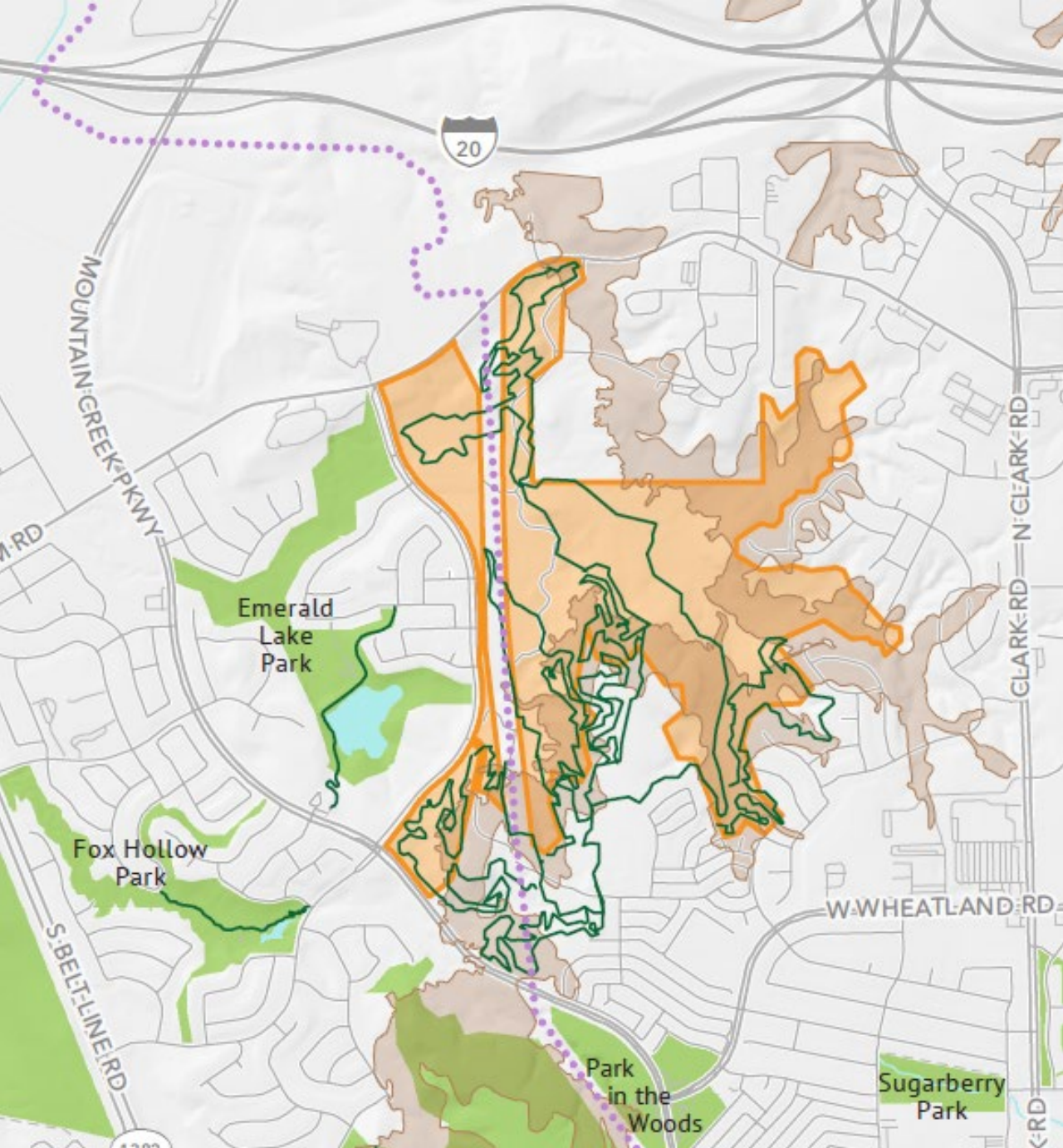




# Big Cedar Wilderness

*Quality of Life, Arts, & Culture Committee – February 21, 2023*





# Location Snapshot

- Address: 5950 Eagle Ford Dr. Dallas, TX 75249
- Location: Southwest Dallas (District 3)
- Size: 282.9 acres
  - Escarpment: ~175.2 acres
- Nearby parks and open spaces:
  - Emerald Lake Park
  - Fox Hollow Park
  - Park in the Woods
  - Sugarberry Park
  - Cedar Ridge Preserve
- 5,596 people live within a 10-minute walk\*

*\*Typical Dallas park serves 2,000-3,000 people within a 10-minute walk*





# Conservation Value

Big Cedar Wilderness has many natural and scenic features that give the property significant conservation value:

- Protecting 175 acres of escarpment zone topography
- Contains 225+ acres of tree canopy
- Several creeks and ponds
- Wildflower meadows
- Birdwatching (rated 4.5 / 5.0 on AllTrails.com)
- Builds on existing conservation efforts in southwest Dallas, including Cedar Hill State Park, Cedar Ridge Preserve, and Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center





# Recreational Use

Big Cedar Wilderness is an important existing recreational amenity for Dallas:

- Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Association (DORBA) has developed and maintains a network of 22 miles of trails and wayfinding signage across the property
- Used for trail running, birdwatching, and faith-based groups
- Mountain Creek Church is directly adjacent to property and has long-established commitment to help steward property. They invested in and maintain a parking lot, trailhead, pavilion, playground, overlook, and restrooms
- Parking capacity ~500 cars in total



# Community Support

Numerous community groups already help steward Big Cedar Wilderness:

- Texas Master Naturalists
- Dallas Off-Road Biking Association
- Mountain Creek Church Volunteers
- Boy Scouts of America
- Girl Scouts
- Audubon Chapters
- Dallas international University





# Needs and Considerations

- Analysis of existing trails
  - Ramps (10) currently on the property
- Seasonal flooding in some areas
- Community members have voiced concern regarding development pressure
- Rare opportunity and short window
  - Ownership has changed over the years and this is a unique opportunity to procure this as permanently protected public space
- Timing of the transaction and management of the property to be considered to ensure continued access





# Future Opportunities

- The property has a well-developed network of trails and wayfinding signage.
- The adjacent Mountain Creek Church property (80 ac) maintains a parking lot, playground, pavilion, overlook and restrooms and future small concert venue
- Long-term opportunities include:
  - Environmental education and research study
  - Developing all-abilities and nature-based playground
  - Deeper collaboration with local stakeholders
  - Create connection to Cedar Ridge Preserve and other nearby parks





# Next Steps

- TPL is working with the landowner to facilitate transfer of property to City of Dallas
- Currently have signed Letter of Intent
- Due diligence is underway with appraisal, environmental site assessment and survey work
- Exploring potential use of Reforestation Fund to assist with acquisition costs
- Goal: Bring item before Park Board and City Council in spring 2023.





Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national nonprofit that works to connect everyone to the benefits and joys of the outdoors. As a leader in equitable access to the outdoors, TPL works with communities to create parks and protect public land where it is needed most.

Since 1972, TPL has protected more than 3 million acres of public land, created more than 5,000 parks, trails, schoolyards, and iconic outdoor places, raised \$84 billion in public funding for parks and public lands, and connected more than 9 million people to the outdoors.

**Connecting everyone to the outdoors™**

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# Thank you