



Agenda

City of Lucas Parks and Open Space Board Meeting October 23, 2018

7:00 PM

City Hall - 665 Country Club Road – Lucas, Texas

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Parks and Open Space Board will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 7:00 pm at Lucas City Hall, located at 665 Country Club Road, Lucas, Texas 75002-7651 at which time the following agenda will be discussed.

Call to Order

- Roll Call
- Determination of Quorum
- Reminder to turn off or silence cell phones
- Pledge of Allegiance

Regular Agenda

1. Consider approving the minutes of the April 24, 2018 Parks and Open Space Board meeting. **(City Secretary Stacy Henderson)**
2. Consider quarterly review of Parks Board projects, goals and objectives established by the project matrix. **(Parks Board)**
3. Discuss Keep Lucas Beautiful Fall Sweep Clean-up and Arbor Day Event. **(Special Projects Coordinator Kent Souriyasak, Board Member Bill Esposito)**
4. Receive update regarding details of the Scarecrow Contest to be held November 3, 2018. **(Parks Board Members Debra Guillemaud and Ken Patterson)**
5. Update on improvements to the Lucas Community Park, East Winningkoff Trailhead, Kenneth R. Lewis Park, and Forest Creek Park. **(Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn)**
6. Update for possible grant funding for a Little League baseball field in the Lucas Community Park next to City Hall. **(Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn)**
7. Discuss partnering with the Trinity Trail Preservation Association (TTPA) for a clean-up event on Saturday, September 28, 2019 in support of National Public Lands Day. **(Special Projects Coordinator Kent Souriyasak)**
8. Adjournment.

Certification

I do hereby certify that the above notice was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act on the bulletin board at Lucas City Hall, 665 Country Club Road, Lucas, TX 75002 and on the City's website at www.lucastexas.us on or before 5:00 p.m. on October 17, 2018.

Stacy Henderson, City Secretary

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, the City of Lucas will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending public meetings at City Hall. Requests for accommodations or interpretive services should be directed to Stacy Henderson at 972-912-1211 or by email at shenderson@lucastexas.us at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.



City of Lucas

Parks and Open Space Board Request

October 23, 2018

Requester: City Secretary Stacy Henderson

Agenda Item Request

Consider approving the minutes of the July 24, 2018 Parks and Open Space Board meeting.

Background Information

NA

Attachments/Supporting Documentation

1. July 24, 2018 Parks and Open Space Board minutes

Budget/Financial Impact

NA

Recommendation

NA

Motion

I make a motion to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2018 Parks and Open Space Board meeting.



Parks and Open Space Board Meeting
July 24, 2018
7:00 p.m.
City Hall – 665 Country Club Road, Lucas Texas
Minutes

Call to Order

Chairman Rhoads called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Parks Board Members Present:

Chairman David Rhoads
Vice Chairman Chris Vanhorn
Member Kenneth Patterson
Member Bill Esposito
Member Tommy Dewitt
Alternate Member Debra Guillemaud

Staff Present:

City Manager Joni Clarke
City Secretary Stacy Henderson
Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn
Special Projects Coordinator Cathey Bonczar

City Council Liaison Present:

Councilmember Tim Baney

Chairman Rhoads determined that a quorum was present and reminded all in attendance to silence their cell phones. The Board conducted the Pledge of Allegiance.

Regular Agenda

1. **Consider approving the minutes of the April 24, 2018 Parks and Open Space Board meeting.**

MOTION: A motion was made by Chairman Rhoads, seconded by Member Patterson to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously by a 6 to 0 vote.

2. **Consider quarterly review of Parks Board projects, goals and objectives established by the project matrix.**

Board Member Patterson suggested that the most recent dated item on the matrix be placed at the top of the list. The Board concluded that the dates on the matrix were sufficient to allow the members to know which items were up for review.

