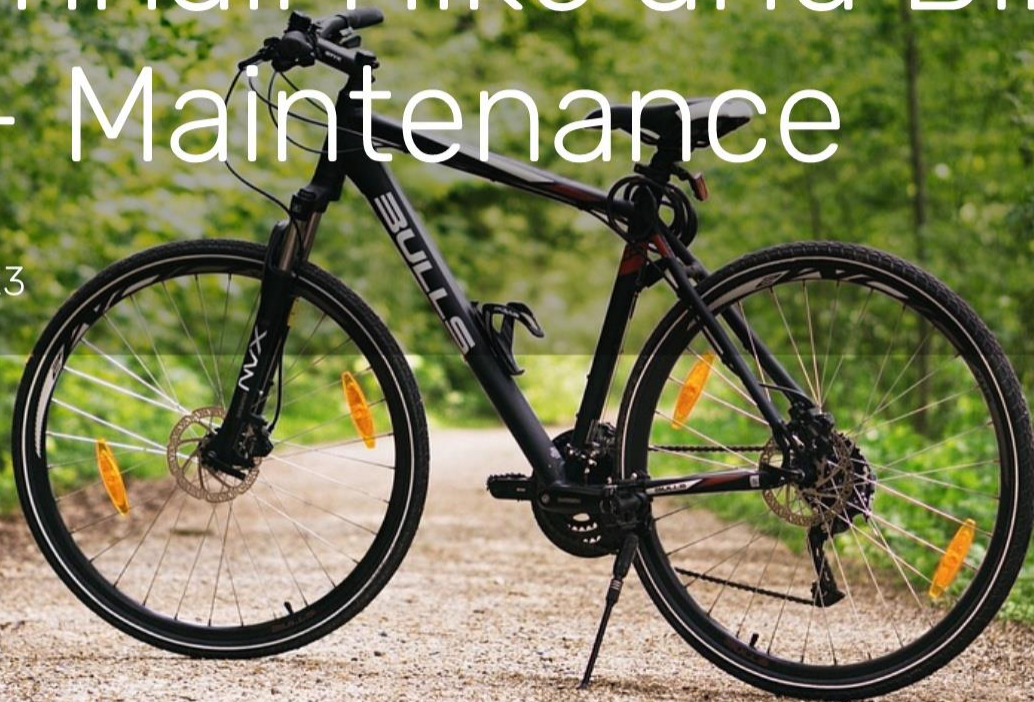


Chisenhall Hike and Bike Trail – Maintenance

City Council
September 5, 2023



Overview

- ① Background
- ② Site Summary
- ③ Current Maintenance/Operations
- ④ Risks and Vulnerabilities
- ⑤ Risk Reduction Options
- ⑥ FWMBA Background
- ⑦ Current vs Proposed Maintenance/Operation
- ⑧ Next Steps
- ⑨ Action Options

Background

- Chisenhall Hike and Bike Trail is located within Chisenhall Fields and features over 10 miles of soft surface trail
- In approximately 2014, the first two miles of the trail were cut in at what is called the Field Loop today
- The trail has experienced a huge spike in popularity since 2020 and draws hikers and riders from all over DFW and beyond
- In 2022, Strava - which represents about 65% of all trail users - logged over 17,000 attempts of the two major entrance trails alone



Site Summary

- 10.5 miles of trail
- 7 trail loops ranging in difficulty from beginner to expert level
- Bike and pedestrian friendly soft surface trails
- Emergency trail markers



Current Maintenance Responsibilities

Maintained primarily by Burleson MTB Riders with support from Parks staff

Burleson MTB Riders (BMTBR):

- Founded in 2019
- No formalized membership
- Over 1,000 members on Facebook page with 85% actively engaged
- 1 current lead person with small group of alternating volunteers
- Current Parks Beautification Agreement participants since September 2021
- Provide trail cleaning, trimming, and maintenance services
- Over 900 volunteer hours logged at Chisenhall since 2020 representing over \$17,000 in labor services
- Unlogged volunteer maintenance hours are estimated to likely double that amount



