

# Trinity River National Water Trail Task Force

Kick-Off Meeting | April 30, 2021



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments  
Environment & Development



# Welcome and Introductions

- Thanks 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 also watch the chat box for questions

# Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Meeting Purpose
2. National Park Service Updates – *Erika Pelletier, National Park Conservation Assn.*
3. Community Showcase: Lewisville – *Michael Kim, Lewisville Parks and Recreation*
4. State of the Trail: Water Quality, Usage & Maintenance, and Future Goals
  - *Amruta Sakalker, University of Texas at Arlington*
  - *Dale Harris, Teresa Patterson, & Steve Smith, Trinity Coalition*
5. Task Force Roundtable
6. Upcoming Opportunities

# Trinity Coalition

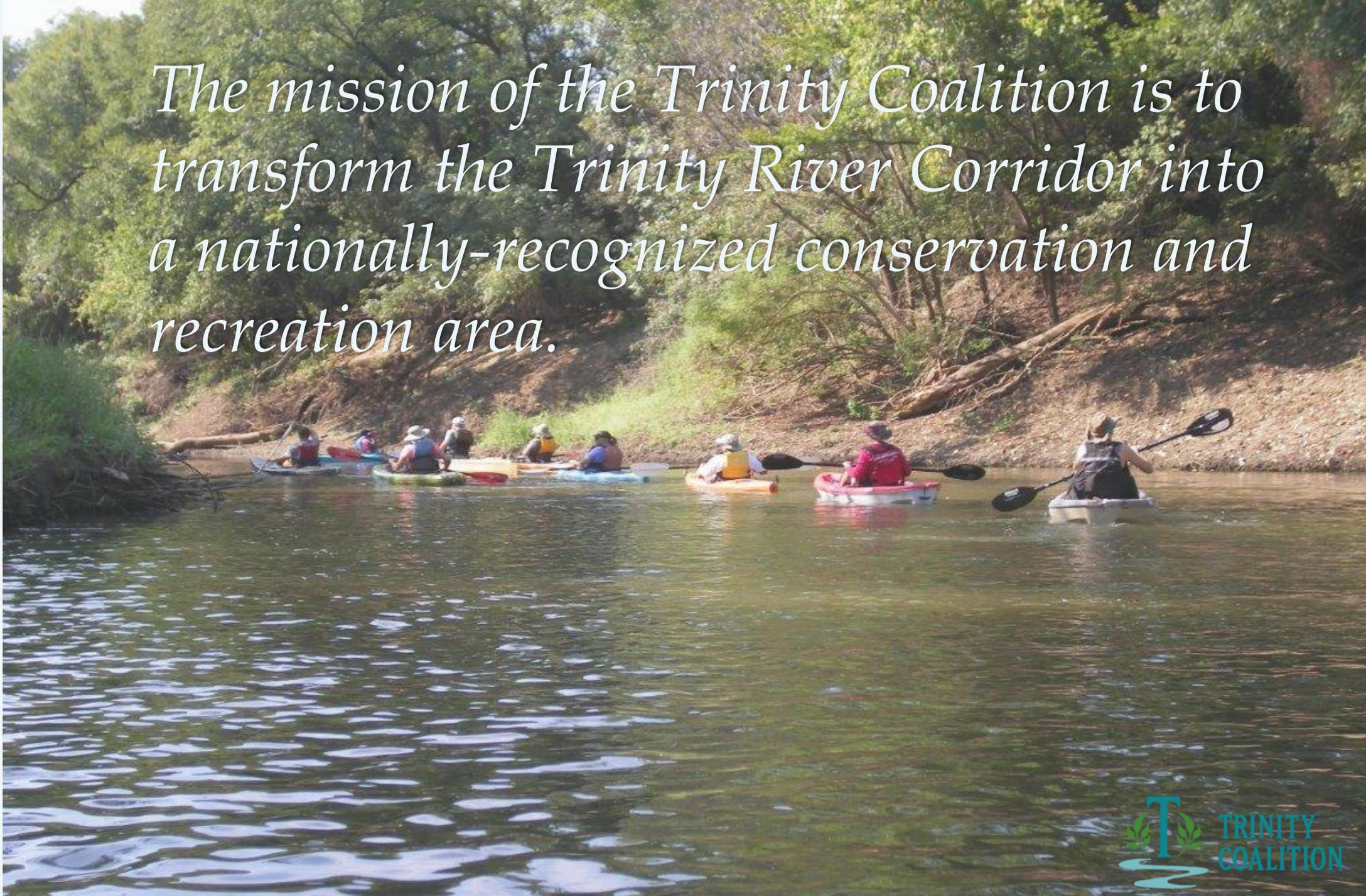
- ▶ Regional nonprofit dedicated to improving the Trinity River and its parks and forests
- ▶ Formerly the Trinity Nature Conservancy
- ▶ Advocate for increased recreational access and improved water quality along the river

*The mission of the Trinity Coalition is to transform the Trinity River Corridor into a nationally-recognized conservation and recreation area.*

# NCTCOG

- ▶ Quasi-governmental, voluntary association of local governments
- ▶ Represents a 16-county region in North Central Texas, including the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex
- ▶ Assists local governments in:
  - ▶ Planning for common needs
  - ▶ Cooperating for mutual benefit
  - ▶ Recognizing regional opportunities
  - ▶ Resolving regional problems
  - ▶ Making joint decisions
- ▶ No regulatory authority

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# Major Initiatives of Trinity Coalition

