

Trinity River National Water Trail Task Force

August 29, 2023



North Central Texas
Council of Governments
Environment & Development



Thank You for Attending!

- Please introduce yourself in the chat box
- Please mute your line
- If questions: use the “raise hand” option or enter it in the chat box
- Unmute during roundtable discussions



Materials from past meetings can be viewed at:

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

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome & Meeting Purpose
2. State of the Trail
3. Master Plan Update
4. Tarrant Regional Water District River Plan
5. DFW Discovery Trail Update
6. Panther Island Paddle Sports Update
7. Roundtable
8. Upcoming Events & Opportunities



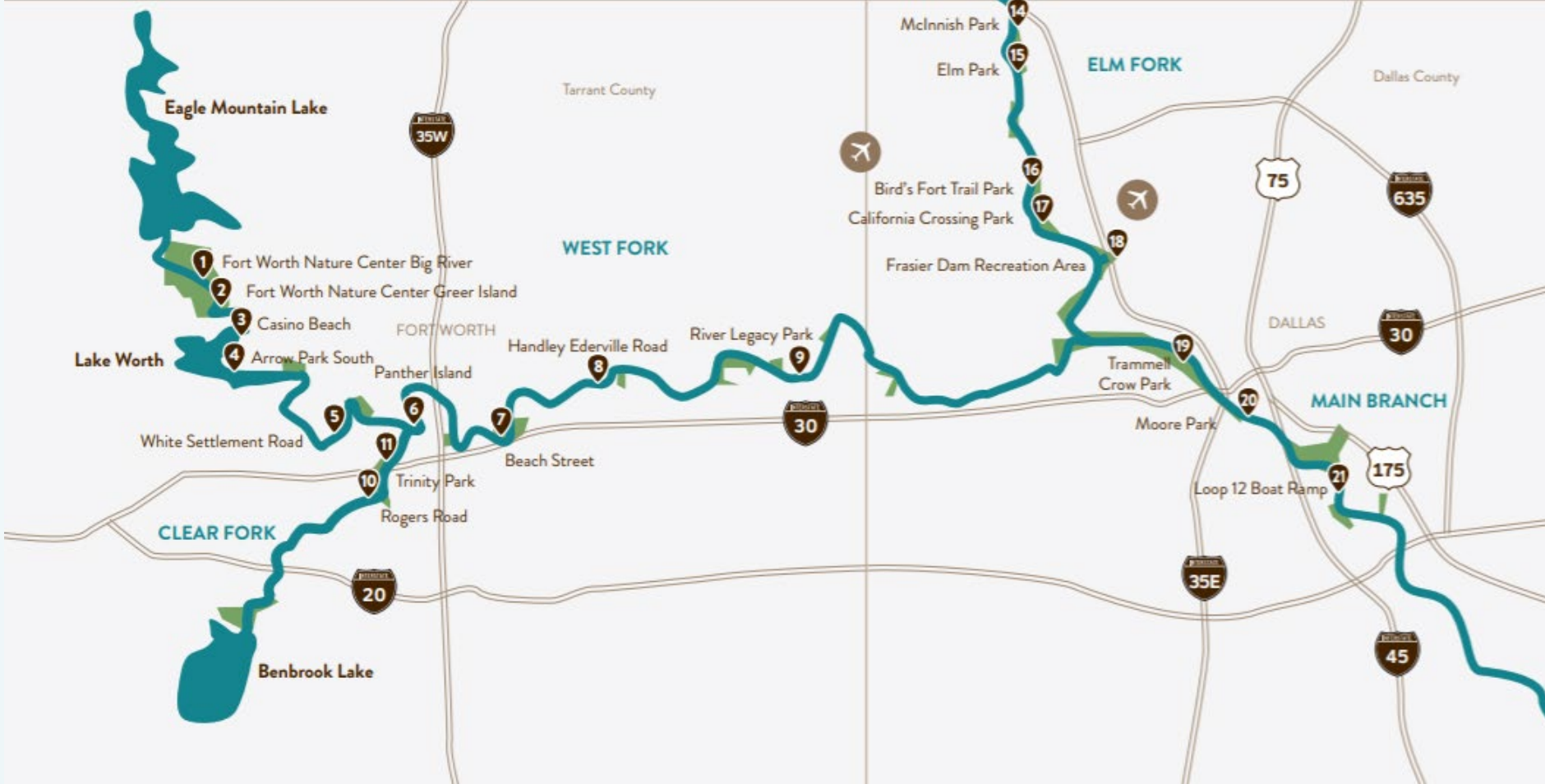
Welcome & Meeting Purpose

Steve Smith, Trinity Coalition



KEY

- Launch Site
- Trinity River
- Park
- Airport

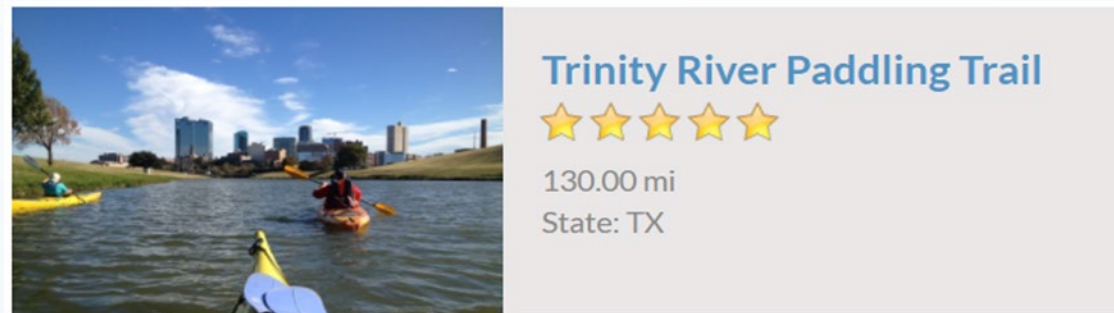


State of the Trail

Dale Harris, Trinity Coalition

Trinity River National Water Trail

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



Trinity River National Water Trail

- 130 miles with 21 official launch sites
- Traverses 9 municipalities including Dallas and Fort Worth and as far north as Lewisville
- All but two sections are 4-6 miles in length, one section is 12 miles and one is 24 miles
- New launch sites (in various stages of development) will shorten some of the longer distances:
 - Beltline Road in Grand Prairie
 - Viridian Development in Arlington
 - Trinity View Park in Irving
 - Riverside Parks in Fort Worth

