



Planning and Zoning Commission Planning Department Staff Report

**Planning & Zoning
Commission Meeting:** September 22, 2020

Project Planner: Amanda Padilla, Senior Planner

Item Details

Project: Amendment to the Dripping Springs City-Wide Trails Plan Map

Request: Staff is requesting to update the City-Wide Trail Plan to add a trail approved in the Town Increment Reinvestment Zone Project Plan on Old Fitzhugh Road, a trail connection to the Heritage development north on Mercer, and changes to reflect installation of Trails.

Overview

It is customary as a City grows to make needed updates to the Official City-Wide Trails Plan Map. With the submittal of new development applications, the City became aware of the need for Trail Connections along Old Fitzhugh Road and Mercer St. As well as the need to update the map to show City trails that have been constructed within the last couple of years.

City Staff has made the following changes (Individual explanations will be below):

1. Changed the overall layout of the Official City-Wide Trails Plan
2. Added two (2) Old Fitzhugh Road Trail connections
3. Added one (1) trail connection to the Heritage Subdivision on Mercer St near City Hall
4. Updated the trail in Dripping Springs Sports and Recreation Park
5. Changed the symbol for previously proposed trails that have been constructed from “proposed trails” to “existing trails”

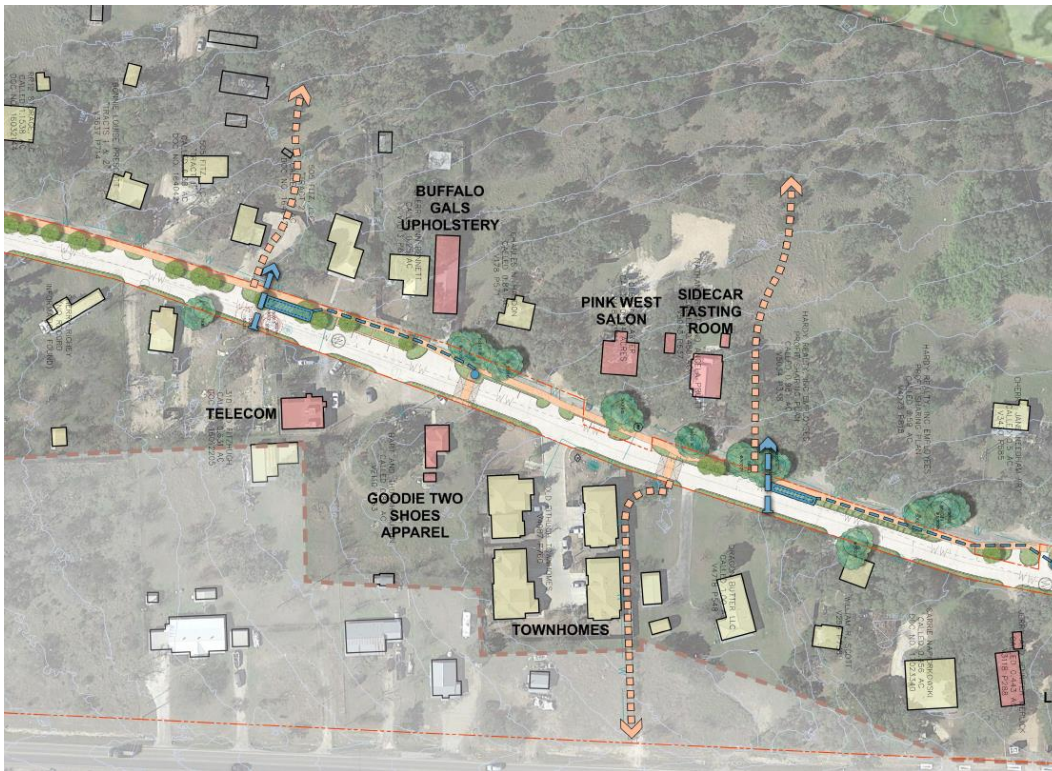
Change #1. Changed the overall layout of the Official City-Wide Trails Plan

The Layout for the Plan has been changed slightly to allow for a larger map extent.

