



Tomorrow, the Circuit Trail Conservancy will brief the Dallas Park and Recreation Board on the first phase of the Trinity Forest Spine Trail – a last step before the project design can be completed and publicly bid for construction.

If you would like to follow along, you can view the presentation [here](#) and watch meeting at 10:00 am on 10/12 [here](#).

With this exciting moment ahead, I'd like to share more about the most significant trail undertaking in North Texas – the Trinity Forest Spine Trail. This is a long email but one that is rich with history and opportunity that lies ahead, so I hope you'll read on to learn more about why this trail is such a meaningful project for the Circuit Trail Conservancy (CTC) to bring to life.

The CTC is building an accessible trail through the White Rock Creek corridor and the Trinity Floodplains, fulfilling its vision of providing every community in our city with unprecedented access to green space and economic opportunity by connecting thousands of Dallasites through multi-modal transportation. This investment in our city and in our neighborhoods will bring lasting change to Dallas residents for generations to come.

By uniting abundant green space, serene spillways and one-of-a-kind landmarks, the Trinity Forest Spine Trail also represents a major feat in collaboration and community involvement for the CTC. Over the last two years, we have worked with neighborhood groups, community leaders and private organizations to ensure The LOOP provides connection and passes through areas where access to green space and alternative transportation are needed most. When the trail needs to cross property not owned by the City of Dallas, partners like Oncor and KCS Railroad have provided critical connections to ensure all trails are accessible to the public.



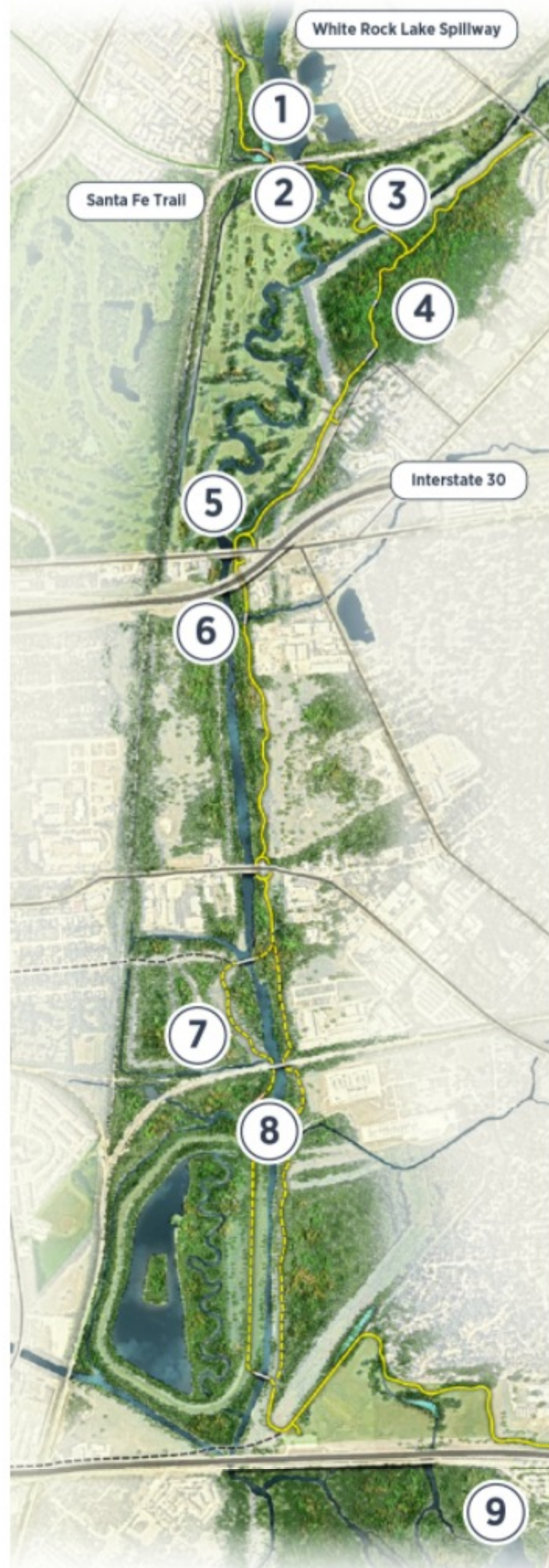
The KCS Railroad Trestle over White Rock Creek

Building a reliable trail through the White Rock Creek Floodplain will turn this overlooked corridor into one of the most significant greenbelts in North Texas, activating green space as trail users marvel at the beauty of historic trees and the waterways of White Rock Lake and the Trinity River.

We are thrilled to be moving forward with this exciting portion of The LOOP, and we hope you enjoy learning about the Trinity Forest Spine Trail.