- Trinity River Paddling Trail
- Clean Trinity
- Greenspace DFW



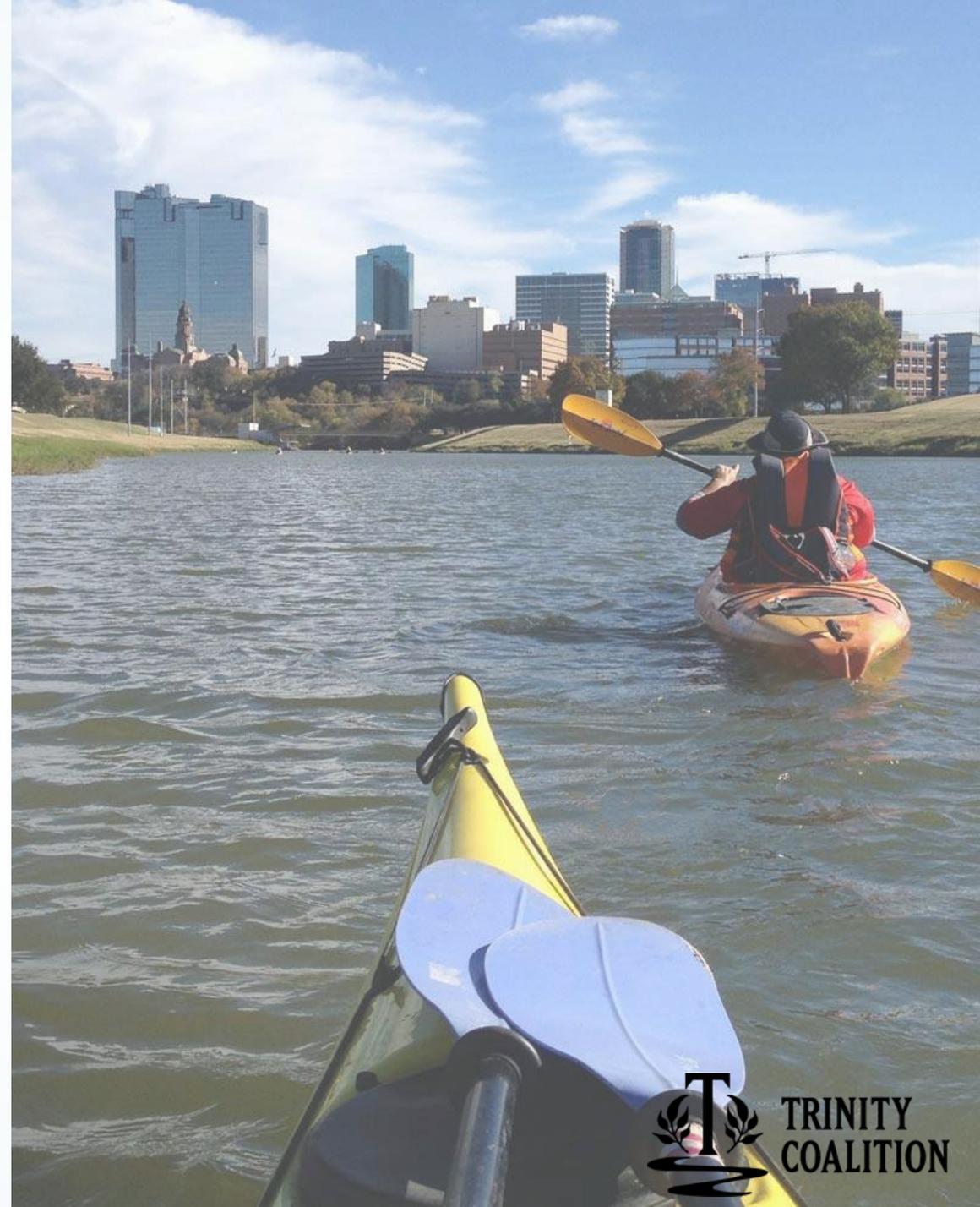
Laura Bush with TRPT Team

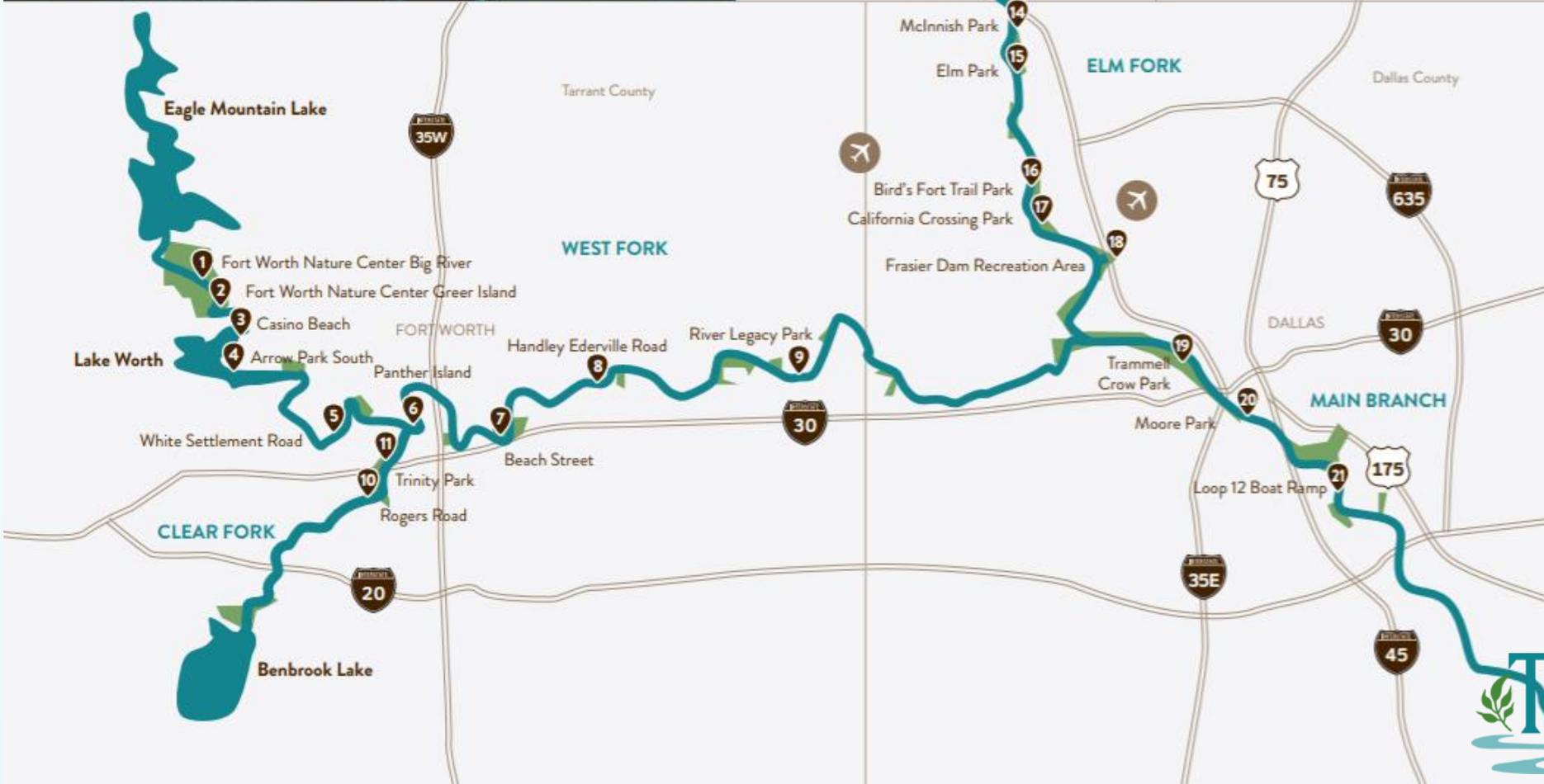


[Trinity River Paddling Trail – TxN 2019 Conservation Wrangler](#)

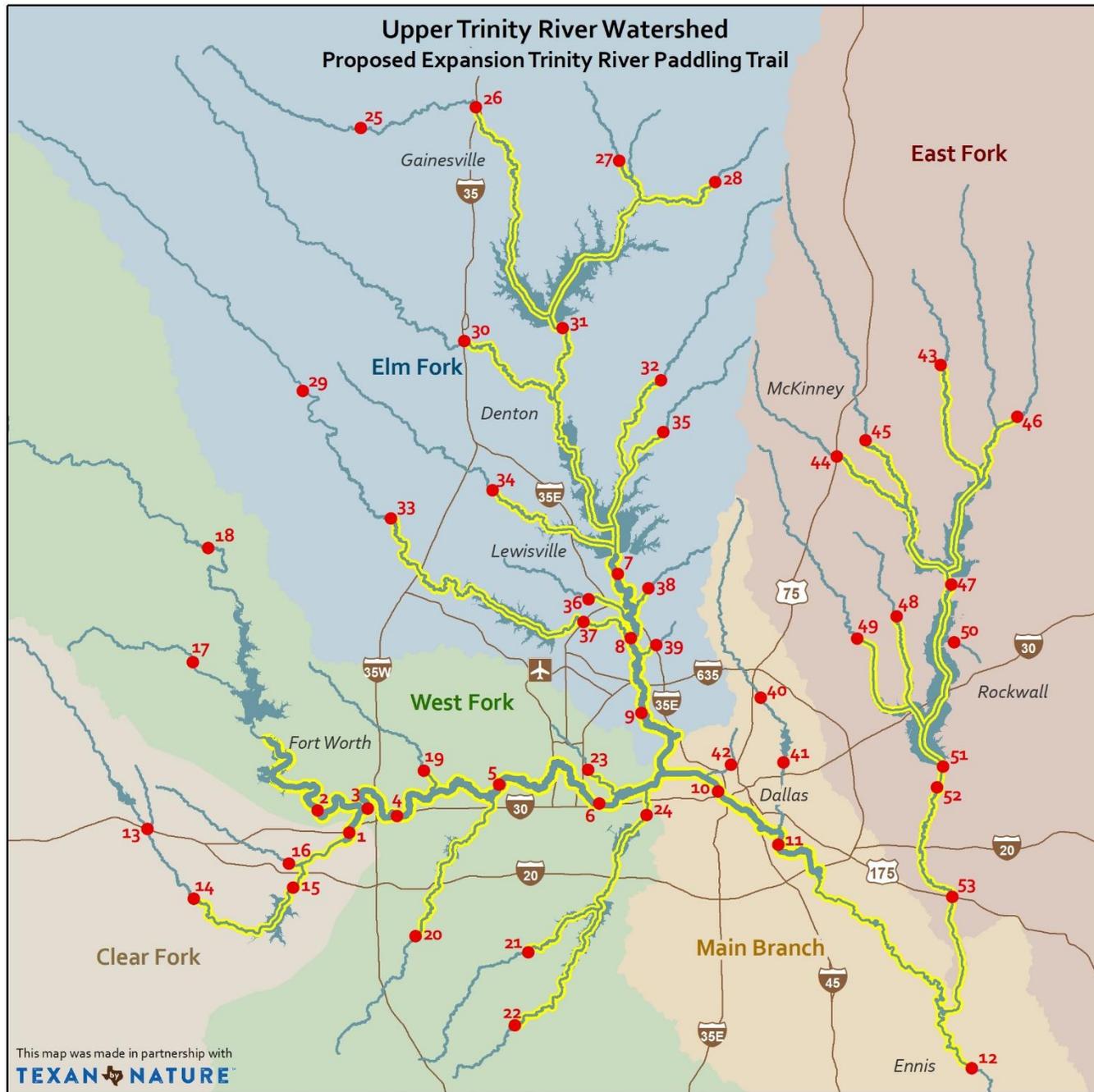
# Trinity River Paddling Trail

- ▶ 130 river miles of paddling trail along the Upper Trinity River
  - ▶ Spans nine cities and three counties
  - ▶ 21 official launch sites for boats, canoes, and kayaks
- ▶ Historical, cultural, and recreational significance to the region
- ▶ Integrated into a single paddling trail by the Trinity Coalition, the nine bordering cities, and Dallas County in 2018





# Upper Trinity River Watershed Proposed Expansion Trinity River Paddling Trail



This map was made in partnership with  
**TEXAS NATURE**

# National Water Trail Designation

- ▶ In 2018, the [Trinity Coalition](#) began working with NCTCOG and communities along the Trinity River and its branches to achieve National Recreation Trail designation from the National Park Service (NPS).
  - ▶ 27 letters of support sent in from all the communities along the trail and several state and regional agencies
- ▶ In October 2020, the Secretary of the Interior [announced](#) 30 new national recreation trails, including the Trinity River National Recreation Trail
  - ▶ Listed as a National Water Trail, a subset of the NPS-designated National Recreation Trails established to protect and restore America's waterways



# National Parks Conservation Association



- Founded in 1919 (3 years after the National Park Service)
- Our Mission: “To protect and enhance America’s national park system for present and future generations”
- Non-profit, non-partisan, member organization
- 150 employees and 1.6 million members and supporters



EST 1919

# Texas Regional Office, est. 2007



- Protected valuable viewshed at Fort Davis National Historic Site
- Received World Heritage Designation for San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
- Received National Park status for the Waco Mammoth National Monument
- Protected Big Thicket National Preserve from incompatible development
- Received National Recreation Trail status for the Trinity River Paddling Trail
- Currently working on new park in Marfa, Texas

# National Park Service

- Created in 1916
- 423 National Park sites and 1,300 National Recreation Trails

## Mission Highlights

- **Preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values**
- **Enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.**



