

# Trinity River National Water Trail Task Force

November 2, 2022



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments  
Environment & Development



# Thank You for Attending!

- Please introduce yourself in the chat box
- Please mute your line
- Unmute your line when you would like to speak during question and discussion time
- We will watch the chat box for questions

Materials from past meetings can be viewed at:

<https://nctcog.org/envir/committees/trinity-river-national-water-trail-task-force>

# Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Meeting Purpose – *Steve Smith, Trinity Coalition*
2. State of the Trail – *Teresa Patterson, Dale Harris, & Steve Smith, Trinity Coalition*
3. Paddling Trail Update – *Gene Moulden, City of Irving*
4. Dallas County Parks and Open Space Program – *Mia Brown, Dallas County*
5. Coordinated Approach for Mitigation of Lock and Dam #1 in Southern Dallas – *Dale Harris, Trinity Coalition*
6. Task Force Roundtable – *All Members*
7. Upcoming Opportunities – *NCTCOG staff*



# **Welcome and Meeting Purpose**

Steve Smith, Trinity Coalition



# State of the Trail

*Teresa Patterson, Dale Harris, & Steve Smith,  
Trinity Coalition*

State of The

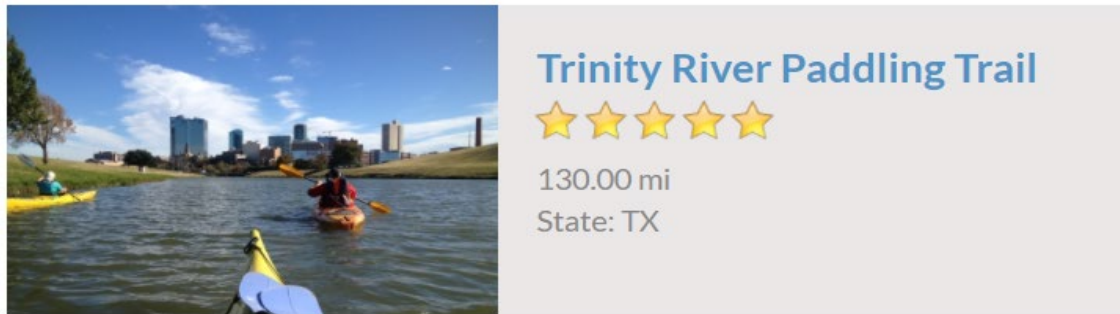


Fall 2022



# Trinity River National Water Trail

- One of 35 in the nation
- [www.nps.gov/subjects/nationaltrailssystem/national-water-trails-system.htm](http://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationaltrailssystem/national-water-trails-system.htm)
- Select “Find Your National Water Trail”
- Select “Trinity River Paddling Trail”



