



With support from:



## Trinity River National Water Trail Task Force Meeting

Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9:30 am

Meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

1. **Welcome and Meeting Purpose.** – *Steve Smith, Trinity Coalition (5 minutes)*

Attendees introduced themselves and their organization virtually via the meeting chat box. Steve Smith (Trinity Coalition) welcomed attendees and provided a brief introduction to the meeting.

2. **Community Showcase.** An opportunity for communities along the Trinity River to share improvements and best management practices for their section of the Water Trail that may be modeled by others. (10-15 minutes)

- Presentation from the City of Fort Worth on the Trinity River Waterwheels Initiative, a collaboration with Tarrant Regional Water District to collect and remove trash from the river. – *Nixalis Benitez, Fort Worth Code Compliance Dept.*

Nixalis Benitez presented on current efforts to install two waterwheels on the on the riverfront in Fort Worth to collect trash and debris and assist in cleaning the Trinity River. The initiative is currently in the funding phase and is asking residents and businesses to donate.

3. **State of the Trail.** Presentations from Trinity Coalition and other partners on the current state of the Trinity River National Water Trail, including usage data, maintenance, and areas for improvement. (30 minutes)

- **Launch Site Updates.** Presentation from the City of Grand Prairie on the pending Belt Line Road launch site. – *Duane Strawn, Grand Prairie Parks, Arts & Recreation Dept.*

Duane Strawn gave an update on the ongoing design phase of the new Belt Line Road boat launch in Grand Prairie. Michael Salcedo is designing the site, with Grand Prairie providing the funding for design and NCTCOG funding the construction. Duane shared that the new site is adjacent to a Trinity River Authority construction site, which could delay launch construction or impact which days the launch will be open to the public.

- **Trail Usage & Promotion Strategies.** Updates on trail usage, maintenance, and promotional events to increase public awareness of the trail. – *Teresa Patterson, Dale Harris, & Steve Smith, Trinity Coalition*

Dale Harris provided an overview of several launch sites along the National Water Trail that are in need of maintenance. He mentioned that Trinity Coalition has access to several local paddling groups and thousands of paddlers who may be willing to volunteer during launch site or river clean-up events. Teresa Patterson shared that Trinity Coalition has seen 50,000 visitors to a launch site

Google Maps page in the last two years, and that a Trinity River paddling photo recently won a national photo contest for kayaking.

- 4. Regional Trail Branding & Wayfinding Project.** Staff from NCTCOG's Sustainable Development Team will present on branding and wayfinding efforts along the Fort Worth to Dallas Regional Trail. – *Shawn Conrad, NCTCOG Transportation Department (10-15 minutes)*

Shawn Conrad provided an overview of NCTCOG's Regional Trail Branding and Wayfinding Project, an effort to unify the walking and biking trails between Fort Worth and Dallas into one cohesive regional trail, covering 66 miles and five cities. More information on this project can be found [here](#). A virtual open house was held to gain input on colors, patterns, and imagery for trail signage, and an online survey will be conducted so the public can vote on trail names and logos. Steve Smith suggested integrating the regional trail branding into the National Water Trail signage that exists at each launch site.

- 5. Task Force Roundtable.** The attendees will discuss regional opportunities, community goals, concerns, partnership efforts, and economic development projects along the Trinity River Paddling Trail. – *All members (20-25 minutes)*

Chris Escoto (City of Denton) provided an update on the Lewisville Lake Paddling Trail (LLPT), which has over 40 launches and 100 miles of paddling around Lewisville Lake. LLPT is currently seeking approval for a State Paddling Trail designation from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and there is interest in connecting the LLPT to the Trinity River National Water Trail. The group brainstormed how to connect the two trails via a portage route over land. LLPT, Trinity Coalition, and NCTCOG will work together to discuss this further.

Blake Beatty, an avid local kayaker, pointed out that the Panther Island launch site along the trail is completely inaccessible.

Amruta Sakalker (University of Texas at Arlington) shared about a recent education research grant project to introduce high schoolers in Dallas to GIS via the Trinity River water quality report card. UTA will host an exhibition on this project beginning on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and lasting for one month.

- 6. Upcoming Opportunities.** A list of upcoming committee meetings, webinars, river clean-ups, and other events relevant to the state of the Trinity River. – *NCTCOG staff (5 minutes)*

Breanne Johnson presented on upcoming committee meetings and webinars hosted by NCTCOG related to water quality topics.

### **Next Regional Meeting is Scheduled for May 2022.**

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Dale Harris at (214) 478-7856 or [dale@trinitycoalition.org](mailto:dale@trinitycoalition.org). Thank you!

If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact department staff at (817) 695-9210 or [EandD@nctcog.org](mailto:EandD@nctcog.org) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.



With support from:



<b>Participants Recorded via Microsoft Teams</b>	
Edith Marvin	NCTCOG
Breanne Johnson	NCTCOG
Steve Smith	Trinity Coalition
Cody Cash	City of Irving
Mia Brown	Dallas County
Noreen Housewright	City of Grand Prairie
Nixalis Benitez	City of Fort Worth
Daniel Bagby	City of Dallas
Heather Firn	Trinity River Authority
Renee Esses	City of Farmers Branch
Erika Pelletier	National Parks Conservation Association
Duane Strawn	City of Grand Prairie
Shawn Conrad	NCTCOG
Jerry Cotter	USACE
Jayce Proctor	City of Irving
Jason Pierce	UTRWD
Dale Harris	Trinity Coalition
Rachel Richter	Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.
Daniel Snyder	NCTCOG
Marty Wieder	City of Grand Prairie
Teresa Patterson	Trinity Coalition
Cassidy Campbell	NCTCOG
Taylor Keys	Texan by Nature
Chris Escoto	City of Denton
Erin Curry	NCTCOG
Amruta Sakalker	UTA
Robert Sturns	City of Fort Worth
Ryan P. Harrell	City of Grand Prairie
Aaron Hoff	TRWD
Philip Hiatt Haigh	
Lissa Shepard	Dallas County
Michelle Villafranca	City of Fort Worth
Alex Dubovsky	Trinity Coalition
Robert Denkhaus	City of Fort Worth
Blake Beatty	