planned Population Density





# TOWN SQUARE: “FINANCIAL GOALS”

- TIRZ Project- incorporates multiple Stakeholders, Funding & Partnerships
- Festivals, Market Activities & Events Venue promote & enhance economic development
- Boosts Year-Round Tourism, Resident & Visitor Spending, & Sales Tax Revenues



# TOWN SQUARE/ HAYS POSAC SUMMARY

## ■ Project Costs & Phasing

– Land Acquisition:	\$435,600
– Park Planning & Design:	\$380,000
– Enabling Infrastructure:	\$200,000
– Park Improvements– “Horizontal”:	\$2,178,000
– Park Structures– “Vertical”:	<u>\$1,287,000</u>
Total:	\$4,480,600

## ■ POSAC Process

- POSAC Presentation: June 24, 2020
- PIF Application Submission: June 26, 2020
- Next Steps & Follow-Up: As Needed



# DRIPPING SPRINGS: TOWN CENTER SQUARE



# OLD FITZHUGH ROAD

## Multi-Use Trail

### Project Overview



*Presentation to*  
Hays County POSAC  
*June 24, 2020*



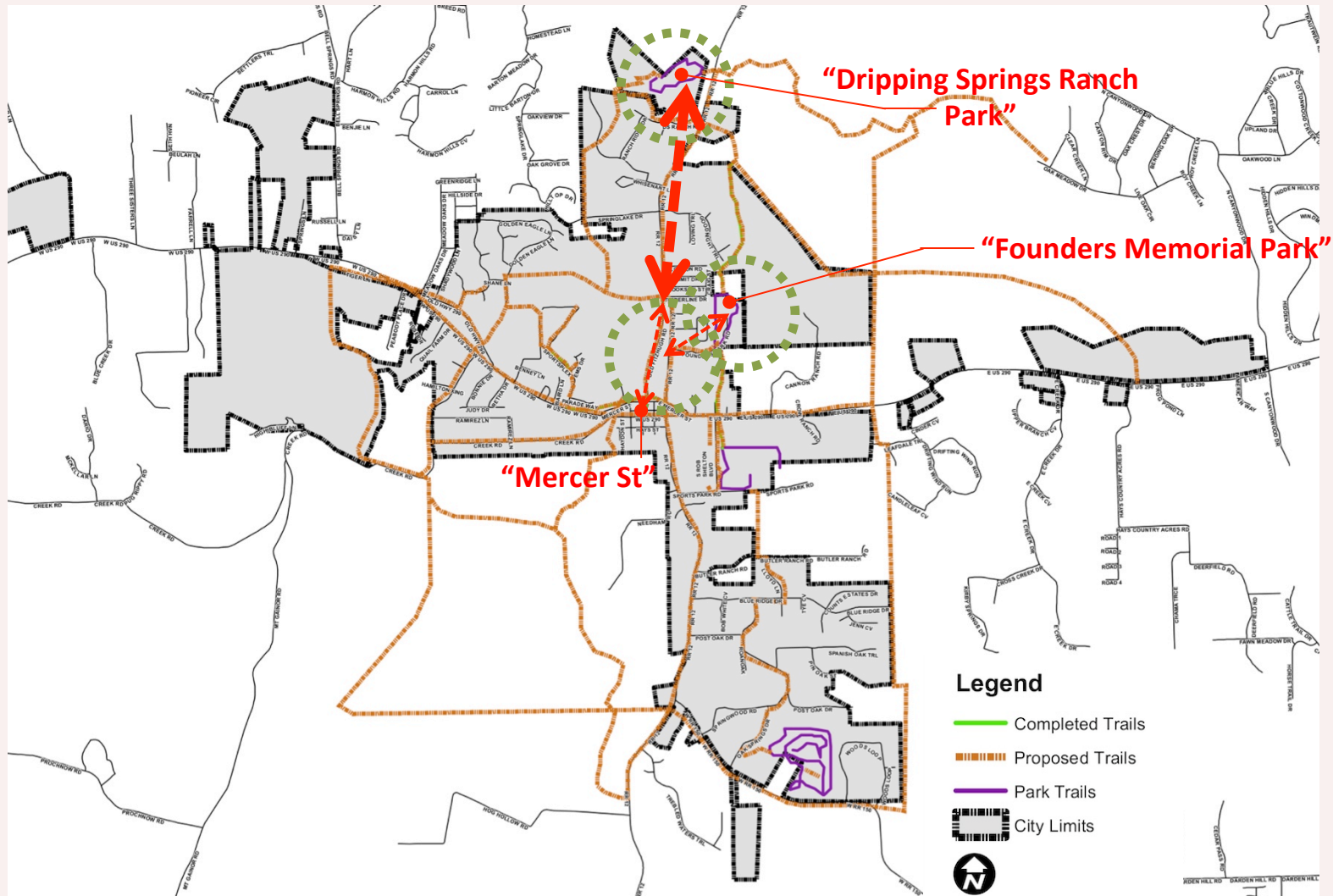
# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## Overview / Project Summary:

- **Old Fitzhugh Road Project**
  - Context & Process
  - Goals, Concepts & Strategies
- **Multi-Use Trail Elements**
  - Project Type & Description
  - Project Features
  - Hays Co. POSNA Goals
- **POSAC Process**
  - Project Costs & Phasing
  - PIF Application & Next Steps

# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## City-Wide Trails Plan: "Old Fitzhugh Rd" Trail Connections



