

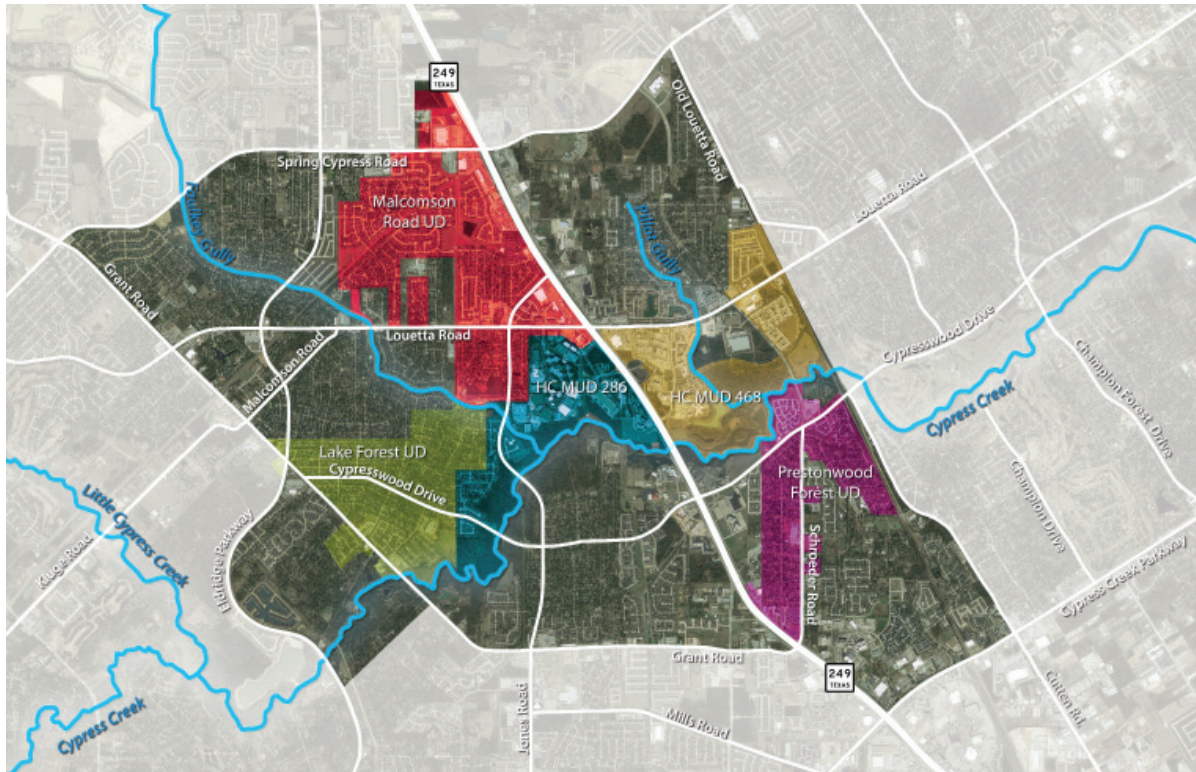
A photograph of a muddy river flowing through a wooded area with sandy banks. The river is brown and murky, winding through a landscape of dense green trees and shrubs. The banks are eroded, showing sandy soil and some sparse vegetation. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

Cypress Creek Greenway

Trails Master Plan

Executive
Summary

Executive Summary



Study Area with Project Partner Locations

Introduction

The Cypress Creek Master Plan Coordinating Board was formed in 2013 to develop a comprehensive trails plan for an area along Cypress Creek near Highway 249. The goal of this Trails Master Plan is to identify recommended trail corridors within the study area. This Plan provides a long range ambitious vision that when implemented will provide a significant recreational amenity to the area.

The study area, shown on the exhibit above encompasses approximately 13.5 square miles. The project boundaries are roughly defined as Spring Cypress Road on the north, Old Louetta and Cutten Roads on the east, Grant Road on the South, and Eldridge Parkway and Grant Road on the west. The project area includes land which falls within board member's jurisdictions and was expanded to include important segments of Cypress Creek and its tributaries.

The Cypress Creek Trails Master Plan is intended to be a long range strategy for developing trails within the area. This comprehensive approach aims to improve the quality of life for residents, those who

work within the study area, as well as visitors to the area. The plan establishes a clear direction for the Cypress Creek Trails Master Plan Coordinating Board, by providing recommendations, suggesting phasing and prioritization, while considering financial and legal limitations.