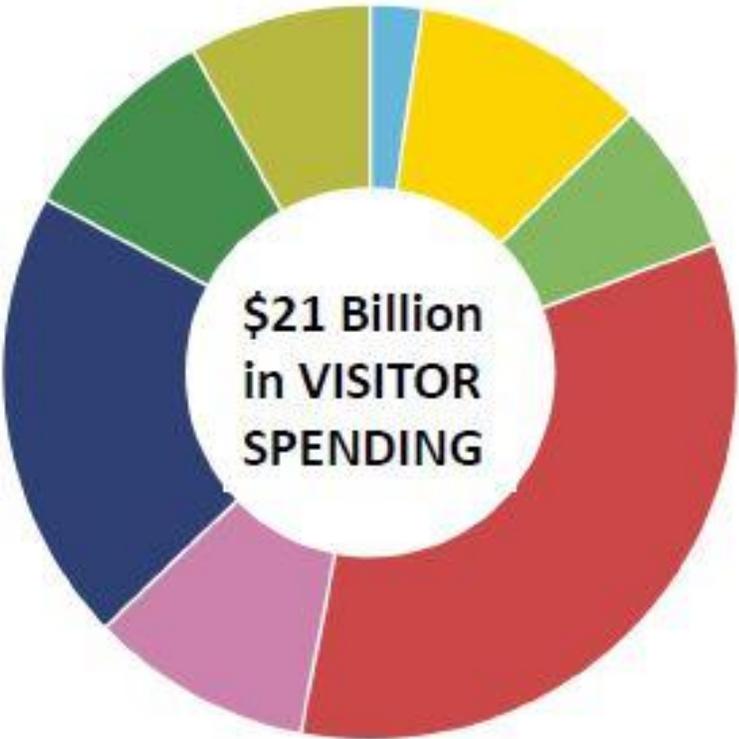
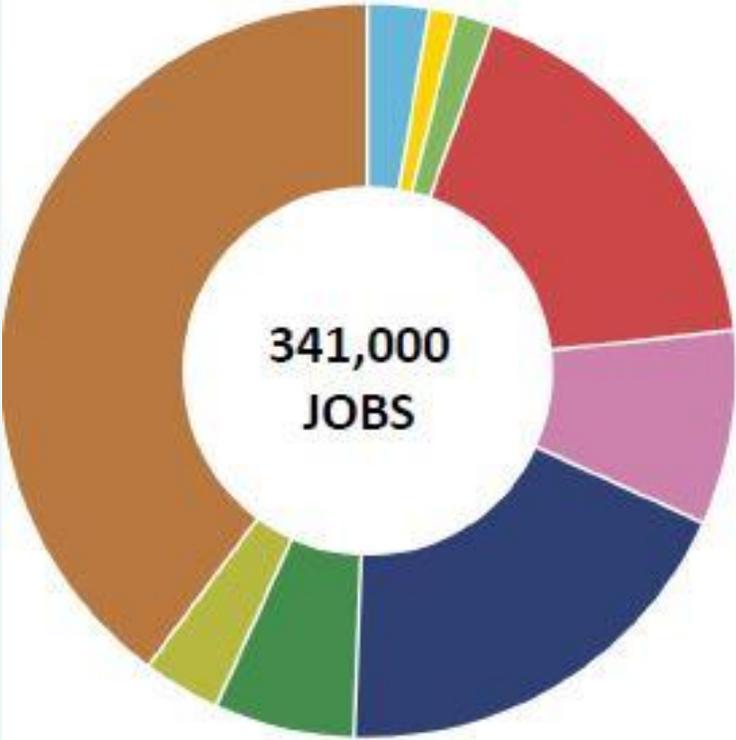
# National Parks are Economic Drivers

## Directly Affected Sectors

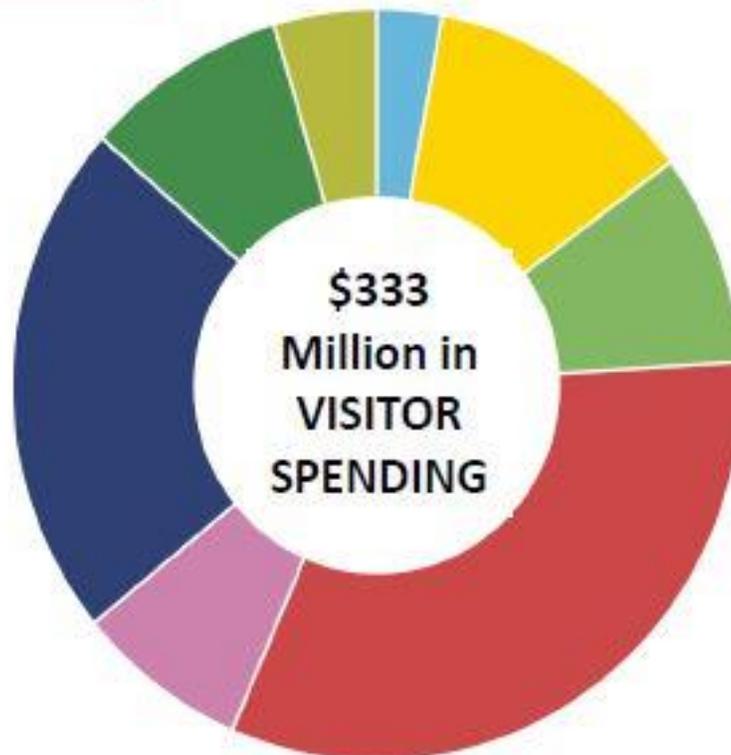
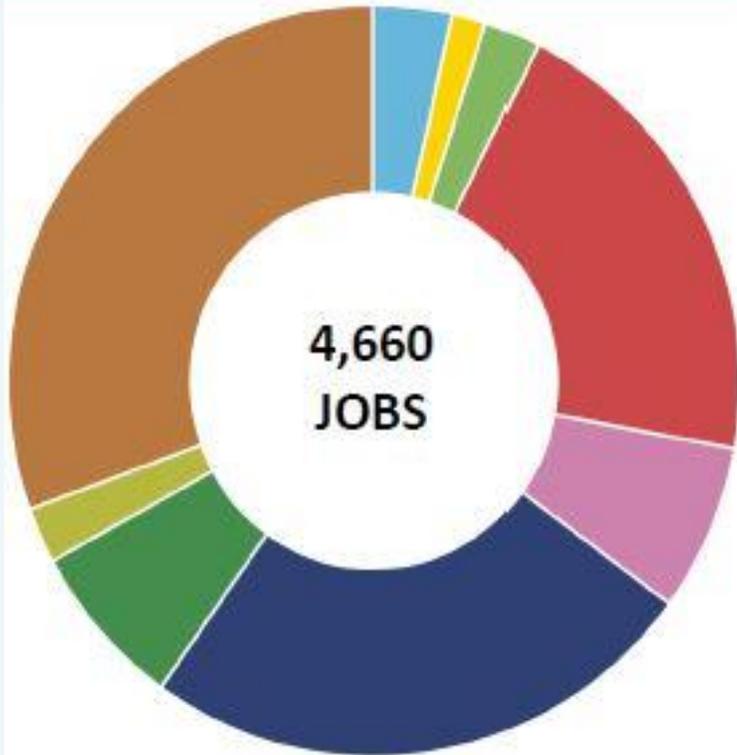
- Camping
- Gas
- Groceries
- Hotels
- Recreation Industries
- Restaurants
- Retail
- Transportation

## Secondary Effects

- Secondary Effects



# National Parks are Economic Drivers in TEXAS



## Directly Affected Sectors

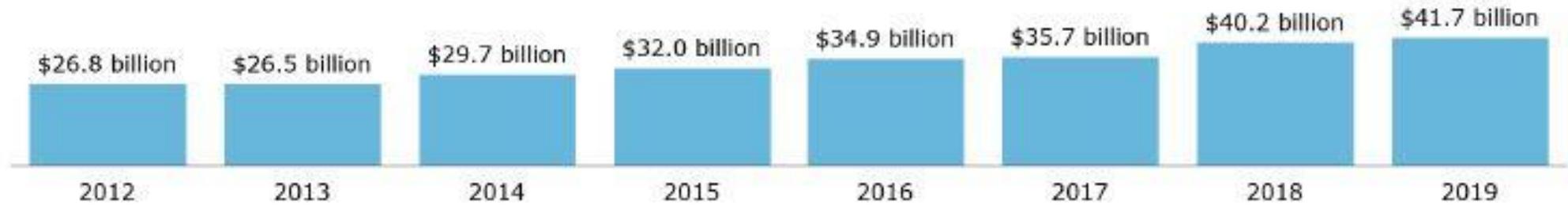
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## Secondary Effects

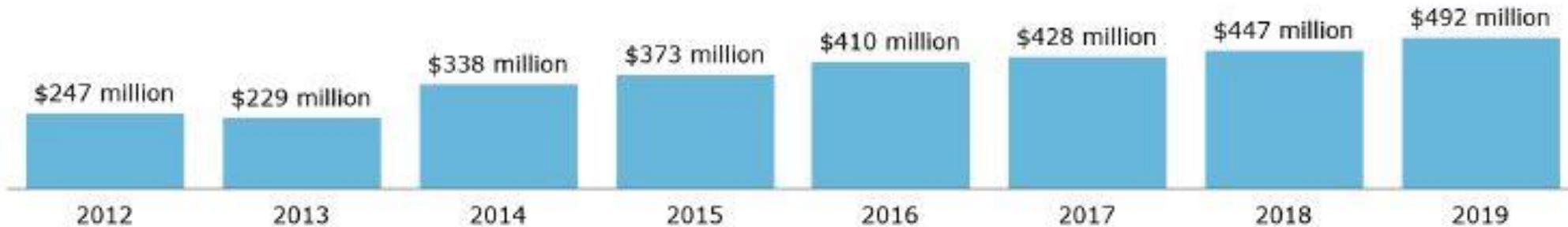
- Secondary Effects



## Total Economic Output Contributed to the National Economy



## Total Economic Output Contributed to the Texas Economy





© Scott Miller

## What's Next?





Lewisville  
Canoe & Kayak Launch  
on Hebron Parkway

# Location Map & Site Info.

- 4.6 acres
- 1150 Hebron Parkway



# Project Background Information

- Lewisville identified two locations in the City for a launch point
  - LLELA (Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area) at Beaver Pond
  - Hebron Parkway – site was used unofficially by many paddlers, and it seemed like the logical choice.
- USACE approval was acquired in 2017 for both launch points
- Environmental study on possible endangered species
- Design was provided by Jacobs Engineering
- City started construction in 2019 after securing funding and executing an agreement with the contractor (Quickcrete)
- Project Budget: 2.1 million including soft costs.