TEXAS

## Trinity River Paddling Trail



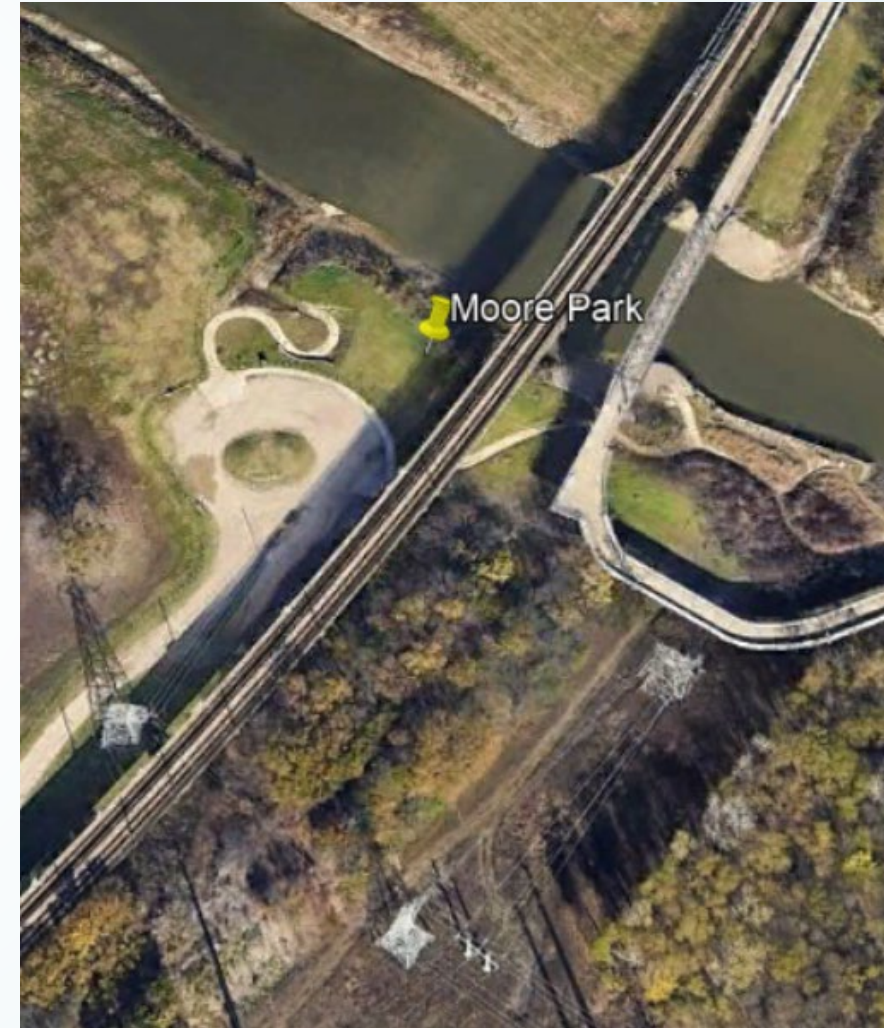
The Trinity River Paddling Trail consists of 130 miles of river accessed by 21 official launch sites. The paddling trail traverses 9 municipalities including Dallas and Ft. Worth, and is located in the middle of America’s 4th largest metro area with a population of 7.5 million people. Over 5 million people live within 30 minute drive of the trail.





# Paddling Trail Status November 2022

- ▶ Currently 20 out of 21 launch sites are open
  - ▶ One launch site is getting difficult to use
  - ▶ Loop 12 closed - flood damage and safety concerns
  - ▶ Moore Park has been covered in silt for several months, and is now cleaned up and open
    - ▶ Thank you, Dallas!
- ▶ All but 2 sections are 4-6 mile in length
  - ▶ One 12-mile section
  - ▶ One 24-mile section
  - ▶ New expansion sites may shorten some of these distances



# Trail Expansions

- New Beltline canoe launch
  - Project delayed, awaiting completion of Trinity River Authority project in the same area
- New Viridian canoe launch
  - Engineering 35% complete, Arlington is awaiting funding from the Viridian developer
- New Launch at Riverside Park in Fort Worth
  - In planning, but not until after the Panther Island project
- Trinity View Park canoe and kayak launch (updates from Gene Moulden)
- Lewisville Lake Paddling Loop
  - Denton has completed the initial planning for the loop and has applied to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to be included in their Inland Paddling Trails program
- Request for new canoe launches at the Dallas County preserves
  - Ideas are being discussed - Loop 12 will need to be repaired and a portage around Lock & Dam #1

# Special Events

- ▶ Elm Fork River Cleanup - Sept 11
- ▶ Trinity River Challenge, river race on the Elm Fork - Sept 17
- ▶ Full Moon Paddle Events - Sept 10 and Oct 9
- ▶ Spooky Paddle and Costume Contest - Oct 30

## FUTURE

- ▶ Marketing Arm Corporate Cleanup - Nov 17
- ▶ Walnut Creek Cleanup (with Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful) - Nov 19
- ▶ Black Friday Discovery Paddle - Nov 25



# Paddling Trail Usage November 2022

- The trail has been usable all year so far, except:
  - one day in April
  - approximately 3 weeks in May and June
  - few days in August where it rose to 27 ft in Dallas
- All sections are clear and passable of any downed trees and log jams
- We rely on local paddlers to highlight any problem areas



**Ready to Launch!**

*Hebron Parkway Launch  
November 2021*

# Trinity Coalition Web Site Tools / Interactive Map



River Legacy Park

description

Trail Section Location: River Legacy Park, Arlington, TX. Collins Street entrance: 3020 N. Collins St., Arlington, TX 76006. Latitude / Longitude DD: 32.788243° -97.100328°

Directions to Trail:

Take the Collins St exit off I-30. Turn North on Collins St, Continue North on Collins St.

The entrance to the Park will be on your left after Green Oaks Blvd.

Launch Parking and ramp is on your left ~1000ft from the park entrance.

