

# A3 | 2006 TRAILS MASTER PLAN SUMMARY

## Summary - 2006 Trails Master Plan

### Overview

The 2006 Trails Master Plan was developed in tandem with the 2006 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan and the Streetscape Master Plan to address community needs that were outlined in the Lancaster 2002 Comprehensive Plan. These plans were developed together because it was recognized that in order to best achieve the goal of a more vibrant and livable Lancaster, these aspects of the city's infrastructure must coordinate with each other and reinforce each other. The trails plan was intended to create a blueprint for the creation of a world class trail system in Lancaster that would link the city's environmental features, schools, public facilities, local neighborhoods, and business districts to each other and surrounding communities. In Citizen Opinion and Attitude Surveys conducted for the Open Space Master Plan, trails were regularly identified as one of the top priorities for residents

### Goals and Opportunities

- Trail Development with regional connections – Provide a trail system around Lancaster to seamlessly connect regionally significant trails with community trails and ensure that new development and subdivisions connect to this system.
- Community Linkages – Link Trails to residential neighborhoods, community facilities, parks, schools, athletic fields, historic districts, downtown, as well as other commercial and retail activity centers in Lancaster.
- Access – Develop a trail system for people of all abilities, pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians, and other non-motorized users.
- Amenities – Locate trailheads at or in conjunction with park sites, schools, and other community facilities to increase local access to the trail system. Furnish trail systems with trailhead improvements that include interpretive and directional signage, benches, drinking fountains, parking areas, and other services.
- Maintenance and Emergency Access – develop trail design and development standards that are easy to maintain and access by maintenance, security, and emergency vehicles.
- Preservation – Preserve view corridors, existing public rights of way and other easements for future trail development; preserve sensitive natural areas using contextually sensitive designed trails; and preserve floodplains. Preserve and enhance the riparian corridors as protection against flooding and for improved recreational potential.
- Regulation – Update ordinances and regulations to protect existing and future easements to protect land dedicated for trails from future development.

## Trails System Concept

Lancaster's city wide trail system aims to create a network of nearly 60 miles of paved, shared-use trails, 65 miles of soft surface trails, and 40 miles of extra wide sidewalks where a fully separated trail corridor is not possible. The trail system is based upon a foundation of 5 distinct major trails that form the backbone, or spine, of the overall network and cover the entire city. These 5 trails are:

- Grand Trail
- The Cultural Trail
- Ten Mile Creek Trail
- The Outer Ring
- Main Connectors

## Priorities, Phasing, and Development Strategy

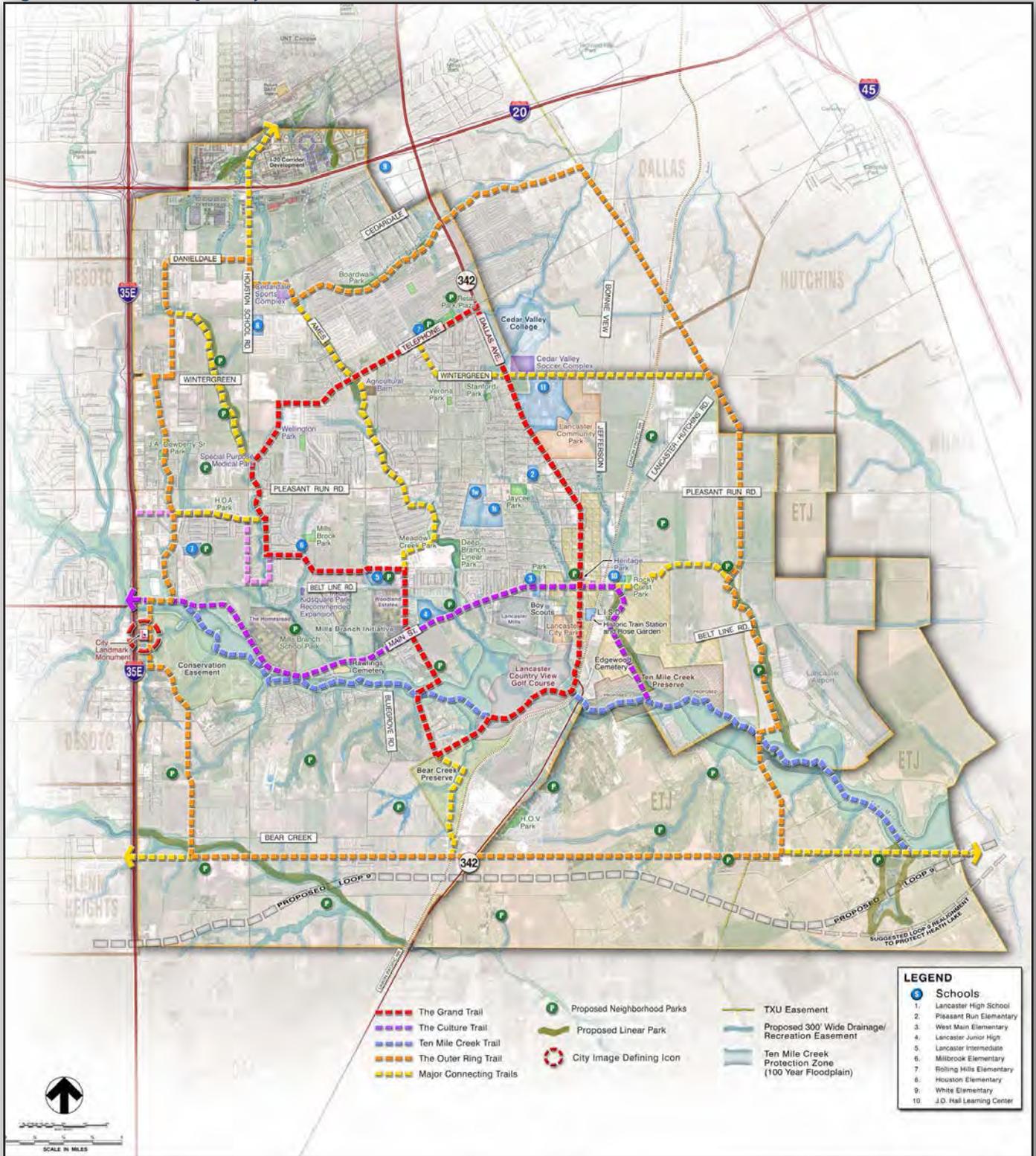
The Trails Master Plan created by Halff Associates and Alta Planning and Design included a section on project priorities and phasing in order to establish a priority for trail components in pursuit of building the entire system. The plan was broken into 3 phases:

- PHASE 1:** Projects are the top priority pathway and trail projects for short term project implementation and are targeted for completion in the next five years
- PHASE 2:** Projects are mid-term projects planned for implementation between 5 and 10 years. These projects comprise the bulk of the trails and pathways system
- PHASE 3:** Projects are long term projects recommended for implementation in the 10+ years after plan adoption. These are projects that generally supplement the trail and pathway system or may provide potential pathways over a longer period of time as land uses and regional planning boundaries change

The Trails Master Plan also contained a section on specific design guidelines for different trail classifications, specific signage and markings, and numerous amenities to provide a high level of user convenience. Additionally, the plan contained recommendations on potential funding sources for the implementation of the trails plan, and city policy recommendations for the acquisition of trail corridors and development of new code language.



Figure A3.01 - Trail Spine System



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