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Dallas Sierra Club
Lone Star Chapter

Dallas Sierra Club News - May 2017

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- [Sierra Club General Meeting](#) - Tuesday, May 9
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General Meeting Program - May 9, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

Building Resilient Cities, One Park at a Time

Think about your favorite neighborhood park. It's probably a beautiful place to spend an afternoon, perhaps play a game of soccer, or ride a bike. But have you ever stopped to consider the other ways your park helps your neighborhood? Well-designed and close-to-home parks can provide benefits to the surrounding community that go beyond beautification and recreation, from reducing flood risks to growing the local economy.

Across America, parks are increasingly being recognized for their ability to improve cities' resilience to the challenges of the 21st century. For example, in Chicago, a former rail line has been transformed into "The 606," a beautiful 3-mile long pedestrian trail that provides enhanced mobility options for the nearly 60,000 nearby residents, while also improving their health and promoting economic development. Cities are using this "multi-benefit" understanding of parks to create beautiful public spaces that can also move the needle on key civic issues.



The Trust for Public Land is applying cutting edge research, mapping, and analysis to create parks that help cities tackle their biggest social, environmental, and economic challenges. In his presentation, Robert Kent will explain why parks are vital to developing long-term resiliency in America's cities, the many "hidden" benefits provided by parks to their surrounding communities, and how the cities of North Texas are applying these principles in their own park systems.

Robert Kent is the North Texas Area Director for The Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit organization that creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities. Since 1985, the organization has created over 40,000 acres of new parks in Texas. The Trust for Public Land's North Texas Office works to ensure that every resident of the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area has a park within a ten-minute walk, creating a healthier and more connected region that is resilient to the challenges of the 21st century. A Dallas native, Robert has been with The Trust for Public Land since 2014. Previously, he served as the Director of Public Policy for the North Texas Commission.

Everyone is welcome. FREE! You don't have to be a Sierra Club member. Just show up. We'd love to meet you.

Our General Meeting starts at 7:00 pm, but come at 6:30 for snacks, information and fellowship. Click over to our [General Meeting page](#) for more information and a map.

Texas Hill Country Explorapalooza - May 26-29

Trip Discount Extended to May 10

Explore the Texas Hill Country on the extended Memorial Day weekend with the Sierra Club! Don't let another year pass without seeing the prime destinations too many Texans miss: the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Inks Lake State Park, Longhorn Caverns, the LBJ Ranch, Luckenbach, Balcones Canyon National Wildlife Refuge, your choice in Fredericksburg of the Pacific War Museum or a winery, the Waco Mammoth National Monument and more. Sleep in a tent or cabins at Inks Lake State Park or a motel in nearby Burnet. Leave transportation to us--we'll ride in a comfortable bus. Complete trip details, including cost and registration forms are in [this PDF](#). The discount price of \$300 for campers has been extended to Wednesday, May 10. For information, contact trip leader Annie Wilson, annie_c_wilson@hotmail.com or 682-232-4980.



Future Programs You Won't Want to Miss

June 13 - Gardening on a Shoe String

Learn how to have a fantastic garden without spending a fortune.

July 11 - Citizen Science and iNaturalist

What if you find something outside but don't know what it is? How do you find out? What if you could share that discovery with others to excite them about nature as well? Citizen science is one way to address each of those questions.

August 8 - The Creature Teacher

The Creative Teacher will have live animals that are engaging entertainment for children and adults alike.

Calendar

Here is our calendar for the next two months. For complete listings, visit us at www.dallassierraclub.org.



May 6 (Sat) Native Plants and Prairies Day

10-3 at Bath House Cultural Center grounds by White Rock Lake Held by [North Texas Master Naturalists](#) This is a FREE family-oriented community event focused on Texas flora and fauna and the use of native plants in home landscapes as disease and drought-resistant alternatives to non-native species. Native plants and grasses have been an important part of Texas history. Birds, animals and

insects all depend on these native plants to survive. We will have lots of animals, birds, bugs, snakes, and plants. There will be 30 minute wildflower and prairie walks guided by experts, informative speakers, and over 30 demonstration and information booths. For the first time, artists of nature themed works will be there, too. We'll once again have our popular raffle with gifts provided by event sponsors. Contact: Jim Folger [Send Email](#) 214-663-2268



May 6 (Sat) Urban Dallas Bike Ride - 9:00 AM

Explore our growing Dallas bike trails network. We'll link several trails together with a morning ride to White Rock, Deep Ellum, Downtown Dallas and a segment thru SMU and the Bush Library, making a great urban loop. It's about 20 miles. We've ridden this route before and everyone had fun. Meet at R Taco (formerly Rusty Taco), corner of Greenville and University, ready to ride at 9:00 AM. Parking is available on Matilda, one block east on University. You must wear a helmet. We will make a short beverage stop somewhere in Deep Ellum or Downtown. Please bring a bike lock. Leader: Bill Beach [Send Email](#) 214-662-3224



May 9 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Creating City Parks - Learn about The Trust for Public Land's efforts to protect land to ensure healthy, livable communities. Everyone is invited. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



May 13 (Sat) Trinity Forest Trail Day Hike

You've read about the proposed State park, the Audubon Center and the golf course, but have you BEEN to the Trinity Forest? Here's an opportunity.

