



# John F. Burke Nature Preserve Master Plan

*Presentation to City Council*  
September 20, 2016



# Advisory Committee

**Mike Hawkins**, *Park Board*

**Barbara Leedy**, *Park Board*

**Peggy Smith**, *Park Board*

**Rodger Cramer**, *FB Resident*

**Jim McIntosh**, *Master Naturalist*

**Pat Canuteson**, *Valwood Improvement Authority*

**Mark Schallhorn**, *Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD*

**Tony Lucido**, *NTTA*

**Andy Gilles**, *FB Director of Planning*

**Randy Walhood**, *FB Director of Public Works*

**Jeff Harting**, *FB Director of Parks & Recreation*

**Charles Cancellare**, *FB Parks & Recreation*

**Pam Smith**, *FB Parks & Recreation*

**Mitzi Davis**, *FB Parks & Recreation*

**Kerry Phillips**, *FB Parks & Recreation*

**Steve Pace**, *FB GIS*

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a lush green forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating dappled shadows on the path. On the right side of the path, a wooden signpost stands with two directional signs: 'POND LOOP' pointing right and 'THICKET LOOP' pointing left. The trees are tall and have vibrant green foliage.

*“Let nature be your teacher.”*

*~ William Wordsworth*



# Master Plan

- Entry / Arrival
- Core Activities
- The Woods
- Wetlands
- Meadows
- Upper Pond

# Master Plan

- **Entry / Arrival**
- **Core Activities**
- **The Woods**
- **Wetlands**
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## ENTRY / ARRIVAL

- Monument Sign
- Native Entry Plantings
- Parking Improvements
- Bus Parking / Drop Off
- Restroom
- Group Pavilion
- Wayfinding Trailhead





## CORE ACTIVITIES

- Pond Trail Loop
- Event Lawn
- Picnic Stations
- Boardwalk w/ Pier
- Amphitheater Classroom
- Wildlife Blind
- Educational Signage
- Group Camping Area
- Council Ring
- Canopy Boardwalk
- River Overlook



## LOWER WOODS

- Soft Trails
- Interpretive Signage
- Pedestrian Bridge
- Hike & Bike Connector
- Paddling Trailhead
- Wayfinding Signage



