

Dallas Floodway & Elm Fork

Project Management Plan, *a status report*

Upper Trinity River Feasibility Study

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) working in cooperation with the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and 14 local governments initiated the Upper Trinity River Feasibility Study in 1990. The purpose of this study is to identify and carry forward potential projects to address flood damage reduction, water quality, environmental enhancement, recreation, and other related needs throughout the Trinity River Corridor.

The study identified many projects, including one involving the Dallas Floodway and another concerning the Elm Fork of the Trinity River, also known as the Stemmon/North Industrial District.

In June 1996, the Dallas City Council authorized the city's participation in

the study of the Dallas Floodway and the Stemmons/North Industrial District. Like similar projects, the city is required to provide half of the funding for the study with federal dollars covering the other half. The city's matching funds are being provided through the bond program approved in May 1998.

The Dallas Floodway Project

As part of the larger city efforts to manage area floodplains, the USACE is investigating several initiatives in the Dallas Floodway, including: raising of the existing levees by two feet, lake development, channel meandering, tree plantings, modification of a railroad bridge, and recreation facilities (trails, parking, etc). These initiatives would address

additional flood protection, environmental restoration, and recreation for the existing Dallas Floodway.

Any USACE project that emerges from this ongoing feasibility study will be compatible with the selected alignment of the Trinity Parkway and the Trinity River Corridor Master Implementation Plan.

This study would include an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that would be conducted in concert with the ongoing EIS for the Trinity Parkway.



Downtown Dallas above the Dallas Floodway.

Trinity River

safe
clean
enjoyable
natural
diverse

COMMON VISION

The Trinity River COMMON VISION program is a nationally recognized cooperative initiative to provide a safe, clean, enjoyable, natural, and diverse Trinity River to benefit all North Central Texas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and North Central Texas Council of Governments, acting on behalf of local governments, initiated the Upper Trinity River Feasibility Study in 1990 to provide cost-share funding support for the COMMON VISION projects and programs.

The Elm Fork Project

The USACE's detailed study for the Stemmons/North Industrial District along the Elm Fork of the Trinity River did not identify any significant project to carry forward.

As a result, the city has initiated its own floodplain management study for this Elm Fork corridor to investigate possible improvements regarding flood damage reduction, environmental restoration, and recreation amenities.

This Elm Fork floodplain management study was awarded by City Council in June 2000 to the consulting firm of Freese and Nichols. This study will produce recommendations that may be adopted by City Council for guidance to future projects and plans for the Elm Fork corridor in Dallas. The USACE will be asked to investigate the results of the study for potential USACE participation.



Elm Fork of the Trinity River.

Next Steps

- The draft report for the ongoing EIS for the Dallas Floodway is anticipated to be made available to the public by fall 2002. Before the draft report can be released by USACE, a Trinity Parkway alignment must be chosen first, which is currently part of an EIS process of its own.
- USACE detailed design for a Dallas Floodway project could lead to a late 2005 or 2006 construction start and be complete during 2008.
- The Elm Fork floodplain management study is anticipated to be finalized by the city during spring 2002. Subsequently, USACE will decide on their future participation in the Elm Fork corridor and the city will explore funding opportunities for advancing recommendations included in the study.

For more information, visit www.trinityrivercorridor.org or contact Rebecca Dugger, Dallas Director of the Trinity River Corridor Project at (214) 948-4202 or Ginger Melms, NCTCOG, at (817) 695-9229 or gmelms@dfwinfo.com.

Information for this publication was adapted from the Trinity River Corridor Project Web site at www.trinityrivercorridor.org.

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February 2002