



# *Linear Parks*





## Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

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### **Billy Creek Park**

**Type of Park:** *Open Space/ Linear Park.*

**Address:** 161 Billy Creek  
**Year Built:** Undeveloped  
**Size of Park:** 15.8 Acres



**Comments** – The Billy Creek Linear Park is currently undeveloped but maintained by the City. The park features a meandering creek (called Calloway Branch along the park and Billy Creek Branch downstream) that runs along its length, together with large, open grassy areas dotted with pecan trees. Located on the banks of a creek, the park has dramatic topography and wildlife, including birds. A TXU utility line is located on the southern part of the park. Access to the park is limited. It is lined by houses along the east and west sides of the creek.

While some land-owners have their back yards closed to the park, others have opened it up with a wonderful result: not only are these residents blessed with unimpeded views on the creek environment, but also the land itself, as seen from the park, appears much more intact and expansive due to the effect of “borrowed views”. Together with the potential of trail connections along the TXU utility easement and along the creek, the park has the potential to be developed into an exciting destination with natural habitat within the city environment.

**Existing Amenities in the Park:**

- None

**Parking:** None



## Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

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*The Creek as seen  
downstream from  
Melbourne Road.*

### **Recommended Park Improvements:**

- Consider pedestrian access to the north side of the park from Melbourne Road along the strip of public land between the houses and the west banks of the creek.
- Consider a neighborhood access point from Bradford Road on the west side and Billy Creek Drive on the east side.
- Consider low water crossings and/or a pedestrian bridge to provide access to both sides of the creek.
- Develop a vehicular entrance with parking from Highway 10, which borders the park to the south.
- Encourage landowners adjacent to the park, especially along the creek, to plant riparian type trees and to leave wide bands of unmowed grass along the stream edge. This, together with native grasses and plants, will provide privacy for the residents and add to a natural stream ambiance lacking in Hurst.
- Enlarge the park by acquiring the vacant 1.48 acre parcel of land upstream of the Melbourne Road Bridge (west side of Melbourne Road) and at least 3 acres of the 7.85 acre parcel of land southwest of the park to provide access off Crestview Road and the 17.63 acre of land north of Highway 10 with access to Walker Branch.





## Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

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*The Creek upstream from Melbourne Road is in relatively good condition.*



*Potential trail connection along Calloway Branch between Melbourne Road and Billy Creek Park.*



## Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

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### **Cottonbelt Trail**

**Type of Park:** *Linear Park.*

**Address:** Starting point at 7300 Block of Precinct Line Road  
**Year Built:** Undeveloped (under design)  
**Size of Park:** One mile length of trail through Hurst



**Comments** – The Cottonbelt Trail project is a collaborative effort between the Cities of Hurst and Colleyville along the Cottonbelt Railway line. The section of trail within Hurst stretches over a distance of one mile. The future plan for this trail is to connect with the existing trail in the City of North Richland Hills. The trail is to be constructed along the DART owned railroad right-of-way and in easements adjacent to the TXU right-of-way.

The design of the Cottonbelt trail is currently nearing completion. If not addressed in this phase of implementation, it is important that the City gives special attention to trail features including trailheads to emphasize the section of Cottonbelt Trail that runs through Hurst. Collaboration with existing and future participating cities including North Richland Hills is essential to ensure continuity of features along the entire length of the trail.

One of the existing features of the trail in Hurst is the very impressive railway bridge that spans the Little Bear Creek and is visible from various vantage points. It is indeed a major destination and point of interest along the entire Cottonbelt Trail.





## Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

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### ***Existing Amenities in the Park:***

- None

***Parking:***       None

### ***Recommended Park Improvements:***

While the Cottonbelt Trail development is in the design phase, now is the opportune time to ensure the addition of trail features and amenities including:

- Gateways
- Benches
- Light fixtures
- Rest stops
- Overlooks



*View of the TXU and railroad corridor along which the Cottonbelt Trail is to be constructed.*



## Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

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### **Highway 10 Linear Park** **Type of Park: Linear Park.**

**Address:** 188 Arwine Drive  
**Year Built:** Undeveloped  
**Size of Park:** 11.7 Acres



**Comments** – Highway 10 Linear Park lies along the TXU easement between Rickel Park to the east and the undeveloped Highway 10 Neighborhood Park to the west. The Highway 10 Linear Park will provide an important link between these two parks. It will create the opportunity for additional recreational activities including jogging, biking and walking. Mature trees along the way will provide much needed shade along the trail. The above image is taken from Highway 10 Neighborhood Park across Arwine Drive toward Rickel Park.

