

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at Seabrook Public Works
2 and Animal Control Complex Training Room, 1100 Red Bluff Road, Seabrook, Texas to discuss
3 and if appropriate, take action on the agenda items listed below.

4
5 **THOSE PRESENT WERE:**

6	Monica Comeaux		Chair, Position 5
7	David Popken		Vice-Chair, Position 6
8	Sally Antrobus		Position 1
9	John Coggeshall	Excused Absence	Position 3
10	Debra Harper		Position 2
11	Nehemiah Jackson		Position 4
12	Jesse Jones		Position 7
13	Sean Landis	Excused Absence	Deputy City Manager
14	Kevin Padgett	Excused Absence	Public Works Director
15	Brian Craig		City Engineer/Asst. Public Works Director
16	Natalie Stephens		Public Works Administrative Coordinator

17

18 Chair Monica Comeaux called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

19 **1. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

20 None

21 **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

22 **2.1** Approve the minutes of the February 2, 2023 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting.

23 *Natalie Stephens, Public Works Admin Coordinator*

24 *Motion made by Member Jones and seconded by Member Popken.*

25 *MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT*

26 **3. NEW BUSINESS**

27 **3.1** Discuss and take all appropriate action regarding a Native Plant Ordinance. *Member*
28 *Jones*

29 *ATTACHMENT(C): SAMPLE NATIVE PLANT ORDINANCE*

30 *Table agenda item until April OST meeting.*

31 *Motion made by Member Jones and seconded by Member Popken.*

32 *MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT*

33

34 **3.2** Discuss and take all appropriate action regarding video security for all of Seabrook parks
35 and parking area. Member Jones

36 Committee requested Seabrook Police Department reported incidents in relations to Seabrook
37 parks. Committee discussed fake security cameras as a deterrent or signage that suggest
38 possible security cameras in the area. Items of concern with security cameras is
39 differentiating surveillance camera vs recording security cameras, data storage and
40 maintenance, limited fiber for recording cameras at various parks, required man hours for
41 open records request.

42 *Committee recommends posting signs in parking lot areas stating Park at your own risk. We*
43 *are not responsible for theft or damage to vehicles or content.*

44 *Motion made by Member Jones and seconded by Member Popken.*

45 *MOTION CARRIED BY A 5-1 VOTE, WITH MEMBER HARPER VOTING IN OPOSITION*

46 **3.3** Update and report on various Seabrook Park items, including needed repairs, signage,
47 plants, flowers, and vegetation, and park use matters. *Committee*

- 48 • Request from LeaAnn Peterson, Communications Director, new posts and signs are
49 needed for Pollinator sign at Hester Garden. *Member Jones*
- 50 • A real estate size sign to recognizing Troop 140128 will be posted by *Member Jones*
- 51 • Pleased to see the no parking area near Todville and Pine Gully bridge. *Chair Comeaux*
- 52 • Successful Carothers Community Garden work day with 30 adults and 12 kids cleaning
53 the garden beds. There will be another work day on 3/4/23. *Member Jones*
- 54 • Carothers Community Garden currently has 18 leased garden beds. There are 9
55 Community garden beds for anyone to work in with any leftover harvest being donated to
56 food bank. *Member Jones*
- 57 • Carothers Community Garden has been awarded \$600 grant from Native Plants Society
58 of Texas. Carothers Coastal Garden has received \$500 from Lady Bird Johnson seed
59 grant. Member Jones will put that funding aside for when Carothers Coastal Garden is
60 ready for planting. Carothers Community Garden has submitted a letter of intent for
61 \$23,600 to Port of Houston for a permanent green house and shade structure. Member
62 Jones stated he has applied for over a dozen grants from \$500- \$30,000. Researching
63 AARP has a grant for mobility and tranquil park for seniors which may be applicable for
64 Carothers Coastal Garden. *Member Jones*
- 65 • Recommendation for committee to research possible grants for prairie plants. *Member*
66 *Antrobus*
- 67 • There is a broken board along Brummerhop Park's wooden walkway. *Chair Comeaux*
- 68 • Cemetery proximity to Crothers Community Garden may lend to adding some
69 wildflowers at the cemetery. *Member Antrobus*

70 **3.4** City Staff update and report on various Seabrook Park items including community
71 events, grant administration, repairs, Council approvals and determinations and emergency
72 events. City Staff

73 Brian Craig, City Engineer/Asst. Public Works Director, provided City updates:

- 74 • Rex Meador Skate Park has been repainted and small repairs completed.
- 75 • Lucky Trails will begin on March 17th. The trails are ready for the event.
- 76 • A new playground structure for Friendship Park should arrive for installation near
77 April 24th.
- 78 • Trash Bash on March 25th.
- 79 • The paving project along Todville is near completion. This is to help raise the streets
80 a little to reduce the amount of puddling.