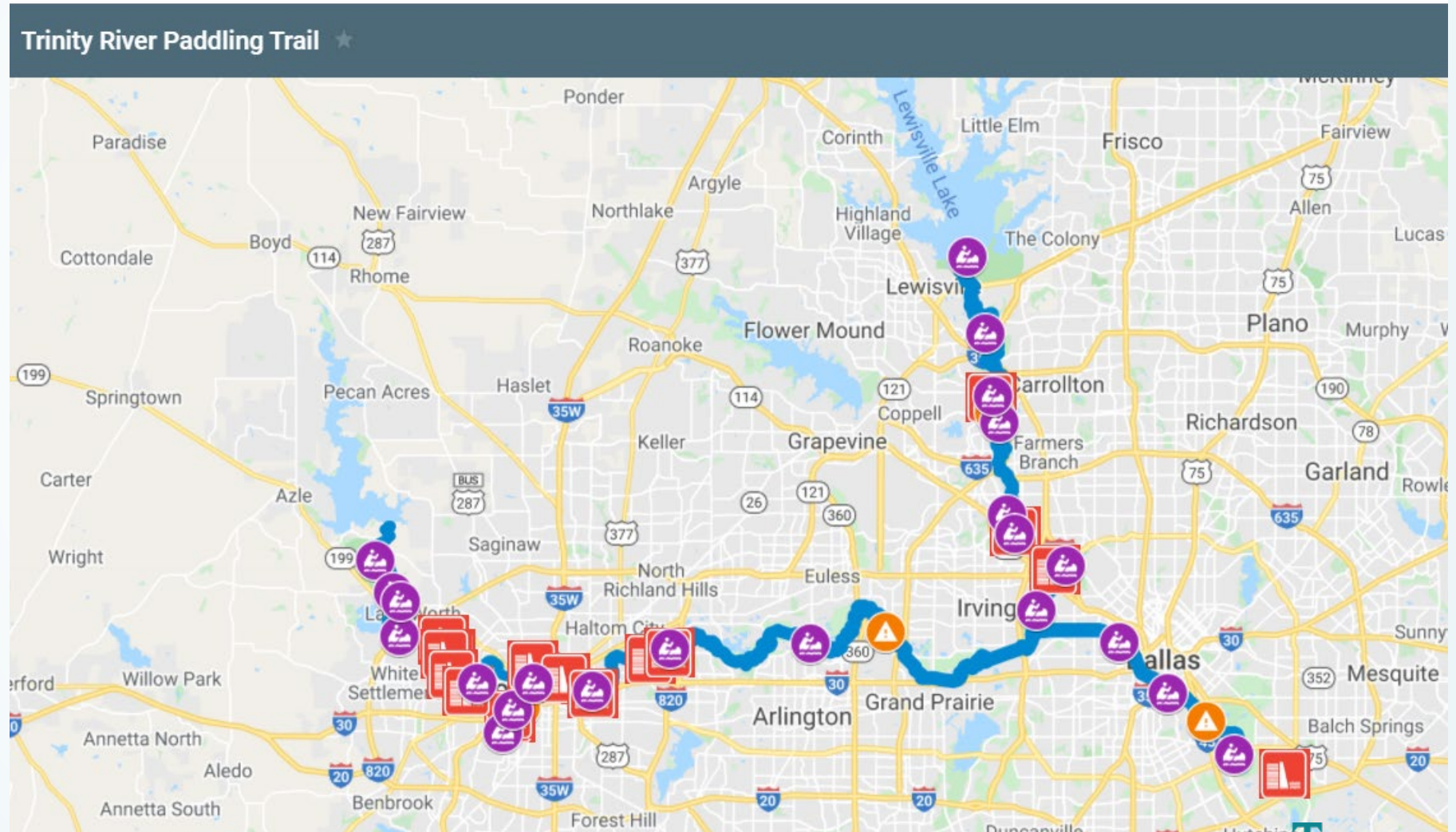
Launch Description: Long gentle slope to a concrete boat ramp.

Distance and Take-out: 24 miles, the take-out is Trammell Crow Park.

Trail Description: The put-in is boat ramp at River Legacy Park. This is a winding river with moving water – some small rapids & riffles. Mostly gravel bottom. The take out is a concrete boat ramp.

