



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
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Dripping Springs, TX 78602

Submitted By: Kelly Schmidt, Parks & Community Services Director

**Parks & Recreation
Commission
Meeting Date:** January 4, 2021

**Agenda Item
Wording:** Discuss and consider recommendation regarding a request for a recreation trail connecting Springlake neighborhood and Dripping Springs Ranch Park

**Agenda Item
Requestor:** Travis Wilson, Springlake Resident

Summary/Background: On September 13, 2020 Director Schmidt was contacted by Travis Wilson, a resident of the Spring Lake neighborhood in Dripping Springs. Approximately 15 lots of the Spring Lake neighborhood are located within the City's incorporated limits the rest are in the ETJ.

In the communication Mr. Wilson proposed a possible connection route from his neighborhood to the park:

“I live at 1807 Spring Valley Drive just north of Dripping Springs. My residence is not in the City limits; however, we are frequent users of the trails at the Dripping Springs Ranch Park. To access the park, we have to utilize a vehicle. I'd like to discuss possibilities for a trail connection between the DS Ranch Park and the Springlake neighborhood. I see there is a connection shown on the 2017 Trail Master Plan, but I don't know what the timeline is for that connection or what steps are required (land acquisition, etc.).

I also wanted to pitch another possible alignment for the City to consider: using an easement following the alignment of the existing gas pipeline between the Springlake neighborhood and the DS Ranch Park as shown in the attached GoogleEarth kmz file. Has this idea been explored? The existing pipeline runs through the ranch park and crosses a public street within the Springlake neighborhood. I know that there are a couple of property owners that would need to be approached (including the gas company), but I'd like to know your thoughts on this possibility. The gas pipeline runs through the existing ranch park, and indeed, part of the mountain bike trail overlaps the gas line alignment, so I think the gas company would not have any significant objection to a trail easement (my speculation, of

course). I would propose only a trail easement with a “soft-scape” trail (i.e., not a hardscape improvement at this time).”

Staff

Recommendation:

At this time, staff does not have the resources to explore a trail connector from Springlake to DSRP nor have connectivity trails been prioritized directly in the P, R, O Master Plan and annual operating budget. Staff is happy to support the work of community volunteers that are interested in researching the endeavor and pursuit further.

There are many funding resources out there for trail connectivity to be explored. However, with the creation of Rathgeber Natural Resource Park all PCS staff time will be devoted to that park development.

It is

Attachments:

Email Communication

Proposed conceptual trail connector map

Next Steps/Schedule:

If PRC Commission & DSRP Board support the concept, review with Lead Planner for viability and assist Mr. Wilson when possible serving as City liaison for his endeavor.