

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW PARKING MAKES PEPPER CREEK TRAIL MORE ACCESSIBLE

(Temple) – In November the Temple Parks & Leisure Services Department dedicated the new hike and bike trail along Pepper Creek. Because of its beauty and functionality, the trail quickly became a popular destination for Temple families and is considered to be the City’s iconic trail. The trail, which follows the western bank of Pepper Creek, has established a new gold standard for Temple’s trail system. At twelve feet wide, it is ideal for cyclists, skaters and parents pushing strollers. The trail also features several unique water features. All of these great amenities quickly lead to the trail becoming very popular, which created a high demand for parking near the trail.

To help accommodate trail users, Parks & Leisure Services has recently added trail parking at the Scott & White West Campus off Kegley Road, between FM 2305 and Airport Rd (State Highway 53).

“Before we created the new parking, trail users had to park in lots in front of nearby businesses or walk or ride long distances to get to the trail,” Parks & Leisure Services Director Ken Cicora said. “Our goal has been to make this great trail more accessible to everyone.”

The new parking is available off of North Kegley Road in the Scott & White West Campus, next to the Scott & White Continuing Care Hospital lot.

“We worked very closely with Scott & White while we developed this parking area,” Projects Superintendent Val Roming said. “They have been really fantastic partners on this.”

The new parking spaces at the back of the Continuing Care Hospital lot are roughly 1,000 feet from the Pepper Creek trail, separated by a small field. To bridge this gap, Parks & Leisure Services also constructed a new concrete trail path to connect the parking lot with the main trail.

“We wanted to be sure to give not just walkers and joggers increased access to the trail but also all the cyclists and families with strollers,” Roming said. “The connecting trail should be helpful for anyone wanting to visit Pepper Creek.”

Now the challenge is to educate trail visitors about the new parking area.

“We want to get the word out,” Cicora said. “To that end, we have posted a number of green trail signs along FM 2305 and Kegley Road to direct folks to the new parking.”

The ultimate goal of this project has been to increase access and use of the Pepper Creek Trail.

“This trail is such a great gem among Temple’s many great trails and parks,” Roming said. “We want to do everything we can to get people out there visiting the trail and discovering just how impressive it is.”

For more information about the new parking access to the Pepper Creek Trail or to arrange an interview, please contact Marketing Coordinator James Stafford at (254) 771-4134.

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