



## Project Background

Midwest City, Oklahoma has been a planned community since it was founded in the early 1940s. The City encompasses 25 square miles and is adjacent to Oklahoma City, Del City, Tinker Air Force Base, Choctaw, Nicoma Park, and Spencer, as well as unincorporated areas of Oklahoma County. City leadership and staff are actively engaged in a variety of initiatives to improve quality of life for residents. One of those initiatives is the Trails Master Plan and Implementation Study. It is the first step in the development of a comprehensive trail system.

The existing Midwest City trail system evolved in large part due to the efforts of private citizens. City Council, City staff, and various individuals and groups within Midwest City have supported efforts to develop trails. This grassroots effort has resulted in a well-developed trail along Soldier Creek that is actively used by the community. The Trails Master Plan and Implementation Study looks to improve and expand on the existing trail system.

The intention of the Trails Master Plan and Implementation Study initiative is to provide a cohesive plan and implementation strategy for future trail development in Midwest City. Community involvement is an important part of the project approach. A Trails Advisory Committee has been developed to guide the process, and several Trails Public Forum Meetings will be held to gather citizen input about the trail system. Public input is also being gathered through a Trail Survey. The Trail Survey can be obtained on the website or in the Community Development Department. The Trails Master Plan will reflect existing Midwest City planning documents, address community concerns in a proactive manner, and provide a clear and focused guide to implementation of a future trail system.

There are many benefits to a comprehensive trail system. Trails increase pedestrian and cyclist safety and provide health and fitness benefits as well. Trail corridors planned in conjunction with open space protection can improve air and water quality as well as protect flood plains. The Trails Master Plan and Implementation Study provides an opportunity for Midwest City to build upon the strength of their existing trails and provide the exponentially increasing benefits of a comprehensive trail system.