#### **Existing Amenities in the Park:**

- None

**Parking:** None

#### **Recommended Park Improvements:**

- Develop a hike and bike trail (minimum 12 feet wide) along the entire length of the park.
- Develop trailheads at Rickel Park and Arwine Drive.
- Develop a pedestrian crossing over the creek at Highway 10 Neighborhood Park.
- Provide trail amenities including benches, light fixtures, exercise stations and water fountains.
- Extend the trail through Highway 10 Neighborhood Park along the TXU easement in a western direction toward Billy Creek Park.



## Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

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### **Little Bear Creek Trail**

**Type of Park:** *Linear Park*

**Address:** Starting point at 7412 Precinct Line Road  
**Year Built:** Undeveloped  
**Size of Park:** 1.6 miles in length



**Comments** – The Little Bear Creek, together with its tributary, is one of the greatest natural assets within the City of Hurst. Unfortunately, the clearing of stream edge trees and houses built relatively close to the stream's edge disrupts much of its beauty and character. The creek also has limited public access due to no provision for single loaded streets between the houses and the creek open space. Even so, the creek's wide banks are available for hike and bike trails. Believed to form part of a future regional and intercity hike and bike trail network, it also intersects with the future Cottonbelt Trail.

The Colleyville Nature Center lies downstream from the Hurst City limits. It comprises 46 acres of natural refuge with multi-use trails and various recreation amenities.

#### **Existing Amenities in the Park:**

**Parking:** None

#### **Recommended Park Improvements:**

- Develop a hike and bike trail (minimum 12 feet wide) along the entire length of Little Bear Creek and its tributary as it runs through Hurst.





## Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

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- Coordinate with Colleyville and North Richland Hills to have this trail connected or extended to the adjacent cities' trail systems.
- Develop a trail connection with the Cottonbelt Trail.
- Develop at least two trailheads: one at the intersection with the Cottonbelt Trail and one off Woodridge Drive.
- Connect the Little Bear Creek Trail via an on-street trail link with Echo Hills Park. Such an on-street connection involves a sidewalk of at least eight feet wide constructed within the street right-of-way separated from the road surface by a concrete curb and planted buffer.



*Downstream view of Little Bear Creek as seen from the Smithfield Drive Crossing; note the river banks denuded of any large trees.*



*Smithfield Drive Crossing provides a sidewalk from where the creek environment can be viewed.*



## Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

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### **Mayfair Linear Park**

**Type of Park:** *Linear Park*

**Address:** 1725 Norwood Drive  
**Year Built:** (Undeveloped)  
**Size of Park:** 8.3 Acres



**Comments** – This undeveloped linear park is located along Valley View Creek that connects the adjacent L.D. Bell High School in the south to Mayfair Park in the middle and Harwood Road to the north. It features wide open spaces along both sides of the water's edge in the southern section. The park is somewhat constricted along the channel to the north. Even so the park has tremendous potential to be developed as a hike and bike trail connection. In fact, the north side of this linear park joins two TXU utility lines, each of which has the potential to be developed into trail connections.

**Existing Amenities in the Park:**

- None

**Parking:** None

**Recommended Park Improvements:**

- Develop a hike and bike trail (minimum 12 feet wide) along the entire length of the park.
- Develop trail connections to L.D. Bell High School to the south, Mayfair Park to the west and the two TXU utility lines to the north.
- Implement low water crossings to increase the length of trail and use of the park.
- Establish riparian vegetation along the length of the creek to act as bio-filter and to create visual and ecological interest.





## Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

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*Valley View Creek looking upstream from Pleasantview Drive before recommended improvement.*



*The same view looking upstream from Pleasantview Drive after the recommended improvement including a trail, play areas and riparian vegetation.*





## Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

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*Mayfair Linear Park looking south from Louella Drive before recommended improvements.*



*Mayfair Linear Park after recommended trailhead improvements including parking and trees.*