

# TOWN



# NEWS

## Dallas Chapter – October 2025

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Monthly Meeting October 13th

6-7:30

Marie Waterman's home

2221 Greenpark Dr

Richardson, TX 75082

Show and Tell - Bring your favorite camping gadget, gear or tip.

Light refreshments will be provided



MOUNT SAINT HELENS

# TOWN ACTIVITIES

*Mark your Calendars!!*

Thursday, October 16th - 19th

Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge

Contact Nancy Lee to sign up [nlee002@tx.rr.com](mailto:nlee002@tx.rr.com)

Thursday, October 30th - November 2nd

Pedernales State Park

Contact Marie to sign up 214-733-3222

Tuesday November 4th

Hike Cedar Ridge Preserve

Hike and lunch

Contact Shirley if you plan to join.

972-890-2491

Wednesday, November 12th - Sunday

November 16th

Palo Duro

Contact Melissa Brown

254-582-1528

Monthly Meetings

6pm – 7:30pm

November 10<sup>th</sup>

Dale Dickerson's House

Christmas Party

Saturday December 6th

4 pm -???

Faith and Kay's House

7816 Kristina Dr

Frisco, Tx



## Kayaking fun at Cooper Lake State Park



Mary, Marie and Shirley out enjoying a paddle on the lake. The water was smooth as glass.



## Hiking Cedar Ridge Preserve

Kay, Shirley, Marie, Laura, Mary (not pictured) and Cathy (photographer) enjoyed a nice hike at the preserve. Lunch was enjoyed by some after the hike.

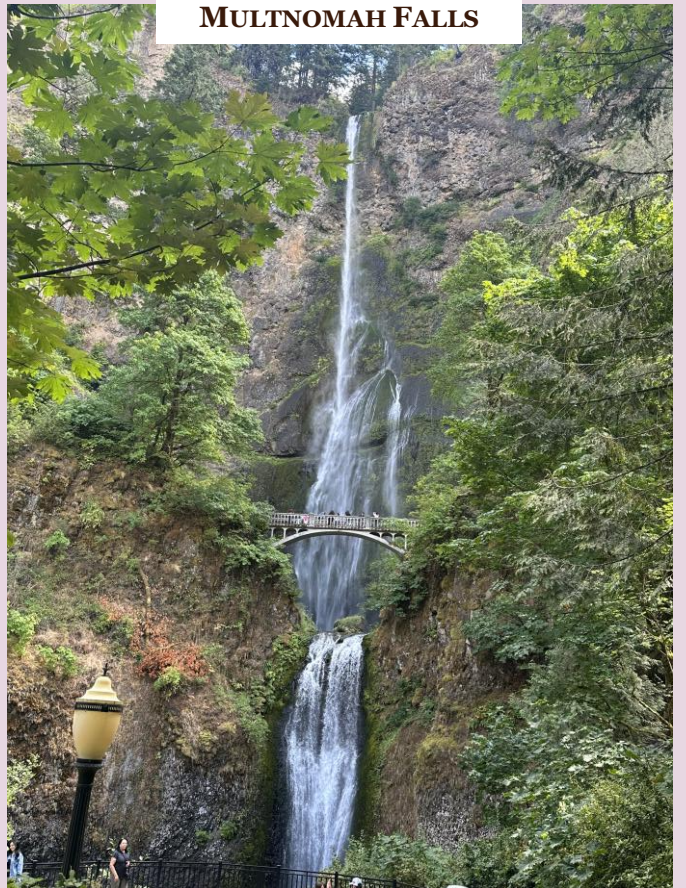
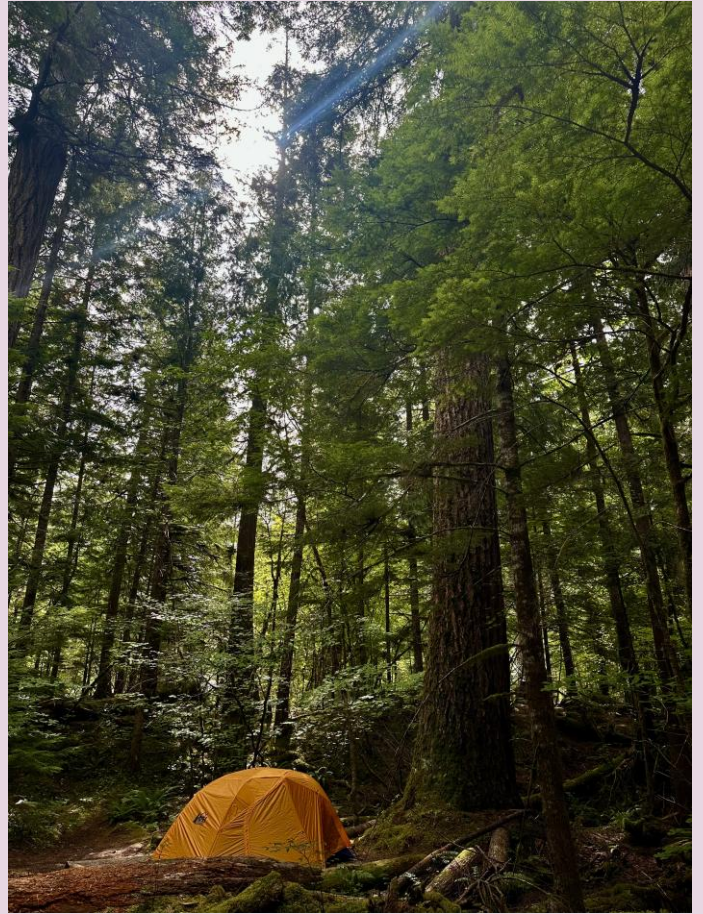




