



February 2025

The weather may be chilly, but we're planning for the Spring!

Following our successful Bond campaign in 2024, Friends of the White Rock Creek Trail (FWRCT) are actively working to secure additional design funding to accelerate the schedule for start of redesign. This will bring about much needed changes to the trail, especially in trail safety and flood/mud control, as well as trail widening. You can do your part by notifying 311 of unsafe conditions you encounter as you enjoy the trail.

Join us in keeping the trail safe and inviting!

Our Board will meet in late February and on the agenda is planning for spring trail cleanups. Email friendsWRCT@gmail.com to be added to our distribution list for notification of the cleanups.

If you are passionate about the trail to join our Board and help us lead our activities in support of the trail. We are a small team and currently have 2 positions open, Secretary and VP Marketing. We would love to find volunteers to fill these positions to keep our work moving forward. Your support will be greatly appreciated. Email friendsWRCT@gmail.com if you want to know more about serving on our Board.

A year of repairs along White Rock Creek Trail

2024 may have seen the most disruption to the use of the WRCT since 2013 when much of the northern part of the trail was expanded from 8' to 12' wide. Through all the work, intrepid users continued on the trail! This is a bit of what happened and how the Friends group is working on your behalf.



In January, maintenance to an 84" water line from R.P Brooks Park all the way to White Rock Lake was started by Dallas Water Utilities (DWU). This water line runs parallel to the bike trail. We only had one day's notice of this work, so initially there was some confusion. However, we posted notices to our social media and got Parks to post a banner notice on their web site. There would be times when the trail would not be accessible, so we worked on alternate routing and Dallas Parks was able to print notices with the routing. These were posted on barricades at the limits of the work. The

barricades did not stop many users and DWU they would be mindful of traffic. The initial water work was completed by end of February, but that the trail in very poor shape. DWU committed patching damage, but the initial effort was to use patch asphalt, as the image shows.



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That was a safety hazard not acceptable even as a temporary measure so after some months of effort and walking the trail with Dallas Parks and DWU, almost 2,000' of new concrete was poured to replace the most heavily damaged sections of the trail. If you have ridden the trail between Skillman Ave. and White Rock Lake you know what a pleasure it is to have this newly refurbished section. This section is still 8' wide, but the success of the bond program will ultimately make the trail 12' wide.

Almost as soon as the above work was completed, there were three repair projects between Royal Ln. and Central Expwy that required trail closures starting in June.



The first two projects dealt with the Royal Ln. underpass, which had gotten dangerous due to multiple high-water events washing out much of the soil under the trail. Barricades had been placed along the side of the trail, but these continued to be moved by high water. The barricades were then used to close the trail. The underpass was rebuilt at 12' wide and a new apron poured. We expect this portion will stay as it is when the whole trail is widened to 12'.



The longest repair started in June and was an emergency sewer line repair centered around Cottonwood Creek, east of Central Expwy. As you can see from the image, it was going to be difficult to use the trail.



FWRCT recommended an alternative route, but many users did find a way to get through this construction zone. That meant porting a bike across 5 18" pipes, twice. The other option was to drive around the construction to either Northwood or H.S. Moss parks. The construction lasted through August so the entire summer, and really $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year, trail use was impacted by construction. FWRCT is still working with Dallas Parks and DWU to get some remaining trail damage repaired.

A lingering result of the construction has been that runoff from rain is washing silt onto the trail at unusually high rates. FWRCT is working with Dallas Parks to identify the highest priority areas. Parks currently has a team moving dirt so runoff can flow more quickly off the trail and to the creek.

Hopefully 2025 will not see the disruptions of 2024!