River Gauge:

<https://trinitycoalition.org/river-legacy-park-west-fork-arlington-tx>

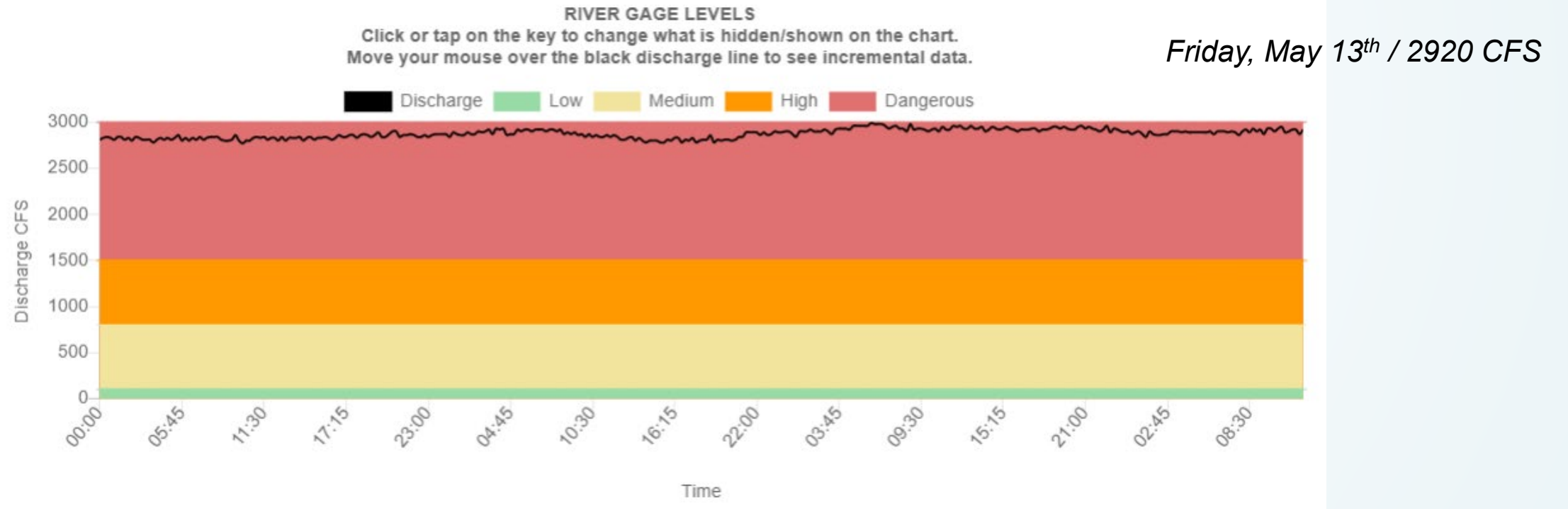


# Trinity Coalition Web Site Tools / Water Levels

## WATER LEVELS FOR MAY 10, 2022 TO MAY 13, 2022

McInnish Park / Elm Fork, Carrollton, TX.

Latitude / Longitude DD: 32.967440° -96.942685°



# Interfacing with the Paddling Public

Trinity Coalition maintains 4 social media sites:

- Trinity Coalition Web Site
  - Interactive map / water levels / interactive dialog
- Trinity Coalition Facebook Page / trail information and status
- Trinity River Paddling Trail Association FB Group Page / 1,900+
  - Multiple paddling clubs follow us / 12,000+
  - Constant dialog about the paddling trail
- Trinity Coalition Meetup Page / 4,000 paddlers
  - Event scheduling and reservations
  - Communication and feedback