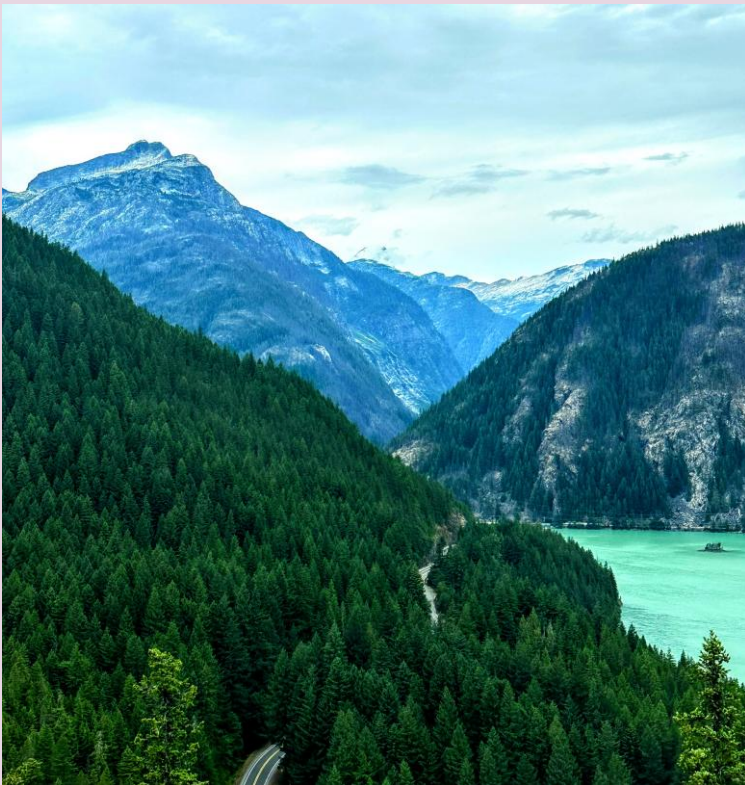
## A Townie Enjoys the Pacific Northwest



**COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATURAL SCENIC AREA**



**MULTNOMAH FALLS**







**Town Meetings are always fun!**



## Texas passes new law to create one of its most ambitious trails yet

Officials say the route will preserve natural springs and historic sites.

By [Ariana Garcia](#), *Assistant News Editor* Sep 29, 2025

A newly signed law has set the stage for a 100-mile trail connecting two of Texas' most [iconic landmarks](#)—the Alamo in San Antonio and [the State Capitol in Austin](#)—just in time for the state's 200th anniversary of independence in 2036.