Maintenance and Operation Duties CURRENT

Task	BMTBR	Parks Staff
Hand Mowing and Trimming	✓	
Large Area Tractor Mowing		✓
Minor Brush Trimming	✓	
Major tree or brush removal		✓
Litter/debris removal	✓	
Debris Disposal	✓	✓
Feature Construction and Maintenance	✓	
New Feature Approval and Administration		✓
Trail Opening/Closing	✓	
Emergency Marker and Info Kiosk Management		✓
Herbicide Application		✓
Provide Maintenance Storage Area		✓

Current Risks and Vulnerabilities

- Remaining BMTBR leadership looking to step down or take a reduced role.
- Becoming more difficult to recruit consistent group of regular volunteers to meet maintenance demands
- BMTBR is not a 501c3 so organization and fundraising ability for maintenance is not ideal
- Since BMTBR is not a formal organization, they do not possess the means to obtain/fund insurance
- If volunteer coordination and leadership by BMTBR ends, Parks is not equipped to provide adequate maintenance and trail would return to natural area unless funding is identified



Risk Reduction Option 1 – Maintenance Agreement

STAFF AND PARKS BOARD RECOMMENDED OPTION

Benefits

- Insured trail stewards and event host
- 501c3 non-profit
- Low risk
- Skilled in feature construction, design and maintenance
- Ability to raise funds and sustain maintenance
- Greater depth of volunteers for maintenance
- No cost increase to City

Costs

- No additional costs to City or additional duties beyond existing partnership with BMTBR



Fort Worth Mountain Bikers Association (FWMBA)

Manages 4 Trail Systems in Greater Fort Worth

- Fossil Creek Trail (City of North Richland Hills)
- Gateway Trail (City of Fort Worth)
- North Z. Boaz Trail (City of Fort Worth)
- Sansom Park Trail (City of Fort Worth)

Funding and Outreach

- FWMBA is funded through membership dues, donations, partner grants, and fundraisers
- Membership recruited through events, programs, website, and educational outreach
- Official website to manage trail status, events, announcements

Maintenance, Programming and Design

- 20 trail stewards/assistants
- Experience in maintaining, designing, and coordinating events for large trail systems
- Received letter of endorsement from Fort Worth Police Dept.

Organization

- 501c3 non-profit and insured for trail maintenance work and special events



Risk Reduction Option 2 – Full Maintenance by Parks

Benefits

- Self-insured
- High quality grounds maintenance and skilled in parks operations

- Low risk

Costs

- Requires additional funding for two part-time positions at \$64,000/year
- Not skilled in new feature construction or design – new feature construction or replacement of existing features may not be possible or would require **professional services contracts**. Time restraints and lack of expertise limit continuous improvement and innovation by leadership.



Maintenance/Operation Duties: Current vs Proposed

Task	Current		Proposed Option 1	
	BMTBR	Parks	FWMBA	Parks
Hand mowing and trimming	✓		✓	
Large area tractor mowing		✓		✓
Minor brush trimming	✓		✓	
Major tree or brush removal		✓		✓
Litter/debris removal	✓		✓	
Debris disposal	✓	✓	✓	✓
Feature construction and maintenance	✓		✓	
New feature approval and administration		✓		✓
Trail opening/closing	✓		✓	
Emergency marker and info kiosk management		✓	✓	✓
Herbicide application		✓	✓	✓
Provide maintenance storage area		✓		✓
Project and event approval		✓		✓
Project and event coordination	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fundraising			✓	

Next Steps

Staff recommends partnering with FWMBA

- FWMBA desires to partner with Burleson and enter into agreement for maintenance/operation of Chisenall Hike and Bike Trail
- BMTBR leadership/volunteers support and respect FWMBA as a partner and have shown overwhelming support in favor of FWMBA as steward of Chisenhall trails.
- **Parks Board supported partnership with FWMBA during July 13, 2023 meeting**
- Staff is seeking Council approval to enter into a 5-year maintenance agreement with FWMBA



Options

Parks Board
Recommendation

Staff Recommendation



Approve a five-year agreement with five (5) one-year renewal options with FWMBA for the maintenance of Chisenhall Hike and Bike Trails



Approve an agreement with FWMBA for maintenance of Chisenhall Hike and Bike Trail with changes



Deny agreement with FWMBA for the maintenance of Chisenhall Hike and Bike Trail