Trash cleanup at Walnut Creek

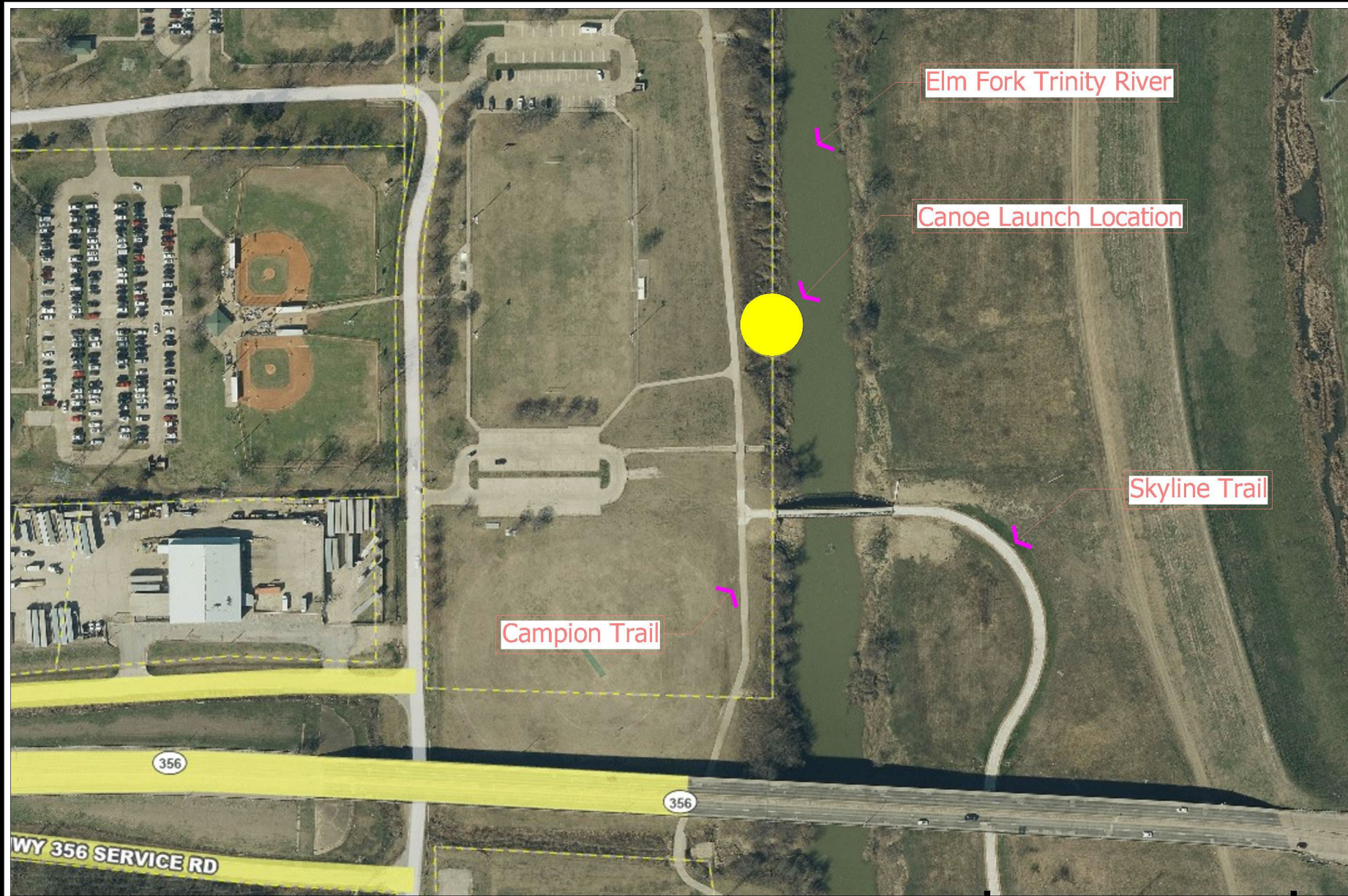
# **Paddling Trail Update**

*Gene Moulden, City of Irving*



# Trinity View Park Canoe Launch

by Gene Moulden, City of Irving



Trinity View Park Canoe Launch  
Site Plan

Scale: 1" = 200'.



Date: October 26, 2022





# Dallas County Parks and Open Space Program

*Mia Brown, Dallas County*



# Dallas County Parks and Open Space Program

Presented  
November 2, 2022

*by*

Mia Brown, Open Space Administrator



# Parks and Open Space Program Overview

- 21 preserves
- 3500+ acres
- 12 management partners
  - 11 cities and one independent school district
- Additional entities that assist in preserve advocacy or upkeep
  - Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Association (DORBA)
  - Audubon Dallas
  - Friends of Cedar Ridge Preserve
  - Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest





# Origin of the Program

**1976** – Lester Lorch of Dallas donates 82 acres in Cedar Hill to Dallas County, to be called Lorch Park.

- “The Park is being created for the use of families, friends and the public who appreciate nature and its beauty.”
- Dallas County did not have a parks program when this property was donated.

## Did You Know?

Lorch Park has disc golf! PDGA-sanctioned tournaments draw big crowds.







