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From The President

Howdy trail riders! It's been a while since we had a newsletter since our previous wonderful editor, Leah Fry, moved to South Carolina. It has taken us a while to find a volunteer with the technology skills to do this. I am pleased to announce that Paula Peay has graciously volunteered to take on this role. Thank you, Paula!

Since our last newsletter was the 4th Quarter of 2020, lots of exciting things have been going on in LRRETA and at Ray Roberts State Park! First, our long-time park superintendent, Chris True, accepted a promotion to move to regional director in January 2021. LRRETA has worked closely with Chris over the years, and he will be missed but we wish him the best in new job. Ray Roberts State Park will still be under his jurisdiction. Its always good to have connections in high places!

In March of 2021, we met our new Ray Roberts State Park Superintendent, Robbie Merritt. He came from the Corpus Christi area and is excited to move to the north Texas area with his family. Superintendent Merritt has been very receptive to LRRETA ideas and has some new ideas of his own to improve the park. I meet with him quarterly to discuss various projects and needs. Please learn more about the new superintendent by reading the article on him.

In Spring 2021, Carol Nichols, and the Greenbelt Alliance worked diligently with Denton Parks, USACE, and the TX Dot to clear out a log jam at the confluence of two tributaries to Elm Fork of the Trinity River. This log jam was causing a back up of water into small tributaries and flooding of the trail close to Hwy 380 and farther upstream. In addition, the large logs were causing damage to the 380 bridge Trees are falling into the river due to damaged roots systems from flooding. This will be an on-going problem and will need to be continuously addressed.

As most of you know, when we get heavy rain (which has not been in a while) the trail close to HWY 380 and the trailhead are closed. However, Superintendent Merritt has worked to clean up this area and open the trail. We must all realize that it will have to be periodically closed, but he plans to allow sections to be open that are not damaged, rather than closing the entire trail. Also, since equestrian trail that parallels the "hard surface" trail needs extensive work to repair concrete culverts and cut overgrown brush, the equestrians are now sharing the "hard surface" trail with hikers and cyclists. The trail bed is great, but there are challenges that come with sharing the trail with many cyclists who may not be familiar with what scares horses and how to properly pass on the trail. I would like to point out however, that all trails at Ray Roberts State Park are multi-use trails. We are in the process of posting signs regarding who has the right of way (HORSES!) and how all user groups might safely use that beautiful trail. If you plan to rider 428 to 380, there is less traffic on weekdays! Most of that trail has good tree cover but no access to water and several concrete bridges to cross as well as concrete low water crossings.

The most exciting news that we have is that starting the first week of August LRRETA will be improving campsites 171-178 from primitive to improved with lookups for water and electricity. This project has been long in the planning and desired by many. This will help make Ray Roberts State Park a destination for equestrian campers. This comes at a price tag of about \$57,00 which significantly impacts our general budget. Our sister organization, Cross Timbers Equestrian Trails Association (CTETA) donated \$1,000 towards this project. Currently TETRA has offered a one-to-one match for up to \$2500 towards the project. We thank both TETRA and

CTETA! Please consider donating towards this important project so that have a fund balance that will allow us to accept our next Recreational Trail grant in the coming months. Please go to our website and donate. Designate your donation as Water/Electric so we can track our funds. <https://lrreta.com>

We are looking for members who would like to serve in a leadership role. We have formed a nominating committee. Please read the information in the newsletter and nominate yourself or someone else who is willing to be in a leadership role.

There are lots of great articles in this newsletter and I hope you find them interesting. Please put Sept. 30-Oct.2 on your calendar for a campout to celebrate the improved campsites. Please note that the camping price will go up on these to \$27 per night. For those that cannot make the Oct campout we will have another one on Nov. 4-6. Collin County Dutch Oven group will demonstrate cooking methods. Watch for more information on [Facebook](#) and our [website](#) regarding how to sign up because the entire area is reserved for us that weekend. Also, the Collin County Dutch Oven group is demonstrating methods and cooking. Find your Dutch ovens so we can make some tasty meals that Saturday. This coincides with TPWD doing a film documentary on Ray Roberts State Park so some of us and our horses may become movie stars! The documentary will be aired on the TPWD channel.

Happy Trails,

Linda Moore, President



LRRETA Board Meetings

*2nd Tuesday of Every Month
(Open to all members & guests)*



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4960217270>

Meeting ID: 496 021 7270

Monthly Trail Rides

Check calendar on
LRRETA [website](#)

Work Days

Locations announced
on [Facebook](#).

Call before you haul!

Maybeth Nunn
(214)356-0383

Linda Moore
(940)206-9355

Margaret Rabbitt
(214)415-5527
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purchase price. It adds up!

LRRETA Seeks Grant Chairman in Training

Current Grand Chairman Tracy Matern is looking to work with someone to take over the Grant Planning. She plans to finish out the current grants but will not manage the next TP&W grant. This will give a new Grant Chairman a whole year to watch the process, learn the ropes, take over and have support. Please contact Tracy at 214-392-2288 or tmatern1945@gmail.com if you would like to join the team.

