



Friends of the Preston Ridge Trail

A non-profit corporation based in Dallas, Texas

[NEWSLETTER EMAIL]

Sunday, July 03, 2005

Friends of Preston Ridge Newsletter (#5)

Dear Members, HOA Leaders, and Neighbors --

Happy Independence Day. While it's hot outside, that's not getting in the way of several exciting things happening with the Preston Ridge Trail. We hope you'll read this electronic newsletter and forward it on to others who use the Trail and/or are interested in the work of the Friends of the Preston Ridge Trail, the non-profit community organization dedicated to improving the Trail. You can also find out more about the Trail and the Friends at our website (www.prestonridgetrail.org) or our free InfoLine 972-770-0436.

April Event Draws Crowd

More than 75 people joined us on Saturday morning, April 16th, for the Friends' Spring Family Event. The gathering was held near the Trail off of Meandering in Salado Park -- which is just south of La Manga at Bowie Elementary. The goal of the event was to share visuals of the Trail's preliminary Master Plan renderings along with the City of Dallas' new City-Wide Trail Master City. All of the candidates for City Council District 12 attended along with more than 25 kids who enjoyed the free bouncy house. Special thanks to Boy Scout Troop 104 for all their assistance.

Tree Planting Program Set to Begin

The Friends will soon kickoff a multi-part tree planting program. This is an exciting step in the effort to make the Trail more attractive, and will involve an estimated 200 trees by late Fall. This project is the culmination of several initiatives under the leadership of Rod Scales, Friends VP/Beautification & Landscaping. Highlights include:

- Purchasing Trees using funds available from dues paid by Friends members
- Donated Trees from the City of Dallas' Tree Bank (which makes trees available when property is cleared for development)
- Volunteer Support from Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Dallas 4th Ward, which is located at Meandering Way and Beltline)
- Water donations from neighbors who live along the tree planting path
- Landscaping assistance from City of Dallas Parks & Recreation Department



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This first round of tree planting will be concentrated along 3 locations: the Trail's southern tip at Meandering Way/Beltline, Meandering near Campbell where the Trail's western spur begins, and at the Trail's western edge near Brentfield and Davenport.

Special thanks to the Mormon Church (see above reference to Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) for their support of the Trail, and commitment to become a major volunteer partner with the Friends.

Attention HOAs and residents adjacent to the Trail: Many of the trees that will be planted will need watering. There is no irrigation along the Trail, so the planting project needs willing volunteers to commit to water the trees. We have worked with the Water Department, and estimate the monthly cost to water a small pod of trees to be \$0.25/month. Please contact Rod Scales (rscales@thomasmgroup.com; or call him at 972-679-8359) if you are interested in helping with this important project.

Cellular Phone Structures Looking Better

The Trail is built along a TXU easement and big towers and power lines running throughout, and so there's no escaping the reality that utility "huts" are a part of the Trail's path. However, with the work of (former) City Council person Sandy Greyson, the newest cell phone Tower "cement box" has been modestly landscaped. The Friends has committed to work closely with the City's Building Permit Department to make sure the landscaping is maintained and new structures adhere to this permitting requirement.

Progress on Master Plan

The landscape architectural firm of Newman, Jackson, and Bieberstein, is back at work following a delay in progress late last year and into the winter. The delay was triggered by some negotiations between the City and TXU related to another Trail, but caused work on the Preston Ridge Trail to get halted.

The firm is now actively working on finishing the plans so that it can be adopted by City's Parks Board by early Fall, leading to an RFP for landscaping on Phase I and construction and landscaping on Phase II. If all goes well, the bid would get awarded in late Fall, and crews would begin work in January 2006. While this is later than we had all wanted, it's going to be terrific.

We'll use future Friends Newsletters to keep you posted as dates firm and key milestones are planned. You'll get advance notice of the formal groundbreaking, which is expected to occur when construction begins in early 2006.



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Time to Renew Your Friends Membership

Many people and HOAs have demonstrated their support for the Trail by becoming Annual Members of the Friends of the Preston Ridge Trail. Through membership, you are not only insured a voice and communication about the Trail's progress, but you also help fund our landscaping, community relations, and advocacy efforts.

The membership program began in early 2004 and we've already mailed some renewal notices. If you've renewed for 2005, thank you. If not, you'll soon be receiving a reminder. And if you're not a member, please visit our website (<http://www.prestonridgetrail.org/prt/join.asp>) where you'll find a membership form. It's easy and starts at only \$35.

If you have questions about your membership renewal, please email Friends President Cori Pratt (coripratt57@yahoo.com).

Capital Fundraising Campaign Planning Underway

With the formal groundbreaking now only months away, we're planning the Capital Campaign to raise private funds to underwrite all that the Bond money won't be covering -- things like benches, bike racks, sign stands, trees, enhanced landscaping, and more. It's a major undertaking and we'll need plenty of volunteers and plenty of generous homeowners and HOAs.

We're already off to a good start...because former City Councilperson Sandy Greyson has already pledged the first bench. The purchase is being underwritten by a group of her friends and supporters who contributed to buy her a gift. She said she wanted to put those dollars towards a bench -- which will be the first bench on the Trail, and the kick-off of our Capital Campaign.

If you'd like to be involved in planning the fundraising campaign, please contact Friends VP/Community Relations Rodney Schlosser (rschlosser@asurion.com).

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

On behalf of the Board of the Friends,

Rodney Schlosser
VP/Community Relations



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