# We Have a Park – Now What?

- **1977**- Dallas County voters approve the first Open Space Bond Program for \$2 million.
- **1978**- Dallas County Commissioners Court appoints the first members of the Open Space Task Force.
- **1980**- Dallas County adopts the first Open Space Plan.
  - This plan set the administrative structure and policy for the Parks & Open Space Program, which is still in place today.
  - It also analyzed natural/cultural resources of the County and its urbanization patterns, using this information to make acquisition recommendations.





# What Makes It a Preserve?

All the Dallas County Parks & Open Space properties are called preserves (except Lorch Park).

- The preserves provide passive recreation opportunities, such as hiking, biking, birdwatching, picnicking, etc. So, no playgrounds or sports fields.\*
- The properties tend to be wilder, not groomed like a city park.
- Very few amenities at most preserves.
- However, because some properties have unique settings and situations, the preserves do offer a wide variety of experiences.
  - \*You caught us. We do have one sports field (cricket) and a couple of playgrounds.

So...why is it the Parks & Open Space Program, but you call them preserves?

The Texas Local Government Code (Chapters 320 and 331) gives counties authority to operate parks. Our program name reflects this, but we want to convey the difference in operations and the visitor experience by calling them preserves.



# Cedar Ridge Preserve



# Grapevine Springs Preserve



HOUSTON CAMPSITE CAP  
In 1842 Sam Houston, President of the  
Republic of Texas and General of the  
Army, camped under this and other oak trees  
during the Texas Revolution. The site is  
marked by a stone wall and a small  
structure. The site is a historical landmark  
and is protected by the State of Texas.

# Lee F. Jackson Spring Creek Forest Preserve





# How Does the Parks & Open Space Program Operate?

- The program is housed in the Planning & Development Department.
- Dallas County is a “specialized partner.”
- We have 99-year Open Space Use Agreements with our partners, who manage the preserves on our behalf.
- After the 1991 Open Space Plan recommended the acquisition of a “Trinity River Greenbelt,” Dallas County acquired property in the unincorporated area along the Trinity River. There is no management partner for these properties.
- While the program was originally bond funded, it is now funded annually in the county budget.

Did You Know? The 68<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature (1983) authorized Trinity River State Park. It was dropped from TPWD’s master plan in the late 1990s.





# Trinity River Greenbelt – Goat Island Preserve





# Trinity River Greenbelt – Goat Island Preserve







# Trinity River Greenbelt – Palmetto-Alligator Slough Preserve





# Trinity River Greenbelt – Palmetto-Alligator Slough Preserve





# What's New?

## Volunteer Program – Coming Soon

- The 1980 plan recommended one staff member – the Open Space Administrator.
- 42 years later, we have a new staff member – the Open Space Coordinator.
  - They are standing up a volunteer program for the Parks & Open Space Program. This helps us build public investment in the preserves, be more involved partners in our use agreements, and take care of our greenbelt preserves.
  - Stay tuned as we develop the volunteer program!





# What's New? Social Media

- Most people don't know we exist, or they've been to our preserves but don't know anything about the Parks & Open Space Program. We want to change that!
- Check out our new social media and keep an eye out for us at future events!



[dallascountyparksopenspace](https://www.instagram.com/dallascountyparksopenspace)



[Dallas County Parks & Open Space](https://www.facebook.com/DallasCountyParksOpenSpace)

*"When someone hands you a flyer, it's like they're saying 'Here, you throw this away.'"*  
-Mitch Hedberg





# What's Next?

## Dallas County Open Space Plan

This plan will be different than our 1980 and 1991 plans; both focused primarily on acquisition. It will:

- Create recommendations for each existing preserve, considering their unique histories, assets, amenities, management challenges, natural/cultural resources, and needs of their surrounding communities.
  - These recommendations will address items such as amenity equity across preserves, barriers to public access, and ADA access.
- Project prioritization over a 10-year planning timeframe.
- Land acquisition is a secondary focus and should provide for:
  - Equitable access to preserves across the County
  - Preserve connectivity
  - Expansion and management of existing preserves
  - Conservation of natural and cultural resources





# What's Next?

## Dallas County Open Space Plan

- We anticipate having a consultant on board by year end, kicking off the planning process in early 2023.
- Public engagement will be a big part of the plan.

*"I took your idea and I made it better."*

*Leslie Knope*

Your parks are better with your input!