Change #2. Added two (2) Old Fitzhugh Road Trail connections

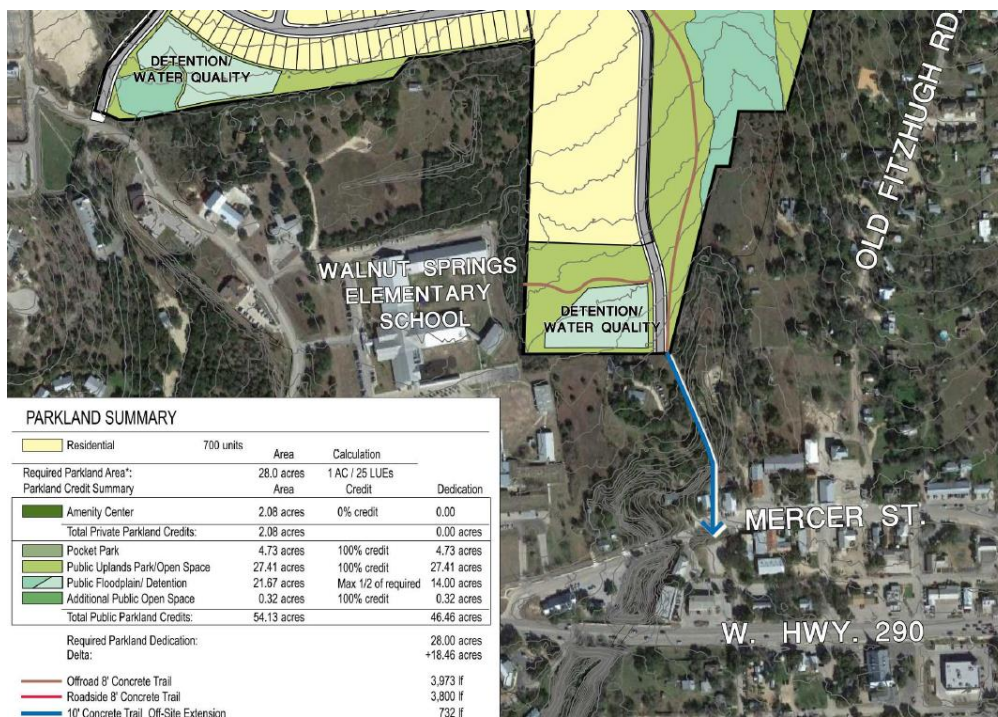
In April 2017, The TIRZ board approved four priority projects: Old Fitzhugh Road, Town Center, Triangle Development and Downtown Parking. The Dripping Springs City Council approved the Old Fitzhugh Road Concept Plan on August 21, 2018. This plan seeks to preserve the rural character of the current street while improving traffic flow, pedestrian access and safety, and drainage issues. The Old Fitzhugh Road TIRZ Project shows two (2) trail Connections that would lead to the Heritage Subdivision Development, that is intended to have internal sidewalk/trails. As well as a connection from the Old Fitzhugh Historic District to Founders Park Road. Staff wanted to reflect this on the City-Wide Trail Plan.

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Change 3. Added one (1) trail connection to the Heritage Subdivision on Mercer St near City Hall

In 2017 the City approved the Planned Development District No 5: Heritage Subdivision. The Subdivision is located North of Mercer Street and West of Old Fitzhugh Road. The Development Proposed 595 Single Family lots. The Planned Development District shows future connections to Mercer Street. City Council recently approved the Heritage Development Parkland dedication based on the Parks and Recreation Commission’s recommendation, which showed a future trail connection to Mercer Street. Staff wanted to reflect this on the City-Wide Trail Plan.



Change 4. Updated the trail in Dripping Springs Sports and Recreation Park

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Staff wanted to reflect on the City-Wide Trail what trails currently existed at Dripping Springs Sports and Recreation Park.

Change 5. Changed the symbol for trails that were marked “proposed trails” to “existing trails”

As the City has been growing the City has been able to gather grants to construct “proposed trails” or encourage developers to construct “proposed trails”. Staff wanted to reflect this on the City-Wide Trail to give Citizens and City Council an accurate depiction of the Trail System within the City.

Summary and Staff Recommendation

The above changes were made to accurately depict the City’s inventory of trail and future connectivity of trails. The changes also align with the City’s Comprehensive Goal of Livability and Quality of Life. **Staff is recommending approval of the Amended City-Wide Trails Pan.**

Parks and Recreation Recommendation

A motion was made by Commissioner Fougerat to recommend approval of an Amendment to the Dripping Springs City-Wide Trails Plan Map. Commissioner Henline seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5 to 0.

Public Notification

Notice for the public hearing was placed in the Dripping Springs Century-News for the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council Meetings, notice was placed on the City Website.

Meetings Schedule

September 1, 2020 – Parks and Recreation Commission - approved
September 22, 2020 – Planning and Zoning Commission
October 13, 2020 - City Council Meeting

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Amended City Wide Trail Plan – July 9, 2019
Exhibit 2 – Updated City Wide-Trail Plan – August 26, 2020
Exhibit 3 – Old Fitzhugh Road TIRZ project
Exhibit 4 – Heritage Subdivision Parkland Dedication

Recommended Action:	Recommend approval of the City-Wide Trails Plan Map
Alternatives/Options:	Recommend denial of the City-Wide Trails Plan Map
Public Comments:	None received at this time
Comprehensive Plan Element:	Comprehensive Plan Goals: Livability/ Quality of Life (Implement City-Wide Trails) The City should continue its work to expand these facilities as funding is available.