Coordinating Board

The Cypress Creek Trails Master Plan Coordinating Board is comprised of both public and private partners, including Lake Forest Utility District, Prestonwood Forest Utility District, Malcomson Road Utility District, Harris County MUD No. 286, Harris County MUD No. 468, Houston Parks Board, Lone Star College, Sueba USA Corporation, and Noble Energy.

Existing Conditions

Population, land use, jurisdiction, transportation, existing trails and recreational facilities as well as natural and cultural features were reviewed and analyzed in order to understand existing conditions within the study area.

There are currently 230 acres of parks facilities and 16 miles of trails of various widths and material types. Many park facilities and some neighborhoods have internal pedestrian facilities (sidewalks or trails) but most lack connectivity to surrounding areas and major destinations. Large public park facilities include the 100-Acre Wood and the Kickerillo-Mischer Preserves which are primarily undeveloped at this time.

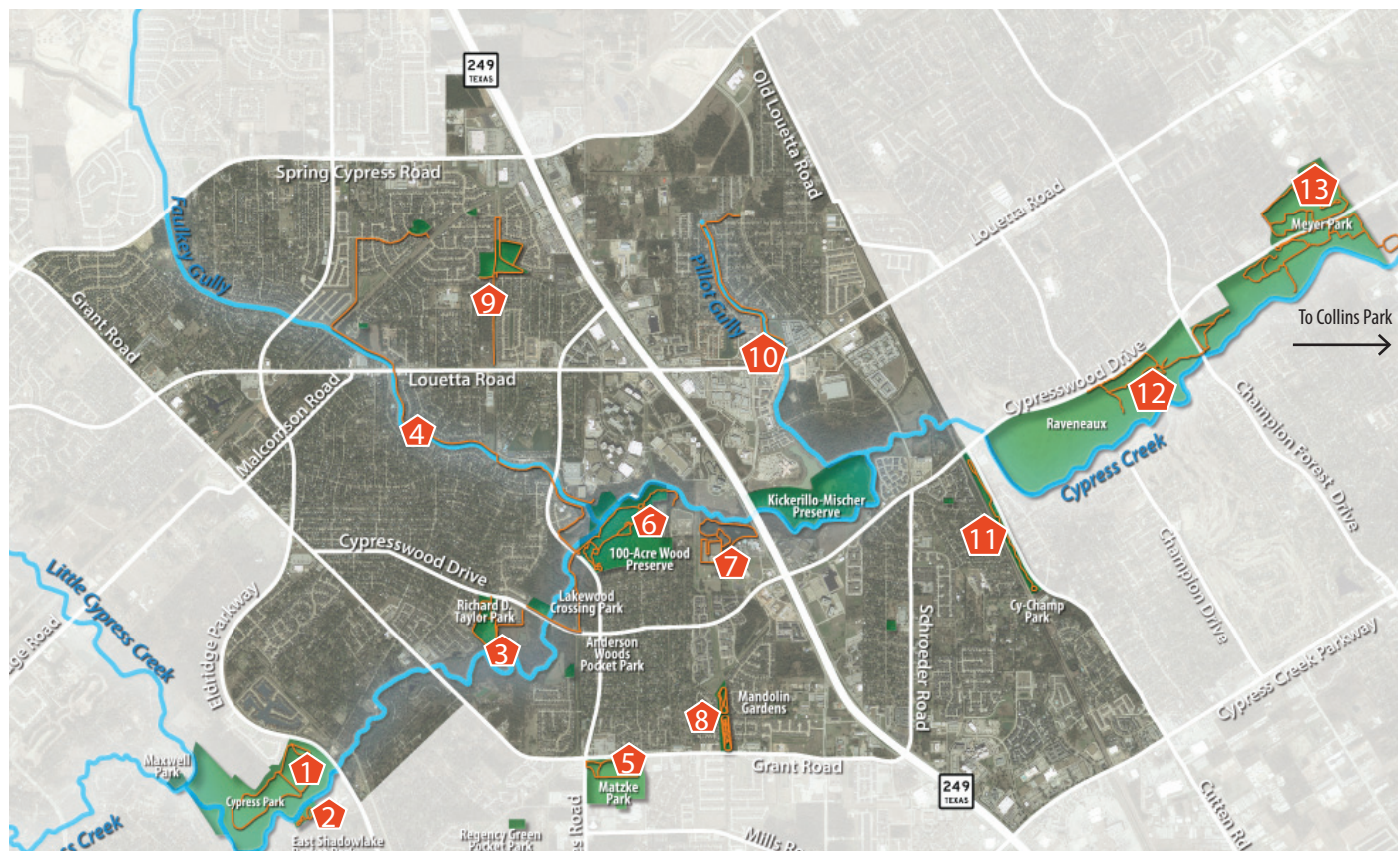
According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the study area contains roughly 61,000 residents. An additional 20,000 employees are estimated to commute to the area, as well. Land use within the study area includes a large portion of single family residential while commercial, office, and public institutions are mostly located along the Highway 249 corridor.