3. **Discuss Keep Lucas Beautiful Fall Sweep Clean-up and Arbor Day Event.**

Special Projects Coordinator Cathey Bonczar shared the details of the Fall Sweep Clean-up and Arbor Day event with the Board stating the event would be held on November 4 from 8:00 am – noon at the Community Park. Participants would be asked to preregister, and forms would be available online. Safety vests, gloves, bags, bug spray and water would be provided by City staff, and a hotdog lunch would be served to volunteers at the end of the clean-up event. Board Member Bill Esposito explained that the 4-H Club

would again be participating in the Arbor Day event by providing 200 sapling trees and members of the club would be handing out starter bags of mulch with the trees. Ms. Bonczar noted that representatives from Texas Pure would be on hand sharing information about their organic products, and the Collin County Master Gardeners have been invited back as well.

4. Receive update regarding details of the Scarecrow Contest to be held November 3, 2018.

Board Member Debra Guillemaud shared details about this year's contest. She noted that anyone wishing to participate would submit their scarecrow entries at the Community Park from October 13 through the 19. City Secretary Stacy Henderson would be responsible for collecting the registration forms. City staff would create a space for each entry by installing stakes with numbers. Ms. Guillemaud stated that the Parks Board would judge each entry the week of October 29, using the score card developed by the Board. The scarecrow displays would remain at the park until November 3, and winners would be announced at the Fall Sweep Clean-up/Arbor Day event at the Community Park. Ms. Guillemaud noted that prizes would consist of gift cards and communication of the event has been in the Lucas Leader as well on the City's website.

5. Update on improvements to the Lucas Community Park, East Winningkoff Trailhead, Kenneth R. Lewis Park, and Forest Creek Park.

Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn discussed updates to the various parks including:

- Lucas Community Park work was complete with the following items:
 - Split rail fencing
 - Cleanup of landscaping
- East Winningkoff Trailhead was complete with split rail fencing
- Kenneth R Lewis Park was partially complete with the following items:
 - Drainage and erosion prevention at sidewalks
 - Additional landscaping
 - Projects out for bid include updating the scoreboard.
 - Painting the dugouts.
- Forest Creek Community Park – Partially complete with the following items:
 - Existing pavilion was removed, and a new pavilion installed
 - Tree line trimmed and thinned out
 - Playground equipment refurbished

6. Provide an update on the Keep Texas Beautiful Annual Conference.

Special Projects Coordinator Cathey Bonczar discussed information gleaned from the conference on applying for the Governors Community Achievement Award and noted that the City had hosted several activities that would be considered in helping the City to qualify for the \$130,000 grant from TxDOT. Ms. Bonczar noted that she would continue to monitor and track data to prepare for making application in 2019.

7. Discuss the possibility of hosting a hazardous waste, batteries, and E-Waste recycling event.

City staff was asked to check into the possibility of hosting a Hazardous Waste drop off event. Special Projects Coordinator Cathey Bonczar reached out to several sister cities to inquire about this type of event. She spoke with Donna Kliwer, Waste Services Manager for the City of Allen, Steve Funk, Environmental Waste Services Superintendent for the City of Plano, and a representative from the City of Parker. All cities said it is a very expensive and cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000 dollars for a single event. Our current waste services provider, Barnes Waste Disposal Services provides a monthly curbside pickup which residents can call in and arrange directly with Barnes. Staff recommends

going with this final option. The Board briefly discussed conducting another E-Waste drop-off again next year utilizing the same company that the City contracted with in May this year.

8. Discuss adding a Little League baseball field in the Community Park next to City Hall.

Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn discussed adding a Little League Baseball Field behind City Hall east of the Community Center. Board Member Patterson expressed concern with regards to how the field follow the guidelines outlined by the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Hilbourn explained that the ball field follows the guidelines of reallocating space within the existing Community Park footprint, but not adding another park. Mr. Hilbourn explained that the approximate cost of building the field was approximately \$30,000 which did not include benches, bleachers, or a dugout. The Board discussed whether this would interfere with parking for events such as Founders Day and Country Christmas, and Mr. Hilbourn showed how the field could be sectioned off leaving adequate space for event parking. The Board requested staff to take this before the City Council for consideration.