Campsite Improvements at Ray Roberts State Park

We are very excited to announce that there will soon be electrical hookups at Little Bluestem, Isle duBois!

For the past five years or more, LRRETA has desired to make improvements at Little Bluestem campground to provide water and electrical hookups to those who wish to camp with their living quarters trailers/rv's. Due to a lack of funding for infrastructure at the state park, this has not been a priority due to other more pressing needs. During a meeting 2020 with former Park Superintendent Chris True, indicated that the state parks were 19 billion dollars behind in infrastructure.

LRRETA indicated that this was one our top priorities because we wanted to make Ray Roberts State Park a “destination” for horsemen and women. The electrical pedestals are needed because even if you have a

generator, generators must be shut off at 10 pm. In the fall of 2019 in collaboration with the park administration, a Project Review Request (PRR) for campsite improvement from “primitive” to “improved” was submitted to Austin. Finally in spring 2021 the permission was granted. During that time, however the price tag on the project has tripled.

Originally LRRETA received an estimate of \$25,000 for electrical work. However, after further investigation, the first bid seems ill conceived and mechanically untenable. This spring we sought updated bids and ***found that to do all 14 sites would cost about \$75,000.*** In addition, water faucets would also have to be moved. Since this price tag was beyond the LRRETA budget, the LRRETA board decided to split the project into two phases. Phase 1 is to upgrade campsites 171-178 on the east and north side. If we are pleased with the outcome, sometime in the future the campsites on the west side may be upgraded provided funds are available. Phase 1 upgrades are funded LRRETA expense at a cost of about \$57,000.

We have met our TETRA Match thanks to everyone's generosity and now we have a chance to meet our NTX Giving Day Match of \$2500. Double your donation by Sept. 21st!. TETRA donated a match of \$2,500 which we have met! We now are participating in the NTX Giving Day on September 21st. We have a Donor who is willing to match up to \$2500 in donations! Here's your chance to double your donation! cftexas.org Search for Greenbelt Alliance of Denton County and donate!



To date we have received, two donations totaling \$750. If you wish to donate, you can do so with a check or [PayPal](#) or scan this QR Code. If you are “old school” you can also mail a check to Linda Moore 6348 Stags Leap Rd., Sanger, TX 76266. We appreciate all donations.

The Greenbelt Alliance, aka. LRRETA will participate in the NTX Giving Day on September 21st. Be sure to watch for more information regarding this on Facebook and the website.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Linda Moore	(940) 206-9355	moorelinda741@gmail.com
Vice President	(214) 491-7941	OPEN
Treasurer - Tim Beaty	(214) 212-1999	tbeaty@tbbuilders.com
Finance Director - Margaret Rabbitt	(214) 415-5527	marabbitt@gmail.com
Secretary/Membership - Gail Cotton Michaud	(214) 356-8523	gailcotton@verizon.net

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Margaret Rabbitt	(214)415-5527	marabbitt@gmail.com
Tracy Matern	(214) 392-2288	tmatern1945@gmail.com
Susan Mendoza (Phone Tree)	(972) 475-9107	

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Linda Moore	(940) 206-9355	moorelinda741@gmail.com
Monica Millan-Barbera	(817) 915-8455	monica@blackmustangranch.com
Margaret Rabbitt	(214)415-5527	marabbitt@gmail.com

GRANTS

Linda Moore	(940) 206-9355	moorelinda741@gmail.com
Tracy Matern	(214) 392-2288	tmatern1945@gmail.com

TRAIL STEWARDS

FM380 to FM428	Linda Moore	(940) 206-9355	moorelinda741@gmail.com
FM428 to Elm Fork	Margaret Rabbitt	(214)415-5527	marabbitt@gmail.com
Elm Fork to Little Bluestem	Maybeth Nunn	(214) 356-0383	maybeth.nunn@yahoo.com
Little Bluestem-Isle du Bois to Jordan Park	Sara Sydnam	(940) 600-8785	sarajsydnam@yahoo.com
Jordan Park to Lost Lake	Alan Padgett	(903) 564-4781	alanpadgett@gmail.com

EQUIPMENT MANAGER

Cliff Hemming	chemming3@pobox.com
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NEWSLETTER

OPEN

OPEN

Hey!

Did You Forget to Renew your LRRETA Membership???

Why?

- To support LRRETA in improving the trails and trail-heads for equestrians
- Put water and electric RV hookups at Little Blue Stem
- Support our next grant- Pavilion at Elm Fork Trail-head, rest stops on the trails, engineering for swamp crossing on 428 trail (horse bog creek), restore sections of equestrian trail on 428-380 trail

What?

- Annual dues = \$35
- Renew for 3 years for \$100 (save \$5)
- Lifetime membership \$300

How?