**Monument Sign**



**Group Pavilion**



**Pond Trail Loop**



**Amphitheater Classroom**



**River Overlook / Canopy Boardwalk**

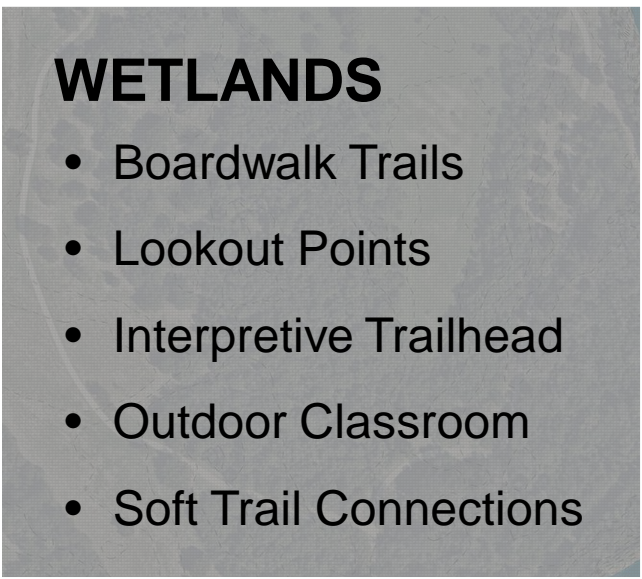


**Pedestrian Bridge**



# Master Plan

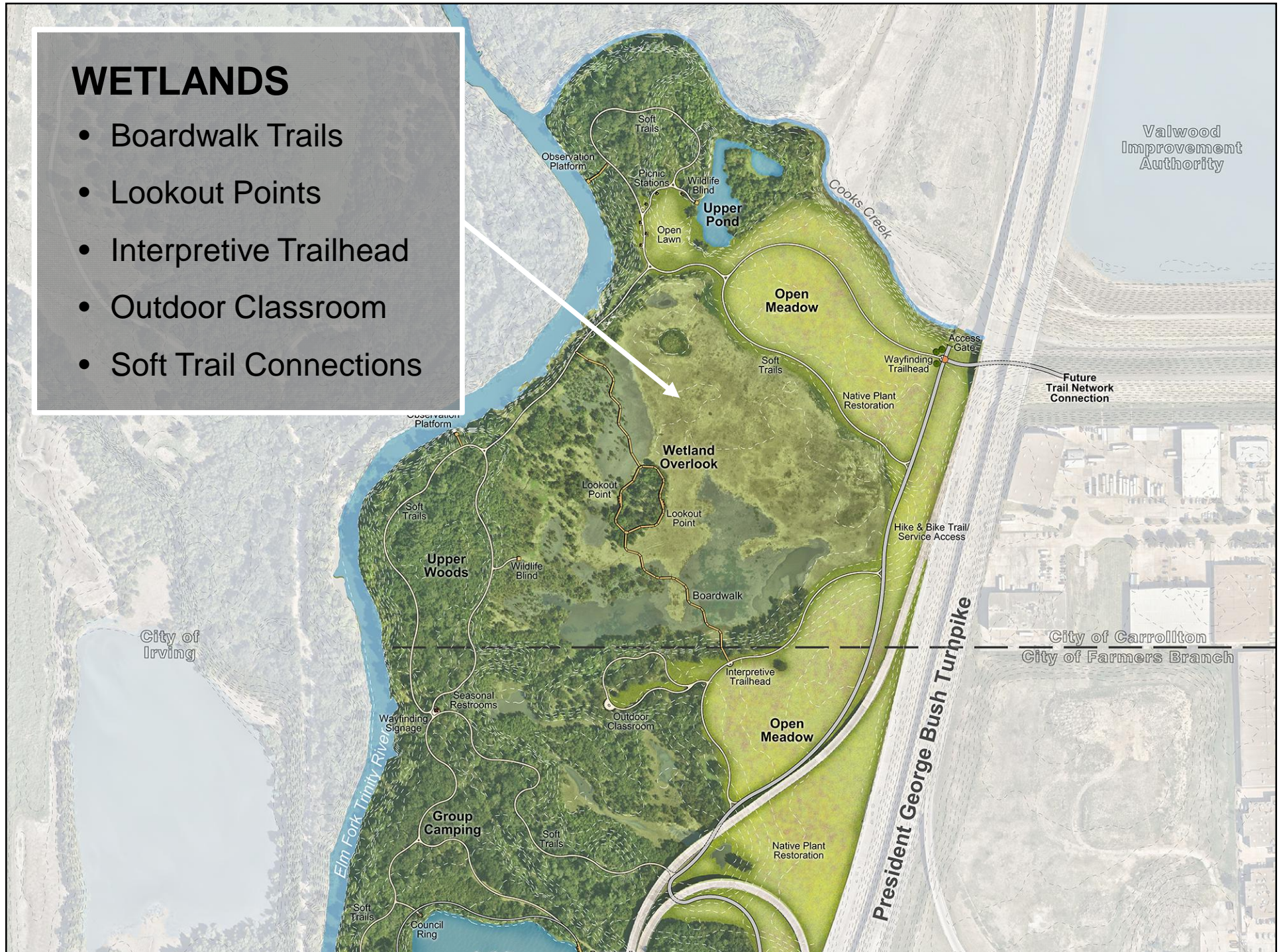
- Entry / Arrival
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# WETLANDS

- Boardwalk Trails
- Lookout Points
- Interpretive Trailhead
- Outdoor Classroom
- Soft Trail Connections

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- # WETLANDS
- Boardwalk Trails
  - Lookout Points
  - Interpretive Trailhead
  - Outdoor Classroom
  - Soft Trail Connections



