

Overview and Executive Summary

Pryor and Mayes County Trails Program

LandPlan Consultants

Pryor

The Pryor Bicycle/Pedestrian System offers recommendations for improving community access to outdoor resources by building a network of off-road multi-use paved trails and on-street bicycle facilities. The purpose of this Master Plan is to address the bicycle/pedestrian needs of community residents related to recreation, transportation, and economic pursuits. The plan addresses policies, programs, and physical improvements that should be implemented to improve access to recreation resources and improve transportation efficiency throughout the community. It identifies 41 corridors throughout and around Mayes County that should be developed in the next 15 years. The Pryor Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan was developed by the City of Pryor Creek in association with a steering committee of citizens, a trail planning consultant, and residents of the area. It responds to specific needs that were defined by residents through a series of public workshops. This executive summary describes the process that was used to prepare the Pryor Creek Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan, as well as the major findings and recommendations of the plan.

In April 2015, the City of Pryor Creek employed a bicycle/pedestrian facilities planning consultant, LandPlan Consultants, Inc. of Tulsa, Oklahoma, to begin work with a steering committee to prepare the Pryor Creek Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan. The consultant began their work with an extensive field analysis and evaluation of existing physical features, economic factors, and social issues that served to define both opportunities and constraints for trail development throughout the city. Of special interest in the planning process were the number of “attractors” or destinations that could be accessed and served through trail facility development. The consultant closely examined a variety of corridors of land that extend throughout the City of Pryor Creek including waterways / flood plain, abandoned railroads, electrical transmission lines, and roadways. Of particular interest to local residents were the issues of energy conservation / environmental impact, and safety, especially as it applies to the safety of trails that use that parallel roadways.

Involving Pryor Residents

The consultant worked very closely with the Pryor Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan Steering Committee for more than six months in preparing this master plan. The consultant has also conducted public workshops, public meetings, and has worked jointly with the City of Pryor Creek to ensure the proposed bicycle/pedestrian system enhances the quality of life for city residents.

Thursday, May 7th 2015, the first public workshop was facilitated by the consultant to invite the public to participate in the planning process. Meetings were held in Pryor at the City Community Center. At this meeting, residents defined appropriate goals, objectives and policies for improving access to outdoor resources throughout the region. Participants were asked to describe issues and concerns related to trail development. They were also provided with an opportunity to define, on maps of the city, specific areas where they currently walk, ride a bike, hike, and rollerblade, as well as areas where they would like to see trail improvements made. The results of this workshop and the consultant's efforts were summarized in a series of reports, termed "Draft Chapters," and provided to Pryor and the steering committee for review and comment. Results were also described in a series of newsletters that were published by the consultant and widely distributed throughout the City of Pryor.

Monday, June 5th 2015, the trail consultant presented an overall project update with examples of trail projects throughout Oklahoma. This material was presented in a Bicycle/Pedestrian Open House that was hosted at the Pryor Creek Recreation Center. During the Open House portion of the presentation, the public and committee members were presented alternative trail alignments and examples of other constructed samples. After the Open House portion of the meeting, guests were invited to an open design charrette where attendees were encouraged to voice concerns, offer input, and draw corridors they felt were beneficial to the community. The consultant also presented a draft network of corridors of land that would serve as the basis for a city-wide bicycle/pedestrian system. Workshop participants were asked to comment on the results of the prior meeting and carefully critique the initial network of proposed corridors. In addition, a Draft Route Plan was also presented for review and comment. The results of these workshops were again summarized in "Draft Chapters".

The presentation / discussion to follow covered the proposed Route Plan, proposed Phasing Plan, and design guidelines / operations and maintenance suggestions for the city-wide bicycle/pedestrian system.

Defining the Pryor Bicycle/Pedestrian System

Using the information gathered during the public workshops and other available information, the consultant worked for six months to define a comprehensive city-wide system of bicycle/pedestrian corridors that would support a variety of uses and meet the needs that were described by residents.

A draft of this proposed Route Plan was presented to the steering committee for initial review and comment. Drafts of the plans and chapters were also reviewed by the City of Pryor staff. From the comments received, the consultant revised aspects of the initial draft Route Plan producing a final implementation plan and this executive summary.

This Plan recommends the implementation of a 43.47 mile network of multi-use trails and linkages throughout the City of Pryor Creek as depicted on the Route Plan (Map 1).

The system is extensive and comprehensive, and at the same time provides a realistic program for satisfying the needs of local residents regarding access to outdoor resources and linkage to popular destinations. Building the system will take many years. The overall system is divided into three phases as depicted in the Phasing Plan (Map 2).

In the Near-Term phase (0-5 years), it is envisioned that local government agencies will work in partnership with neighborhoods and private sector organizations to develop an estimated 2.49 miles of trail projects. Near-Term projects would begin development in Calendar Year 2016. During the Mid-Term phase (5-10 years), an additional 4.31 miles of trail projects would be developed, and the Long-Term (10-15 years) phase envisions that the remaining 5.25 miles of trail projects would be implemented.