The study area has overlapping jurisdictions including Harris County Precincts 3 and 4, some areas of the City of Houston, fourteen (14) Utility Districts and three (3) public school districts including Klein ISD, Tomball ISD, and Cy-Fair ISD.

Major destinations within the study area include the former Compaq Center Headquarters at Highway 249 and Louetta which now includes Hewlett-Packard offices, Lone Star College, as well as others. The Vintage Park development, on the east side of Highway 249 is a mixed-use development which includes retail shopping, medical facilities, restaurants, some office space, and multi-family residential.

LEGEND

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Cypress Park Trails | 7. YMCA Trail System |
| 2. East Shadowlake Park Trails | 8. Mandolin Gardens Trails |
| 3. Richard D. Taylor Park Trails | 9. Malcomson Road Utility District Trail System |
| 4. Cypress Creek/HC MUD 286 & Faulkey Gully Trail System | 10. Charterwood MUD Trails |
| 5. Matzke Park Trails | 11. Cy Champ Park Trails |
| 6. 100 Acre Wood Foot Trails | 12. Cypress Forest PUD Trails |
| | 13. Meyer Park Trails |



Existing Park and Trail Facilities within the Study Area

Needs Assessment

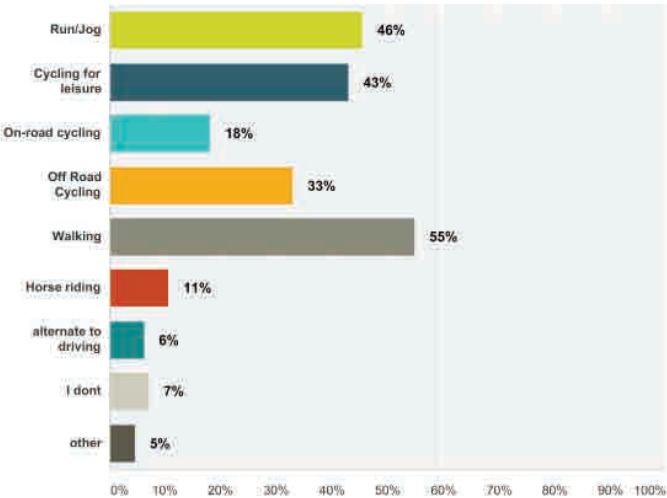
During the study process, public input was gathered in multiple ways in order to assess current usage and interest in future corridors, trail types, and desired destinations. Interviews held early in the process allowed each of the project partners as well as other area stakeholders to share their vision for trail connectivity within the study area. During these meetings, participants were provided large maps of the study area where they could view (and sometimes discover!) existing trail routes and begin to envision a comprehensive trail system.

Online media was also used to reach a broader audience. A Facebook page was created for the project to share event information and gather feedback. As of February 2015 the page has 285 likes.

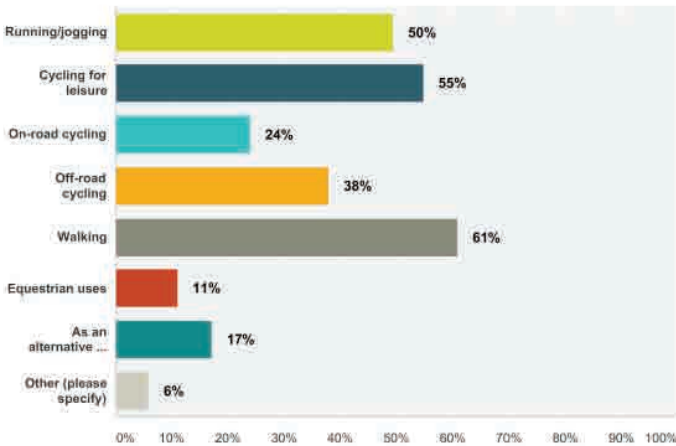
A short online survey gathered public input and allowed respondents to share how they currently use the trail and what they would like to see in the future. The survey was also provided in paper format and 765 responses were gathered. The last question was open-ended and allowed respondents to comment about anything related to the trails within the study area. A full report of their responses are available in the appendix.