# Questions?





# Contact | Connect

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dallascounty.org/parks





# High-Level Idea to Mitigate Lock and Dam #1 in Southern Dallas

*Dale Harris, Trinity Coalition*

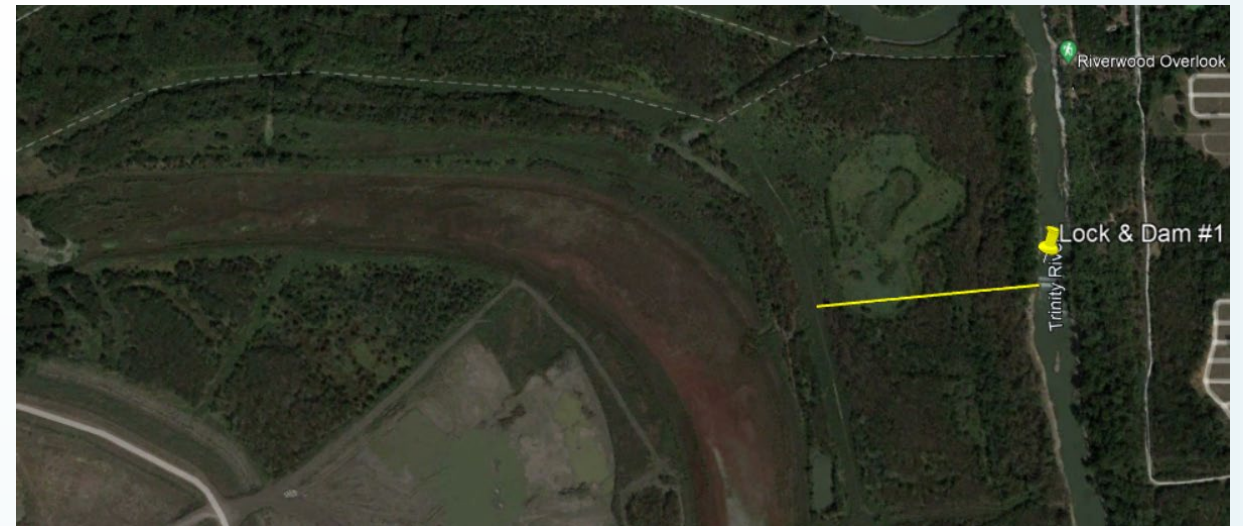
# Mitigation of the Trinity River Lock & Dam #1 / Southern Dallas

## The Opportunity

1. In 2023 or 2024 the McCommas Bluff Landfill plans to expand
2. Major construction will include removing “fill” dirt for the expansion
3. Capitalize on this construction at the Landfill and the heavy equipment onsite to gain access to Lock & Dam 1 from the Landfill
4. Bring in large river rock to backfill below the “low head” sill of the Dam
5. Then using the rock base below the Dam move over to the Lock side
6. Remove remaining metal and wood from the Lock side for improved safety
7. Backfill below the Lock sill

## Sharing of Tasks and Responsibilities

- Request engineering review of the “backfill” mitigations process from USACE or TRA
- Both organizations have expressed interest to see this removed, but is cost prohibitive
- Funding: coordinate a percentage of “buy-in” from multiple entities: Dallas, Dallas County, Private funding, USACE, TRA or maybe some federal funding from Dam removal grants



# Trinity River Lock & Dam #1 / Southern Dallas



Lock & Dam #1 aerial view



Lock & Dam #1 looking downstream

# Trinity River Lock & Dam #1 / Southern Dallas

## Dam side looking upstream

- Wicket design using wooden panels
- “Wickets” were raised and lowered to control river flow
- Actual drop is a 2 stage drop and will need to be measured



## Lock side looking upstream

- Big wooden doors that open and closed to allow barges through
- Debris still exists from the wooden doors and metal straps that held them together

- The front edge of Lock & Dam #1 is the same height on both sides
- With the wood wickets and doors missing, this is now basically a “Low Head Dam” across the river
  - Water flowing over the dam causes a back swirl called “Dam Hydraulics” - very dangerous
  - With the metal hardware remaining it creates an additional hazard

# The Dangers of Lock & Dam #1 / Southern Dallas



## Dam side looking straight down

- Hardware that secured and allowed the wickets to operate still remain
- The Dam side has a double drop about 8 to 10 ft apart