MOTION: A motion was made by Chairman Rhoads, seconded by Mr. Esposito to recommend approving a Little League Field at the Community Park and requested staff take the item before City Council for consideration. The motion passed unanimously by a 6 to 0 vote.

9. Adjournment.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Vanhorn, seconded by Mr. Patterson to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm. The motion passed unanimously by a 6 to 0 vote.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

David Rhoads, Chairman

Stacy Henderson, City Secretary



City of Lucas

Parks and Open Space Board Request

October 23, 2018

Requester: Parks Board

Agenda Item Request

Consider quarterly review of Parks Board projects, goals and objectives established by the project matrix.

Background Information

NA

Attachments/Supporting Documentation

1. Project Matrix

Budget/Financial Impact

NA

Recommendation

NA

Motion

NA

PRIORITIZATION LIST OF PARKS BOARD PROJECTS

Projects	Meeting to be Discussed	Budgeted 2018-2019	Parks Member Assigned to Project
Founders Day	January	YES	Dave
Keep Lucas Beautiful Spring Cleanup Event	January	YES	Bill
Scarecrow Event	January	NA	Debra/Ken
Tree City USA	January	YES	Staff
First Trail Segment from Willow Springs to Stinson Road	April	YES	Chris
Texas Arbor Day	April	YES	Bill
Annually Review: Comp Plan, Park Rules and Park Fees	April	NA	Ken
Keep Texas Beautiful Annual Conference	July	YES	Bill
Keep Lucas Beautiful Fall Cleanup Event	July	YES	Bill
Country Christmas	October	YES	Staff
Adopt a Highway	As Needed	NO	Staff
Educational Seminars for Lucas Residents	As Needed	NA	Chris
Expansion of Lucas Community Park	As Needed	NO	Staff



City of Lucas

Parks and Open Space Board Request

October 23, 2018

Requester: Special Projects Coordinator Kent Souriyasak, Board Member Bill Esposito

Agenda Item Request

Discuss Keep Lucas Beautiful Fall Sweep Clean-up and Arbor Day Event.

Background Information

Keep Lucas Beautiful will host our annual Fall Sweep Clean-up and Arbor Day event on Saturday, November 3 from 8:00 – 12:00 noon. The clean-up begins and ends at the Lucas Community Park, with a complimentary lunch being served at the end of the event. Participants will again be asked to pre-register by completing the required Volunteer Release form. The form will be placed on the City's website at a later date. Supplies such as safety vests, gloves and trash bags will be provided.

The annual Arbor Day event will be held at the same time as the clean-up. Two hundred (200) trees have been ordered that the Legacy 4-H Club will be giving away, and representatives from Texas Pure and the Collin County Master Gardeners will be invited to participate again this year.

Volunteers are needed to assist with registration, handing out supplies, and clean-up activities after lunch.

Attachments/Supporting Documentation

NA

Budget/Financial Impact

NA

Recommendation

NA

Motion

NA



City of Lucas

Parks and Open Space Board Request

October 23, 2018

Requester: Parks Board Members Debra Guillemaud and Ken Patterson

Agenda Item Request

Receive update regarding details of the Scarecrow Contest to be held November 3, 2018.

Background Information

The Scarecrow Committee consisting of Debra Guillemaud and Ken Patterson will update the Parks Board regarding activities and details associated with the Scarecrow event to be held November 3, 2018 that include:

- Registration of scarecrow (October 15 – October 19)
- Stakes will be installed in the park and numbered by City staff.
- Display will be ongoing until November 3 when the winners will be announced at the Arbor Day event.
- Voting to be done the week October 29 by the Parks Board.
- Gift Cards in the amount of \$25, \$50 and \$100
- Voting to be done by the Parks Board. Voting criteria will consist of 50% on effort and 50% on creativity.
- Communication of event

Attachments/Supporting Documentation

1. Scarecrow Poster

Budget/Financial Impact

NA

Recommendation

NA

Motion

NA

SCARECROWS IN THE PARK

OCTOBER 20 THRU NOVEMBER 3

Registration October 15-19



Enjoy the Fall Season by participating in the Scarecrow Contest and tour the Scarecrows on display at the Lucas Community Park.