At the conclusion of the plan development, a public meeting was held at Lone Star College - University Park on January 28, 2015. Over 120 people attended the meeting and were provided a summary of the overall plan process and recommendations.

How do you currently use trails in your area? (Check all that apply)



If more trails in the area were built, how would you utilize trails in the future? (Check all that apply)



Recommendations

The principal goal for developing the Trails Master Plan for the study area was to provide recommendations for connectivity. Upon reviewing existing conditions and public input recommendations were developed. Detailed recommendations with cost estimates and project prioritization were provided for the project partner areas. More general recommendations for connectivity were provided for all other trails within the study area.

Facility standards were developed in order to provide classification for trail types. These standards include:

Major Corridor Trails

- Located off-road, along major waterways
- Provide long distance travel
- Recommended width 10'-12'
- Materials include all weather; concrete, asphalt

Minor Corridor Trails

- Located off-road, along channels, utility easements

- Provide connectivity to major trails
- Recommended width 6'-8'
- Materials include mix of hard and soft surfaces

Sidewalks

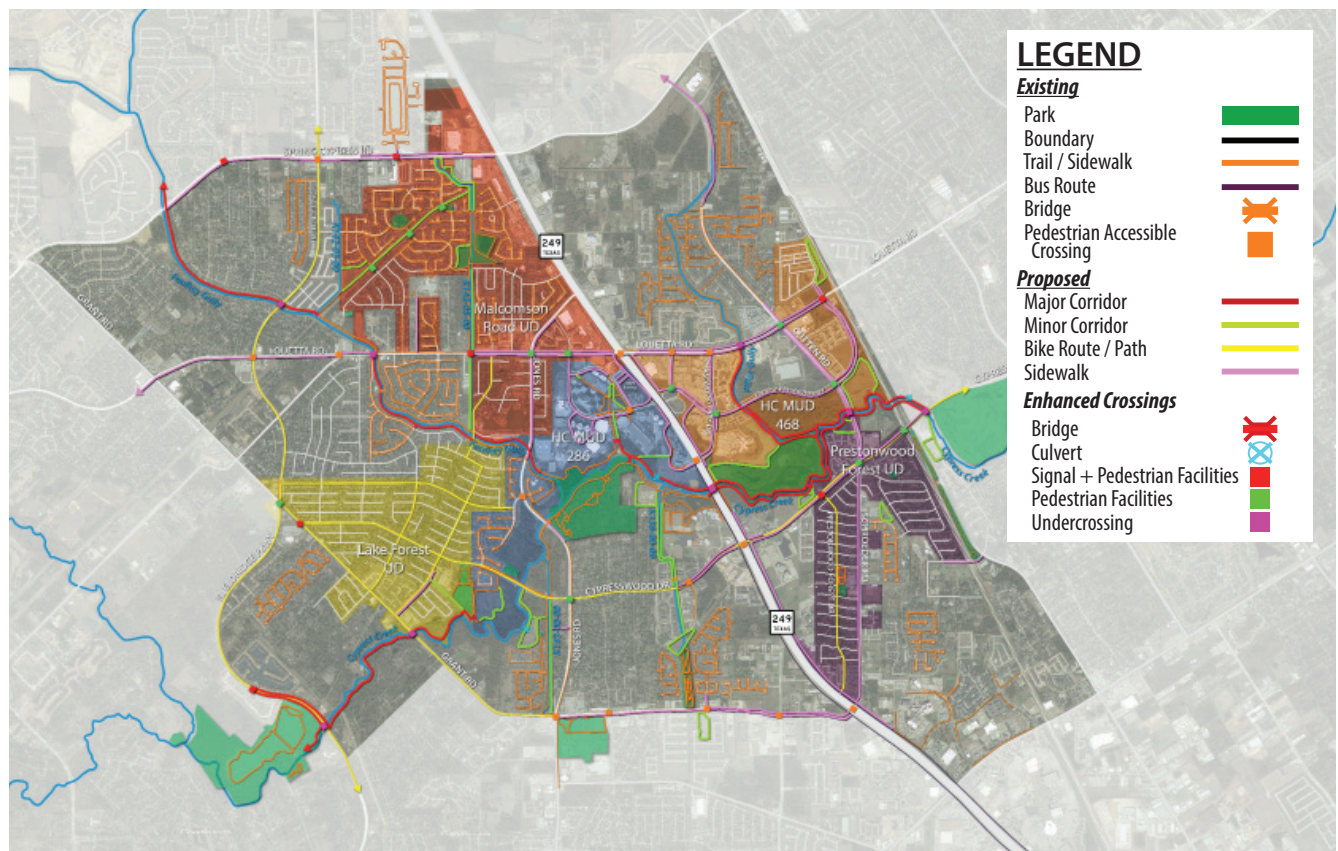
- Located adjacent a roadway, typically in ROW
- Recommended width 6'
- Material should be concrete