81 **4. OLD BUSINESS**

82 **4.1** Update on bids received for Carothers Coastal Garden electrical, irrigation and tree
83 removal. *Staff*

84 Brian Craig, City Engineer/Asst. Public Works Director, provided City updates

- 85 • City has received bids for each aspects of the project.
- 86 • City is in the process of getting an engineer to create a grading and drainage plan.
- 87 • Tree removal will take place first followed by grading and swells.
- 88 • The contractor will demo the sub tennis court and possibly use it for rip rap at Pine
89 Gully Park.

90 **4.2** Update on alternative committee member discussions. Chair Comeaux

91 Chair Comeaux reported to the committee that she had shared with Robin Lenio, City
92 Secretary, the committee's vote of 4 to 3 in favor of an alternate member being added to the
93 committee eligible to vote.

94

95 **4.3** Discuss and take all appropriate action regarding Baybrook Butterfly Waystation spring
96 planting work day. Committee

97 Open Space and Trails committee decided to have a Butterfly Waystation work day on
98 March 11th at 9 AM. Member Jones suggested a granite trail branch off towards the
99 Baybrook Butterfly Waystation.

100

101 **4.4** Discuss and take all appropriate action to determine project ideas for volunteers.

102 *Committee*

103 **ATTACHMENT: OST VOLUNTEER TASK LIST (attachment A)**

104 **5. ROUTINE BUSINESS**

105 **5.1** Report from City Staff on the status of a list of actions taken by the Open Space and
106 Trails Committee and forwarded to City Council for its action or review. *City Staff*
107 *ATTACHMENT(S): OST RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL (attachment B)*

108 No changes.

109 **5.2** Update on volunteer hours. *Committee*

110 136 volunteer hours were reported for the month of February by Open Space and Trails,
111 Carothers Community Garden, Community Service and park volunteers.

112 **5.3** Establish future meeting dates and agenda items. *Committee*

113 Next OST meeting will be held on April 6, 2023, 5 PM

114 Agenda items:

- 115 • Discuss a Native Plant Ordinance.
116 • Trash Bash update.

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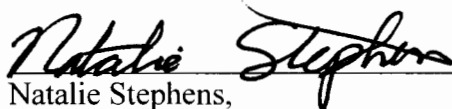
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Natalie Stephens,

Public Works Administrative Coordinator



Monica Comeaux,
Chair

OPEN SPACE & TRAILS COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER TASK LIST

#	TASK	WK DATE & TIME	ASSIGNED MEMBER	STATUS	COMMENT
1	Casita paint int & ext		OST Committee		
2	Casita clean & weed paver area				
3	Casita pressure wash roof and exterior	1/30/23	PW Dept.	Complete	
4	Casita pressure wash walkway pavers	1/30/23	PW Dept.	Complete	
5	Garden clean up at Carothers Coastal Gardens and Pine Gully park				
6	Tree removal				
7	Watering				
8	Weeding				
9	Hester Turtle Pond deck rehab				
10	Build Map Holders for trail "you are here" maps		Member Coggeshall		
11	Clean Hester Turtle Pond				Ideally clean out pond in the summer
12	Install turtle landing in Hester Tutle pond				
13	Wooden signs for park trails				

ATTACHMENT B:

**Open Space and Trails Committee
ITEMS TO CITY COUNCIL - 2022**

DATE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	UPDATES
10/13/22	Recommend Carothers Coastal Gardens East Tract projects for FY 2022-23 in the amount to not exceed \$220,000: 1. Casita Repairs, 2. Dead Tree Removal, 3. Irrigation infrastructure design and Installation, 4. Electrical Service Infrastructure Design and Installation, 5. Trail Design, 6. Trail Construction, 7. Planting Berm Design, 8. Planting Berm Construction, 9. Engineered Drainage Plan as Required 10. Planting Design, 11. Installation of Flowering Trees and Plants as Prescribed within the Planting Design.	APPROVED	City Council at their October 18, 2022 meeting approved unanimously. (Next Steps) Open Space and Trails at a future meeting should discuss design and construction schedule of projects. Funding (Fund 42) FY 22-23 not to exceed \$220,000.00.
8/23/22	Recommend park CIP prioritization: 1. SW1 New Sidewalk Main to El Mar. 2. SW2 New Trails from OSV Subdivision to El Mar. 3. P27 Pine Gully Pier Reconstruction. 4. P26 Enhance Bayside Park and Boardwalk. 5. Prairies Replanting Near Robinson Lift Station.	ITEM. ADDRESSED	Items addressed throughout the document
8/23/22	Recommend City staff to work with Harris County to close off small parking area near Todville Bridge and Pine Gully Trail head, due to safety concerns.	APPROVED	City staff is currently working with the County to accomplish this task
6/28/22	Recommend Trailhead Todville; Additional parking on Todville near Pine Gully Bridge be removed from FY23 CIP.	PARTIAL APPROVAL	Todville Trail Head was not added to the CIP. Additional parking on Todville near Pine Gully Bridge has been removed from the CIP.
6/28/22	Recommend P26 Enhance Bayside Park & Boardwalk; Construct boardwalks and fishing deck with reference to the Old Seabrook Livable Center Study be removed from FY23 CIP.	REVISIT FY 23-24	
6/28/22	Recommend Carothers Coastal Gardens Budget Estimate be approved	PARTIAL APPROVAL	City Council approved to proceed with the Carothers Coastal Gardens East Tract projects identified above Oct 13, 2022 in the amount not to
6/28/22	Recommend acquisition of neighboring property to Hester Gardens.	DISAPPROVED	City Council decided not to take action regarding this recommendation
6/28/22	Recommend prairie replanting following the completion of Robinson lift station construction.	APPROVED	Staff will work with contractor once waste water treatment plant utility construction is completed.

DATE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	UPDATES
6/28/22	Recommend P27 Pine Gully Pier: Rebuild of Pine Gully Pier, be scoped for FY23 CIP	PARTIAL APPROVAL	Identified as P27 within Park CIP, design in progress, Funding FY23 (Fund 28) \$179,998.20.
6/28/22	Recommend CIP P17: Playground Friendship- replace aged playground equipment be scoped for FY23 CIP	APPROVED	Identified as P17 within Park CIP, in progress, Funding FY23 (Park Impact Fee) \$80,000.00
6/28/22	Recommend CIP P18: Trailhead Old SH146 – Entrance point signage, parking.	PARTIAL APPROVAL	Identified as P18 within Park CIP, design in progress for trailhead at Old SH 146, funding (General Fund) \$124,057.00.
6/28/22	Recommend CIP SW1: N Meyer Sidewalk, Main to El Mar – Reconstruct and improvement a concrete sidewalk along N. Meyer be scoped for FY23 CIP	REVISIT FY 23-24	Identified as SW1 within Sidewalk Projects CIP, Funding FY 24 (General Fund) \$331,792.00
6/28/22	Recommend CIP SW2: Main St to OSV Subdivision Sidewalk – Construct a granite/concrete trail from OSV to Main St.be scoped for FY23 CIP	REVISIT FY 23-24	Identified as SW2, Funding identified FY 26 (General Fund) \$159,196.00
6/28/22	Recommend CIP SW3: Trail from City Hall to Ashley Oak Sub. – Construct a sidewalk from Ashley Oaks and Bay Elementary to Cook St granite trail be scoped for FY23 CIP	APPROVED	Identified as SW3 within Sidewalk Projects CIP, Funding FY 23 (General Fund) \$35,158.00
6/28/22	Recommend CIP P19: Carothers Orchards Phase 2 – Task Force recommendation be scoped for FY23 CIP	REVISIT FY 23-24	Identified as P19 within Park CIP, no funding identified.
6/28/22	Recommend CIP P20: Carothers East Tract Trail – Construct a connecting granite trail on the east portion of the Carothers tract be scoped for FY23 CIP	APPROVED	City Council Approved Unanimously, Action taken October 18, 2022, funding shown to be Fund 28, a portion of \$220,00.00 allocation.
6/28/22	Recommend CIP P23 Carothers West Tract Trail-Construct & extend a trail through west tract with wetland boardwalk viewing and seating be scoped for FY23 CIP	REVISIT FY 23-24	Identified as P23 within Park CIP, no funding identified
6/28/22	Recommend P25 Pump Track course be removed for FY23 CIP.	REVISIT FY 23-24	Identified as P25 within Park CIP, funding identified as Potential Grant FY27+ in the amount
6/28/22	Recommend P21: Carothers Waterfront Observation Deck; Construct a public observation deck on the Carothers waterfront property, be scoped for FY23 CIP.	REVISIT FY 23-24	Identified as P21 within Park CIP, no funding identified.
6/28/22	Recommend P22: Carothers Learning Center; Construct a learning center on the Carothers east tract be scoped for FY23 CIP.	REVISIT FY 23-24	Identified as P22 within Park CIP, no funding identified
6/28/22	Recommend Carothers Waterfront: Construct and edge or design breakwater that is an extension for the tract allowing the public a defined and safe area to observe the bay at a lower level be scoped for FY23 CIP	REVISIT FY 23-24	Was not placed within Parks CIP