- Online at lrreta.com- use credit card or [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com)- under Donate
- Mail a check to: Gail Cotton Michaud, 2817 Prestonwood Dr. Plano, TX 75093-8850



Log Jam Cleared!

by Carol Nichols

Greenbelt Alliance, Trinity Coalition
& LRRETA Board Member

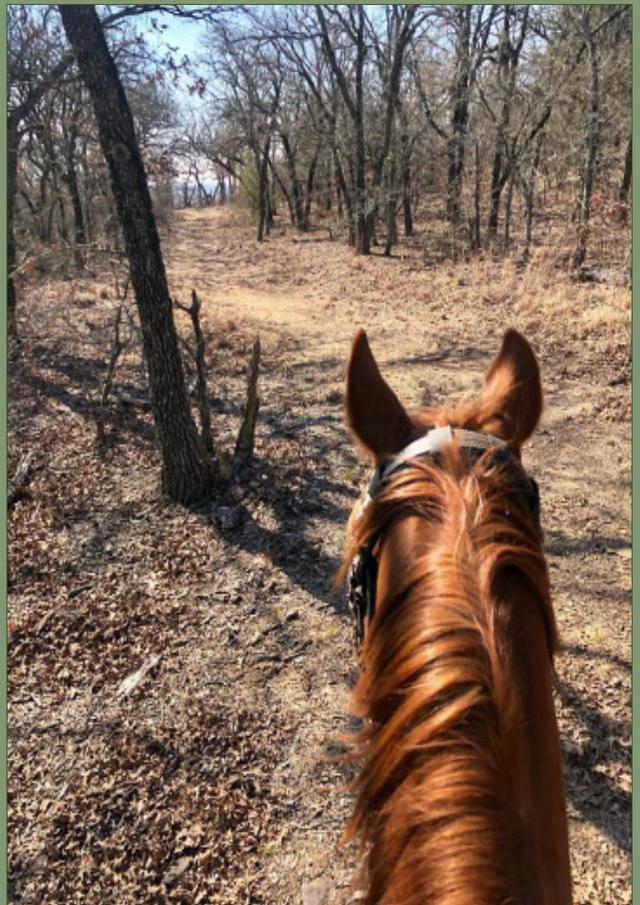
One log jam cleared! But, as many of our trails are in the floodplain, trail advocates will have to deal with log jams and related flooding caused by log jams from time to time.

Another positive outcome of clearing the massive log jam south of US380 was the creation of the Log Jam Coalition.

This powerful coalition of enthusiastic trail and paddle advocates, resourceful public servants, and dedicated landowners collaborated to clear the immense log jam south of US380 in August 2020. Special thanks to the Greenbelt Alliance (GBA), LRRETA, Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWD), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Trinity Coalition, Dallas Down River Club, City of Denton, TXDoT, North Texas Council of Governments (NTCOG), Upper Trinity Regional Water District, and landowners of the Log Jam Coalition. After several months of discussion and planning, NTCOG arranged for TxDoT to engage a dredging contractor with 4 barges to clear the channel. Estimated cost paid by TxDoT was more than \$400,000 for work in July and August last year.

This colossal log jam had been building for 5 years. There are several log jams upstream that remain. Log jams will continue to occur from time to time due to silt build up and lack of significant elevation change between Lake Ray Roberts and downstream Lake Lewisville. However, the Log Jam Coalition, led by GBA and LRRETA, raised awareness and identified funding sources that can help address log jams more timely in the future.

On October 7, 2020, the Log Jam Coalition met at the Greenbelt Trailhead on US380 to brainstorm possible solutions to the continued flooding and resulting closure of this popular trailhead and kayak launch. Chris True, Lake Ray Roberts Park Superintendent, provided an overview of the flooding and the repeated failed efforts to open the trailhead. USACE's Marty Underwood suggested a possible solution would be for the City of Denton to apply for the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP), Section 105 Project. The CAP authorizes USACE to plan, design, and construct small flood control projects. Katherine Barnett, City of Denton is currently working to get approval from the Denton City Council to apply for the CAP project.





LRRETA Online Auction & Weekend Campout

LRRETA had an online auction on Wednesday night, March 30, 2022 that was very successful! LRRETA made a total profit of \$15,788! The bulk of the profit came from the auction items as well as private donations, however, the total includes proceeds from the weekend campout that included a dice run and the trail obstacle ride.

LRRETA and TETRA followed the auction by having a joint camping weekend at Lake Ray Roberts (Isle de Bois-Bluestem Equestrian) on April 1st and 2nd. The purpose of the auction and campout was to raise funds to put toward our goal of installing electricity and water at the equestrian campground at Isle de Bois-Bluestem. There were approximately 25 campers and riders that joined us for most or part of the weekend. It was great to see how well used the equestrian campground and day use area were used.

A big shout out to all the vendors that graciously donated services and/or goods for the auction as well as to all who gathered and/or made items for the auction to help make this such a great success. Thanks to everyone who worked to make this such an overall success!