Register your scarecrow at City Hall or online at www.lucastexas.us and create your scarecrow in your assigned area at the park. Registration is free and you will be eligible for a \$100, \$50 or \$25 prize.

Scarecrows will be on display at the park October 20 – November 3 and winners will be announced at the Fall Sweep Cleanup/Arbor Day Event on November 3.

REGISTRATION AVAILABLE OCTOBER 15 – 19

Register at City Hall or online at www.lucastexas.us

For questions, contact Debra Guillemaud at
dguillemaud@lucastexas.us

Cash Prizes

\$100

\$50

\$25

It's Free



City of Lucas

Parks and Open Space Board Request

October 23, 2018

Item No. 05

Requester: Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn

Agenda Item Request

Update on improvements to the Lucas Community Park, East Winningkoff Trailhead, Kenneth R. Lewis Park, and Forest Creek Park.

Background Information

During fiscal year 17/18 the City of Lucas took on a number of parks project updates. Some of the updates are minor in nature and others are more significant. The following projects are complete or underway:

- Lucas Community Park – Complete
 - Split rail fencing will be added in two areas, one area to separate the parking lot from the park; and the second area from the Community Center to the Public Works yard
 - Clean up landscaping and add additional plants
- East Winningkoff Trailhead – Partially complete
 - Split rail fencing
 - Pricing for the round pen came in too high. Bids will be attempted again when the economy slows.
- Kenneth R Lewis Park – Partially complete
 - Drainage and erosion prevention - Complete
 - Additional landscaping - Complete
 - Updates to pavilion needed as well as obtaining quotes for a roof leak.
- Forest Creek Community Park – Complete
 - Existing pavilion removed, and a new pavilion installed - Complete
 - Tree line trimmed and thinned out - Complete
 - Painting swing sets, refurbishing playground equipment, and new mulch - Complete
 - New benches have been ordered, along with soccer goals, trees and picnic tables - Complete
 - Basketball courts – Complete
 - Finalize grade and sod work – Scheduled

Due to inclement weather, the grand re-opening of Forest Creek Park was rescheduled to October 27 at 9 am.

Attachments/Supporting Documentation

1. Pictures of park improvements



City of Lucas
Parks and Open Space Board Request
October 23, 2018

Requester: Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn

Budget/Financial Impact

NA

Recommendation

NA

Motion

NA

Kenneth R Lewis Park Pavilion



Kenneth R Lewis Park Pavilion





Forest Creek Park Pavilion



Forest Creek Park Pavilion

Forest Creek Park Basketball Court





City of Lucas

Parks and Open Space Board Request

October 23, 2018

Requester: Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn

Agenda Item Request

Update for possible grant funding for a Little League baseball field in the Lucas Community Park next to City Hall.

Background Information

In the past we have been able to acquire funding for projects through Collin County bond funds. There is an item on the November ballot, Collin County - Proposition C to allow for “the issuance of \$10,000,000 bonds for the acquisition and improvement of land for park and open space purposes, including participation in joint county-city projects, and the levy of a tax in payment thereof.” If funding is passed, staff will proceed with a grant application. The next grant funding would occur in 2019 with awarded projects starting in 2020.

Attachments/Supporting Documentation

1. NA

Budget/Financial Impact

A practice field is estimated to cost approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 and is currently not included in the Fiscal Year 18/19 proposed budget. The cost estimate does not include items such as bleachers, dugouts, or benches.

Recommendation

NA

Motion

There is no motion required, this is an update only.



City of Lucas

Parks and Open Space Board Request

October 23, 2018

Requester: Special Projects Coordinator Kent Souriyasak

Agenda Item Request

Discuss partnering with the Trinity Trail Preservation Association (TTPA) for a clean-up event on Saturday, September 28, 2019 in support of National Public Lands Day.