Bike Lanes

- Not currently allowed within Harris County ROWs
- Signage or striping can be used
- Boulevard roadways could be altered to include

Additional recommendations for developing trail segments have been provided including safety, intersection improvements for pedestrians, materials, and amenities.

Each of the project partners were provided more detailed recommendations. A summary of each is provided on the following pages.



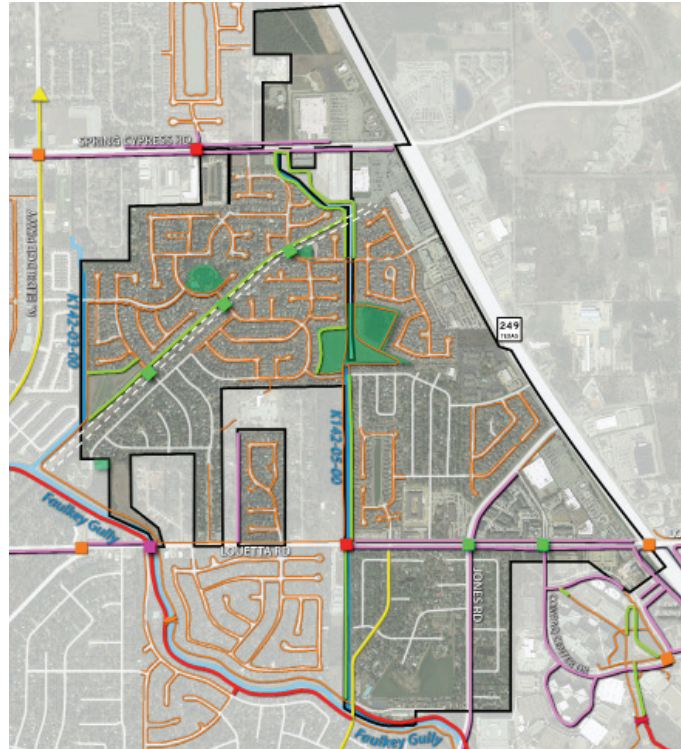
Proposed Trails Master Plan

Malcomson Road Utility District

- 39,400 Linear feet of proposed trails
- 8 proposed enhanced crossings including undercrossings
- Utilization of existing utility corridor for trail connectivity

Priority Projects:

- Minor trail along existing utility corridor to connect Faulkey Gully existing trail to Malcomson's existing trails along the K142-05-00 channel
- Continuation of a minor trail along the K142-05-00 drainage channel to Faulkey Gully near Lakewood Forest Drive
- Sidewalk along Jones Road from Compaq Center Drive to Faulkey Gully
- Sidewalk along Louetta Road from the K142-05-00 drainage channel to Highway 249

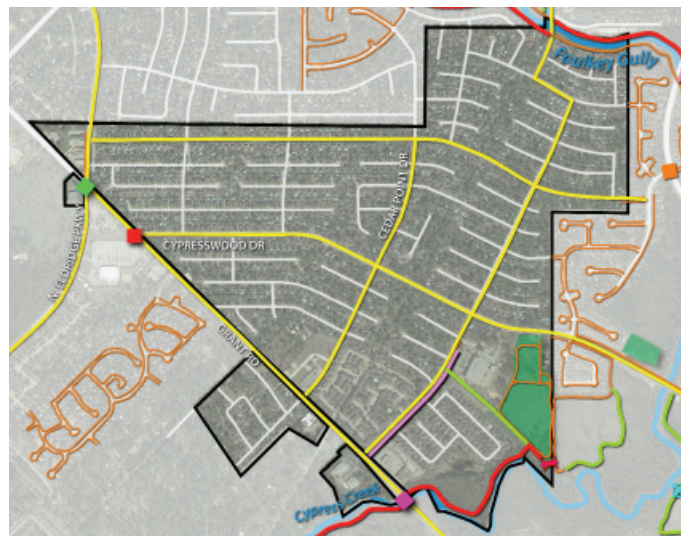


Lake Forest Utility District

- 34,900 Linear feet of proposed trails
- 4 proposed enhanced crossings including undercrossings
- Bike lanes could provide access along streets with no sidewalks

