



Happy New Year Friends!

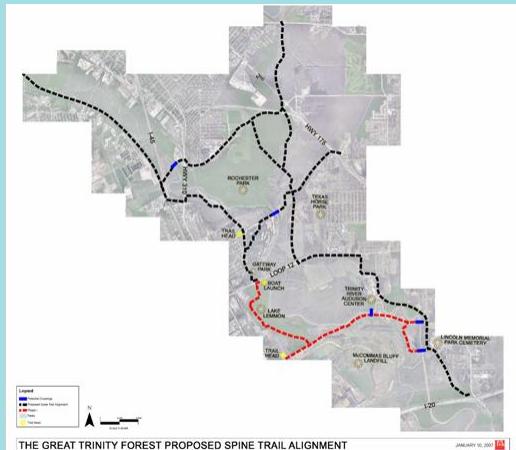
2009 ended on a very positive note for us at Groundwork Dallas. We had the opportunity to recruit and train a new Green Team and those students were able to participate in another Groundwork USA Teen Summit in New Orleans. We had some more corporate volunteers come in during the last few months of 2009 so we were able to complete some needed trail maintenance work and community greenspace projects.

We are looking forward to 2010! We have some fantastic volunteer opportunities coming up as well as an opportunity to work on a new Comprehensive Trail design plan that will include a lot of community outreach. We have hired a new field support and community person who has a very unique background and I know we will benefit tremendously from him.

Great Trinity Forest Master Trail Plan

Community Input Sought

This year, Groundwork Dallas will embark on an ambitious new plan for trails in the Great Trinity Forest. The area at right represents areas where the city plans to install multi-use "spine" trails in the Great Trinity Forest. These are largely unfunded at this time and will be concrete trails similar to the Katy Trail. What Groundwork Dallas proposes is to intersect these spine trails at various locations with soft-surface trails, providing surrounding neighborhoods an opportunity to gain access to the GTF, and users of the trail system an opportunity to get access to communities where, hopefully, eco-tourists can take breaks and buy water, air up their tires have lunch, etc. In this way, we are using eco-tourism as a generator for positive and sustainable economic development by proving trail users access to places where they can easily spend an entire day south of I-30. We do have some really unique



We are working on revamping the website, and we are still searching for a CPA and as always, we look to volunteers in those areas. We are shaping the board to get more input from folks who have access to funders or who can help us with fundraising. These are going to continue to be lean times and fundraising will be a top concern for us here.

One of the things that I am most proud of is the way that we manage our funds and leverage our resources. In 2009, we logged over 7,000 volunteer hours, which represents a contribution of labor of over \$100,000. I am positive that in 2010 we will see that number double. We have a lot of great opportunities coming our way and I am so excited about all the progress that we have made to get to this point.

We will be sending more updates on a more frequent basis, inviting you to join us for volunteer days and social networking happy-hours and fundraising dinners. We hope that you will find time to join us on one of these occasions. 2010 is going to be a great year and we look forward to seeing you all at some point.

Sincerely,

Casie Pierce
Groundwork Dallas Inc.

attributes in the Great Trinity Forest that will not be easily accessed by spine trails alone, so there is a need to provide soft-surface trails. Groundwork Dallas will be organizing a series of community meetings in various neighborhoods surrounding the GTF in order to gain better input on what communities would like to see of the GTF and how they feel their neighborhoods would interact positively with trail access to the GTF.

If you live in a gateway community and would like to help us set up a neighborhood meeting, please contact us and we'll be happy to organize it.

Meet Peter Payton

Director of Field Operations and Community Outreach

Peter has come to us from Detroit, Michigan, where he has lived with his wife and two boys for the last three years. Peter is a Dallas native and graduated from Sunset High School in Oak Cliff. He joined the Seminary in 1995 and attended SMU's Perkins School of Theology where he earned his Master's of Divinity. He has worked as pastor at the Christian Ministry for the National Park Service at both Big Bend National Park and Mount Rainer in Washington. Peter also lived in Alaska and has worked as Youth counselor for the Sitka Tribe of Alaska as well as Summer Camp Minister for various churches around Dallas and in Alaska and Michigan, including Highland Park United Methodist Church. After a few years in Alaska, he put his love of cooking to use and started his own catering company, catering to the film industry around the Northwestern part of the United States and Canada. Peter loves the outdoors, and is an avid camper. He brings a unique perspective to Groundwork Dallas and will make a great addition to the staff. He started officially on January 18 and is still wrapping his arms around all the many ways in which we identify who we are what we do, but he is off to a great start and has already gotten some great volunteer groups and fundraising opportunities lined up for us.



Please join us in welcoming Peter to our Groundwork Dallas team. We are very fortunate to have him here with us.

(Peter is very excited about his new rain-proof sleeping bag.)

Trail Training Opportunities

We will have more opportunities this year to do more trail training classes. Only "Certified

TrailBlazers" will be able to lead trail crews and use the tools and flag trails, so we want to provide as many volunteers as possible with opportunities to learn how to build trails the correct way. We are anticipating another Americorps team in May, so we will send out an email for training then, and we will probably try to do something again at REI for a couple of weeknights, and then field work on a Saturday. Just look for updates from us on that.

Meanwhile, DORBA (Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Association) is hosting a trail training workshop, taught by the same trail trainers that we use, on the [weekend of February 20-21 at Sid Richardson Ranch](#) northwest of Wort Worth. You MUST REGISTER and the cost is \$35 per person to attend. There will be two classes- a basic and an advanced, so if you have already trained with us before, this will be great opportunity for you to get some advanced training. If you do plan on going, please let us know, so we can keep track of who has received proper training.

About Groundwork Dallas Inc.

Groundwork Dallas is a non-profit 501 c 3 charitable organization under the IRS tax code. Our mission is to help the city to make the Great Trinity Forest more accessible to the public by providing recreational amenities and enhancing and improving greenspaces in the communities surrounding the GTF. Your contribution is very much appreciated and is tax-deductible.

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Groundwork Dallas Inc.



Special Thanks

Special thanks to [Bain and Company](#). Volunteers from Bain (pictured, at top) participated in two trail maintenance days in 2009 and did a terrific job. It's corporate volunteer groups like Bain that make us a truly unique organization and allows us to keep doing what we do best.

If your company would like to participate in a volunteer workday with Groundwork Dallas, please let us know and we will accommodate any day of the week you choose and depending on what type of activity you prefer, we will try to connect you with a specific community or community greenspace project. Please visit our website for more ideas of what volunteer groups can do to get involved hands-on in the Trinity River Project and help make the Great Trinity Forest a better place for all.

Thanks again, Bain, and we hope to be working with you all again very soon!