## Lock side/looking upstream

- Metal straps from the wooden doors still remain
- Part of the wooden door still remains
- Unsure what causes the water drop at the end of the lock - maybe a sill?
- Metal hardware remaining creates an additional hazard
- Lock side will most likely need some debris removal

# The Dangers of Lock & Dam #1 / Southern Dallas



## Dam side looking straight down

- This is what is under the water
- The hinge points for the “Wickets”
- *This picture is taken at L&D #2*



## Dam side

- Again what’s under the water
- Channels and locking mechanism for the rods holding up the wickets
- Very dangerous - can snag kayak, canoes, clothing, and PFDs

# Mitigation of Low-Head Dams

## Mitigation of Two Low-Head Dams on Mill Creek

- Cincinnati's Office of Environment & Sustainability and the Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities, in partnership with MSD, mitigated two low-head dams on Mill Creek in fall 2017
  - [https://projectgroundwork.org/special\\_projects/index.html](https://projectgroundwork.org/special_projects/index.html)
  - <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/oes/news/mill-creek-low-head-dam-mitigation-project-update/>
- This “backfill” method has been used in Iowa on several lowhead dams



**Before:** Low-head dam near Cincinnati, OH



**During:** Addition of rock riffles downstream of the dam to raise the water level



**After:** Dam is submerged.

## Mitigation of Lock & Dam #1 in Southern Dallas

- **This technique could be a solution for Lock & Dam #1 in Southern Dallas**
- Improve safety and make the Trinity River more accessible below the Loop 12 boat ramp
- Stakeholders: City of Dallas, Dallas County, USACE, Trinity River Authority
- Many organizations want this dam removed, but that is unlikely - mitigation is a great alternative
- Using large rock to raise the water below the low head dam is a relatively low-cost solution
- The threshold on the leading edge of the Lock & Dam will protect swift water from moving the rock further downstream

# **Task Force Roundtable**

*All Members*

*(please raise your hand and unmute yourself)*



# Upcoming Events and Opportunities

## *NCTCOG Staff*

# Upcoming Events & Opportunities

## Walnut Creek Clean up Paddle

Saturday, November 19, 2022, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Joint event with Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful

<https://app.betterimpact.com/PublicOrganization/86fa1030-b644-41bd-9af5-0a6645f43c8e/1>

## Black Friday Discovery Paddle

Friday, November 25, 2022, Location TBD, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

<https://trinitycoalition.org/events/annual-black-friday-get-outdoors-paddle-trinity-park>

# Upcoming Events & Opportunities

## Upper Trinity River Basin Coordinating Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 15 at 9:30 a.m. (location TBD)

This committee implements a basin-wide approach to address bacterial impairments.

[www.nctcog.org/envir/committees/upper-trinity-river-basin-coordinating-committee](http://www.nctcog.org/envir/committees/upper-trinity-river-basin-coordinating-committee)

## TMDL Monitoring Coordination Forum Technical Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, March 9, 2023, 9:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams

The Monitoring Coordination Forum, a technical subcommittee of the Total Maximum Daily Load Coordination Committee, meets twice annually. The committee discusses monitoring projects and shares information, successes, challenges, and any gaps in data or methods that could be used to help address bacteria impairments in the North Central Texas region.

[www.nctcog.org/envir/committees/bacteria-total-maximum-daily-load-program/monitoring-coordination-forum](http://www.nctcog.org/envir/committees/bacteria-total-maximum-daily-load-program/monitoring-coordination-forum)

# Upcoming Events & Opportunities

## North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge

March 1- May 31, 2023

Save the date! The North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge is a friendly competition among North Texas communities to see who can pick up the most litter per resident. Communities, groups, or just ordinary citizens can organize litter cleanup events or log existing cleanup events.

[www.communitycleanupchallenge.com/](http://www.communitycleanupchallenge.com/)

## Cowtown Great American Cleanup

Saturday, March 25, 2023, Trinity River Fort Worth, Details TBD

[www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/code-compliance/kfwb/initiatives/cowtowncleanup](http://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/code-compliance/kfwb/initiatives/cowtowncleanup)

# Contact

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# Connect



Facebook.com/TrinityRiverCoalition



Meetup.com/DFWPaddlesports



TrinityCoalition.org



NCTCOG.org/Envir

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<https://nctcog.org/envir/committees/trinity-river-national-water-trail-task-force>