# Project Design

## Design Features include:

- Wide gravel paved driveway for an accessible road
- Handicap parking and ADA path to launch point
- Stairs and handrails
- Turnaround and stone blocks for barriers (safety)
- Bollards (safety)
- Native Seed mix for erosion control
- EZ Dock system with multiple launch points and ADA features

## Future improvements include:

- Pipe rail fence at entry with a lockable gate for Park Operations
- Split rail fence on edges with steep banks
- Kiosk signage with paddling trail map and park information
- Native Tree, Perennial and Aquatic Plant installation





# Canoe & Kayak Launch Process

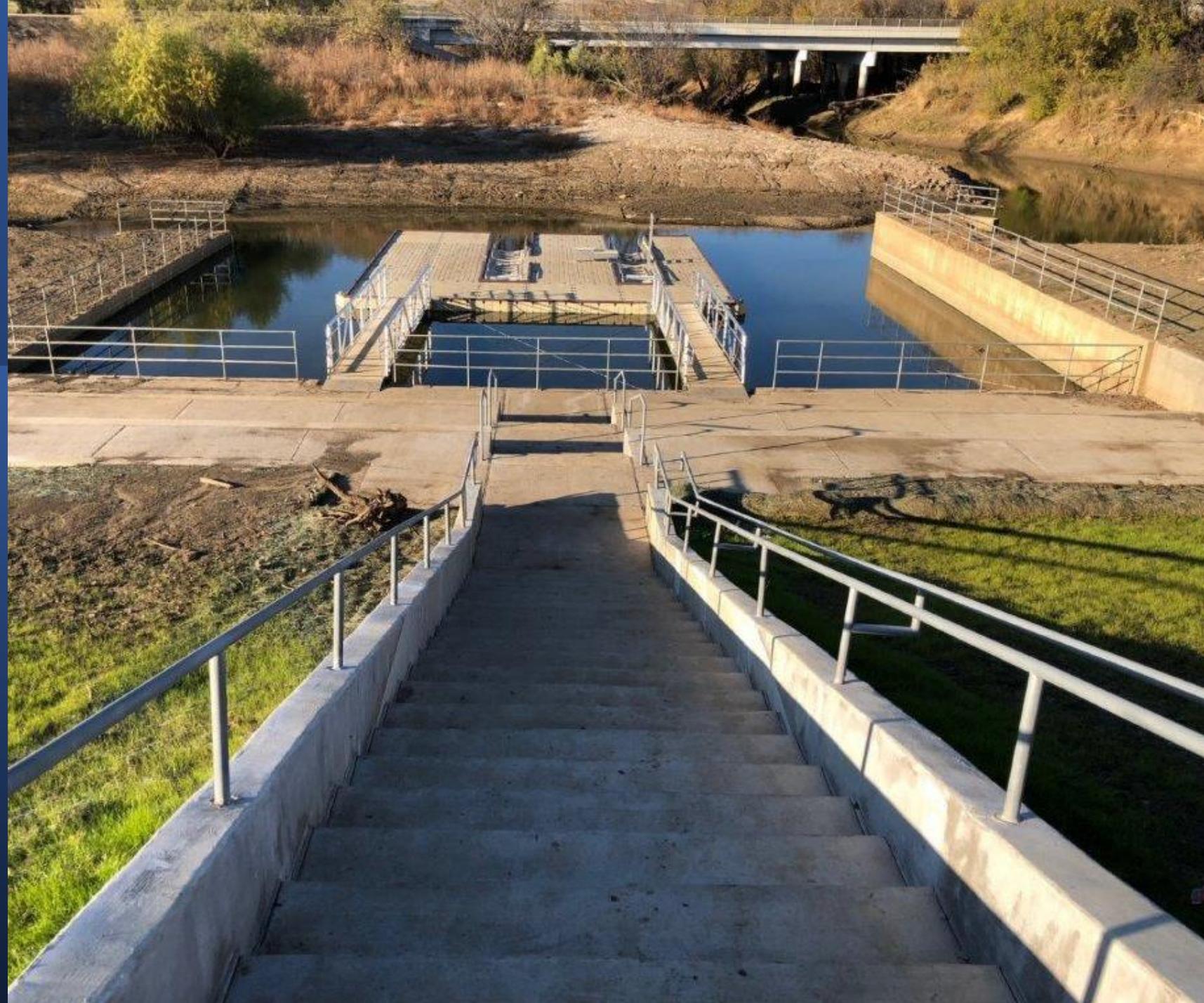


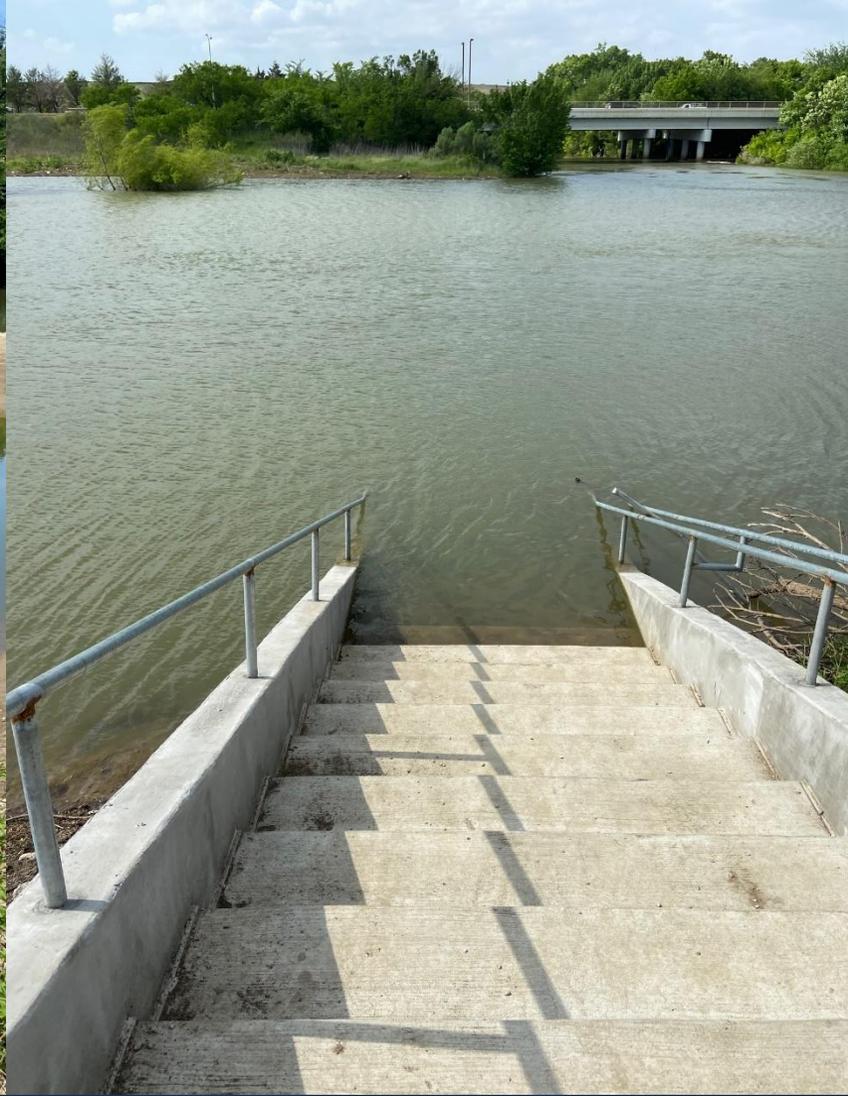
Canoe & Kayak Launch Process



Canoe & Kayak Launch Process

Canoe &  
Kayak Launch  
Completion





Lessons for the next time...

Michael Kim  
City of Lewisville  
Park Development and Operations Manager  
[mkim@cityoflewisville.com](mailto:mkim@cityoflewisville.com)  
972.219.3687

Please contact me with any questions. Thank you.

# Phase 1: Upper Trinity River Water Quality Report Card

Amruta Sakalker, PhD student, GRA at IUS  
Amruta.Sakalker@mavs.uta.edu

**CAPPA** COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

**IUS** INSTITUTE OF URBAN STUDIES  
**ISGI** Institute for Sustainability  
and Global Issues

# PHASE 1 GOALS

- **Collect** *E. coli* data for the Upper Trinity River Basin.
- **Analyze** the geographic and temporal variability in compliance of *E. coli* levels in the study area as per TCEQ standards.
- Report scientific data on the water quality for swimming and boating in **a more comprehensible grading systems for everyday users.**
- **Compare findings** with other Recreational Use analysis