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Many thanks for loaning LRRETA two 4-seater UTVs to get workers down the trail!

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LRRETA Branded Merchandise

LRRETA has paid to have our logo digitized. Supply your own clothing items and member Robyn Pucci will do embroidery for \$8 per item,
Call Linda with questions (940) 206-9355.



Lake Ray Roberts Equestrian Trails Association (LRRETA) Patron Application Form

MEMBERSHIP and PATRONS - Membership in LRRETTA and Greenfest is complimentary. Supporters of the equestrian/hiking trail are PATRONS. Please support your trail by becoming a PATRON and attending the annual Greenfest events!

<u>Single Patron</u>	<u>JR Patron Membership</u>	<u>Lifetime Membership</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Annual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Annual JR Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300 Lifetime Single Patron
<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 LRRETA & POSSE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40 JR Patron & Posse	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750 Lifetime Household

FULL NAME _____

BUSINESS NAME (optional) _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Cell Phone _____

Home phone (optional)* _____

Email _____

Additional Patrons (fill in if checking Household Patron):

FULL NAME _____

FULL NAME _____

FULL NAME _____

PLEASE MAIL CHECK WITH PATRON DUES OR DONATIONS TO:
Gail Cotton Michaud, 2817 Prestonwood Dr, Plano, TX 75093

State and Federal grants for our trails require 20% to 50% private funds as a "match."
We need your dues and donations to access grant money!

*Business Membership includes a static ad each quarter in newsletter. Please provide a business card.

LRRETA does not share member information.

Please also consider joining our sister trail groups:

Join Texas Equestrian Trail Riders Association (TETRA) <http://tetra.memberlodge.org/page-201911>

Join Cross Timbers Equestrian Trails Association (CTETA) <http://www.cteta.org/Form-Membership-2011.pdf>



Where Have You Ridden Lately?

Rustic Sky Ranch
by Tracy Matern



Rustic Sky Ranch is in Melder, LA adjacent to the Kisatchie National Forest about 350 miles from my hometown of Lucas. We rode there in October of 2020 and enjoyed our stay very much. It has every amenity of which you could possibly think. Amenities include a genuine old west saloon, an extremely well-stocked cooking/eating pavilion, public restroom, showers, covered stalls, horse wash bays, round-pen, turn-outs, obstacles, cabins, rooms, pool, washer/dryer, muck forks, muck wagons & water hoses to the stalls.

Owned by friendly and accessible Sky and Gina Wright, Rustic Sky has a loyal following of local campers and riders, regional campers, and riders, plus some permanent residents.

We were greeted as we came in by enthusiastic and helpful Kimberly Neely who led us to our campsites and made sure we had everything we needed. Kim set us up with permanent camper Karen Forbes and local trail rider Wayne to lead us on our first trail ride the next morning. Karen even came down to meet us and introduce herself that evening. We camped behind the house where Kim lives where there were four hookups, covered stalls and two turn-outs with the creek running behind us. There is plenty of room for big rigs all over the camp. Each site is provided with a manure wagon. When you clean your stall/turn-out, you just set the wagon out in front of your site and Dustin Broussard takes it with his four-wheeler, empties it and brings it back. I loved this!

We met Karen and Wayne at 9 AM the next morning for a ride out onto the Kisatchie National Forest. The National Forest does not allow any trail marking so it is important to ride with a guide until you get the lay of the land. Karen and Wayne are local trail riders who enjoy sharing their knowledge. Some of them accept tips after the ride. This area was hit by two hurricanes and multiple tornadoes in 2020. Rustic Sky saw the worst flooding ever remembered and has just recently repaired all the damage incurred.

The National Park has enormous numbers of giant trees down, so it was extremely helpful to have local experts show us how to bushwhack our way through brambles around these downed trees. Our horses did it with no problem.

