

White Rock Creek Park Trail Public Nuisance Discussion

Presented by Paul Spencer, Chief of Police Janna

Tidwell, Director of Parks

Shannon Hicks, Director of Public Works

June 23, 2020



Safety & Visibility Concerns



Beneath Belt Line Bridge: Homeless Encampment

- Perceived safety concerns
- Unsightly
- Unsanitary
- Nuisance





Numerous requests to the City of Dallas

MetroCrest Social Services currently heading up *Community Roundtable* meetings attempting to address many societal issues within the four-city area of Addison, Carrollton, Coppell and Farmers Branch.

Topics Include:

1. Affordable Housing
2. Homelessness
3. Quality Jobs
4. Healthcare

Current Limitations



Property under the Beltline bridge over creek is within the City of Dallas

Addison has no legal jurisdiction, or authority, to address camping, litter or other public nuisance/ordinance issues.

Dallas moderately responsive to staff requests to remove trash and encampments.

Option 1



Make the area less desirable to inhabit:

- Add pedestrian lighting along pathway
- Illuminate under the bridge
- Add Optical Camera positions along pathway
- Remove understory vegetation to improve visibility and reduce seclusion of the space

PROS

- Trail lighting will increase visibility at night
- Discourage nighttime encampment by illuminating under bridge
- Internet-based optical cameras will allow staff to monitor remotely

CONS

- Lights and cameras are subject to being tampered with
- May not fully eliminate the issue
- Lights and cameras only along a small section of trail

Option 2



Create a vegetated screen:

- Plant shrubs to screen the underneath of the bridge.
- Use plants that have sharp leaves to deter people from climbing through them.

PROS

- Reduce visibility of debris that accumulates under the bridge
- Screen homeless under bridge from trail users

CONS

- Does not address the perception of safety along the trail
- Is a deterrent not a physical barrier
- May require removal of some of the existing understory vegetation to plant an effective vegetated screen

Option 3



Construct a physical barrier :

- Install a fence, with coordination with Dallas.
- Fence could be PVC coated chain link for visibility or a wood structure to screen.

PROS

- Restricts movement between our property and the City of Dallas

CONS

- Solid fence creates a more secluded space
- Would require removal of existing vegetation
- Would be a constant maintenance issue (staff anticipates it to be damaged to gain access)
- Would need to mitigate flood plain concerns
- Would need to budget for repair and replacement of fence

Questions?