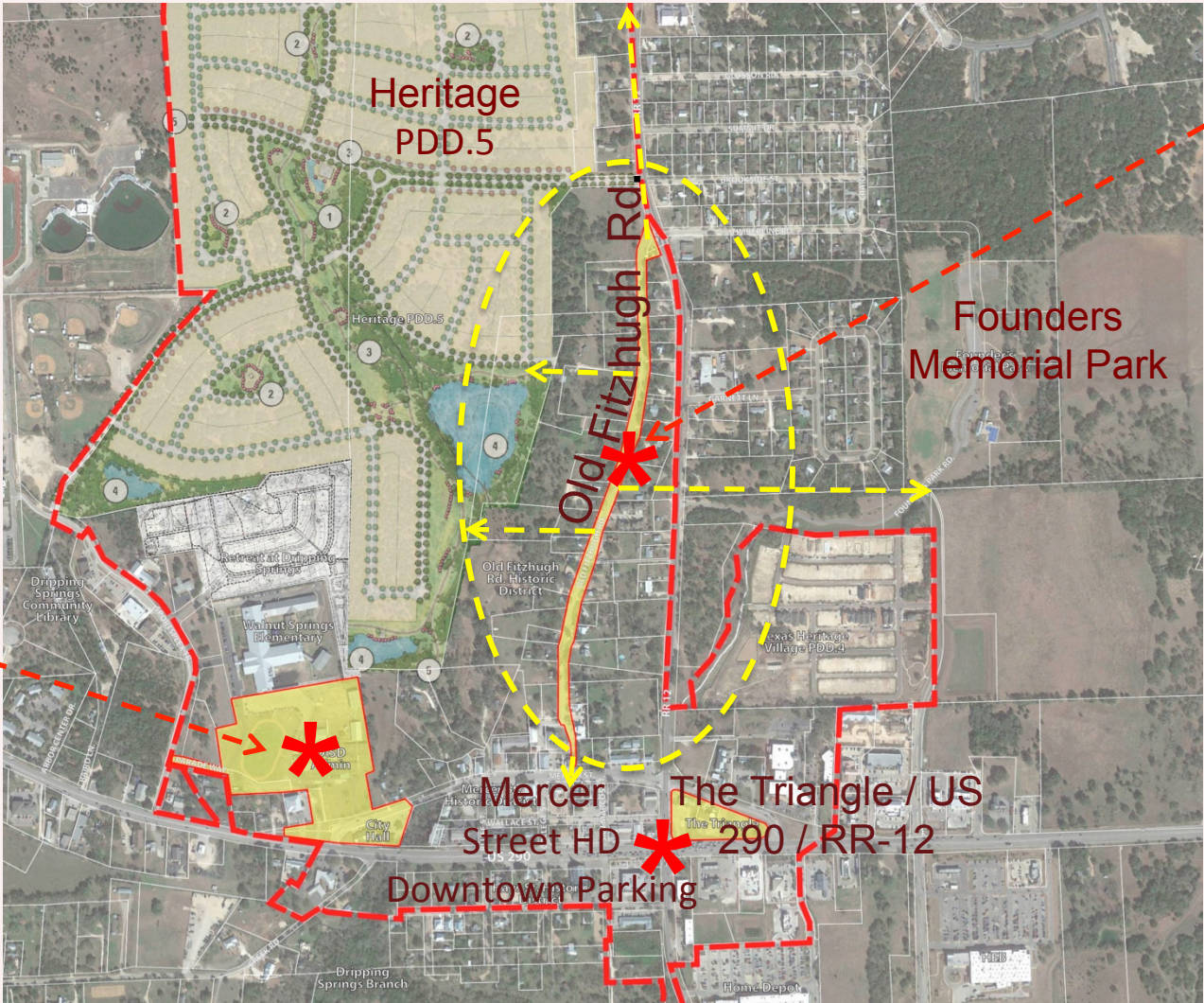


# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

“Old Fitzhugh Rd” Trail Connections:

TIRZ #1:

The Town Center



Old  
Fitzhugh  
Road

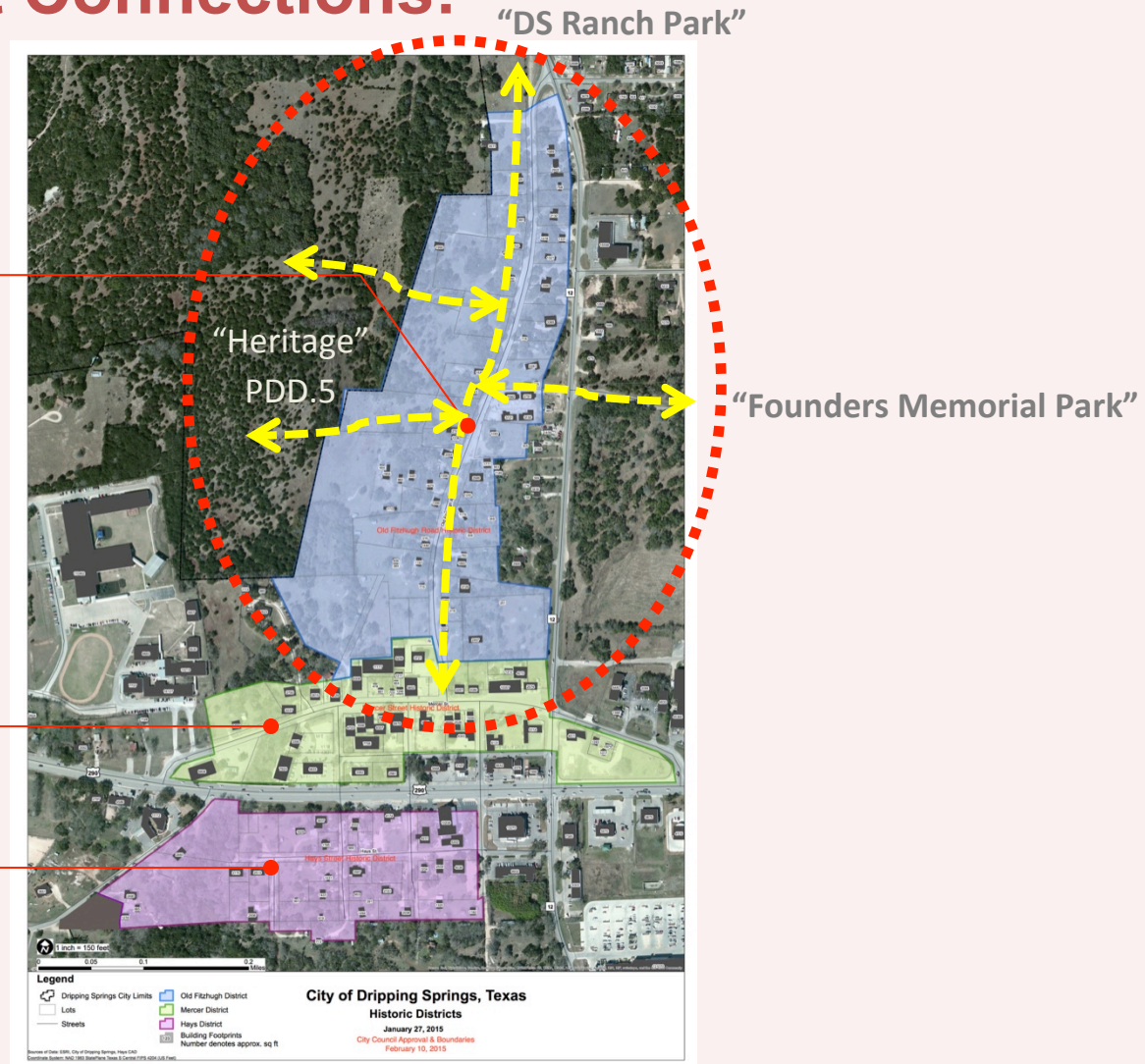
# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## Parks & District Connections:

“Old Fitzhugh Rd”  
Historic District  
(2014)

“Mercer Street”  
Historic District  
(2007)

“Hays Street”  
Historic District  
(2015)

