

Dalton Police Department Outdoor Range Proposal

Purpose of the Proposal

The Dalton Police Department is proposing to build an outdoor firearms training facility on city-owned property located off of Pleasant Grove Dr.

This site was previously purposed as an inert landfill several years ago. Currently, Dalton Public Works uses portions of this area to store mulch, vegetative debris, etc.

This facility will provide the department with the ability to meet its training needs with less dependence on other agencies and their facilities.

Proposed Location

- ▶ City-owned property
- ▶ Located off of Pleasant Grove Drive
- ▶ Currently being used by Public Works for brush collection and other projects
- ▶ DPD currently uses it for Physical Fitness Testing
- ▶ In the area of Raisin Woods Bicycle Park
- ▶ Range would be positioned on the Southeast corner of this property
- ▶ Safe orientation
 - ▶ Range faces north/northeast



Current Limitations

- ▶ We currently use the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office's range
- ▶ This dependence limits our officers' access to a training site
- ▶ Scheduling is time-consuming, inconsistent, and sometimes unavailable
- ▶ This range is used by multiple agencies, which limits availability
 - ▶ WCSO, Dalton PD, Varnell PD, Cohutta PD, Tunnel Hill PD, DSC Police, Ringgold PD, GSP, FBI
- ▶ This causes delays in officer training and readiness
- ▶ Unable to adequately train in low-light settings

Comparing Other Cities

- ▶ Dalton is often compared to other similar cities to evaluate and determine what resources are necessary to effectively support our operations and provide the best service possible to the community
- ▶ Cities like Gainesville, Rome, Marietta, and Valdosta have their own dedicated firearms training facility
- ▶ This provides greater training flexibility and frequency
- ▶ Dalton lacks this advantage



Marietta Police



Initial Construction Plan

- ▶ 50-yard pistol range with 12 lanes and dual targets for each lane
- ▶ Static targeting system
- ▶ 160-yard rifle range
- ▶ 270-degree berms on both ranges and natural backstop for safety
- ▶ Small building and two shelters
 - ▶ Storage of targets, stands, and equipment
 - ▶ Shelter from weather for students
 - ▶ Seating for rest and observation
 - ▶ Adequate restroom facility for students

Initial Construction Plan cont.



Down-range Concerns

- ▶ Nearest structure - 1500 feet
- ▶ Nearest down-range structure - approximately 2000 feet
- ▶ Berm walls will be built to 18-20 feet high on all sides.
- ▶ Ballistics and trajectory calculations show the weapons and ammunition used by the department present little to no concern to down-range structures.



Other Local Ranges

- ▶ Whitfield County Sheriff's Office
 - ▶ Distance to nearest structure - 1360 feet
 - ▶ Down range distance much further
- ▶ Murray County Sheriff's Office
 - ▶ Distance to nearest structure down-range - 276 feet



Other Local Ranges cont.

- ▶ Polk County Sheriff's Office
 - ▶ Distance to nearest structure down range - 833 feet
 - ▶ Nearest structure - 270 feet
- ▶ Rome Police Department
 - ▶ Nearest down range structure - 498 feet



Sound Concerns

- ▶ Decibel readings were measured at several nearby locations while conducting controlled firearms testing at the proposed site.
 - ▶ Oak View Dr. (county location east of property) - Highest reading was 75 dB, which is comparable to a noisy restaurant.
 - ▶ Hammond Creek Middle School - Highest reading was 54 dB, which is comparable to normal conversation. Principal Heather Lawson presented no concerns when approached about this project.
 - ▶ North side of property (near Raisin Woods trails) - Highest reading was 83 dB, which is comparable to heavy traffic.
 - ▶ West side of property (near Raising Woods trails) - Highest reading was 71 dB, which is comparable to a noisy restaurant.
- ▶ It is important to note that the addition of berm walls will provide sound absorption and displacement.

Lead Concerns

- ▶ EPA requires a plan to be in place to remove lead from the soil at regular intervals, usually around 10 years.
- ▶ Lead, if recycled or reused, is considered a scrap metal and is, therefore, excluded from hazardous materials regulations.
- ▶ There are companies that will remove the lead for free; their income comes from the recycling of the lead.

Safety Enhancements & Precautions

- ▶ Range designed for safety and containment
 - ▶ 18-20 feet side berm
 - ▶ 18-20 feet backstop
- ▶ Fencing and signage to restrict access
- ▶ Live-fire warnings clearly posted
- ▶ Control access with designated entry points
- ▶ Supervision by certified firearms instructors
- ▶ Provide emergency response equipment

Obstacles

- ▶ Power
 - ▶ Electricity is already on site but would have to be extended to the range location
 - ▶ Access to electricity will provide an opportunity to install cameras for monitoring.
- ▶ Water
 - ▶ Water is also on site, but would need to be extended to the range location
- ▶ Sewer
 - ▶ Sewer is not available at this location, so septic would be the only option

Cost Estimates

- ▶ Public Works has agreed to assist with earthmoving to build the berms.
- ▶ Public Works may also be able to assist with other aspects of the project.
- ▶ Two covered shelters - \$12,000
- ▶ Cinder block building - \$10,000
- ▶ 8' chain-link fence around the entire structure - \$150,000

Benefits

- ▶ Guarantees access for training
- ▶ Supports frequent and consistent training, as well as training program flexibility
- ▶ Facilitates advanced and scenario-based training
- ▶ Enables control over training environment
- ▶ Boosts morale and professionalism
- ▶ Serves as a recruitment and retention tool
- ▶ Reduces liability through training preparedness

The Future

- ▶ Host regional training courses and qualifications
 - ▶ This will bring people in from across the state
- ▶ Support department programs, such as *Citizens' Academy*
- ▶ Expand the training facility capabilities over time