Background Information

National Public Lands Day is a holiday observed annually on the 4th Saturday in September. The purpose of this holiday is to encourage people to get out and enjoy the public land which promotes the conservation of public lands. On this day, many volunteers all over the United States head out to their National Parks to do some good. On National Public Lands Day, many federally managed lands waive their fees. This day is the biggest single-day volunteer effort for public lands. One of the best ways to celebrate National Public Lands Day is by volunteering to do conservation efforts on this day.

Details for organizing and funding would be defined over the next year. Advertising can be handled through the Lucas Leader, the City's website, the TTPA website, and newspapers. Additional involvement can include reaching out to the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center and United States Army Corp of Engineers.

Attachments/Supporting Documentation

1. National Public Lands Day information
2. Trinity Trails Preservation Association information

Budget/Financial Impact

Expenses to include clean-up supplies, lunch for volunteers, and rental of high terrain golf carts to transport volunteers to clean-up areas. Funding will be utilized from Fiscal Year 18/19 Keep Lucas Beautiful account 11-6211-446.

Recommendation

Special Projects Coordinator Kent Souriyasak recommends the Parks and Open Space Board partner with the Trinity Trail Preservation Association for a clean-up event on Saturday, September 28, 2019 in support of National Public Lands Day.

Motion

I make a motion to partner with Trinity Trails Preservation Association for a cleanup event on September 28, 2019 supporting National Public Lands Day.

[DONATE >](#)

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

A Successful 25th Annual National Public Lands Day!

On Saturday, September 22, volunteers pitched in on public lands throughout the country and at sites in all 50 states as part of the 25th annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD).

Organized each year by the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), National Public Lands Day promotes the connection between people and the environment by inviting everyone to get outside. With support from NPLD national corporate sponsor Toyota, eight federal agency partners, hundreds of state and local partners, and dozens of nonprofit organizations, National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort.

Every day, natural disasters and extreme weather, human activities, and a host of other factors take their toll on our public lands, threatening the health and wellbeing of the people and wildlife who depend on them. Public land managers, volunteers, and others who steward these special places work tirelessly to restore these areas, make them more resilient to future threats, and ensure that people and wildlife continue to enjoy them for years to come.

This enduring support and commitment to public lands year after year inspired NEEF to focus National Public Lands Day 2018 on **resilience and restoration**. Our natural resources are resilient, but only if we treat them right and give them the care they need. Through volunteer service on National Public Lands Day as well as grant support to local organizations, NEEF

helps ensure people of all ages and abilities connect with public lands for recreation, hands-on learning, and community-building—now and in the future.

Some activities are still going on to celebrate National Public Lands Day, you can find them on our events calendar.

Mark your calendar for next year: **Saturday, September 28, 2019!**

GET INVOLVED



National Public Lands Day 2018 Snapshot

Over 100,000 volunteers. 450,000 volunteer hours. \$11.2 million value of volunteer work.



NPLD For Site Managers

This hub serves as a repository for site managers to register, develop, and promote their events, working with NEEF other NPLD partners.

[DONATE >](#)

National Public Lands Day Frequently Asked Questions

What is National Public Lands Day (NPLD)?

When is NPLD?

Who participates in NPLD?

I am not with a federal public land. Can I still participate in NPLD?

What are the benefits of hosting an NPLD event?

How can I register my event?

Are there a minimum number of volunteers required to register an event for NPLD?

What does NPLD accomplish?

What's in it for volunteers?

What do volunteers do?

What kind of work projects apply towards NPLD?

Where should interested volunteers go to find my event online?

This is the first time I am hosting an NPLD event. Are there resources to help me plan my event?

Who supports NPLD?

Why is Toyota participating?

What is the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)?

How can people stay informed about NPLD?

What is National Public Lands Day (NPLD)?

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer event for public lands. Held annually on the fourth Saturday in September, it will be on Saturday, Sept. 22 in 2018. NPLD is also a "fee-free day"—entrance fees are waived at national parks and other public lands. NEEF (National Environmental Education Foundation) coordinates National Public Lands Day.