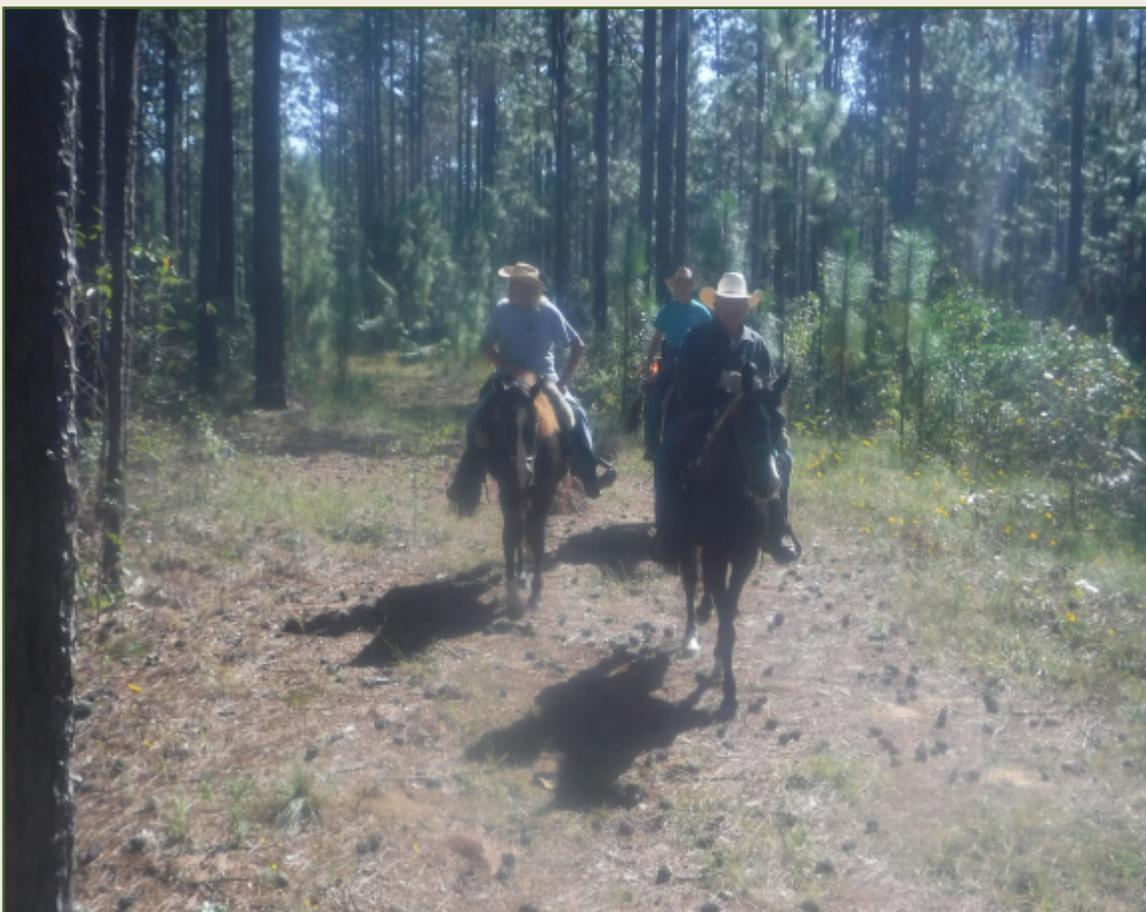


The National Forest will not allow people to clear the trees and the locals think it will be many years before they are cleared. Even so, it was a lot of fun to ride and explore. There are also forest service roads and power line easements good for gaiting. In the evening, there was plenty of wood to build a campfire and we enjoyed one every night. My dog Cowboy discovered the creek early on and loved scooting down the banks and going swimming.

We were privileged to be invited to share some of Wayne's Louisiana cooking, etouffee and gumbo, at the Pavilion and were welcomed by owners, staff and campers as good friends. We rode another day with Wayne and Karen, then struck out on our own the third day, following the only marked trail in the park. This was very eventful as we had to go around about 20 large, downed trees and at one point were not sure we could find our way out.

The last day we rode with another local who has been riding the forest all his life and he knew ways around most of the downed trees. When we came back, we rode up to see where the permanent residents live, and it was a very nice area. Then we did their fabulous obstacle course. In particular, there was a box with a lot of different cross timbers in it, and Dusty went through that at regular speed and did not touch a thing. From riding around and over trees, he learned how to walk over things without touching any with his feet. Good training for sure!

The Rustic Sky store is stocked with lots of T-shirts, etc. but also things that you might have forgotten or need for camping such as adapters, bug spray, detergent, etc. It took me about 7 hours going and 6 ½ coming back an alternate route. I'd go there again in a minute!



Check it out at rusticskyhorsecamp.com

All about Extended Equine Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI)

by Lily Scott — Reprinted from the Global Vet Link (GVL) website globalvetlink.com



In recent years, state animal health officials recognized a need for a national program that allows equine owners to move with ease, while ensuring animal safety and traceability.

GVL worked closely with state veterinarians to develop a streamlined digital solution for the program, and launched Extended Equine Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (EECVIs) through its platform on January 1, 2019.

Equine practitioners and owners now have an easy solution for compliant travel with horses in multiple states. EECVIs function the same as regular health certificates, but allow horse owners to move for up to six months.

Many states require a current Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), also known as a health certificate, for traveling within and to their state with animals. Some state animal health departments allow the option of a six-month health certificate, as long as official ID requirements are met.

There are three forms of official ID accepted for an EECVI, and each state has their own rules for what forms are accepted:

- Current Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test (photo Coggins or EIA test accession number);
- Lifetime brand inspection;
- Microchip.

Through the GVL software platform, veterinarians can create an EECVI online, submit it to their state animal health official digitally and provide owners with online access to retrieve their travel permits anytime.

Participating states in the EECVI program at this time include: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont*, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.

Additional states have expressed plans to participate in the future.

*Vermont only participates May 1 – Oct. 31.