[House Bill 4230](#), signed by [Gov. Greg Abbott](#) after receiving bipartisan support, establishes the Texas Bicentennial Trail, a major infrastructure and tourism project that will link existing and new paths through [Central Texas](#). The route will connect Barton, [San Marcos](#), Comal, and [San Antonio](#) Springs, weaving together natural springs, [historic sites](#), and scenic landscapes.

The legislation tasks the [Texas General Land Office](#), [Texas Department of Transportation](#), and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with leading the development, in partnership with local governments and the nonprofit Great Springs Project. Completion is mandated by Jan. 1, 2036.

"[The General Land Office](#) is thrilled to work with state agencies, local governments, and organizations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of Texas' Independence with the Texas Bicentennial Trail," said [Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham](#) in a [press release](#). "This sprawling network of nature trails, renowned geographical locations, and historical landmarks will inspire Texans and millions of annual visitors to explore our state's unique beauty and history, boosting our robust economy."

The trail is part of a broader conservation and recreation effort led by the Great Springs Project, which envisions a continuous hike-and-bike corridor connecting the four major spring systems in Central Texas. Some segments have already been mapped out by local communities, while others remain in the planning phase.

Rep. Will Metcalf (R-Conroe), who authored the bill, emphasized the project's long-term economic impact. "The Texas Bicentennial Trail will showcase the beauty, character, and independence of the State of Texas and provide significant economic impact to the state."

[Sen. Donna Campbell \(R-New Braunfels\)](#), who carried the companion Senate bill, linked the trail to both public health and cultural preservation: "The Texas Bicentennial Trail from the Alamo to the State Capitol represents the greatness of our state and our rich historical and cultural heritage. And recreational trails are a win-win for Texas by bringing tourist dollars to a region and providing for a more healthy Texas and health care savings for Texans."



The law explicitly bars the use of eminent domain for acquiring land along the route, addressing concerns that have stalled similar projects in the past.

Trail planning is already underway, with agencies and stakeholders seeking public input through initiatives like the Trails Corridor Survey hosted by Great Springs Project.

## **Popular Texas park is shutting down trails in October**

Closures start Oct. 3 and will affect some of the most visited areas.

By [Ariana Garcia](#), *Assistant News Editor* Sep 23, 2025

[Big Bend National Park](#) is shutting down trails and campsites this fall—not for construction, but to clear the skies for helicopters targeting an [invasive species](#) overrunning the desert.

Starting Oct. 3, the park will close sections of land while [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#) staff, in coordination with the National Park Service (NPS), conduct aerial operations to reduce the population of [Barbary sheep, or aoudad](#). The animals, native to North Africa, were introduced to West Texas roughly 30 years ago and have since spread across the park. Officials say the herds compete directly with [desert bighorn sheep](#) for food and water and are undermining efforts to restore the native population.

The first closure will affect the Mesa de Anguila Trail, where no camping, day use or overnight hiking will be allowed during the operation. The trail will be shut down the evening before the flights begin and will reopen once the work is completed.

On Oct 4 and 5, closures expand to the Deadhorse Mountains and surrounding areas, including Dagger Float Road and Old Ore Road. Dozens of campsites will also be off limits, including Nine Point Draw, McKinney Springs, Roys Peak Vista, Ernest Basin, Willow Tank, Ernst Tinaja, La Noria, Cap de Leon, and Candelila. All recreation north of Boquillas Canyon Road will be closed, with no access to trails such as [Marufo Vega](#) or Ore Terminals.

Despite the restrictions, popular river and hiking spots will remain accessible. The Rio Grande through Santa Elena Canyon will stay open for both private and commercial trips, and the Santa Elena Canyon and Boquillas Canyon trails are unaffected. Persimmon Gap will also remain open.

"Large groups of aoudads outcompete bighorn sheep for food and water, threaten biodiversity, and impair park visitors' ability to experience natural conditions and scenery," NPS officials [wrote in a news release](#). Earlier this year, Texas authorized [aerial hunting of the invasive sheep](#) from helicopters to speed up population control.

The closures come as [Big Bend](#) prepares for another major disruption: a \$22 million overhaul of [the Chisos Basin](#). That project—including replacement of the 60-year-old Chisos Mountains Lodge and an aging water system—was postponed earlier this year and is now set to begin May 1, 2026, with construction expected to last two years.