NPLD brings together hundreds of thousands of individual and organizational volunteers to help restore the country's public lands. These are the places Americans use for outdoor recreation, education, and just plain enjoyment. The lands encompass national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, forests, grasslands, marine sanctuaries, lakes, and reservoirs, as well as state, county, and city parks that are managed by public agencies, but that belong to and are enjoyed by all of us.

This enduring support and commitment to public lands year after year inspired NEEF to focus National Public Lands Day 2018 on ***resilience and restoration***. Our natural resources are resilient, but only if we treat them right and give them the care they need. Through volunteer service on National Public Lands Day as well as grant support to local organizations, NEEF helps ensure people of all ages and abilities connect with public lands for recreation, hands-on learning, and community-building—now and in the future.

When is NPLD?

The 25th annual National Public Lands Day celebration will take place on **Saturday, September 22, 2018**. The date is different every year and falls on the fourth Saturday in September.

Who participates in NPLD?

NPLD brings together hundreds of thousands of individual to help restore the country's public lands at the federal, state, and local level. Participating federal agencies include the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, the Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the USDA Forest Service.

I am not with a federal public land. Can I still participate in NPLD?

Yes! Any state, local, country or regional public land can host an NPLD event. School grounds and community gardens can also participate. There is no limitation on the size or the managing agency of the public land. As long as the land is held in the public trust (no private land) and accessible to the public, it can be an NPLD site.

What are the benefits of hosting an NPLD event?

There are many reasons for a public land to consider hosting an NPLD event. With its status as the nation's largest one-day volunteer event for public lands, NPLD receives considerable attention and press at the local and national level. Its prominence serves as a catalyst to attract new volunteers and visitors to your public land. Once a person is introduced to your park as a volunteer, they will want to return again and again.

How can I register my event?

You can register your 2018 NPLD event online at: <https://www.neefusa.org/NPLD>.

Are there a minimum number of volunteers required to register an event for NPLD?

No! Events range from small family trail clean-ups to 500 person mega-events that mobilize entire communities.

What did NPLD accomplish?

Check out the 2017 NPLD Impact Report: <https://www.neefusa.org/npld-snapshot>

What's in it for volunteers?

National Public Lands Day is a fantastic opportunity to get off the couch and out into beautiful natural settings. Volunteers can participate as a family or with school, community, or national groups such as the Student Conservation Association, Outdoor Nation, Boy Scouts of America, or Girl Scouts of the USA. The event is a great opportunity to get kids outside and help erase the “nature deficit” among the next generation.

All volunteers will get the satisfaction that comes from preserving and protecting their favorite public places, along with the physical exercise and family togetherness

of a day full of enhancing, planting, and beautifying.

What do volunteers do?

Volunteers plant trees and native vegetation, build and refurbish trails, remove trash and invasive plants, repair bridges, restore historic structures, monitor endangered species, and restore habitats.

What kind of work projects apply towards NPLD?

Any project that benefits the public land can be registered for NPLD. The majority of projects are focused on habitat restoration such as tree plantings, trash or invasive plant removal, bird or bat house construction, trail maintenance, fence removal and gardening. Historic sites typically host beautification projects including trash pick-ups, painting, sculpture renovation and other needed projects.

Some public lands do not have the ability to host volunteer events. In these cases, the public land usually holds education programming. Examples include hikes, talks on public land issues, fishing derbys, festivals, classes on water quality testing and geocaching programs.

Where should interested volunteers go to find my event online?

Volunteers should use the NPLD site map on the NPLD landing page:

<https://www.neefusa.org/npld>

This is the first time I am hosting an NPLD event. Are there resources to help me as I plan for September 24?

Yes! The NPLD website is loaded with helpful resources, tips and ideas for leading an NPLD event including a Site Manager Promotional Toolkit:

<https://www.neefusa.org/resource/npld-2018-site-manager-promotional-toolkit>.

Who supports NPLD?

While NEEF is the national host, Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc. is the national sponsor of National Public Lands Day.

NPLD has seven federal agency partners are the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, National Park Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Forest Service. Other participants include more than 250 state, county, city, university, and school partners, as well as many parks and recreation departments.

Why is Toyota participating?

Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc. has been the national sponsor of NPLD for over 20 years. Every year Toyota encourages its employees to get involved in NPLD at the nation's parks, forests, rivers, beaches, shorelines, and other public lands. Since 1999, more than 4,000 Toyota employees and their families have volunteered at more than 470 different sites on National Public Lands Day.

What is the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)?

NEEF is a nonprofit organization that was chartered by Congress in 1990 to partner with the EPA to advance environmental literacy nationwide. NEEF's vision is bold: By 2022, 300 million Americans actively use environmental knowledge to ensure the well-being of the earth and its people. To achieve its vision, NEEF offers scientific, unbiased, factual information through its own communications platforms, as well as a network of trusted professionals and affinity communities that, with their relationships and credibility, amplify environmental messages to national audiences. NEEF also implements environmental education investments in areas that best connect with everyday life: health, weather/climate, and nature where we live, learn, work, and play. Learn more at [NEEFusa.org](https://www.neefusa.org) – or follow NEEF on [Facebook](#) & Twitter [@NEEFusa](#).

How can people stay informed about NPLD?

You can visit or bookmark our website <https://www.neefusa.org/NPLD>, as well as follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). The hashtag is [#NPLD](#).

Email NPLD@neefusa.org with any questions or for more information about National Public Lands Day.

About the Trinity Trail Preservation Association



TTPA Members enjoying the trail

Trinity Trail Preservation Association is an all-volunteer equestrian organization whose main purpose is to maintain the 25.5-mile long trail on the Corps of Engineers land along Lake Lavon northeast of Dallas.

The multi-purpose trail runs from Highland Park in Lucas to Brockdale Park in Lucas through Collin Park in St. Paul to Eastfork Park in Wylie.

Horse and foot traffic are welcome on the trail, however, no wheeled or motorized vehicles are authorized.

[Downloadable Brochure on TTPA \(pdf\)](#)

TTPA Mission

We are a non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of the Trinity Equestrian and Hiking Trail. We hold trail rides, work days and educational events for the trail rider and fund-raising events for trail maintenance and extension. This group is regional and has over 260 members from all over the Metroplex.

Our funding has been from 50% matching grants awarded by Texas parks & Wildlife, Collin County, cash donations from members, thousands of volunteer hours and the help and support of the Corps of Engineers, and the cities of Lucas and Wyle.

We are very proud of our latest improvements at Brockdale and Eastfork trailheads. We have water and electricity, installed covered picnic tables, and a round pen. For water conservation and to prevent vandalism, the water will remain locked. The club is responsible for the water bill; however, we have provided water troughs for watering the horses.

We hope to have your help and support to maintain this beautiful, scenic equestrian and hiking trail along Lake Lavon.



TTPA riders on the trail

TTPA Formation

The very beginning of the trail around Lake Lavon occurred when Collin County acquired a 20-year easement for the trail (renewable at the end of the 20-year agreement). A narrow path was marked and one culvert installed on each side (Eastfork and Brockdale). The culvert at Brockdale, which was installed by the County, is the first one on the trail and is still stable. The culvert on the Eastfork side washed completely free many years ago.

However, in 1996, Collin County decided to close the existing horse trail on Lake Lavon unless an organized group was formed within 30 days to take over maintenance of the horse trail. A group of concerned citizens called a public meeting, which was held at the Lucas Community Center, and news of the meeting spread by word-of-mouth. Thus, Trinity Trail Preservation Association was formed in September 1996.

Julie Bell, President; Charlie Gaines, Vice President; Selena Copeland, Trail Steward; Sharon Berryman, Treasurer; Jill Korbolic, Secretary; David James, Board Member. Julie, Charlie and Selena met with Teresa Biddick, Parks & Open Space Manager and began the process of negotiating a contract. We also began having “required” monthly workdays to show our intent to maintain the trail. We were not allowed to do any major improvements until we had an approved contract.