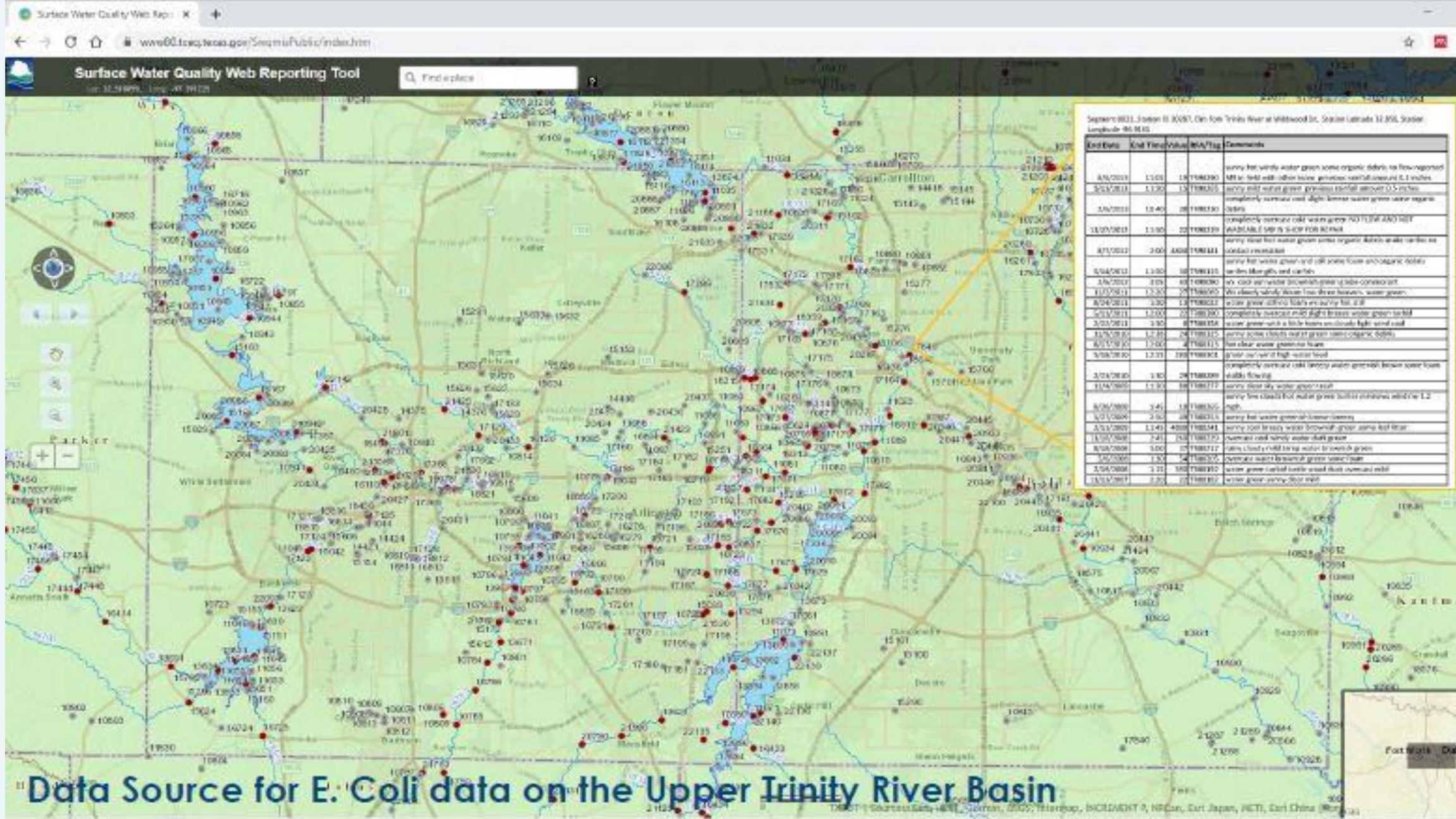
# Recreational Use Standards

- Standards within the State of Texas

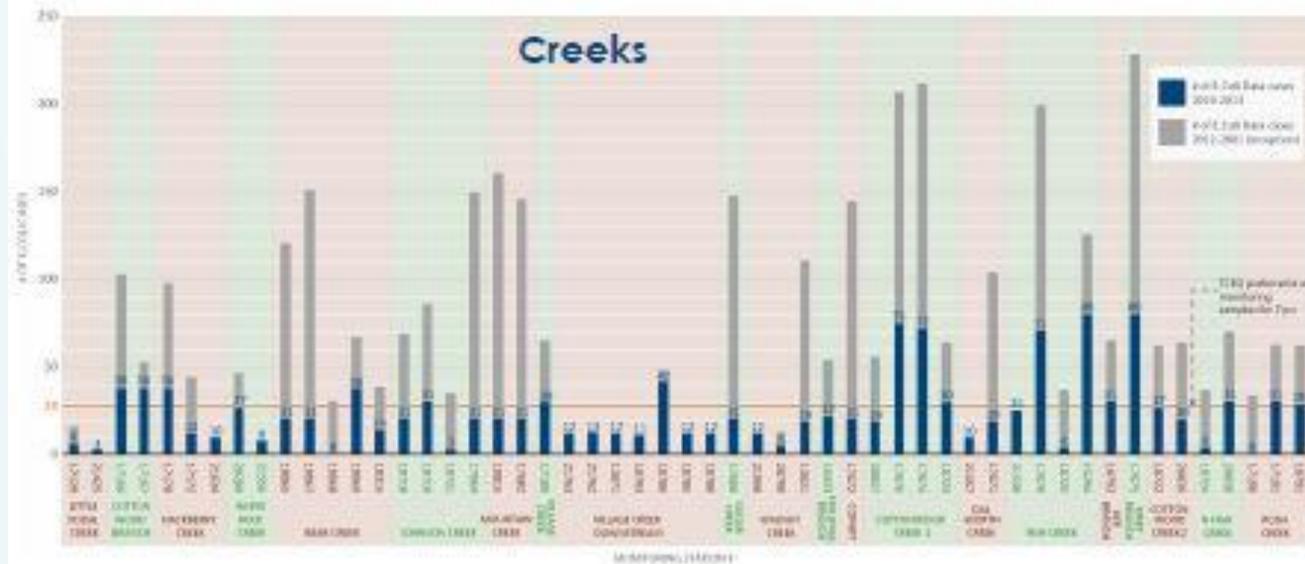
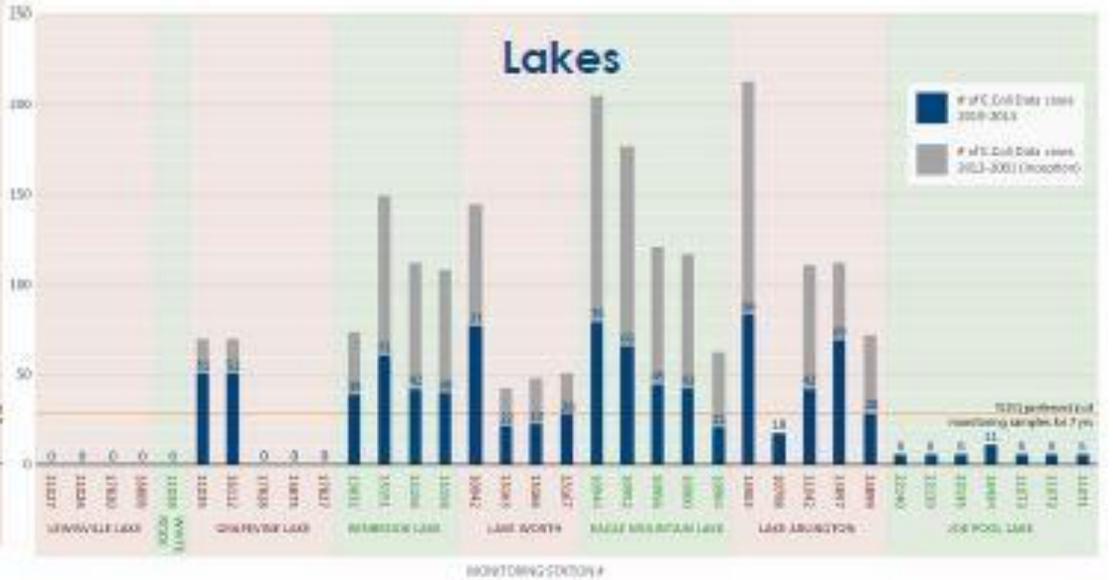
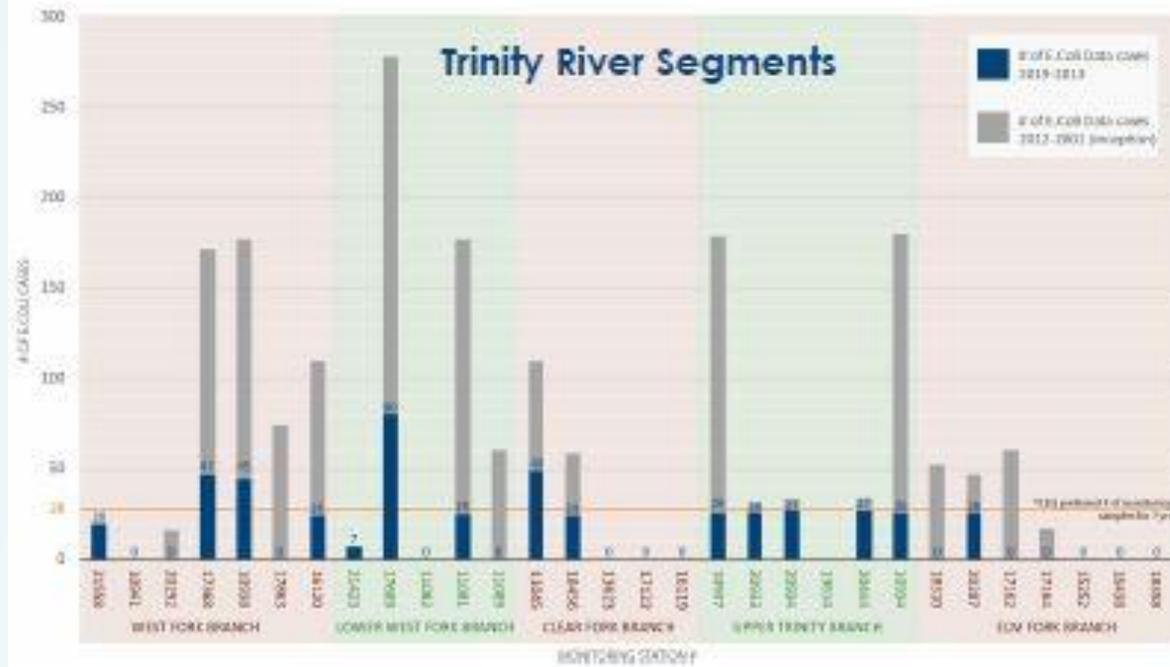
Type of Recreational Use Criteria	Parameter	Geometric Mean Criterion per 100 mL	Single Sample Criterion per 100 mL
Primary Contact Recreation 1 (PCR 1)	E. coli	126	399
Secondary Contact Recreation 1 (SCR1)	E. Coli	650	----
Secondary Contact Recreation 2 (SCR2)	E. Coli	1030	----

