



News Release

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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Council Receives Update on Copperas Branch Master Plan and Parks and Recreation Projects; Approved Legislative Program

At the February 9 meeting, the City Council received a presentation from la terra studio on the Copperas Branch Park Master Plan. The park was returned to the City in August 2018 after being used as staging area for the 35Express project. In April 2019 the City kicked off the public input period for the master planning of Copperas Branch Park. la terra studio consultants led the process of gathering input at a kick off meeting and at a Walk the Park event. Additionally online input was gathered through SpeakUpHV.com with 360 photos available of each of the areas of Copperas Branch Park and the opportunity for the community to share their ideas for each area. Based on the feedback received la terra studio and City staff developed the draft Master Plan which was presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council. The Master Plan is a long-term vision for Copperas Branch Park which will take advantage of the exceptional qualities of the site and extend the recreational offerings available to residents and visitors of Highland Village. Council will consider approval of the Master Plan at the February 23 meeting.

Council approved the 2021 Legislative Program. The program sets the city's priorities and key issues for the 87th Session of the Texas Legislature. The main theme throughout is cities are the level of government that is closest to the people it serves, and therefore are the level of government best able to identify the needs of a community and appropriate means to address those needs. While state government should be a resource for cities, decision-making authority should be placed at the municipal level whenever reasonable.

Parks and Recreation Director Phil Lozano provided an update on the Parks and Recreation Department. An overview was provided of the department's accomplishments and goals, staffing level, parks, trails, facilities, programs, and work order performance. Accomplishments include transitioning to virtual recreation and programming opportunities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, improvements at Unity Park to include the completion of the Kids Kastle playground, the dredging of the pond, installation of a new softball field, improvements at Doubletree Ranch Park include the installation of memorial items for the PFC Aaron M. Hudson Memorial Bridge, a shade structure over the chess board area, and river rock around the landscape beds along with new plant material, and at Pilot Knoll Park the installation of electrical service, a wood vending machine, and seal coated the asphalt roads and added new traffic striping. The department will continue to add virtual community engagement opportunities while preparing for the re-opening of events, Kids Kamp, senior programming and community education classes, completion of the 2017 Bond Projects which includes the Highland Village Road sidewalk, Victoria Park walking path, and the Chapel Hill Trail connection.

Fire Chief Mike Thomson provided an update on COVID-19 in Denton County and Highland Village. An update on the Denton County Health Department's vaccination process was also provided and residents were encouraged to sign up on the [Vaccine Interest List](#). Those wishing to receive the vaccine should regularly check the Department of State Health Services [website](#)

for area vaccine providers. Updated information on the vaccine and the virus can be found at www.highlandvillage.org/COVID.

The City Council early work session and regular session is available on HVTV (Spectrum 15; Frontier 43) and via website streaming live and on demand at www.highlandvillage.org/HVTV.