DATE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	UPDATES
6/28/22	Recommend park acquisition Old WWTP Site; Convert Old WWTP site after demo for a new park and public area project be scoped for FY23 CIP.	REVISIT FY 23-24	Was not placed within Parks CIP, identified within Livable Center Study, which has been approved by City Council. Project design and schedule TBD.

MUNICIPALITY OF _____

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-

IN MUNICIPAL _____, 2023

NATIVE PLANTING ORDINANCE

Sec. 1. TITLE.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as “Municipality of _____ Landscape Ordinance Promoting the Use of Appropriate Native Vegetation.”

WHEREAS, Native Plants are localized, well adapted to the local soils and climate, tend to be more insect and disease resistant, and require less watering and fertilizing than non-native plants.

WHEREAS, local governments use native plant ordinances to improve the landscape principles that guide landscaping of all new development. Many communities find that the use of appropriate native vegetation in local landscaping helps achieve water conservation goals, preserves habitat in urban areas, greatly reduces landscaping maintenance costs, and protects property values.

WHEREAS, wildlife such as birds are more attracted to the Native Plants with which they co-evolved, and use such plants for food, cover, and rearing their young.

WHEREAS, Native Plants, having evolved in the climate, are extremely hardy and therefore have lower maintenance and replacement costs.

WHEREAS, in much the same way as saving an historic home, the use of Native Plants helps to preserve our local heritage.

WHEREAS, Native Plant usage helps restore the ecological balance we have lost through development and can help maintain, or even increase, property values.

Sec. 2. PURPOSE AND INTENT.

The purpose of these regulations is to establish minimum standards for the design, installation, and maintenance of landscaped areas that require the use of appropriate native vegetation and to promote the preservation of indigenous plant communities on site. The Municipality recognizes the significant benefits of establishing and protecting appropriate native vegetation and, therefore, the necessity to maximize the use of appropriate native vegetation in all public and private landscaped areas within the Municipality. It is the intent of this ordinance that these minimum landscape requirements be incorporated in order to promote the public health, safety, and welfare.

It is the intent of this ordinance that these minimum landscape requirements be incorporated in order to combat the climate crisis, species extinction, and global warming, and to promote the public health, safety, and welfare by: (a) Acknowledging that pollination is an essential ecological survival function, and without native plants and the pollinators that depend on them, the human race and all of earth's terrestrial ecosystems will not survive; (b) doing our part to reverse the massive decline in native pollinator populations from widespread use of pesticides in agribusiness, loss of habitat from development, and from our insistence on non-native plants in landscaping; (c) protecting and promoting genetically diverse and appropriate native vegetation; (d) promoting microhabitats in urban areas for the conservation of wildlife by establishing new, and maintaining and connecting existing, wildlife habitat; (e) creating larger, more connected plant populations and helping ensure the future of native plant species by increasing their ability to migrate in response to changes in climate; (f) promoting public health through the long term, widespread adoption of diverse native plantings; and (g) educating residents on the importance of native plant species and native pollinators to the ecosystem.

Sec. 3. DEFINITIONS.

- (a) Community Garden: a public or community use area intended for the purposes of gardening.
- (b) Community Play Area: public use areas, including school and athletic fields, composed of predominantly turfgrass intended for use for recreational purposes.
- (c) Endangered Plant: any plant species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant part of its range.
- (d) Garden: a cultivated area dedicated to growing vegetables, fruits, annual and perennial plants, ornamental grasses, and ground cover in a well-defined location.
- (e) Invasive Plant: a plant reproducing outside its native range and outside cultivation that disrupts naturally occurring native plant communities by altering structure, composition, natural processes, or habitat quality.
- (f) Landscaped Area: the entire parcel less the building footprint, driveway, non-irrigated portions of parking lots, hardscapes such as decks and patios, and other non-porous areas. Water features are included in the calculation of landscaped areas.