- Single Sample Standards within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

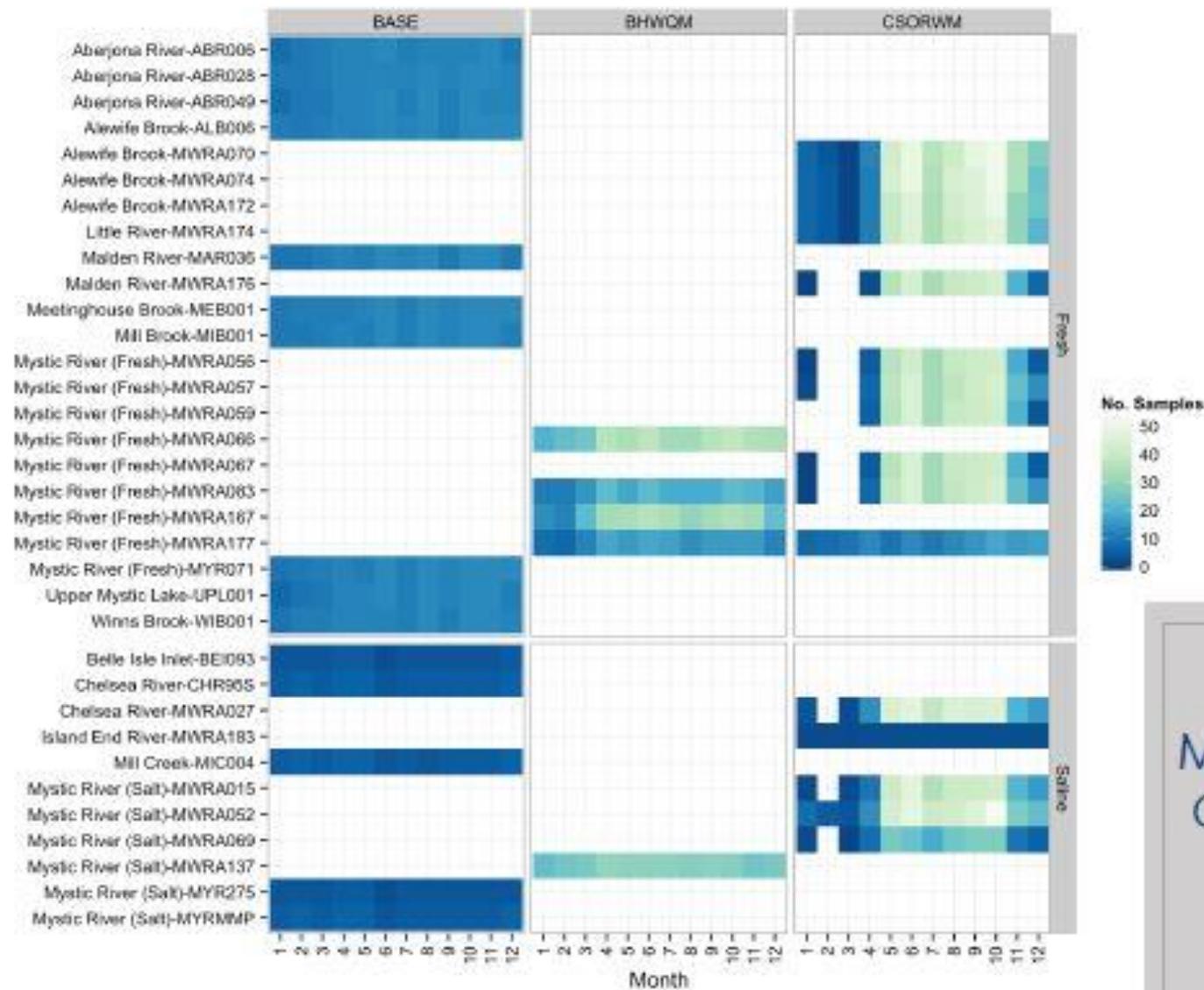
Location Type	Parameter	Boating (#/100mL)	Swimming (#/100mL)
Saline	ENT	350	104
Fresh	ECOLI	1260	235



"Data Source for E. Coli data on the Upper Trinity River Basin"

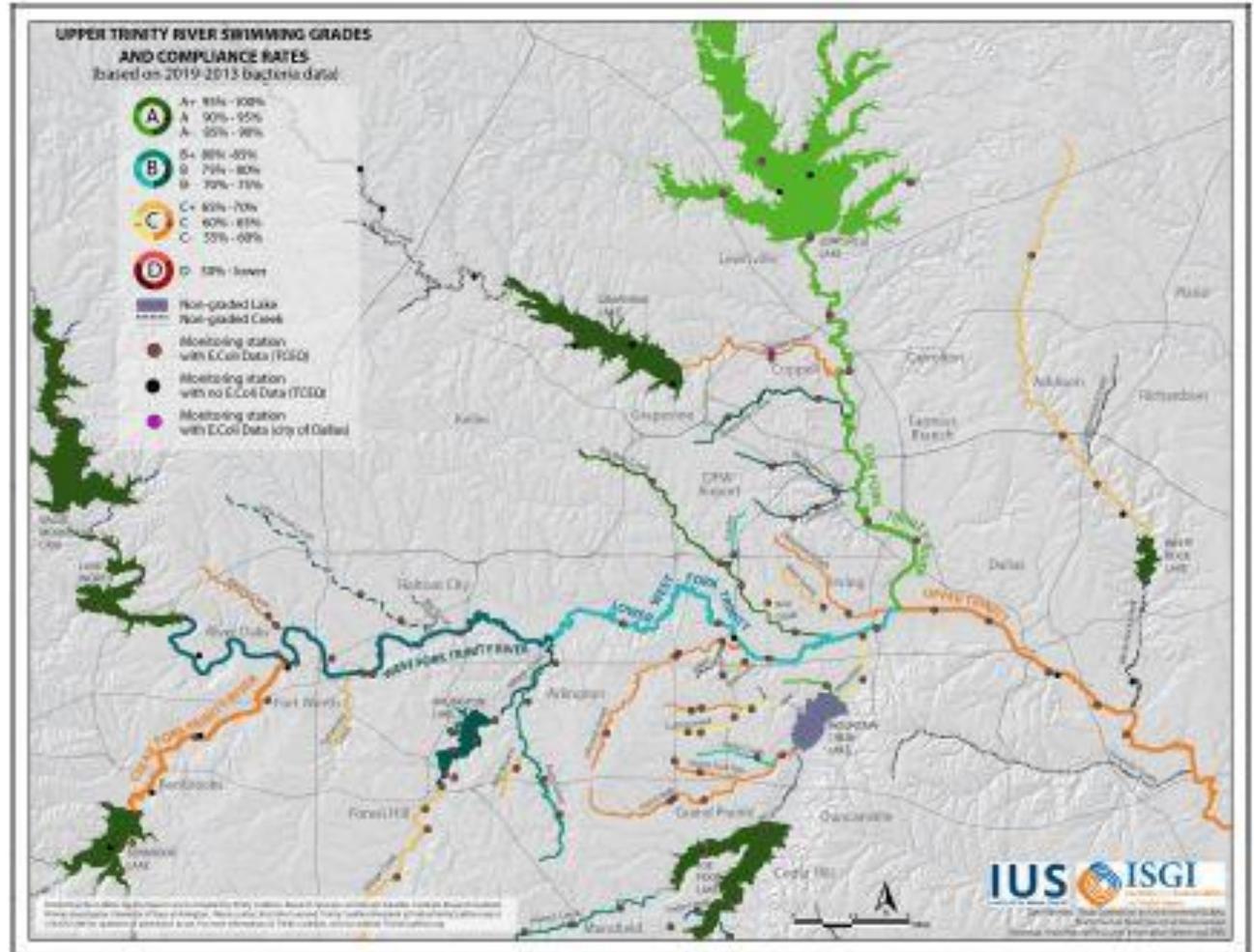
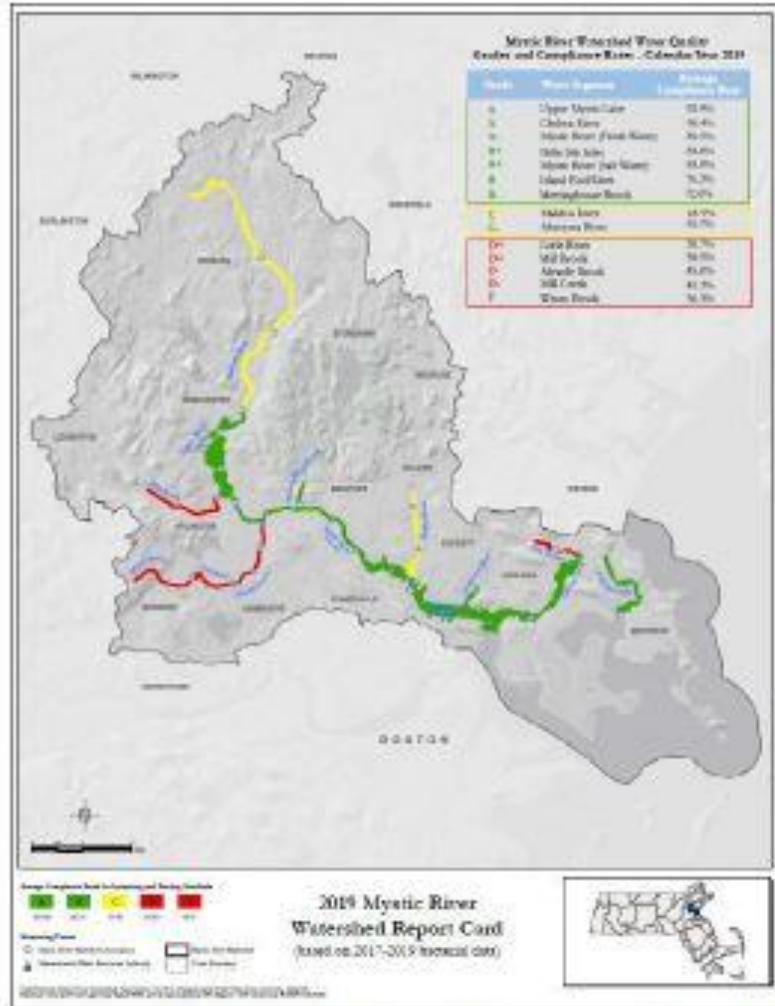