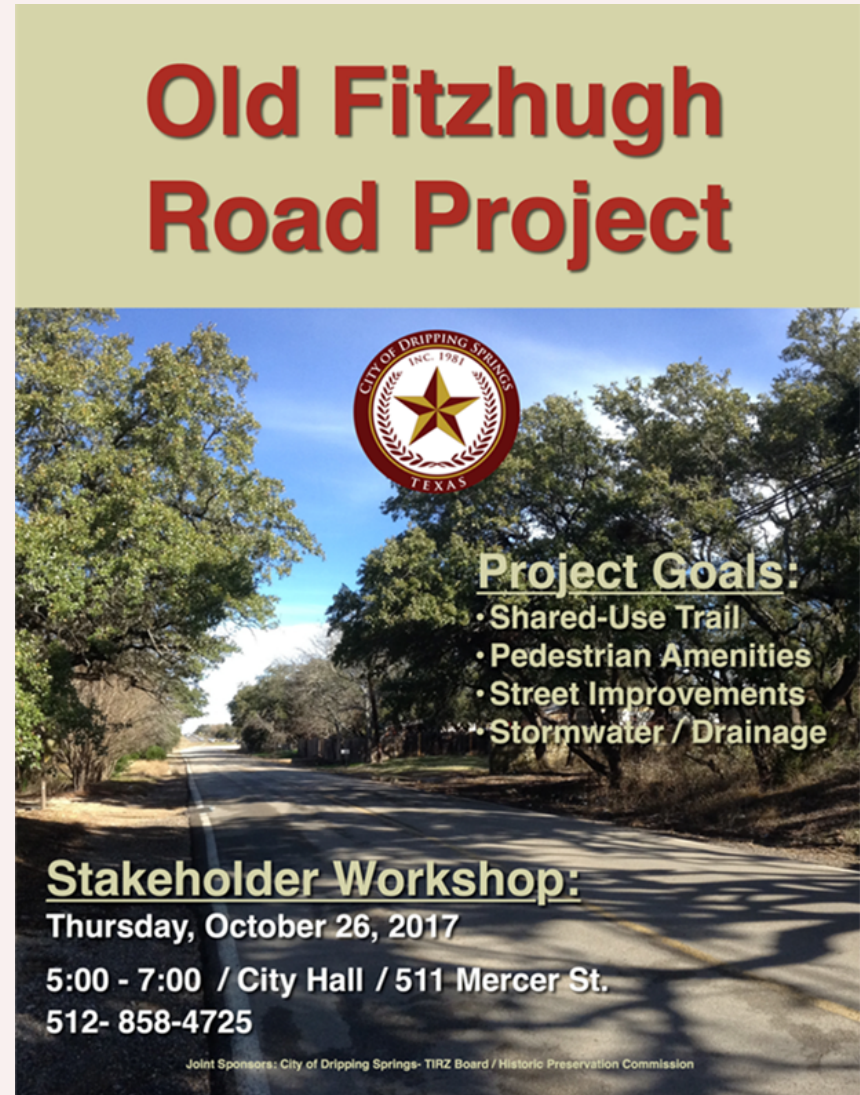




# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## Project Goals:

- Shared-Use Trail
  - Pedestrian Amenities
  - Street Improvements
  - Stormwater / Drainage
- 
- **Stakeholder Involvement:**



**Old Fitzhugh Road Project**

**Project Goals:**

- Shared-Use Trail
- Pedestrian Amenities
- Street Improvements
- Stormwater / Drainage

**Stakeholder Workshop:**  
Thursday, October 26, 2017  
5:00 - 7:00 / City Hall / 511 Mercer St.  
512- 858-4725

Joint Sponsors: City of Dripping Springs- TIRZ Board / Historic Preservation Commission

# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## Project Constraints:

- **Right-of-way-** ranges between 45 and 55 feet in width.
- **Property lines-** several are platted to the center of the street.
- **Existing trees-** within ROW will limit some options.
- **Run-off-** sheet flows from east to west across roadway and adjacent properties.
- **Overhead utility poles-** several will need to be moved.



# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail



6/19/2020

Dripping Spring TIRZ Priority  
Projects

8



# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail



6/19/2020

Dripping Spring TIRZ Priority  
Projects

9



# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail



# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

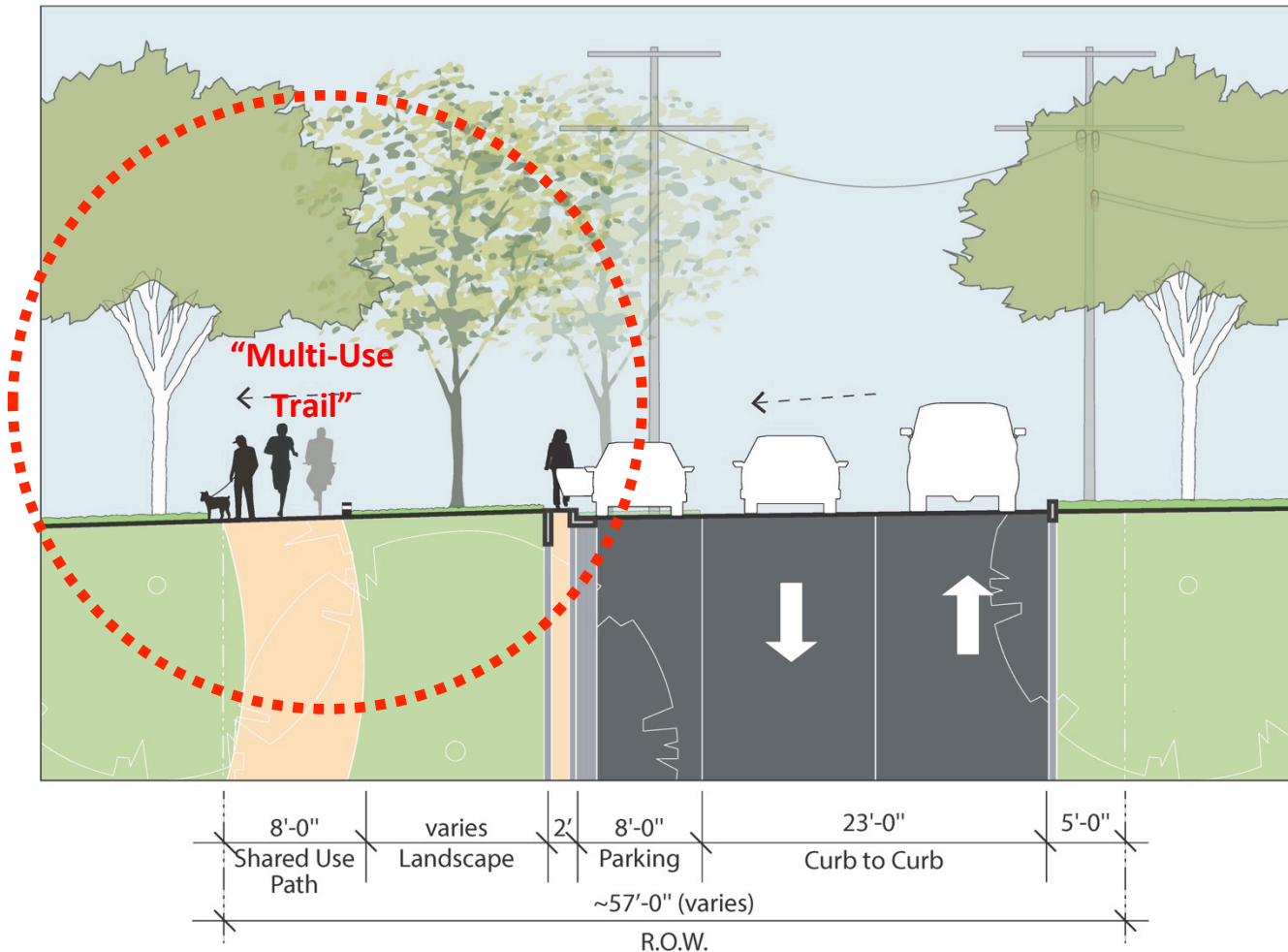
## Conceptual Solutions & Strategies:

- **Enhance** rustic 2 lane road with needed improvements.
- **Shift** roadway alignment to accommodate Shared Use Path, drainage and landscaping on the West side of the roadway.
- **Create** community connections along OFR and to the east and west with future trail extensions.
- **Improve** drainage, water quality, and roadway elements.
- **Develop** pedestrian, lighting, parking, and landscape solutions.



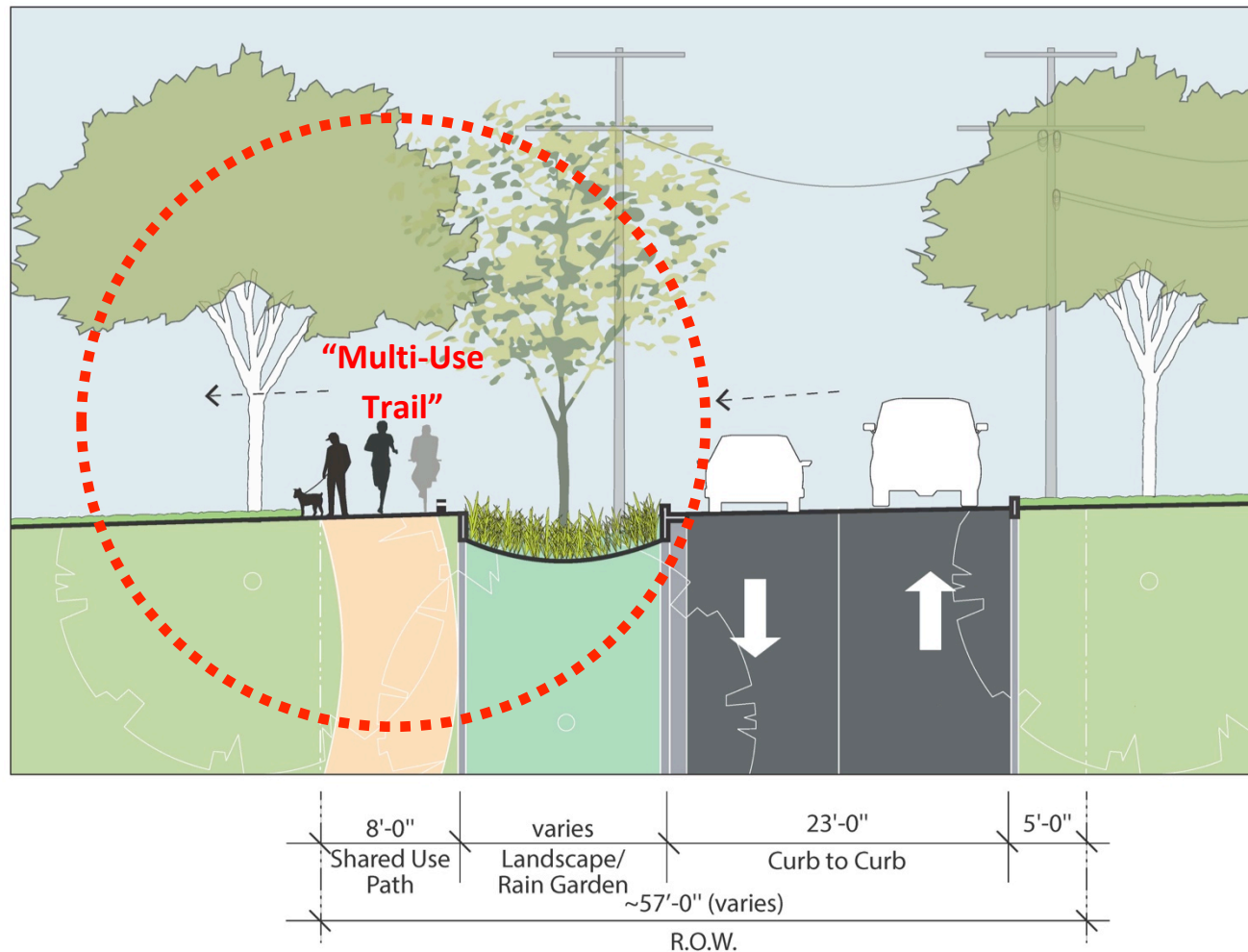
# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## Section A / Condition 1: Typical with Parking (Looking North)



# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## Section A / Condition 2: Typical without Parking (Looking North)



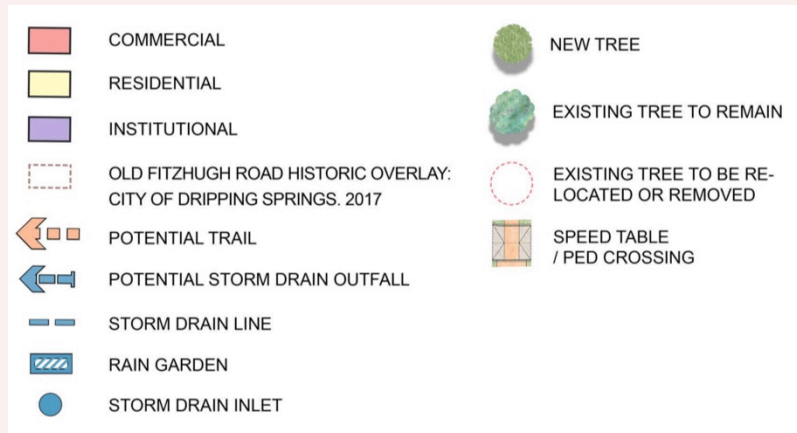


# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## Overall Concept Plan:



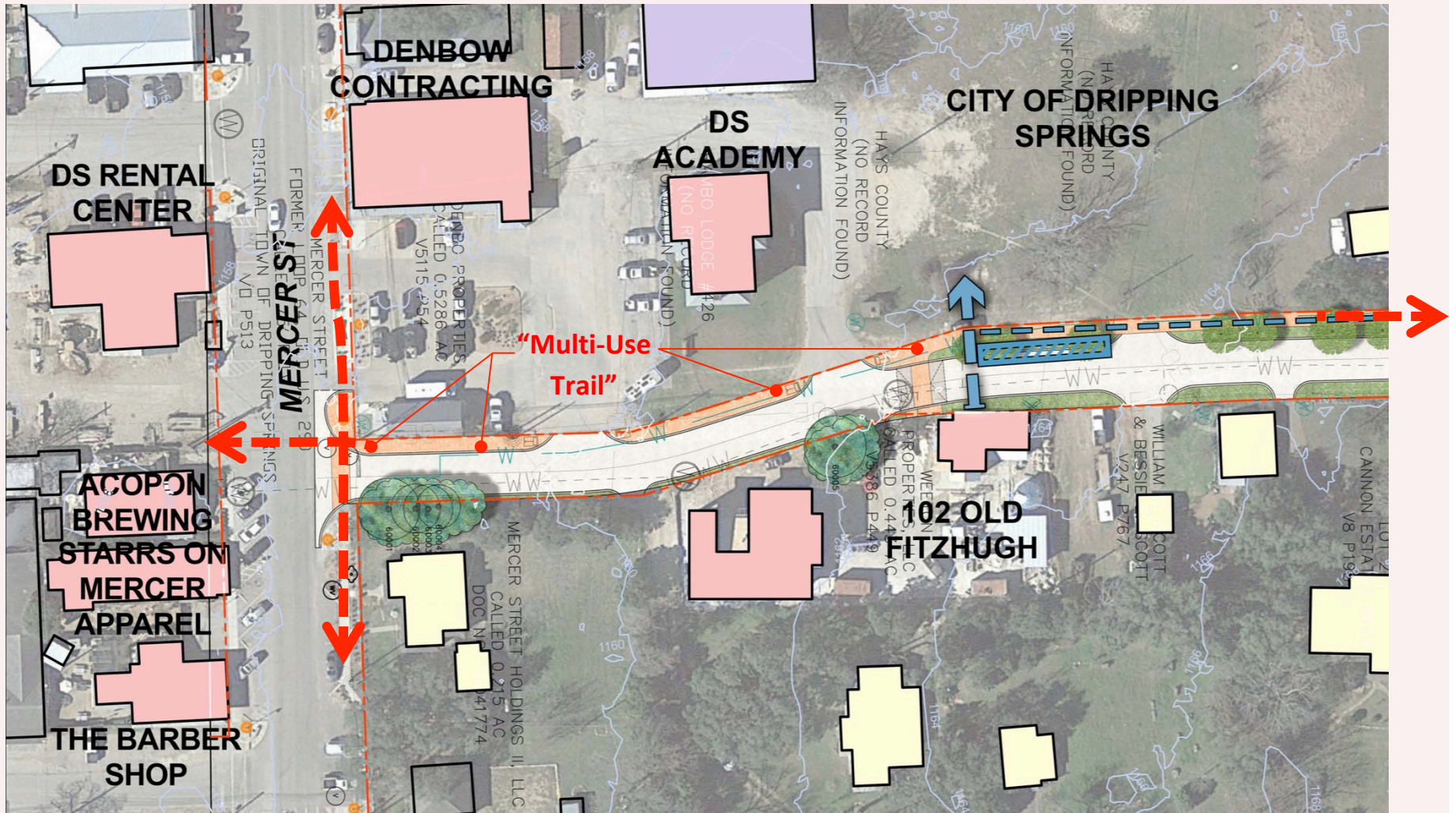
(5/31/18)





# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## Plan Detail at Mercer Street:



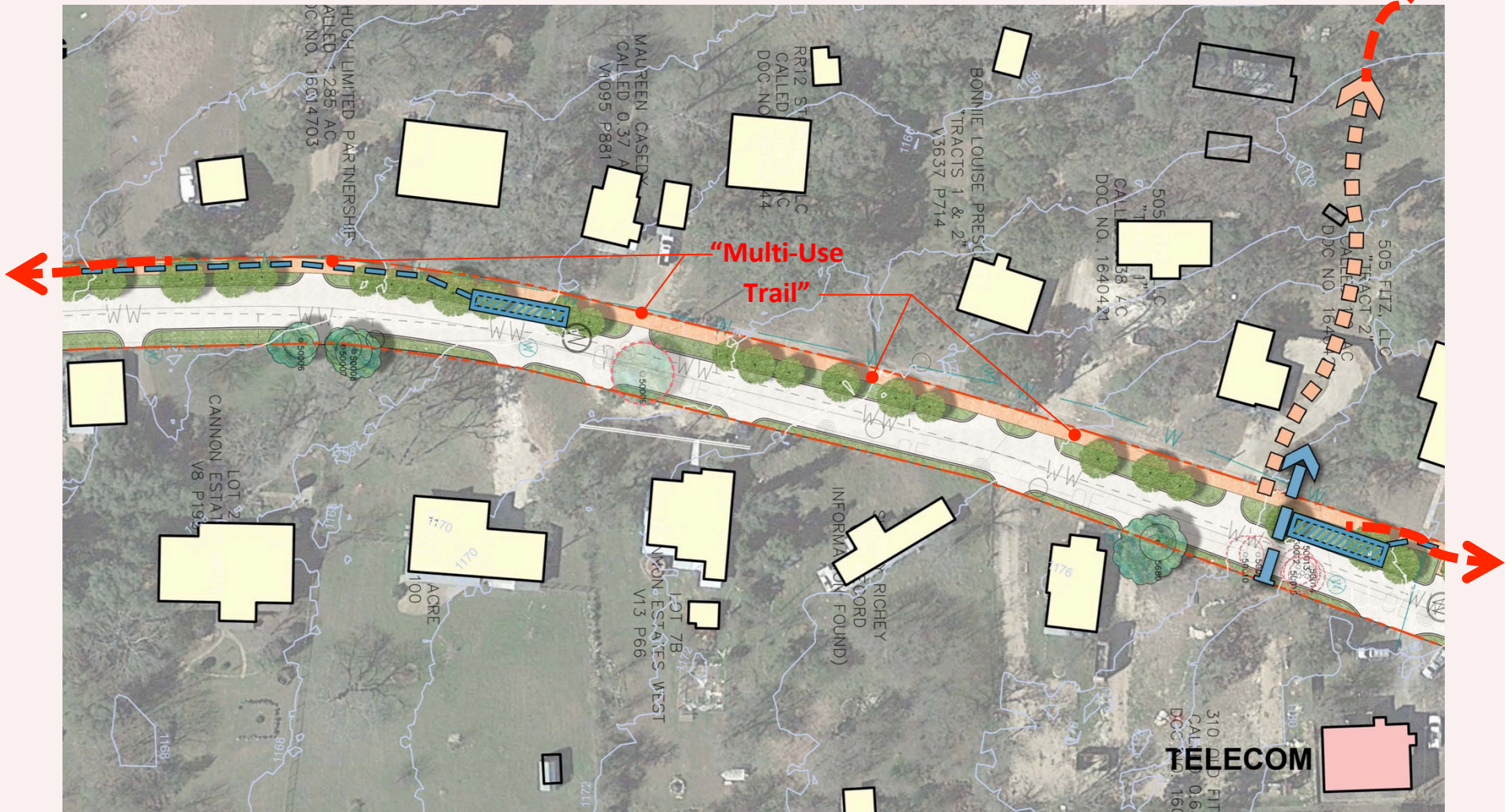
(5/31/18)



# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## Plan Detail:

**To: Heritage PDD.5  
Parks & Open Spaces**

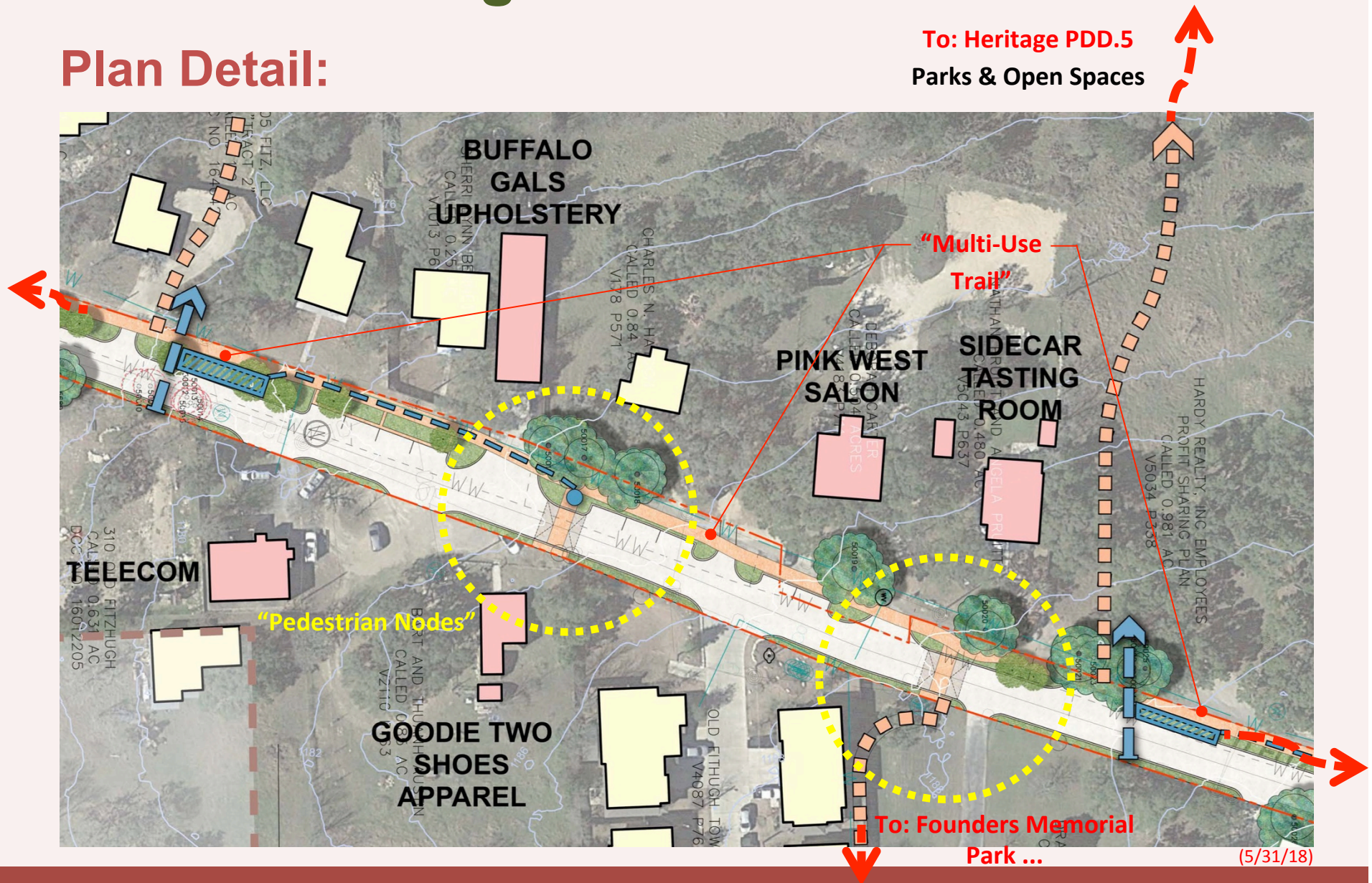


(5/31/18)



# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## Plan Detail:



6/19/2020

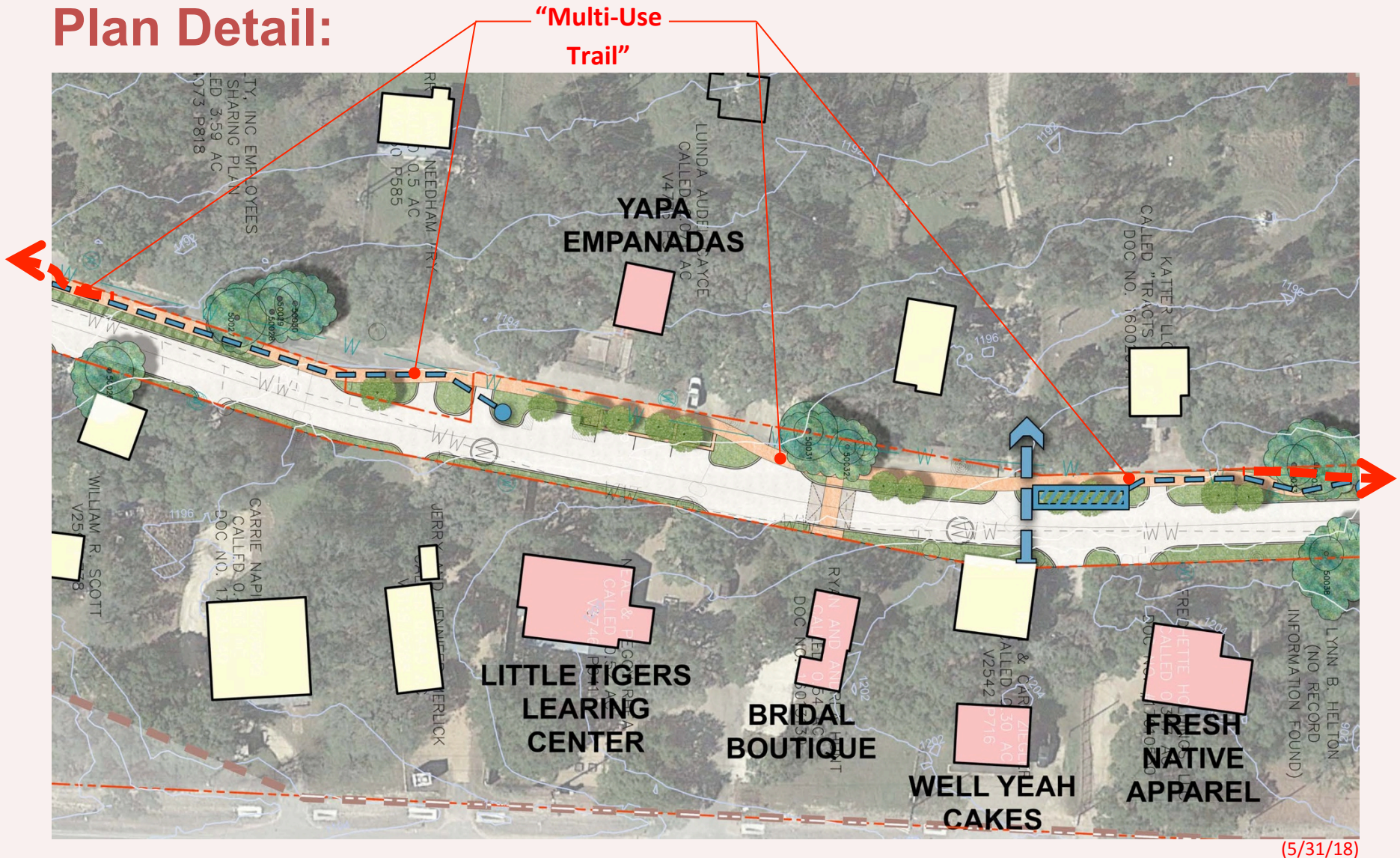
Dripping Spring TIRZ Priority  
Projects