Eventually, Julie Bell stepped down from the Presidency and we elected Andrea Calve, an attorney. And, we badly needed an attorney in our contract negotiations. The negotiations lasted over a year with new requirements continuously being brought up by various commissioners. During that year, Andrea and Selena incorporated the association, acquired 501(c)(3) status, acquired liability insurance, etc. Charlie and Selena conducted and recorded the volunteer work days for proof of our interest. Our contract was finally awarded.

The Corp of Engineers office then required us to reroute the trail so that the trail went around instead of over the hills and the elevation remained above 503', preferably 505'. A crew consisting of Keely Helton, Curtis Helton (who provided the survey equipment and know-how), Charlie Gaines and Selena Copeland learned how to survey and marked the trail, tying ribbons on the trees to be cut. They then walked the entire trail with Bob Woolley, our assigned Park Ranger, and Teresa Biddick to get approval for culvert sizes and tree cutting, etc.

The progress the first year was slow because initially we could not use heavy equipment. All tree cutting, etc. was done by hand on the workdays. We did have large turn-outs of up to 18 people on the workdays. Cliff & Pat Martin always brought their tractor and gator. As the Corp of Engineers and the County gained more confidence in our work, we were able to use heavy equipment on the trail. The largest culvert on Brockdale side was replaced with consecutively larger culverts about every 6 months, because the creek kept getting deeper and larger.

TTPA In Transition



TTPA Members Carry Colors in Local Parade

During the next few years, Betty Hall, CPA, took over as treasurer, Selena Copeland replaced Andrea Calve as President, Charlie became Trail Steward, Penny Banks created our Newsletter, Jacci Perry became our Trail Ride Coordinator, Larry Vavroch became Vice President. Later Larry Kouba replaced Larry Vavroch, Keeley Helton became our Event organizer and then later was replaced by Amy Andrews. In 2003 Amy Andrews was elected President, Larry Kouba, Vice President; Betty Hall, Treasurer; Charlie Gaines, Trail Steward; Jill Korbelic, Secretary; Penny Banks, Newsletter; Berdine Eberhart, Events; Dawn Spence, Phone Committee; Cheryl Stroup, Trail Ride Coordinator; Tracy Matern, Public Relations; Pat Martin, Membership Chairman. In 2005 the election resulted in Tracy Matern, President; Tom Pollock, Vice President, Kendra Lara, Treasurer; Charlie Gaines, Trail Steward; Carole Kowitt, Secretary & Newsletter, Donna Carmickel, Maggie Sico, Elizabeth Lane, Paula Bennett, Events & Trail Ride Coordinators; Pat Martin, Membership Chairman; Leslie Harper, Grants; Berdine Eberhart, Phone Committee; Tom Eberhart, Web Master.

The current TTPA board is made up of President Duke Monson, Vice President Jack Gilstrap, Treasurer Kendra Lara, Secretary Kris McFarland, Newsletter Pat Monson, Events/Trailride Coordinator Kathy Erickson,

Membership Ruth Blom, Grant Coordinator Carole Kowitt, Trail Steward Charlie Gaines, Past President Tracy Matern, Chuckwagon Chair Lana Gilstrap, and Public Relations and Webmaster Chris Churchill.

The TTPA Today

We have grown from 30 households to over 200 households as members and have added several business memberships. Our members live in cities across Texas, including:

- Allen
- Blue Ridge
- Copeville
- Dallas
- Farmersville
- Forney
- Garland
- Josephine
- Lavon
- Lucas
- McKinney
- Murphy
- Parker
- Plano
- Princeton
- Richardson
- Rockwall
- Royce City
- Sachse
- St. Paul
- Van Alstyne
- Wills Point
- Wylie
- and even in Oklahoma

Over the years, the Trinity Trail has been extended from the initial 9 miles to over 25.5 miles, including the addition of a new trail head at Highland Park. We have widened the trail to provide access for emergency vehicles and maintenance equipment, installed permanent culverts, pipe fencing at the trail heads, mileage markers, limestone rock in boggy areas, graded areas of erosion and we keep the trail mowed. Today, the trail is enjoyed by thousands of walkers, joggers, cross country runners, horseback riders, dog owners, boy and girl scout troops, school outings, and others.