Upper Trinity River, Lakes & Creeks : *E. Coli* data distribution and # of samples



Mystic River, Lakes & Creeks : *E. Coli* data distribution and # of samples





# Mystic River & Upper Trinity River Comparison

Water Type	Waterbody	Grade	Average	Avg Swim	Avg Boat	Swim/Dry	Swim/Wet	Boat/Dry	Boat/Wet
Fresh	Upper Mystic Lake	A	92.882%	85.76%	100.00%	95.83%	55.56%	100.000%	100.00%
Fresh	Mystic River (Fresh)	A-	85.457%	76.16%	94.76%	85.82%	47.15%	87.865%	85.48%
Fresh	Meetinghouse Brook	B-	72.585%	57.25%	87.92%	65.22%	33.33%	91.304%	77.78%
Fresh	Malden River	C	63.910%	52.96%	74.87%	67.96%	7.81%	82.500%	62.00%
Fresh	Aberjona River	C-	55.671%	31.02%	80.32%	37.50%	11.57%	93.066%	42.13%
Fresh	Little River	D+	50.709%	26.69%	74.73%	32.46%	8.38%	82.466%	51.50%
Fresh	Mill Brook	D+	50.521%	25.00%	78.04%	33.33%	0.00%	79.167%	66.67%
Fresh	Alewite Brook	D	45.641%	18.04%	73.25%	22.46%	4.75%	81.254%	49.22%
Fresh	Winns Brook	F	36.292%	16.30%	56.29%	21.74%	0.00%	56.522%	55.56%
Saline	Chelsea River	A	90.389%	86.54%	94.23%	100.00%	46.15%	100.000%	76.92%
Saline	Belle Isle Inlet	B+	83.791%	81.04%	86.54%	85.24%	38.46%	100.000%	46.15%
Saline	Mystic River (Salt)	B+	83.706%	78.66%	88.75%	88.74%	48.42%	95.161%	69.53%
Saline	Island End River	B	76.250%	74.81%	77.68%	73.08%	80.00%	76.923%	80.00%
Saline	Mill Creek	D-	41.268%	19.13%	63.45%	22.73%	8.33%	81.818%	8.33%

-----Near Term Compliance Rate-----

MUNICIPALITY	STATION #	RIVER STATION DESCRIPTION	# OF LOGS SAMPLES 2018-2019*	SWIM GRADE	SWIM PERCENT	SEDIMENT SWIM GRADE	SEDIMENT SWIM GRADE
Fort Worth	23558	WEST FORK   UPSTREAM JACKSBORO	20	C+	70	75.5	B
Fort Worth	30941	WEST FORK   SH 151	0	---	---		
Fort Worth	20292	WEST FORK   HERITAGE PARK	0	---	---		
Fort Worth	17368	WEST FORK   4TH ST	47	B+	81		
Fort Worth	20938	WEST FORK   BEACH ST	45	B	80		
Fort Worth	17863	WEST FORK   GATEWAY	0	---	---		
Fort Worth	16120	WEST FORK   HANDLEY	24	B-	73		
Grand Prairie	17589	LOWER W. FORK   ROY ORR	80	B	77.5	72.75	B-
Grand Prairie	13082	LOWER W. FORK   G. PRAIRIE	0	---	---		
Grand Prairie	13081	LOWER W. FORK   BELT LINE	25	C+	68		
Dallas	13583	LOWER W. FORK   LOOP 13	0	---	---	68.74	C+
Fort Worth	13045	CLEAR FORK   BRYANT ST	49	B-	70.8		
Fort Worth	18456	CLEAR FORK   ROSEDALE	24	C+	66.67		
Fort Worth	18829	CLEAR FORK   BENBROOK DAM1	0	---	---		
Fort Worth	17322	CLEAR FORK   BENBROOK DAM2	0	---	---		
Fort Worth	18119	CLEAR FORK   FURCEY	0	---	---		
Dallas	20937	UPPER TRINITY   N WESTMORELAND	26	B+	84.6	66.12	C+
Dallas	20923	UPPER TRINITY   SILVAN AVENUE	26	C	61.5		
Dallas	20934	UPPER TRINITY   SANTA FE AVE	27	C	61.5		
Dallas	19814	UPPER TRINITY   CEDAR CREST BLVD	0	---	---		
Dallas	20444	UPPER TRINITY   S. CENTRAL EXP	27	C	61.5		
Dallas	20924	UPPER TRINITY   LOOP SH 12	26	C	61.5	85.85	A-
Dallas	20287	ELM FORK   WILDWOOD DR	26	B	77		
Dallas	E1	ELM FORK   LEWISVILLE LK	89	A+	98.75		
Dallas	E2	ELM FORK   ELM FORK INTAKE	88	B+	82.96		
Lewisville	E3	ELM FORK   BACHMAN PLANT INTAKE	85	A-	88.37		
Carrollton	E4	ELM FORK   HEBRON PEW	84	B+	82.95		
<b>Overall Trinity River Grade</b>						<b>73.79</b>	<b>B-</b>

## Mystic River & Upper Trinity River Comparison



## Phase II: Address the gaps in Phase I

- Build a more coherent picture with a better dataset and more detailed analysis
- Identify locations to collect more data, especially around transportation infrastructure and locations with increased access.
- Study the correlation of water quality and wet and dry seasons
- Create a coordinated relationship with local and regional entities of DFW to monitor and share data
- Study the land use and built environment around the river
- Develop a communication plan to inform and engage DFW residents

# State of The



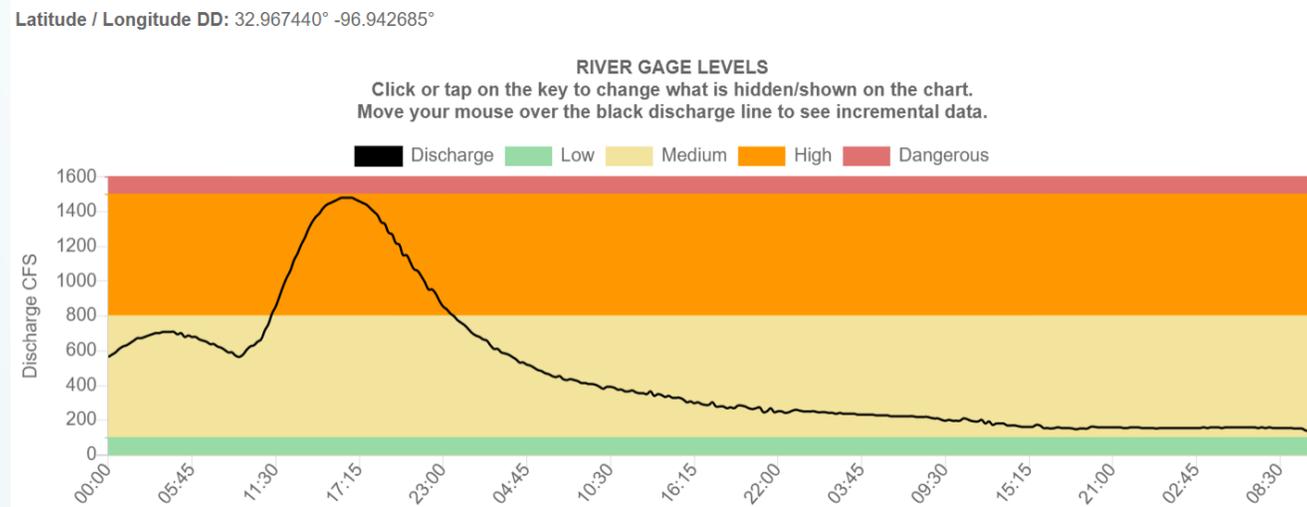
Spring 2021

# Paddling Trail Status April 2021

- ▶ All 21 launch sites are open. Area outfitters are providing access for those without boats.
- ▶ All but 2 sections are 4-6 mile in length
  - ▶ One 12 mile section
  - ▶ One 24 mile section
- ▶ Plans are in the works for two new launch sites
  - ▶ This will breakup the 24 mile section
- ▶ Four launch sites need repair or replacement
  - ▶ Need a 3 to 5 year plan
- ▶ 15 Wayfinding signs are in place
  - ▶ Only 6 more to go

# Paddling Trail Status April 2021

- ▶ Trinity Coalition Web Site has been up over a year
  - ▶ Trail information, distance between launch sites
  - ▶ Identifies hazards (Dams, utility pipes)
  - ▶ Water levels are color coded for each section
    - ▶ Low, medium, high, dangerous



