

P R E S S R E L E A S E

DISCOVERY POINT AT PRAIRIE CREEK PARK BREAKS GROUND



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Contact:

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Discovery Point at Prairie Creek Park

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Richardson, Tx – What started as an idea of how to disburse funds generated from a school auction two years ago is now a project underway that will benefit the entire community. Discovery Point at Prairie Creek Park will be an outdoor classroom and nature area in Prairie Creek Park. The project is part of the master plan approved by the City of Richardson City Council and is located off of Prairie Creek East, directly across the street from the main entrance to Prairie Creek Elementary. The classroom will be used by local elementary schools, scout troops, y-guides, neighbors, etc.

The Process of Getting There: Working side by side with the City of Richardson, a committee was formed to generate ideas. Joining forces to take the project from concept to implementation, representatives from Prairie Creek Garden Club, Canyon Creek Garden Club, Canyon Creek Homeowner's Association, Aldridge Elementary, Canyon Creek Elementary, and Prairie Creek Elementary worked for two years along with the entire community culminating in breaking ground on May 10, 2010.

A Shared Vision: With Discovery Point, it's as much about the journey as the discovery. Gathering feedback from residents and potential users, the committee rallied around a shared vision to:

- Leave a natural footprint with minimal removal of the natural environment
- Maintain/provide a sense of discovery
- Continue a tradition of community pride and ownership in our park.

Architect Coy Talley of Talley Associates Inc. listened to the committee, facilitated numerous idea generating sessions and came back with a concept that the community has embraced.



Project Funding: The City of Richardson had no funds budgeted for projects in Prairie Creek Park through its annual budget or the 2006 Bond. Discovery Point will be completed through private funds. A campaign to raise the funds needed to complete the project was undertaken by the committee. Through the competitive bid process conducted by the City of Richardson, the construction costs came to \$126,000. To date more than 100 individuals and organizations have contributed to the project. Flower sales, school auctions and other community wide fund raising projects have added to the total. As of May 10th, the group has surpassed the \$126,000 mark in funds committed, insuring that no city funds will be used to construct Discovery Point.

Breaking Ground: Southern Botanical, a Dallas based firm was the firm awarded the Discovery Point bid by Richardson City Council. With a strong belief in being part of the community in which they are working, crews from Southern Botanical rolled up to the site in trucks with equipment and shovels to break ground as students from Prairie Creek Elementary, Richardson City Council members, Discovery Point Committee members, City of Richardson staff and supporters from throughout the community cheered them on. Construction will begin immediately with the goal of completion prior to school beginning in the fall of 2010.

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