Priority Projects:

- Major trail along the north side of Cypress Creek from Grant Road to the District owned Richard D. Taylor Park
- Minor trail along the K164-00-00 drainage channel from Lakewood Forest Drive to Cypress Creek
- Bike lanes within the District either with signage or striping

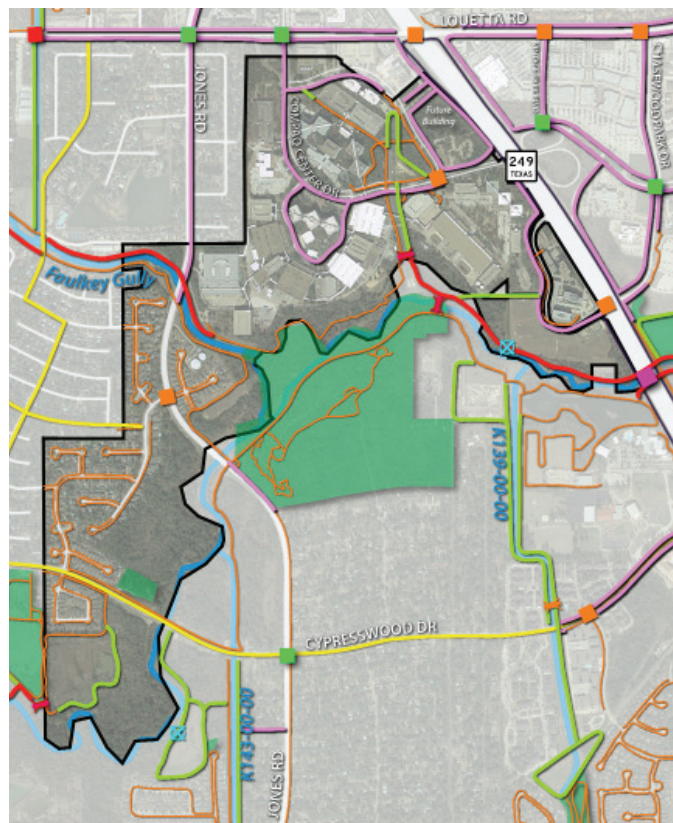


Harris County MUD No. 286

- 24,330 Linear feet of proposed trails
- 5 proposed enhanced crossings including undercrossings, culverts and pedestrian bridges
- Improvements to existing trails near HP could provide public access

Priority Projects:

- Major trail along north side of Faulkey Gully
- Minor trails along the K158-00-00 drainage channel within the HP complex
- Sidewalks within the HP Complex

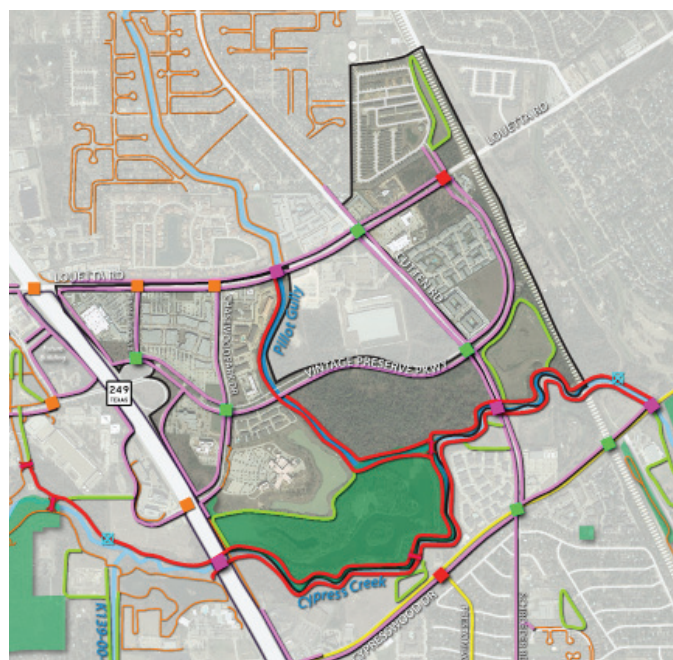


Harris County MUD No. 468

- 68,041 Linear feet of proposed trails
- 10 proposed enhanced crossings including undercrossings, and culverts
- Proposed sidewalks within the Vintage Park complex could connect to existing and proposed trails along Pilot Gully and the Kickerillo-Mischer Preserve