# 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.

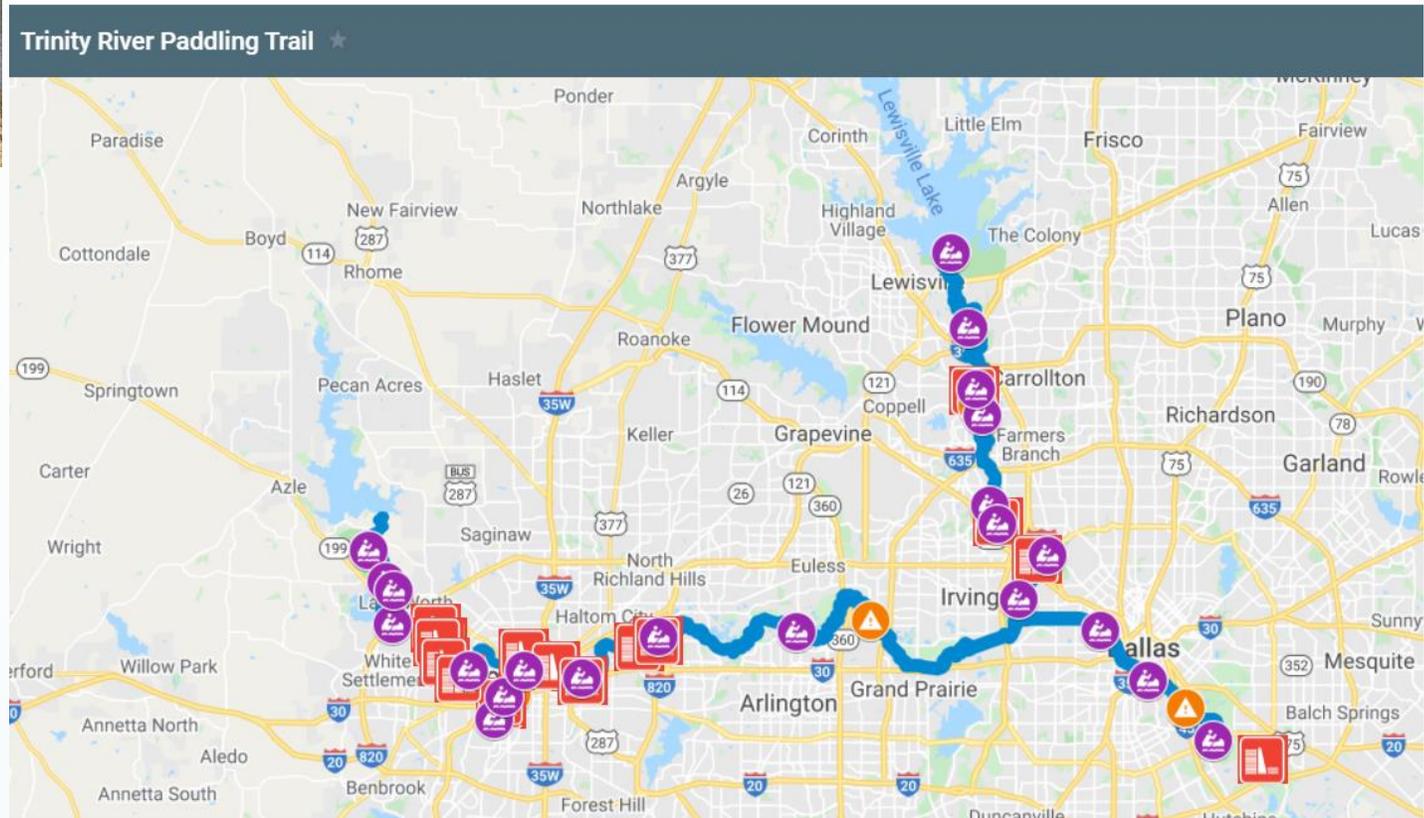
Launch Description: Long gentle slope to a concrete boat ramp.

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>



# Paddling Trail Status April 2021

- ▶ Trinity Coalition Facebook page
  - ▶ Event scheduling
  - ▶ Over 900 “likes” per day
- ▶ Trinity River Paddling Trail Association / 1,800+
  - ▶ 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

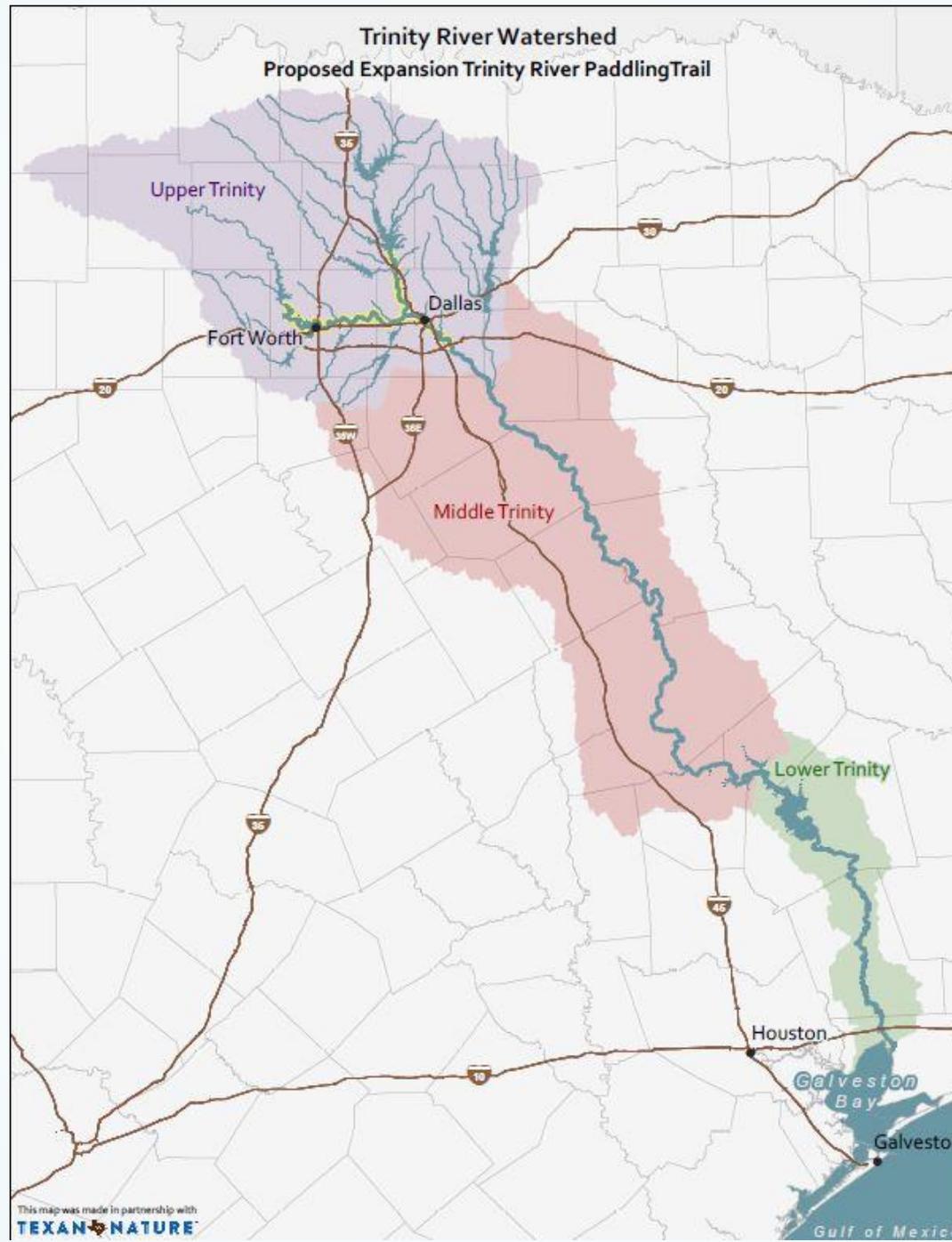
# Paddle Trail / Future Goals

- Add 3 or 4 new launch sites on the main trail
- Create a multi-year improve program with each city for improving launch sites
- Create a volunteer beautification program with each city for maintaining each launch site.
- Work to extend the trail to Lake Ray Roberts through Lake Lewisville and the Greenbelt Park
- Identify area creeks and tributaries and create launch points and safety data for each

# Future Initiatives

- Phase 2 of water quality study
- Expand Joe's Creek Trash Clean-up to other streams
- Expand Trinity River Paddling Trail to the upper streams and lakes
- Expand Trinity River Paddling Trail downstream to Galveston Bay
- Create major advertising campaign designed to make Trinity River-based recreation a significant economic engine for D-FW

Trinity River Watershed  
Proposed Expansion Trinity River Paddling Trail



This map was made in partnership with  
**TEXAN NATURE**



# Upper Expansion MAP

- Bridges
- Possible Launch Sites



# Lower Expansion MAP

- Bridges
- Possible Launch Sites

# Task Force Roundtable

Please raise your hand and unmute yourself to contribute to the roundtable discussion.

# Upcoming Events & Opportunities

- May 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – [TMDL Stormwater Technical Subcommittee](#)
- May 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – [Municipal BMP Show and Tell Webinar](#)
- May 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – [TMDL Wastewater Technical Subcommittee](#)
- May 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – [Wrangling Trash from Waterways, Texas-Style](#)
- Coming this Fall: [North Texas Community Clean-Up Challenge](#)
  - 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. At the end of the contest, the community with the most litter cleaned up per resident will receive the North Texas Community Cleanup award that they can proudly display in their city hall.

**Next Task Force Meeting is scheduled for July or August 2021.**

# Contact

## **Dale Harris**

Trinity River Paddling Trail Chair  
Trinity Coalition

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## **Breanne Johnson**

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North Central Texas Council of  
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817.695.9148

# Connect



Facebook.com/TrinityRiverCoalition



Meetup.com/DFWPaddlesports

www

TrinityCoalition.org

www

NCTCOG.org/Envir