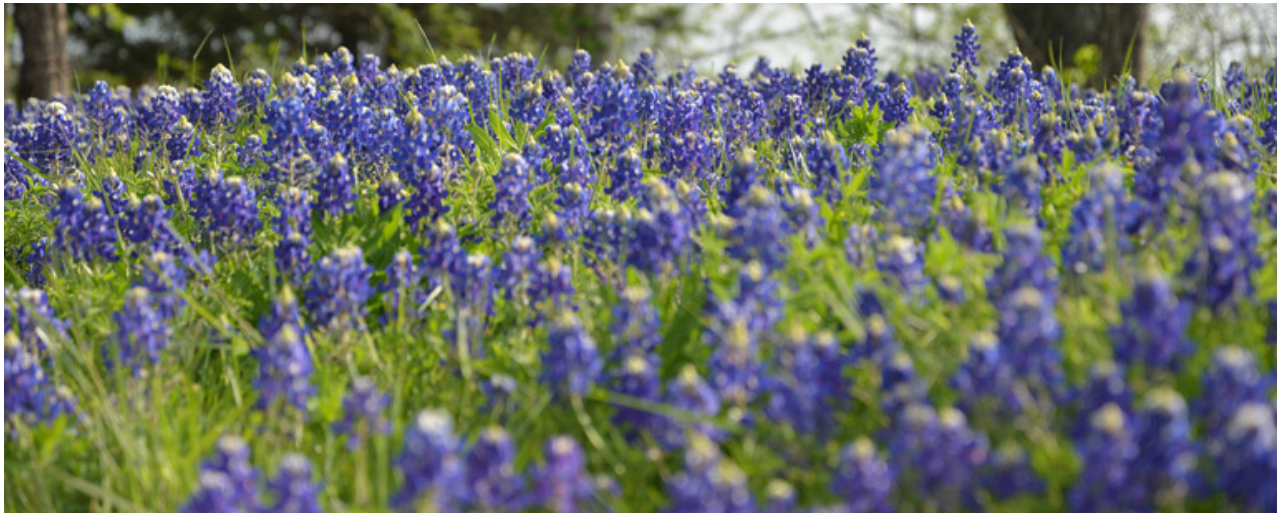


PROPOSAL

May 2014

PURPOSE

This proposal recommends a new tradition. To create a lasting tribute to our alumni and former students, it is proposed that the bluebonnet be adopted as the official flower of Collin College and that bluebonnets be planted strategically on campuses in summer of 2014, so they will bloom for the first time in the spring of 2015 during the 30th anniversary of the college. This is near April 4 when voters approved the measure establishing the college. The bluebonnet project also will celebrate the launch of “The Pride,” which is the official association of Collin College alumni and former students. Founding trustee Dr. J. Robert Collins has agreed to donate seeds from a field of bluebonnets on his property (pictured below) to seed the first symbolic planting at Central Park Campus, since it is the first campus.



PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

Heritage of the Bluebonnet

Although the State of Texas declared the bluebonnet as the state flower in 1920, the flower became a springtime tradition to Texans thanks to the highway beautification campaigns led by Lady Bird Johnson. She was well known for saying that “Where flowers bloom, so does hope,” and this thought is equally applicable to Collin College. Native American folklore portrays the bluebonnet as a symbol of self-sacrifice and survival. The bluebonnet is a drought-tolerant perennial that thrives in poor soil conditions without irrigation or fertilizer.

Official Communication Language

“The bluebonnet is being adopted as the official flower of Collin College as a tribute to alumni and former students. The flower’s royal blue petals topped by a crown of white parallel the college’s official colors of blue and white, and the flowers bloom each year just prior to commencement as a prelude to a new class of graduates.”

Official Approval

An item will be included on the May 2014 agenda for consideration by Board of Trustees for approval.

Proposed Planting Strategy: Phase-In

It is the intent to start small and then gradually spread the bluebonnets until they become a rich, blue carpet welcoming students and the community. Bluebonnets re-seed themselves by dropping their seeds in approximately June of each year, but it is recommended that additional plantings be made in early years to assist. Volunteers including alumni, students, faculty and staff will be recruited to assist with initial plantings.

Start-Up

When: June or July after the bluebonnets drop their seeds

Budget: The first ceremonial seeds will be donated by Dr. Collins and his wife Claude Ann. Additional seeds can be purchased in bulk for roughly \$40/500 square feet.

Maintenance: Reportedly bluebonnets take little maintenance other than mowing down after they whither and drop their seeds in late spring or early summer. The implementation team will work with Plant Operations to specify and mark wildflower areas that will deviate from the typical maintenance schedule.

