April 22, 2019

**Emergency Trail Marker System FAQs**

**What is Plano’s Emergency Trail Marker System?**

To improve trail safety and emergency access, the City of Plano is implementing a trail marker system that will aid first responders in the event of an emergency. Emergency response teams will now be able to determine exactly where on a trail they need to respond and how to best access that location. Signs will be posted alongside the trail approximately every 1/3 mile with a unique location identifier to ensure that trail users are always near an emergency marker.

A pilot program to test the system’s effectiveness is being implemented along Chisholm Trail. Once the pilot program is evaluated, the system will then be expanded to other Plano trails.

**How does the emergency trail marker numbering system work?**

The unique location ID listed on each trail marker provides emergency response teams with three essential pieces of information: trail section, trail name, and orientation. All trails within the emergency trail marker system are divided into sections or blocks to help filter a user’s north or south coordinates along the trail. A trail block is denoted in the first number within the listed three-digit number. The last two digits allow first responders to further pinpoint the user’s position. The signage will also include the initials of the trail name as well as the trail direction (east or west). The graphic below is an example of an emergency trail marker that can be found along Chisholm Trail. Based on the sign, the user is located at point 26 of Block 5 on Chisholm Trail on the east side of the creek.

It should be noted that only signs on Chisholm Trail provide an orientation, in all other cases only the initials of the trail name will be provided.
What should I do when I am in need of assistance?

If you should need emergency assistance while on a trail, find the nearest emergency trail marker, dial 9-1-1, and tell the operator the unique location ID listed on the sign. The operator will also ask for your telephone number in case you get disconnected. Once the operator has your location, phone number, and general knowledge of the problem, resources will be dispatched. The operator may ask you to remain on the line to gather additional information for the responders.

How do I obtain a map of Plano’s Trail Emergency System?

Maps of Plano trails within the current emergency trail marker system can be accessed from their respective webpage. A map of our pilot program along Chisholm Trail is also provided at the end of this document. If you have any questions regarding Plano’s emergency trail marker system, please contact our Trail System Planner.

**Trail Emergency System Directory**

**Emergency: 9-1-1**

Police Department (Non-emergency)
Tel: 972-424-5678

Plano Parks & Recreation Department
Tel: 972-941-7250

Animal Services
Tel: 972-769-4360