(g) Landscaping: any combination of living plants and non-living landscape material such as rocks, pebbles, sand, mulch, walls, fences, or decorative paving materials.

(h) Managed Natural Landscape: a planned, intentional, and maintained planting of native or non-native grasses, wildflowers, forbs, ferns, shrubs, or trees, including but not limited to rain gardens, meadow vegetation, and ornamental plantings. Meadow vegetation means grasses and flowering broad-leaf plants that are native to, or adapted to, and that are commonly found in meadow and prairie plant communities, not including noxious weeds.

(i) Native Plant: those species of plants occurring within a specific habitat or biogeographical region prior to European contact, according to best scientific and historical documentation. Those species of plants naturally occurring with a specific habitat.

(j) Pollinators: animals (primarily insect, but sometimes avian or mammalian) that fertilize plants, resulting in the formation of seeds and the fruit surrounding seeds, that humans and other animals rely on to produce nuts and fruits that are essential components of a healthy diet, and that the majority of flowering plant species found world-wide rely on to make the seeds that will become the next generation of plants.

(k) Rain Garden: a native plant garden that is designed not only to aesthetically improve properties, but also to reduce the amount of storm water and accompanying pollutants from entering streams, rivers, and lakes.

(l) Remove: to transport a native plant from the premises on which it has been growing.

(m) Straight Species: a native plant that is not a cultivar or has not been bred to emphasize or minimize certain traits of the parent plant. Naturally occurring hybrids of native plants shall be considered as Straight Species for the purpose of this ordinance.

(n) Threatened Plant: any plant species that is likely to become an endangered plant within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range, including but not limited to species listed as threatened, at risk, or listed as likely to become endangered by any federal or applicable state or county agency.

(o) Tree: a self-supporting woody plant having a single trunk or a multi-trunk of lower branches, growing to a mature height of at least twelve (12) feet.

(p) Turfgrass: continuous plant coverage consisting of a grass species that is mowed to maintain an established height.

Sec. 4. APPLICABILITY.

This ordinance shall be a minimum standard and shall apply to all public and private buildings, developments, subdivisions, and land within the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the Municipality.

Sec. 5. LIMITS ON WEED CONTROL LAWS.

No regulation shall be enacted by the Municipality or any person or entity which prohibits or discourages the planting, maintenance, or protection of native plants or requires or incentivizes the removal or reduction of native vegetation, except when deemed necessary for public safety.

Sec. 6. INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

The Municipality may provide incentives to promote the use of native plants. Examples of such incentives include: 1) fast track permitting for building and landscape permits; 2) reduced permitting fees; 3) certified native landscape programs/marketing; 4) tax breaks/user fee reductions; 5) payment or cost-share programs for removal of invasive species.

Sec. 7. INVASIVE PLANTS FORBIDDEN.

After the effective date of this ordinance, the Municipality shall not use or install any invasive plant in any Municipal property. Landowners shall not allow any invasive plants on their property.

Sec. 8. PRIORITIZING STRAIGHT SPECIES.

The Municipality shall, to the extent possible and to the extent such plants are reasonably available, prioritize using and installing native plants that are straight species on any Municipal property.

Sec. 9. MANAGED NATURAL LANDSCAPE.

An owner, authorized agent, or authorized occupant of any privately owned lands or premises may, consistent with this subsection and all other applicable laws, statutes, rules, and ordinances, install and maintain a managed natural landscape.

Managed Natural Landscapes shall not include any plant identified by any applicable government agency as a noxious weed. Managed natural landscapes may include plants and grasses of any height and which have gone to seed. Managed natural landscapes shall not include plants that, due to location and/or manner of growth, constitute a hazard to the public.

Sec. 10. MANAGED LANDSCAPE SET BACK.

The managed landscape must be set back from property lines by at least _____ feet. The setback is not required where the defined landscape area abuts another similar private or public landscape area, a wetland, pond, lake, or stream or if a fully opaque fence at least four feet in height is installed along the lot line adjoining the planned landscape area.

The managed landscape may be planted up to the property line.

Sec. 11. CONFLICTING REGULATIONS REPEALED.

All rules and regulations that are in conflict with this article, in whole or in part, are hereby repealed to the extent that they are in conflict.

Sec. 12. SEVERABILITY.

If any portion of this article is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate provision and shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the article.

Sec. 13. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This article shall take effect _____ days after it is enacted by the Municipality; provided, however, that this article shall not apply to any plantings carried out pursuant to existing contracts, invitations to bid, or designs completed prior to the effective date of this article.

Approved:

President

Council

Mayor