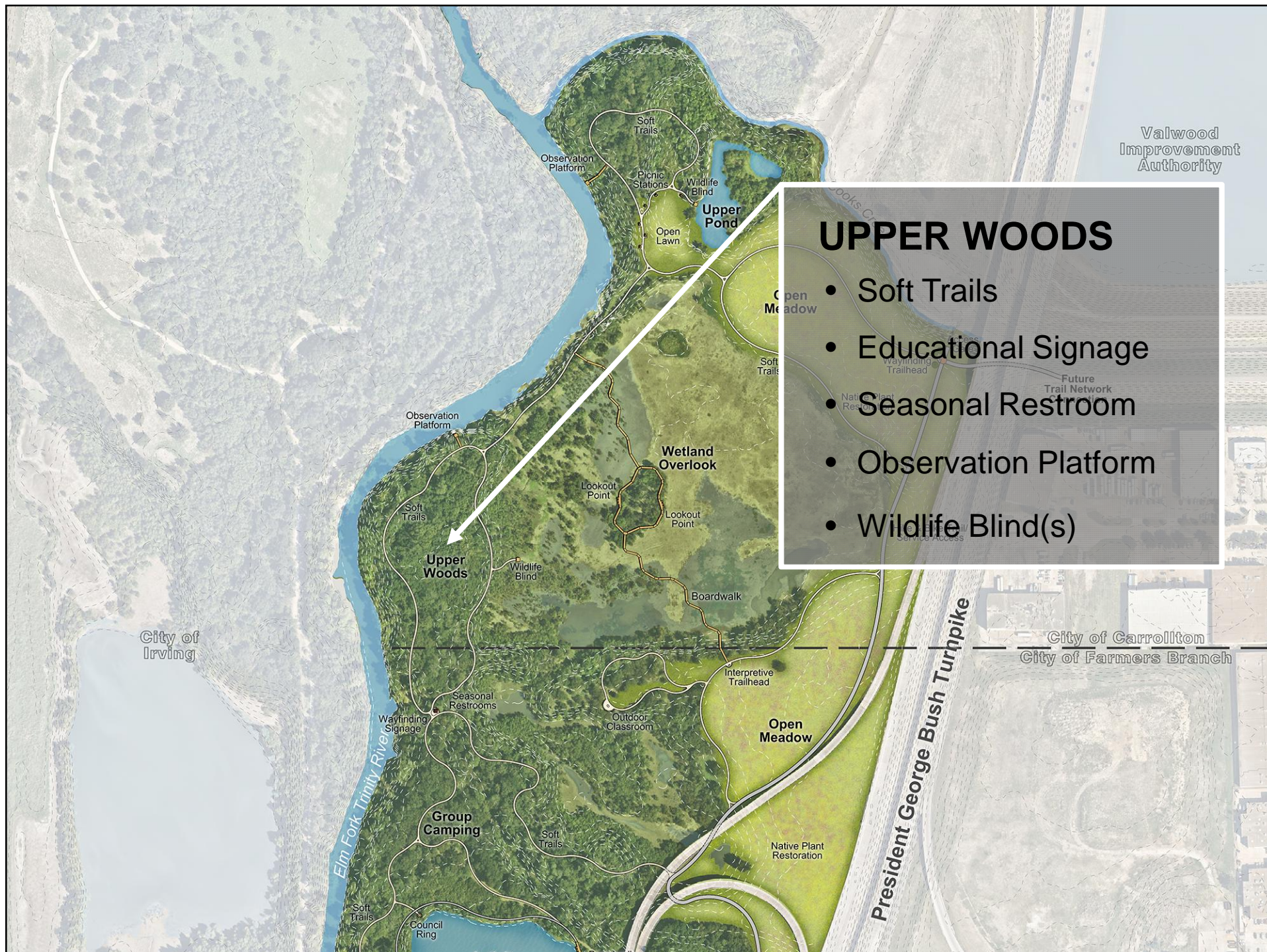
## MEADOWS

- Native Plant Restoration
- Soft Trail Loop(s)
- Educational Signage
- Hike & Bike Connector / Service Access
- Wayfinding Trailhead



## UPPER WOODS

- Soft Trails
- Educational Signage
- Seasonal Restroom
- Observation Platform
- Wildlife Blind(s)





# UPPER POND

- Soft Trail Loop
- Picnic Stations
- Open Lawn
- Wildlife Blind
- Observation Platform

**At one time wetlands were considered to be wastelands that should be drained or destroyed.** Their ecological and environmental functions were little understood or appreciated until it was almost too late.