Three outings leaders rode bikes on the Trinity Forest Trail and AT&T Trail in April and we were impressed! This is a 3.25-mile hike to show you what we consider the best trail segments. Meet at 9:30 Saturday morning at the Joppa Preserve Trailhead parking lot to set up a car shuttle. We'll move some of the cars to another trailhead and walk back to Joppa. To reach Joppa Preserve (a Dallas County park) from Downtown, take Interstate 45 south to Loop 12, exiting onto Loop 12 eastbound. Almost immediately, exit right onto Texas 310 (South Central Expressway), then turn left in 0.4 mile onto River Oaks, the first street on your left. Follow River Oaks over the tracks and as far as possible, to the concrete parking area by the trailhead. Reservations aren't needed. If the hike must be postponed due to high water, I'll post notice in this space. We should finish the hike before noon. Leader: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733



May 17 (Wed) Outings Committee Meeting

Tonight the Outings Committee meets upstairs at Whole Foods Market, SE quadrant of Preston Road and Forest Lane, Dallas, at 6:30. Anyone interested in outings is invited. Reply to Mark to be added to the advance agenda email list or to suggest an agenda item. Organizer: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733



May 20 (Sat) Trail Maintenance at Cedar Ridge Preserve

Come to the hilly terrain of Cedar Ridge Preserve to help maintain one of the better trail networks in Dallas. The Sierra Club is responsible for the Possum Haw Trail. We work here on third Saturdays of almost every month, starting at 9 AM, working until approximately noon. The Preserve's address is 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas. For directions and general information about Cedar Ridge Preserve, click [this link](#). If you need more information or want to carpool, call or email me. Contact: Ginger Bradley [Send Email](#) 469-223-7902



May 26-29 (Fri-Mon) Texas Hill Country Explorapalooza

Join an exploration of the Texas Hill Country this Memorial Day weekend! Destinations include

the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Longhorn Caverns, Inks Lake, the LBJ Ranch, Luckenbach, Balcones Canyon National Wildlife Refuge, a great museum or winery in Fredericksburg, the Waco Mammoth National Monument and more. Sleep in a tent or cabins at Inks Lake State Park or a motel in nearby Burnet. Leave transportation to us--we'll ride in a comfortable bus. Complete trip details, including cost and how to register are in [this PDF](#). Register by May 3 for a discounted price. Bus trip leader: Annie Wilson [Send Email](#) 682-232-4980



Jun 3-4 (Sat-Sun) Canoe or Kayak on the Brazos River

The trip officially starts at the put-in point just below the Possum Kingdom Dam along Highway 16. We'll meet in the Rochelle's Canoe Rental parking lot at 9:00 A.M. Saturday, June 3. (Contact trip leader Terry Sullivan for a map with directions.) After renting canoes or kayaks we will meet up at the put-in point for the start of the trip. The trip is two days on the river and about 20 river miles long. We'll camp one night on a sandbar island at about two thirds of our distance down the river. Bring water, food, camping gear and raingear. We will paddle through some of Texas' most beautiful country, with high, craggy cliffs, soaring birds and cattle crossing the river. Named by the Spanish, "Brazos de Dios," meaning "Arms of God," this river has beauty not available to most people. Reservations for the outing are imperative and require contacting Terry for instructions and acceptance, preferably by the second week of May. Leader: Terry Sullivan [Send Email](#) 214-533-9899



Jun 7 (Wed) Dallas Sierra Club Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee (or Excom) is the elected governing body of the Dallas Sierra Club and meets upstairs at Whole Foods Market, southeast corner of Preston Road and Forest Lane, in Dallas at 6:30 pm. Contact the [Dallas Group Chair](#) for more information.



Jun 13 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Frugal Gardening - Fran Powell will share imaginative tips on how to re-use and re-purpose items in your garden for free. - Everyone is invited. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



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The Dallas Sierra Club News e-newsletter, sent monthly (and occasional for late-breaking news or events), keeps you up-to-date on meetings, activities, issues and special events. Visit us at www.DallasSierraClub.org.
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