GVL hosted a webinar on EECVI, presented by Dr. Marty Zaluksi and Dr. Janemarie Hennebelle on 12-1-20. Here are the Q&As from that webinar.

Q: Can an EECVI be issued from a state that is not participating in the program?

A: No, EECVIs may only be issued by veterinarians in a participating state. The horse must also be located in a participating state.

Q: If the owner resides at a different address or in a different state from the horse, which address is listed on the EECVI?

A: The address listed on the EECVI should be the location of the horse.

Q: What if one of the destinations not participating, does the owner need to get standard CVI to get in/out of state?

A: Yes, a standard Certificate of Veterinary Inspection would be necessary to move to and from a state not participating in the EECVI program.

Q: Does the EECVI movement permit take the place of an import permit for a participating state, or do we still have to obtain an import permit?

A: The EECVI movement permit takes the place of an import permit; you don't need to obtain an import permit when traveling on the EECVI program. Check import requirements with the state of destination before travel.

Q: Is a similar program available for other animals or for change of ownership?

A: Currently, the EECVI program is only available for Equine movement.

Q: Is the EECVI program available in Canada?

A: No, the EECVI program is only available in the US for those who reside in the 31 participating states.

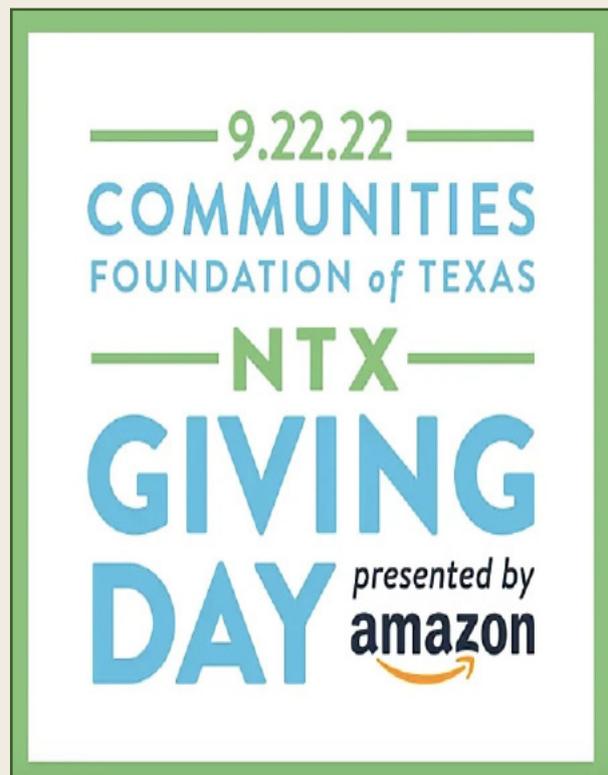
Park Improvement Funding Opportunities

TETRA Challenge and NTX Giving Day

As mentioned in the article on proposed Ray Roberts State Park Infrastructure Improvements, the LRRETA Board has unanimously voted to invest in infrastructure to improve campsites 171-178 from primitive to improved with water at electric at the Little Blue Stem trailhead and campground. This comes as a cost of about \$57,000 which is not covered by any current grant. Although LRRETA had a very successful live auction and benefit ride in April netting about \$7,500, going ahead with the work in August will leave the treasury quite low.

TETRA (Texas Equestrian Trails Association) has agreed to match funds raised up to \$2,500. CTETA also graciously donated \$1,000 to the project. So far, we have received two donations totaling \$750. We would like to maximize this match so please donate either via [PayPal](#) or by check. Please indicate that it for the campsite improvement project. Checks can be mailed to Linda Moore, 6348 Stags Leap Rd., Sanger, TX 76266.

The second funding opportunity will be the NTX Giving Day, on September 21, 2022. This is the first year for the Greenbelt Alliance, aka LRRETA to participate in this day to raise funds for non-profits in the area. Other planned infrastructure improvements include a pavilion at Elm Fork trailhead (below the dam), rest areas on each of the trails, additional trail signage for safety. We are currently seeking sponsors who would help with match funding. This would double your donations! Watch for further information regarding this event on our website and Facebook page.



City of Denton Plans Addition of New Trails

by Carol Nichols - Greenbelt, Trinity Coalition & LRRETA Board Member

The Greenbelt Alliance (GBA) and LRRETA have developed a reputation for solving complex recreational problems and providing community leadership. From GBA's leadership to re-route a utility power line away from the Greenbelt to GBA and LRRETA funding and building the "elevated trail walkway" to clearing of the log jam, solutions have emerged and partnerships developed to benefit the community.

GBA and LRRETA have again saddled up to support and advise on adding new trails in Denton. Drew Huffman, City of Denton, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Operations & Planning, reached out to the Greenbelt Alliance and LRRETA Boards to seek input on the City of Denton's plan for more than 200 miles of trails!