Where: Near the library at major campuses or in selected areas at CHEC/CYC

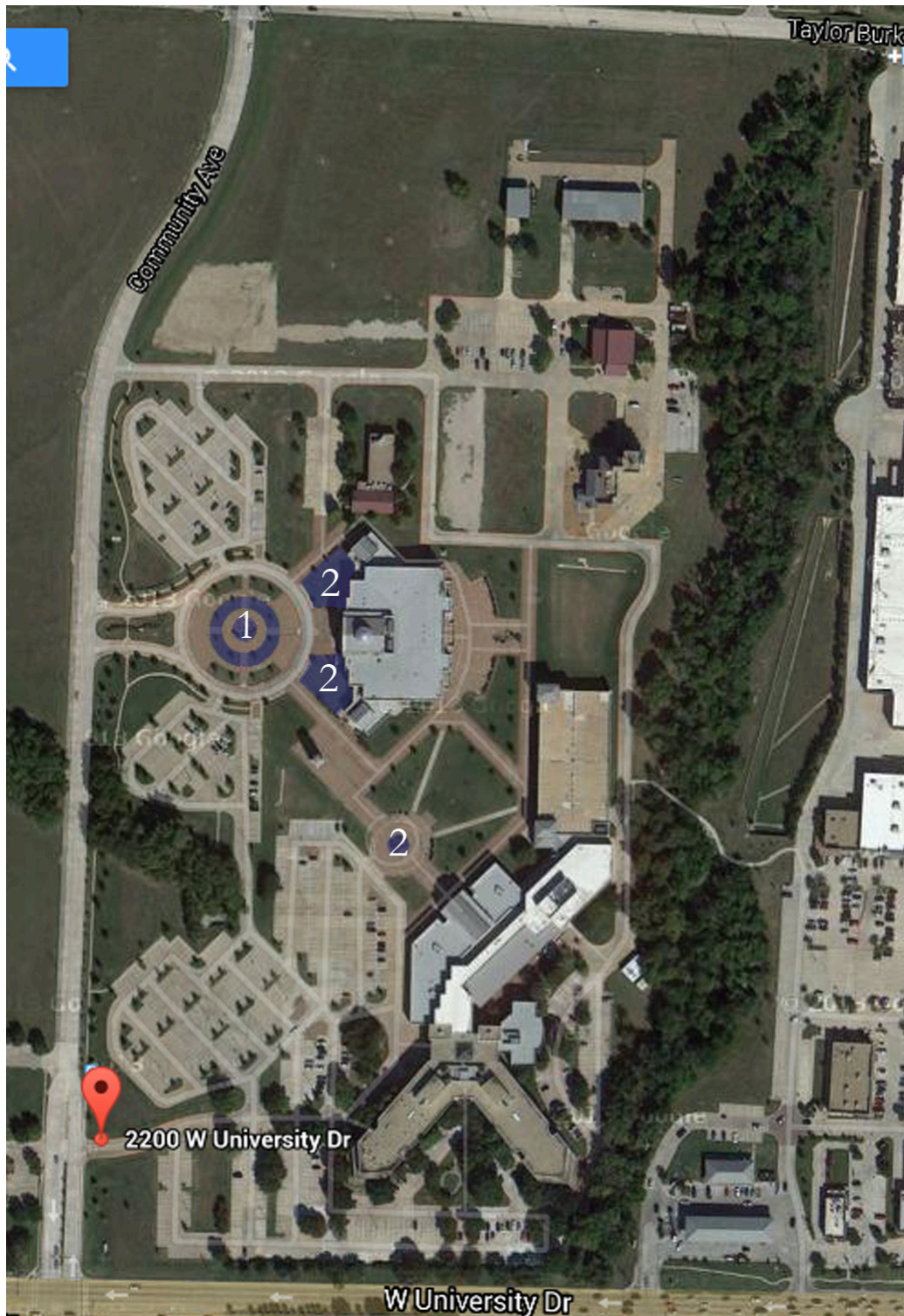
1. "Bluebonnet Circle" near the Central Park Library
2. Spring Creek Campus between armillary and fence
3. Preston Ridge Campus, circle drive, north of library
4. CHEC, around the rose garden

Phase-In In Year 2 and Year 3 seed additional locations.