Philip Hiatt Haigh  
Executive Director  
Circuit Trail Conservancy and The LOOP

## TRINITY FOREST SPINE TRAIL



**Alignment:** From White Rock Lake to Lawnview DART Station, the North Phase of the Trinity Forest Spine Trail will pass through some of Dallas' most beautiful – and complex – scenery. Its alignment also shares common features and landmarks with public and private stakeholders. Below is an overview of the trail's alignment and a few of the many agencies instrumental in bringing the Trinity Forest Spine Trail to life:

1. Branching off the Santa Fe Trail, the Trinity Forest Spine Trail will follow White Rock Creek before passing through a delineated wetland. This section of the trail will pass above the wetlands with a series of bridges and provide trail users with new views of the creek.
2. **Kansas City Southern (KCS) Railroad:** Before bridging over White Rock Creek, the Trinity Forest Spine Trail will pass under a KCS railroad trestle. The first of its kind in the Dallas Parks system, this trail will allow passage under an active rail line, a major milestone for Dallas Park and Recreation Department. Both KCS and the CTC put trail user safety first; the CTC will be installing a custom structure separating trail users from trains passing overhead.
3. After passage through the KCS trestle, the trail will meet the Tenison Glen Golf Course. To increase usage and green space visibility, the trail has been aligned to pass outside active play, tee boxes and greens before bridging over Ash Creek to a previously inaccessible forested area, which will eventually serve as a nature preserve.
4. **New Park Opportunity:** The 45 forested acres south of Ash Creek are owned by the City but have not been accessible to the public due to the private property surrounding it. This area will now be activated into a new green space with the trail providing major connections to three surrounding communities.
5. **Samuell Trail Head:** Before the trail passes under Samuell Boulevard, pedestrians and bikers will be able to enjoy a beautiful spillway where The LOOP will design and build a significant trail head overlooking White Rock Creek. The trail head will also serve as a regional access point with ample parking for visitors.
6. **Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):** After passing under the Samuell Blvd. bridge, the trail continues underneath Interstate 30, bridging the barrier created to separate Dallas communities. I-30 is elevated at this location so the trail will pass under the interstate and will include built-in lighting to provide visibility.
7. **Union Pacific (UP) Railroad:** Like the Kansas City Southern Railroad, the trail will pass under a Union Pacific trestle just before reaching Parkdale Lake.
8. **Oncor:** Oncor strives to provide safe access to transportation and green space while maintaining their primary function of providing reliable energy sources to customers across North Texas. Throughout the project corridor, the Trinity Forest Spine Trail will run under Oncor's overhead utility lines, and the property south of the Union Pacific Railroad is owned and maintained by Oncor.
9. **Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART):** The North Phase of the Trinity Forest Spine Trail will conclude at the Lawnview DART Station on Scyene Road. The light rail station and bus hub is on the south side of this busy, seven-lane street, and the neighborhoods, local schools and trail are on the north. To ensure safe passage across Scyene Road, we have worked with DART to adjust pedestrian crossing via a safer, more visible and direct way into this transit hub so all trail go-ers may enjoy reliable access to the station. This connection point to DART is just one of many along The LOOP's design, which aims to bridge geographic barriers by connecting trail-users to various modes of transportation and provide access to all corners of our city.



**History:** The Trinity Forest Spine, previously identified as the White Rock Creek South Trail, is a significant part of the regional trail network first envisioned nearly three decades ago by trail designer Albert Halff, PhD in his firm's developed trail network plan entitled Trails for the 21st Century. Created in response to area residents' growing interest in outdoor spaces and desire for physical activity within riverine and forest areas, the trail network plan was eventually made possible by the development of the Regional Veloweb plan, an interconnected trail vision which set out to serve the entire region with equitable recreational and transportation options.

In 2001, a group of residents along Lower White Rock Creek invited the National Park Service to help foster community support for the plan, which eventually led to a grant from the Trinity Trust to hire Halff Associates to create a corridor master plan for the Trinity Forest Spine. In 2008, Dallas City Council approved the trail's alignment as part of the Dallas Trail Plan Network. As a significant trail resource, this alignment has been studied since its approval, including in the 2013 Master Plan, where it was renamed the Trinity Forest Spine Trail.

Along this corridor of the trail, there are many physical barriers, such as the area's propensity for flooding and the complex natural ecosystem of native flora and fauna, which previously made it difficult to convert the land to a walkable, bikeable transportation point. However, given the greenbelt's potential and need for safe, reliable pedestrian connections along the alignment, elected officials and members of the philanthropic community continue to support this project's development.

Through the Dallas County Public Works Program, Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniel allocated \$5 million for the trail's construction, allowing the City and the CTC to take on this comprehensive project by providing design, construction and additional financial support to ensure the trail is completed for use.

As always, please follow [TheLOOPDallas.org](http://TheLOOPDallas.org) for the most current information.

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