In the last 200 years in the state of Texas, over **50% of the wetlands have been lost** in large part due to agriculture where the wetlands were drained for farming. The increased pressure from urban development is a growing concern for the remaining wetlands.

## Why are **WETLANDS** Important?

In an age when man has forgotten his origins and is blind even to his most essential needs for survival, water along with other resources has become the victim of his indifference.  
— Rachel Carson



### Today Wetlands are Recognized for the Complex Benefits They Hold

#### FLOOD CONTROL



Wetlands near streams and rivers provide a place for floodwaters to be absorbed and slowly released. This is beneficial by decreasing erosion and flood damage, and decreasing potential property loss.

#### AQUIFER RECHARGE

Wetlands ability to store and slowly release water replenishes ground water supply and recharges aquifers. The East Fork Wetland lies over the Trinity Aquifer.



#### WATER QUALITY



Wetland plants improve water quality through their ability to absorb the impurities in the water. They slow the water so that sediment will settle to the soils underwater.

#### WILDLIFE HABITAT

Wetlands provide habitat for countless diverse species of wildlife including resident and migratory waterfowl like ducks and geese, songbirds, mammals, amphibians, insects, and reptiles. Crustaceans too!



#### NUTRIENT SOURCE



Wetlands hold nutrients which increases the food supply that supports the food web. These nutrients are then passed up the food chain and eventually reach people.

#### ECONOMIC RESOURCE

The coastal marshes of Texas are nurseries for shrimp, fish, and oysters. These marshes provide up with economic opportunities for many coastal families.



#### RECREATION



Wetlands provide recreation for fishing, hunting, photography, wildlife viewing, and canoeing. These activities not only improve the local economy but provide an with an appreciation for nature.

#### EDUCATION

For those students taught in the educational system, wetlands are a natural laboratory. With observation and learning to recognize a wetland, the importance of its proper management can be understood.