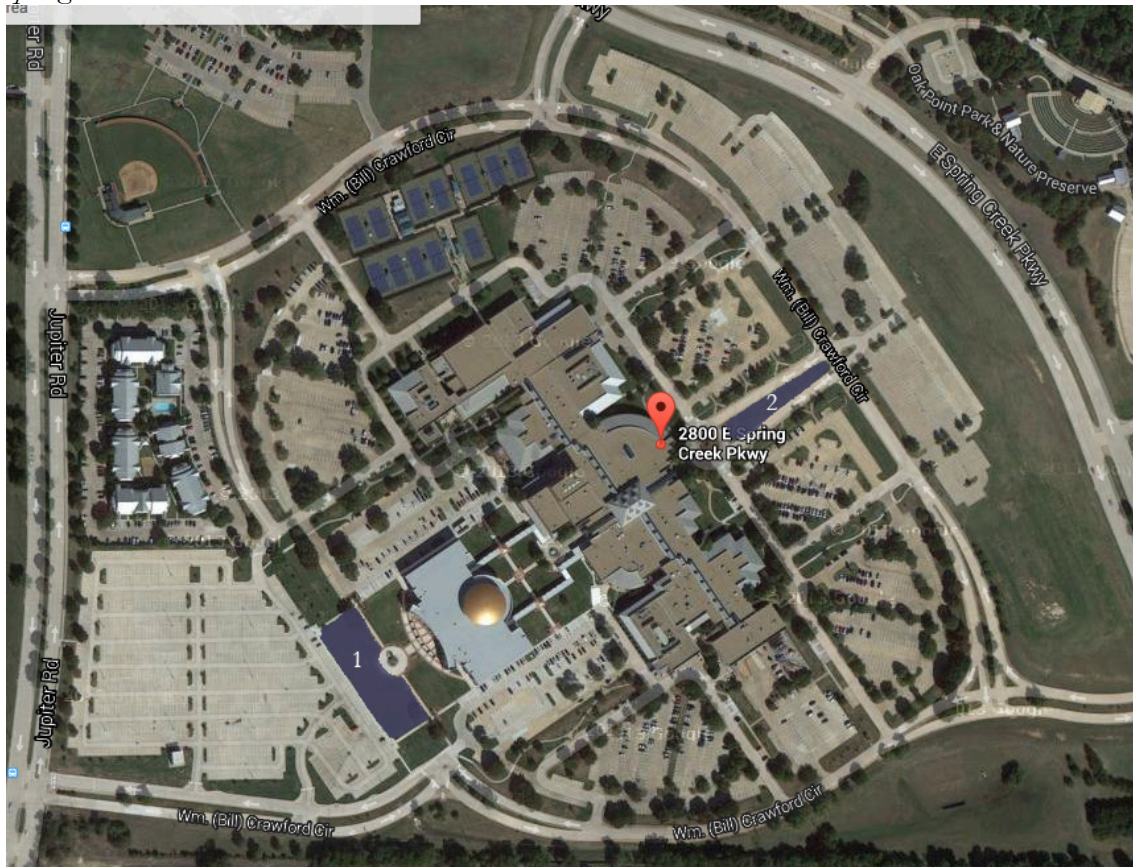
(See maps next pages)

LOCATIONS:

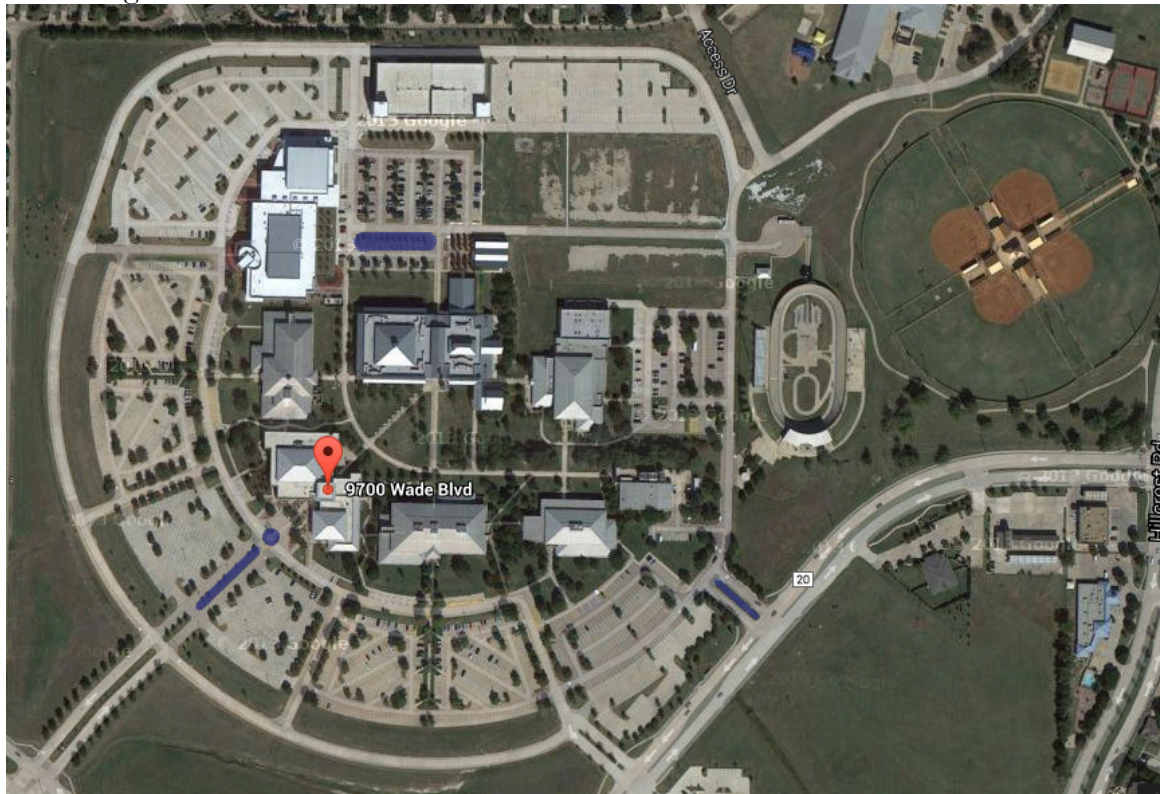
Central Park



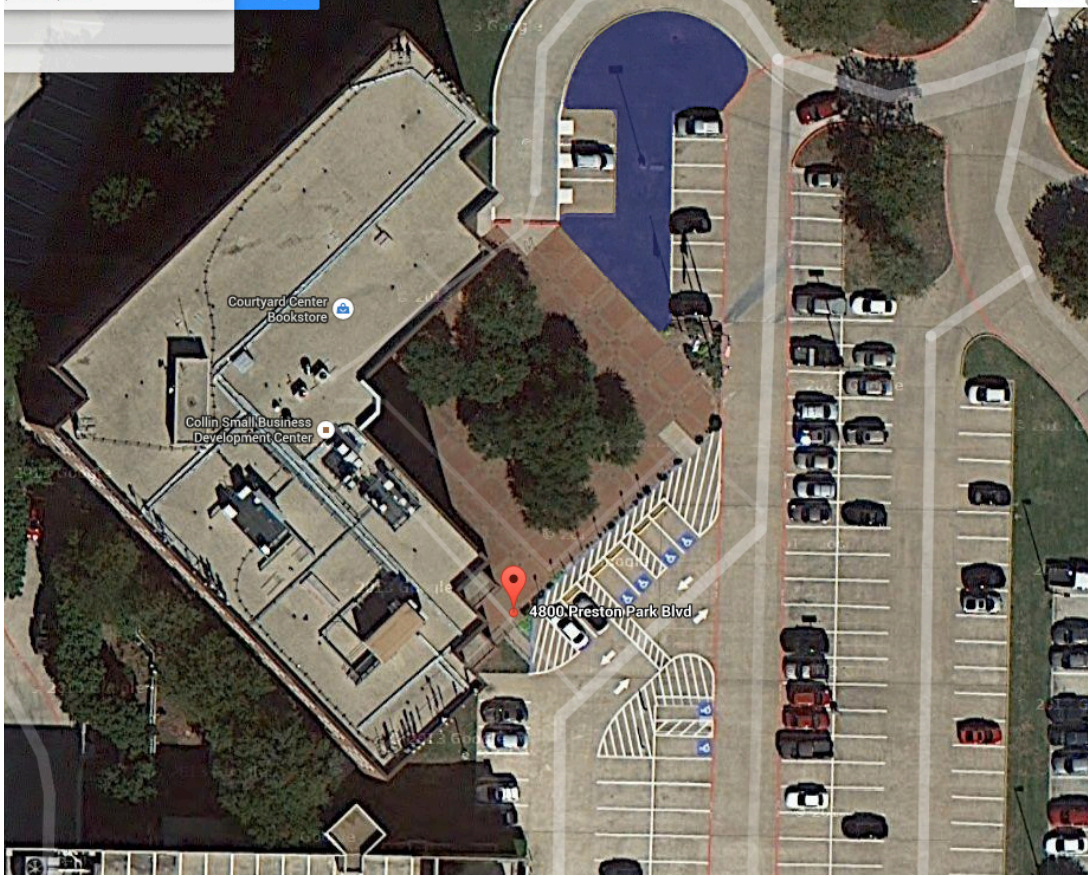
Spring Creek



Preston Ridge



Courtyard



CHEC