On January 29, 2021 Richard Rogers and Tim Beaty (GBA), Linda Moore and Carol Nichols (LRRETA), and Steve Smith (Trinity Coalition) met with Drew to review a draft of a Denton Master Trail Plan - 215 miles of trails, 30 miles of paddling trails, 20 miles of equestrian trails, and many miles of hiking and biking trails. Drew will be supporting several trail systems including the Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center. UNT's Dr. Joe Walker is advisor on the trail design and construction.

Additional Acreage for Trails

Drew is repurposing acreage from the old police firing range for trails. He is also buying land in the flood plain and has been offered donations of flood plain land for trails. He envisions a potential equestrian trail head on the east side of the Denton airport. Anyone with land to sell or donate for trails should contact Drew at drew.huffman@cityofdenton.com

Exciting to see such interest by the City of Denton in recreational trails!

- If you are a Denton County resident, please contact your elected officials and let them know you are interested in the Master Trail Plan.
- Anyone with land to sell or donate for trails should contact Drew at drew.huffman@cityofdenton.com

Every day we lose trails, as development consumes Texas land ... therefore, every day we must work to add trails.

25+ Year Strategy

Proposed Trail Expansion Strategy

Trail Type	Length	Build	Maintenance
Creek/Drainage Trails	17.42	\$20,000,000	\$106,750
Internal Park Trails	31.69	\$35,000,000	\$86,000
Sidepath Trails	130.43	Transportation TBD	\$351,500
Paddling Trails	30.95+	\$2,000,000	\$11,000
Equestrian Trails	5.35	Shared	Shared
TOTAL	215.84	\$57,000,000	\$555,250

Average cost of construction is \$1,150,00 for hard cost for a 10' wide concrete trail per mile.
Average maintenance is \$5,000 annually per mile for concrete.



11/10/2020



ID 26-2187



15

Grant Update

by Tracy Matern

Texas Parks & Wildlife Recreational Trail Grant RT 017011 (2017 Grant)

The new tie rails you are seeing at the trailheads are the result of the latest work on this grant led by Linda Moore. It takes 4 women to lift these heavy rails into place for cementing! LRRETA worked with the Park Management on the placement of each of these rails.

A new request for reimbursement of our expenses will soon be on its way to Texas Parks & Wildlife. Your volunteer work on the trail has led to another \$3,330 of match being generated, leaving about \$19,000 to go.

We are awaiting final approval from the Park to dig trenches to run water to our day-use pens and campsites. We have received approval from Texas Parks & Wildlife.

2020 Denton Greenbelt Enhancements TP&W Grant

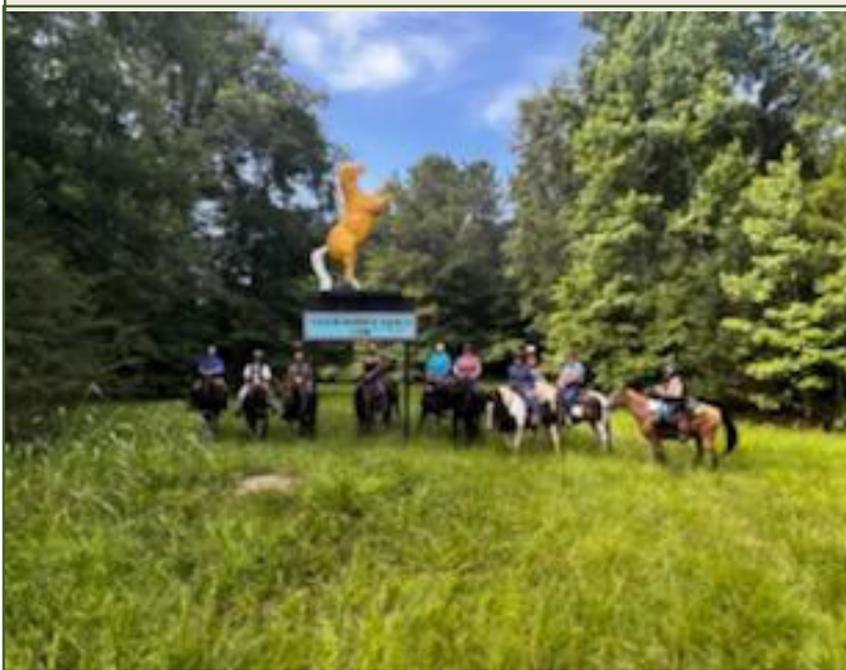
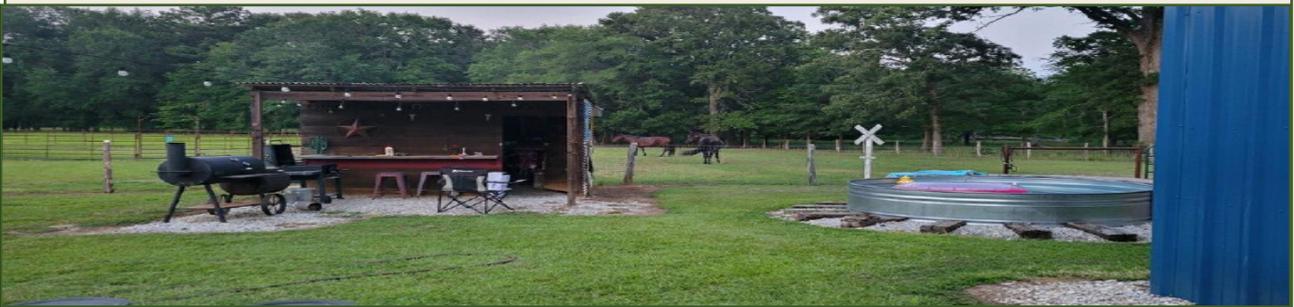
This grant has not been assigned a number yet as not all clearances have been obtained. We recently received a memorandum from the Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program of the Wildlife Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife. They made four recommendations:

- 1) Regarding our proposals to fix Horse Bog Creek Crossing, we must provide design specifics for natural resource staff review. The work may also require a Section 404 permit from the USACE. We've consulted with outside contractors and the Park staff on this problem but do not have an acceptable plan. We will need to revisit this issue with possibly rerouting the crossing to a different location, rerouting the trail to share the bridge on the bike trail, or installing another bridge. This may require another "summit meeting" involving multiple agencies similar to the meeting which provided the solution leading to our current bridge. In any case, the USACE will be involved if required and any permits needed will be acquired.
- 2) When trenching for water lines, if left open for more than two hours, trenches must be inspected for the presence of trapped wildlife prior to backfilling. If trenches cannot be backfilled the day of initial trenching, then escape ramps must be installed.
- 3) Pavilion lighting should be designed to minimize the Park's contribution to skyglow and to use dark-sky friendly lighting that is on only when needed, down-shielded, as bright as needed, and minimizes blue light emissions.
- 4) The solar signs should be on only in daylight hours.



Where Have You Ridden Lately?

June 9-12 a group of about 12 trail riders from the area went to Train Robber Ranch in Rusk, TX. Despite the heat we had a great time and enjoyed the venue. The old train goes right by the site twice a day. The I.D. Fairchild State Forest is just a short ride down the gravel road from camp. The terrain is flat with some hills. Shoes are not necessary. Some good area for “gaiting” is you like that. There are various packages of accommodations and in general your group is the only group there are the time. The outside stalls were about 14 x 14 and there was also a barn with covered stalls. They had small fenced off paddock areas where you could turn your horse out. The kitchen in the main house was very adequate and there was a nice, covered picnic table for supper gatherings. There is a cute gift shop as well! I look forward to going there again as we wanted to explore the state forest more but ran out of time. Good shade on most of the trails!



Check them out at www.trainrobberranch.com

Pilot Point Posse

The Pilot Point Posse participated in two local parades over the past year. In December 2021, the Posse participated in the Providence Christmas Parade. We had approximately 6 members join the festivities, including Lori and Jim Welsh, Margaret Rabbit, Linda and Averie Moore, and Tristan Severs. The equines wore their antlers and of course Geronimo, the mini donkey was a hit pulling the cart.

On July 4th, the Posse participated in the Robson Ranch Parade for the second year in a row. Those participating were Linda and Averie Moore, Tristan Sievers and ???, Margaret Rabbit, Maybeth Nunn. Tristan led Fabio, the cute mini, who was decorated for the occasion. The residents lined the parade route in their patriotically decorated gold carts and cheered us on. There were many veterans there and they were so appreciative of having the horses in the parade. Once, again, Geronimo (along with Jayme Wright) was on the poop patrol and such a parade favorite.

The Posse has been invited to the Pilot Point Car Show on Saturday, September 3, 2022.



Meet the Superintendent



“Robbie grew up roaming the mountains and coastline of North Carolina where he developed a deep appreciation for the outdoors and a desire to connect others to nature and history. That mission led him to Texas at Stephen F. Austin State University where he obtained a degree in Forest Management along with a minor in Recreation Management from the Arthur Temple College of Forestry. Robbie started his career connecting youth to natural resources by teaching outdoor living skills, horseback riding, canoeing, water skiing, and rock climbing at a summer camp in the mountains of Arkansas. He later honed those skills working for the United Methodist Church at a large conference center in East Texas leading outdoor programming, aquatics, and high ropes adventure programming.

Robbie joined the TPWD team as the Assistant Superintendent at Goliad SP in 2009 and gained his commission as a Park Police Officer while there. He then served the team and stakeholders at Lake Corpus Christi SP from 2012-2021 and has most recently been the Park Complex Superintendent at Ray Roberts Lake SP since May of 2021. He enjoys numerous outdoor hobbies such as hiking, running, mountain biking, fishing, sailing, and traveling with his wife Kristen and their 2 daughters.”

Robbie Merritt
Park Superintendent/Park Police
Ray Roberts Lake State Park Complex
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
940-300-4064