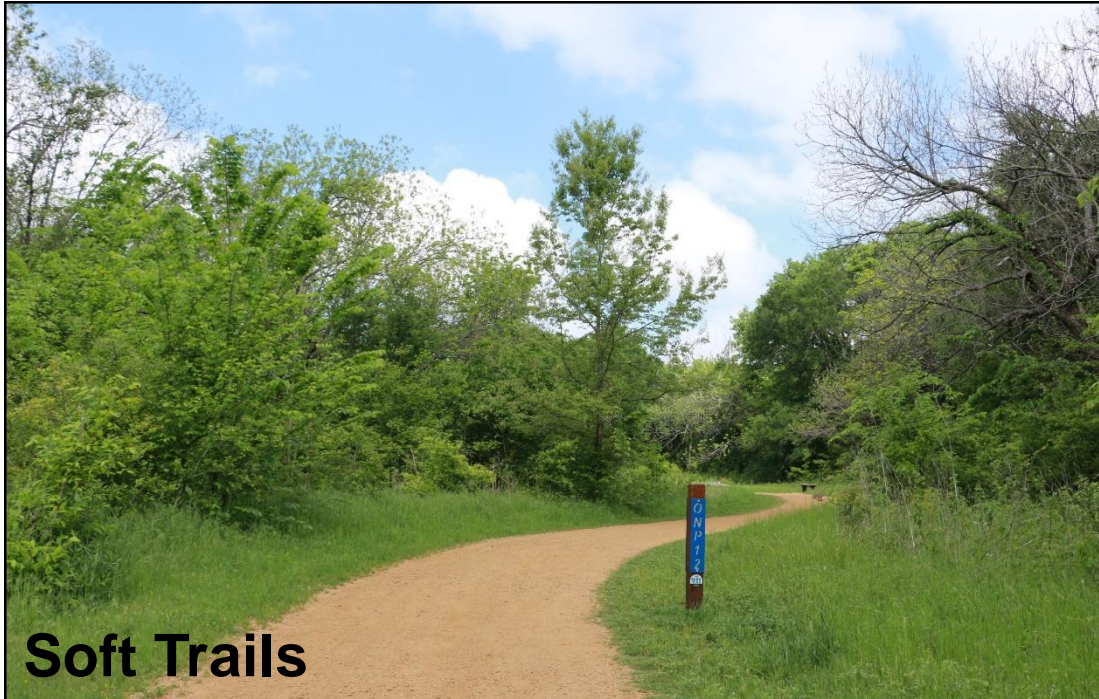
**Wetland Boardwalks / Education**



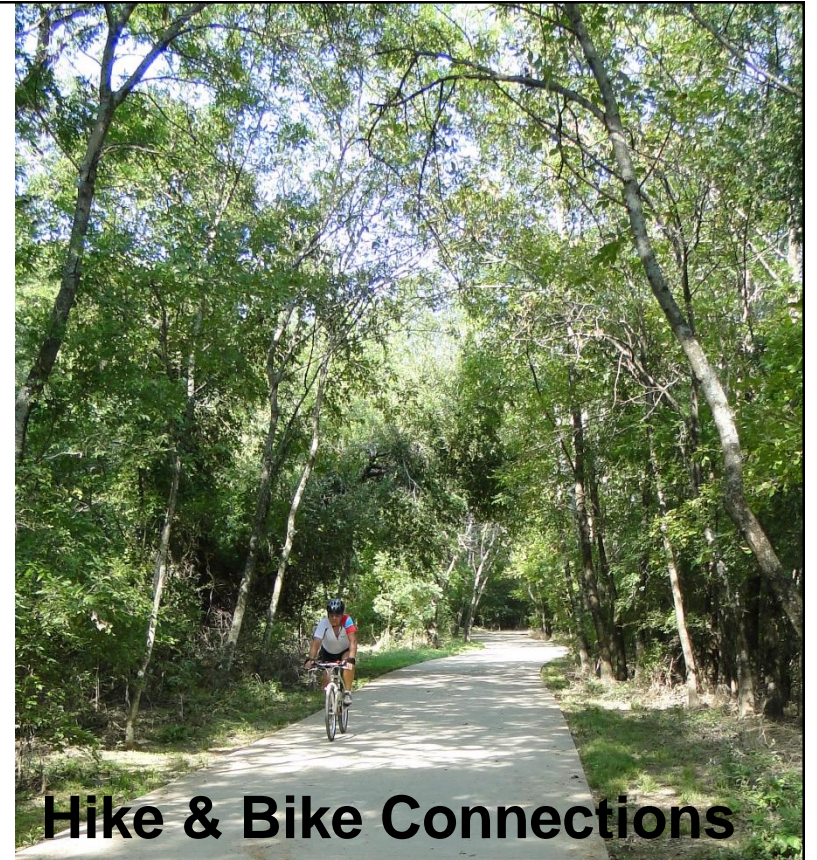
**Wayfinding Trailheads**



**Outdoor Classrooms**



**Soft Trails**



**Hike & Bike Connections**



**Nature Trails**



**Boardwalks**

### SUMMARY OF BUDGET TOTALS:

#### A. ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COSTS

1.	GENERAL SITE ITEMS	\$525,000.00
2.	UPPER POND	\$141,000.00
3.	WETLAND/EDUCATIONAL OVERLOOK	\$668,550.00
4.	MEADOW RESORATION AREA	\$547,250.00
5.	CORE ACTIVITIES	\$721,450.00
6.	WOODS	\$1,502,850.00
7.	ENTRY / ARRIVAL	\$558,970.00

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BASE TOTAL	\$4,665,070.00
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+/- 10% CONTINGENCY	\$500,000.00
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<b>CONSTRUCTION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,165,070.00</b>
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B. OWNERS COSTS (Geotech, Testing, TDLR, Archaeological Survey, USACE Permitting, etc.) (Approx. 2% of Construction)	\$100,000.00
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C. A&E SERVICES	\$465,000.00
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PROJECT BUDGET TOTAL:	<b>\$5,730,070.00</b>
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