Priority Projects:

- Major trails along Cypress Creek along the southern edge of the District
- Major trails along Pilot Gully to provide connections from Louetta Road to Cypress Creek
- Sidewalks and enhanced crossings along Louetta Road
- Sidewalks within Vintage Park

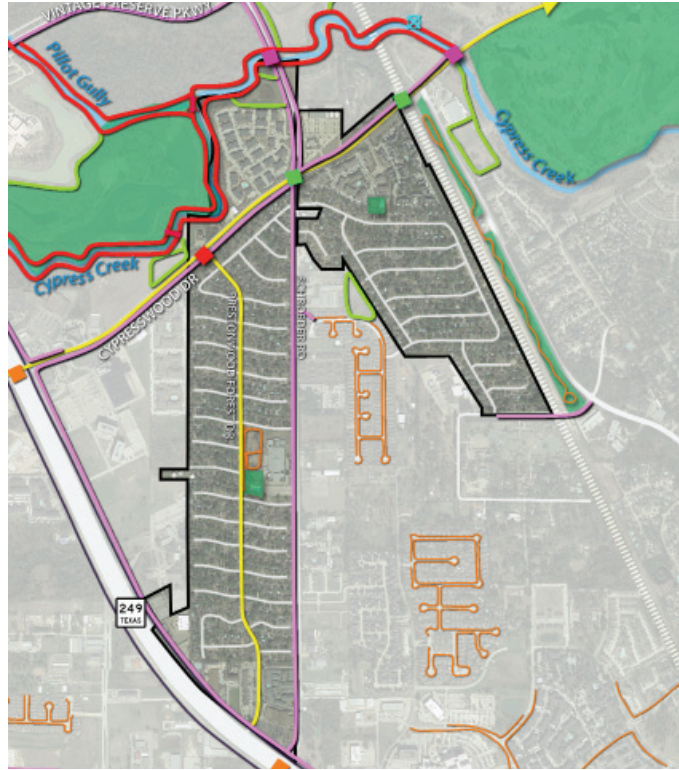


Prestonwood Forest Utility District

- 25,898 Linear feet of proposed trails
- 5 proposed enhanced crossings including undercrossings and a bridge
- Potential for direct connection into Kickerillo-Mischer Preserve

Priority Projects:

- Major trail and pedestrian bridge along south side of Cypress Creek
- Sidewalks along Cypresswood Drive
- Sidewalk along Schroeder Road to connect from Highway 249 to Cypress Creek



Roughly half of the study area falls within one of the plan's partner jurisdictional boundaries. Future trail corridors were explored outside these partner areas with the primary focus of connectivity along Cypress Creek, Faulkey Gully and Pilot Gully. Partnerships with other Utility Districts, Harris County, and other stakeholders could facilitate trail development in these areas.

Implementation

The time frame for plan implementation may take up to 20 years or more, and depend on multiple partners with various goals and budgets. The plan was developed by the Coordinating Board so that it may be shared with area stakeholders that were either hesitant to join into the development of the plan or may have yet to be identified.

Funding strategies that may be used in order to develop trails may include use of annual budgets and operating funds, recreational bonds, volunteer builds and maintenance, donations or grants. Federal, state, and local programs are available to fund trail projects.

Trail alignments within the Plan are preliminary

and further investigations will be necessary before trail segments are constructed. Land acquisition, easements, or interlocal agreements may be necessary and are imperative to secure before spending large amounts of funds for trail design. Additional studies that may be required include a topographic and boundary survey, environmental and cultural assessments, geotechnical investigations, traffic counts and others. A Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) is recommended for trail segments in order to identify which studies should be performed, evaluate alignment options, and review expected costs for construction and maintenance.

Plan Utilization

The success and implementation of this Plan will be very dependent on creative partnerships for support, funding, construction, and maintenance. The Plan should be shared with potential stakeholders and community leaders in order to generate public awareness and interest as well as encourage project partners to move forward with implementing the plan.