17



# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## Plan Detail:

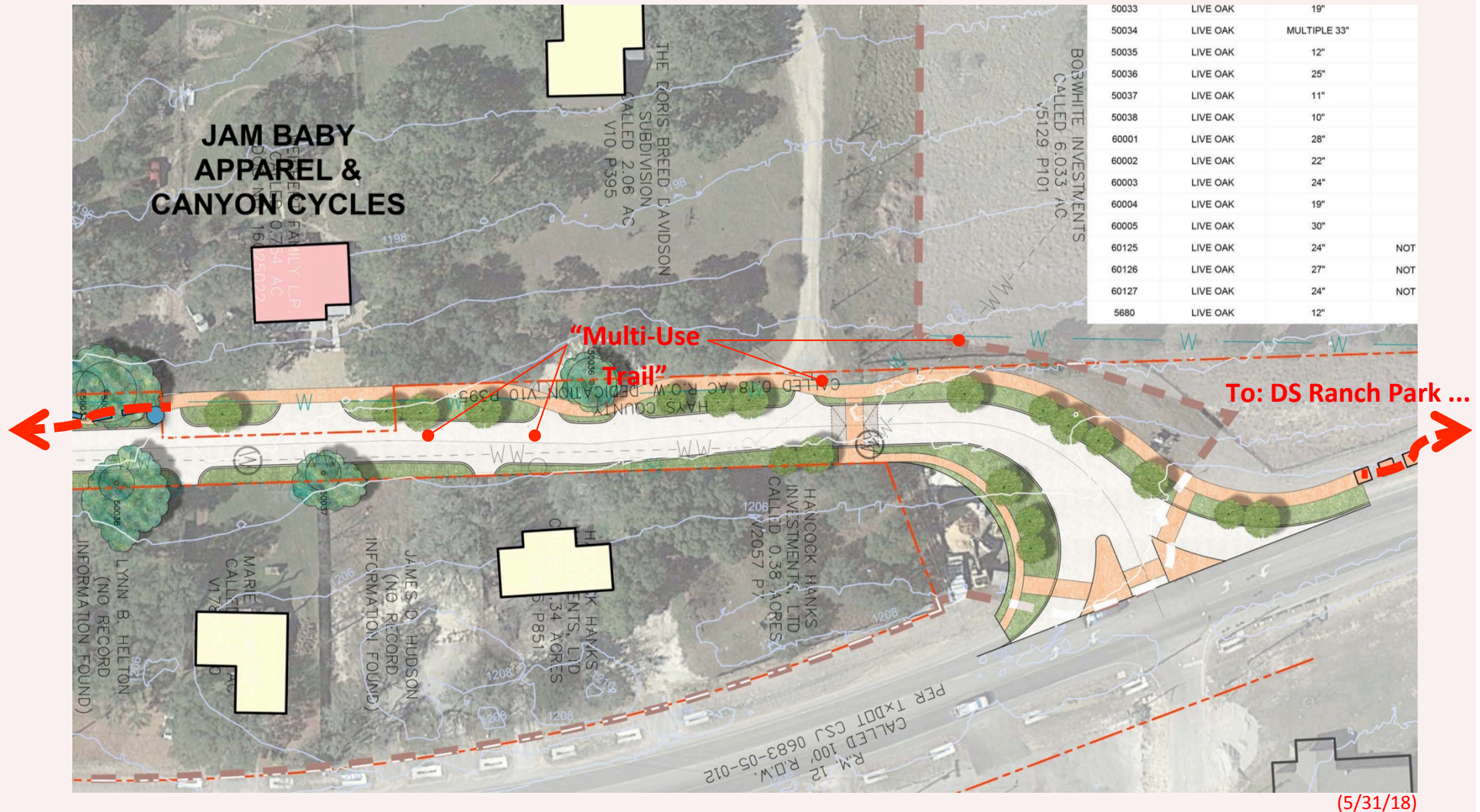


(5/31/18)



# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

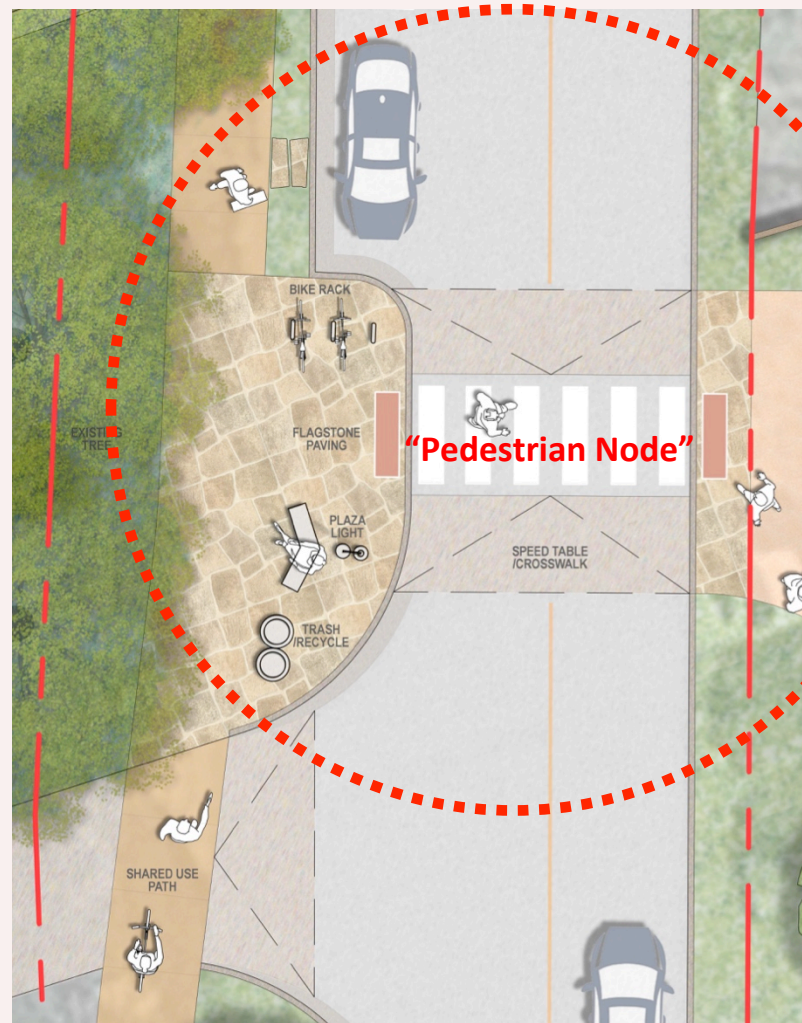
## Plan Detail at RM 12:





# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## Activity Plaza & Traffic Calming:



# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## Recommended Materials, Treatments, & Elements:

### Shared Use Path

#### EXPOSED AGGREGATE



#### EXPOSED AGGREGATE WITH FLAGSTONE



### Lighting & Pedestrian Amenities

#### MERCER STREET LIGHTING

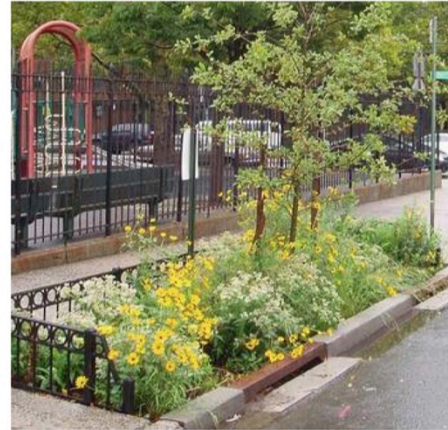


#### PATHWAY LIGHTING



### Drainage & Water Quality

#### ARMORED CURB INLET



#### STRUCTURED RAIN GARDEN

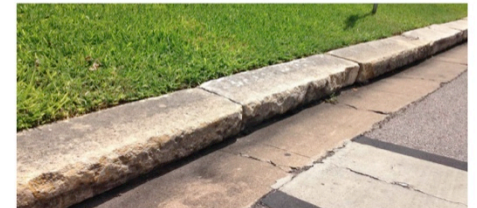


### Curbs

#### STANDING STONE CURB



#### STONE CURB WITH GUTTER



### Traffic Calming & Crossings

#### SPEED TABLE CROSSWALKS





# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## Project Type & Description:

- “Connectivity:” Pedestrian Access  
Critical linkages: Parks & Open Space
- Historic District Connectivity:  
Mercer St. << >> Old Fitzhugh Rd.
- Multi-Use Trail / Active & Passive



# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## “Community Goals”:

- City-Wide Trail Plan: Critical Installment
- Direct Connectivity: Old Fitzhugh Rd. & Mercer St. Historic Districts
- Linkages: Several City Parks & Emerging Neighborhoods

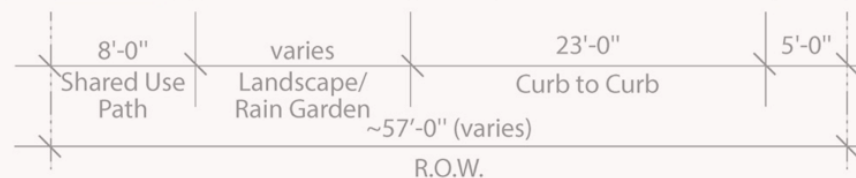




# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## “Financial Goals”:

- TIRZ Project- Multiple Stakeholders, Funding & Partnerships
- Funding Mix: City funds, possible Grants, Private Sector contributions
- Stimulate Economic Development: Increased Commercial Activity & Sales Tax Increases



# Old Fitzhugh Road: Multi-Use Trail

## “Hays POSAC Summary:

- Project Costs & Phasing

– Land Acquisition:	\$75,000
– Engineering, Planning & Design:	\$630,000
– Trail, Lighting, Pedestrian Features:	<u>\$600,000</u>
Total “Trail Portion”:	\$1,305,000
“Entire” Project Cost:	(\$4.82M)

- POSAC Process

- POSAC Presentation: June 24, 2020
- PIF Application Submission: June 26, 2020
- Next Steps & Follow-Up: As Needed



# OLD FITZHUGH ROAD Multi-Use Trail

**Thank You !!!**



*Presentation to  
Hays County POSAC  
June 24, 2020*

### Dripping Springs Farmer's Market FY21 Budget Worksheet

	Budget FY20	2020 Actual to Date*	Budget FY21
<b>Balance Forward<sup>^</sup></b>	37,942.32	35,190.48	34,519.84
<b>Revenues</b>			
FM Sponsor	2,000.00		1,000.00
Grant & Donations Income	1,000.00		1,000.00
FM Booth <sup>^^</sup>	26,000.00	12,349.00	24,698.00
FM App Fee <sup>^^</sup>	4,000.00	741.00	1,482.00
Interest Income <sup>^^</sup>	569.73	224.61	449.22
Market Events <sup>**</sup>	400.00		300.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>33,969.73</b>	<b>13,314.61</b>	<b>63,449.06</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Advertising Expense	5,000.00	1,406.09	5,000.00
FM Manager <sup>+</sup>	29,900.00	12,122.29	29,278.08
Payroll Tax Expense <sup>+</sup>	2,449.35	1,095.53	2,401.77
TMRS Contribution			1,762.54
Entertainment and Activities	1,000.00	525.00	1,000.00
Dues and Subscriptions Exp	200.00	75.00	200.00
Market Events <sup>**</sup>	500.00		500.00
Training	200.00		200.00
Office Expense	200.00	202.90	200.00
Supplies Expense	400.00	265.04	400.00
Other Expense	100.00	-2,041.92	100.00
Capital Fund	31,962.70		22,406.67
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>71,912.05</b>	<b>13,649.93</b>	<b>63,449.06</b>

<b>Total Bal Fwd</b>	0.00	34,855.16	0.00
----------------------	------	-----------	------

\* As of Apr 15th, 2020 (6 months)

\*\* Includes Tomato Time!

<sup>^</sup> Estimated for the FY21 budget, based on current Bal Fwd

<sup>^^</sup> Prorated based on the current Actuals for the FY21 budget

<sup>+</sup> Based on 24 hrs/week at \$23.46/hr