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PRESS RELEASE

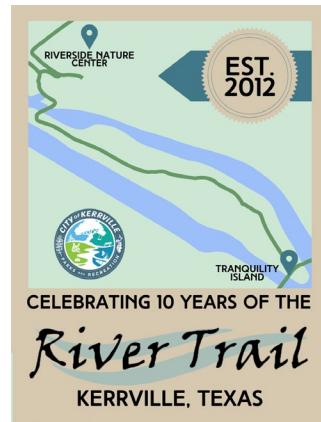
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City celebrates 10th anniversary of the Kerrville River Trail

Kerrville, Texas (Jan. 9, 2023) – Dec. 15, 2022 marked the 10th anniversary of the opening of the first segment of the Kerrville River Trail, which extends from the Riverside Nature Center to Tranquility Island in Louise Hays Park. Past and present members of the Kerrville City Council, Economic Improvement Corporation, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, City staff, and representatives from the Riverside Nature Center recently participated in a celebratory photo.

"The Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank everyone involved in bringing the Kerrville River Trail project to fruition," said Ashlea Boyle, director of Parks and Recreation. "A project of this magnitude takes significant planning and support, and we sincerely appreciate everyone's effort along the way. There are many involved folks not pictured in the photo, including previous city administrations, councils, boards and commissions, too many to name, that were instrumental in the development of



the trail. We are truly appreciative for their vision, support and hard work, and we are excited for future trail extensions."

The Kerrville River Trail is a day-use 10-foot-wide walking and biking trail for public use, which is an integral part of the city's park system. It is an approximately six-mile long trail along the Guadalupe River, with trailheads located at Kerrville-Schreiner Park, G Street, Schreiner University, Lehmann & Monroe Park, Louise Hays Park, Riverside Nature Center, Lowry Park, and the Dietert Center.

History

Plans to build a multi-purpose public-use river trail along the Guadalupe River in Kerrville have been in the works since the 1970s. In 2002, voters approved \$500,000 in bond funds for the River Trail project, which was used to complete master planning and initiate the first phase of the trail. The Kerrville City Council and the Kerrville Economic Improvement Corporation (EIC) have been working together to fund a variety of quality of life projects, including this addition to the city's park system.

The Kerrville River Trail's first segment, from the Riverside Nature Center to Tranquility Island, was dedicated and opened on Dec. 15, 2012. This was the beginning of a greater plan which would provide the citizens of Kerrville and its visitors with a unique place to recreate and enjoy the outdoors.

In 2011, the EIC and City Council approved \$6 million for the development of additional River Trail extensions, funded solely from the 4B economic development sales tax revenues. Thus, subsequent trail extensions were added. Listed in order they are: the Louise Hays Park

to Kerrville-Schreiner Park extension, the Lowry Park extension, and the Lowry Park to Dieter Center extension. This brought the first phase and five miles of the River Trail project to a close.

In 2019, the EIC and City Council approved \$1.5 million for the approximate one-mile extension to Schreiner University from the G Street Trailhead, which was dedicated on Sept. 4, 2020.

Upcoming River Trail Project – Downtown Extension

In 2022, the EIC and City Council approved \$1,025,280 for a downtown extension of the Kerrville River Trail. This extension will be on the north side of the river from the Tranquility Island bridge/ramp area to below the downtown pavilion footbridge area in Louise Hays Park, approximately 1,600 linear feet. The approved funding agreement is for Phase 1 of 2. Phase 2 would continue on the north side to G Street, and would be funded separately for construction, approximately 3,500 linear feet. Both phases would result in an additional one mile of trail. Design work will begin soon on this extension, and it is expected to open in approximately 18 months.

Improving Quality of Life

The Kerrville River Trail has been a great addition to this community and has become one of its defining features. The River Trail is used by the community and visitors daily and encourages citizens in our community to get outdoors and be active. In addition, this amenity is utilized for many special events, including local runs/races and even the Kerrville Triathlon, which draws in over 2,000 athletes to Kerrville.

The Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department is proud to celebrate its establishment and looks forward to new opportunities and phases of this trail.

Love the River Trail? Shirts can be purchased at the Parks and Recreation Department located at Kerrville-Schreiner Park, 2385 Bandera Hwy. Shirts are available in a variety of colors and sizes, while supplies last.



For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (830) 257-7300, recreation@kerrvilletx.gov, visit the city's website at www.kerrvilletx.gov, or follow us on Facebook at City of Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department or Instagram at cityofkerrville.

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Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the initial Kerrville River Trail segment are: (Front row, from left) Becky Etzler, Judy Ferguson, Kerrville Mayor Judy Eychner, Kerrville City Councilmember Brenda Hughes, Michelle Yanez; (Back row) Kerrville Parks and Recreation Director Ashlea Boyle, Kerrville City Manager E.A. Hoppe, Warren Ferguson, Kerrville Assistant City Manager Kim Meismer, Kerrville City Councilmember Kim Clarkson, Kenneth Early, Gary Cochrane, Malcolm Matthews, Larry Howard.