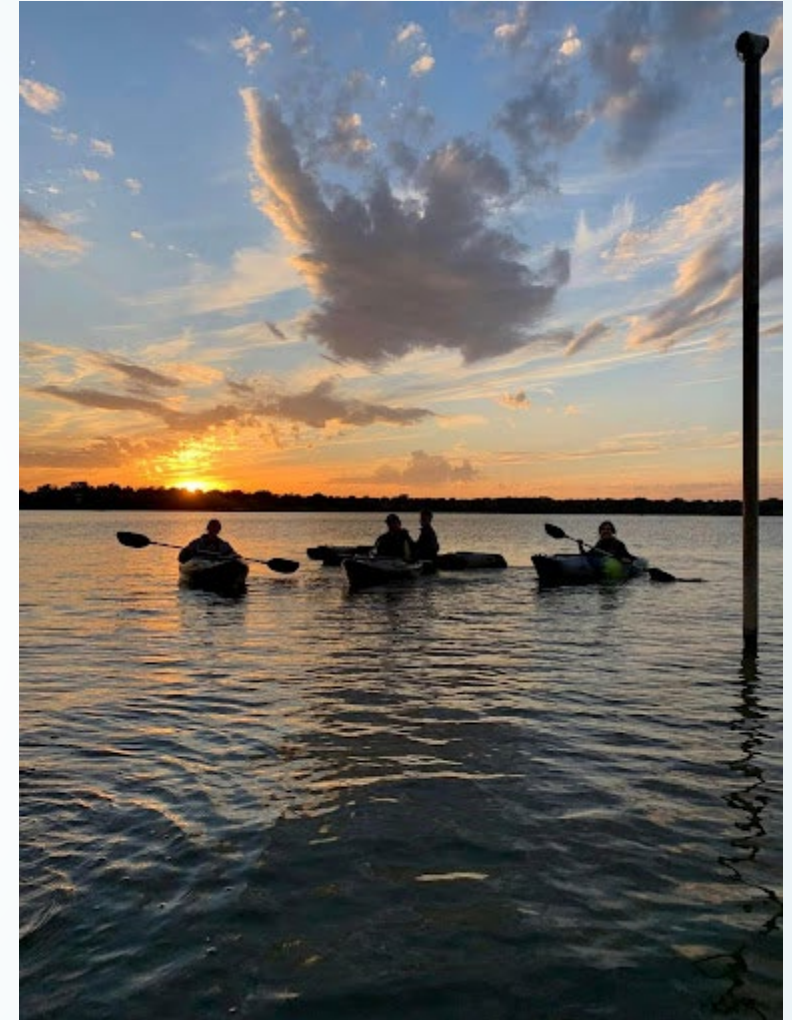


Trinity River Challenge 20th / McInnish Park

Trail Status August 2023

Currently 20 out of 21 launch sites are open

- ▶ Loop 12 closed - flood damage and safety concerns
 - ▶ Paddlers are hoping to see it open soon
 - ▶ The main Outfitter in Dallas was financially hurt with the closure (historically 12 -15 paddlers per weekend)
- ▶ A couple of paddlers reported that the pull-off for loading and unloading at Hadley Ederville is now fenced off - needs verification



Hidden Lake in Carrollton, TX.
Courtesy of Trinity River Kayak Co.

Trail Usage August 2023

- This quarter the trail has been usable May 22 - August 18
- Only 3 times did the river flow go above 2,000 CFS, briefly and stayed less than 3,000 CFS
- Section between LLELA and Hebron Parkway still has a tree impeding the river during low flows



Trail Usage - Outfitters

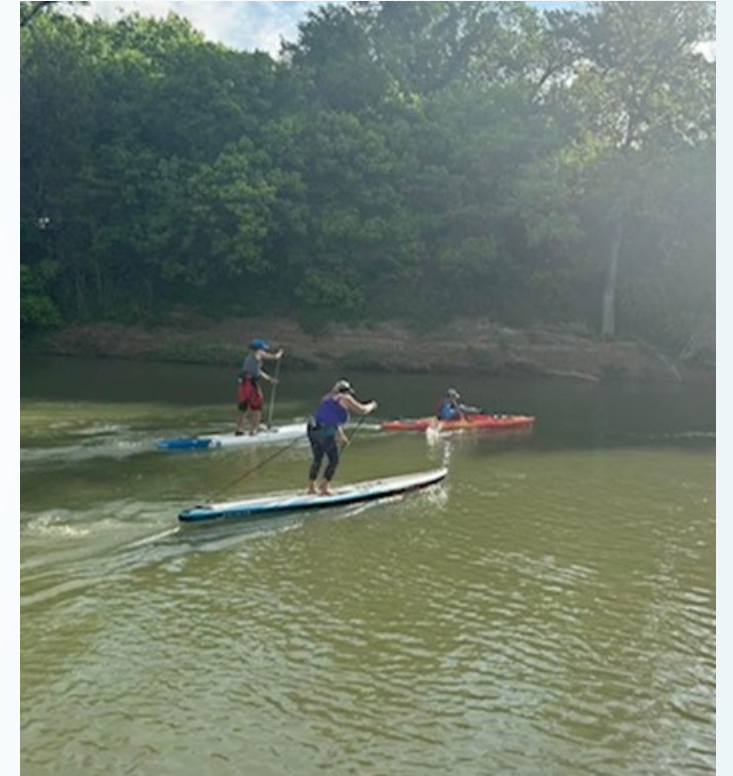
- ▶ Trinity Coalition at Panther Island: 350 paddlers over 12 weeks / ~600 customers
- ▶ Trinity River Kayak Co.: ~1500 customers, March – July
- ▶ Trinity River Expeditions: ~100 customers since March, expected 400 to 500 customers (Trammell Crow to Loop12 was the main route.
- ▶ Outfitters typically use trailers:
 - ▶ Prefer boat ramps
 - ▶ Only two boat ramps on the main branch of the Trinity River - Trammel Crow and Loop 12.
- ▶ TC will work on getting recreation paddling usage numbers by next quarterly meeting



Local Trinity River fisherman
30+ days on the river since May

User-Friendly Water Trail Information

- Trinity Coalition Web Site: <https://trinitycoalition.org/>
- Water Trail Information: <https://trinitycoalition.org/paddling-trail>
- Interactive Map: <https://trinitycoalition.org/launch-sites-map>
- Water Levels: <https://trinitycoalition.org/water-levels>
- Trinity Coalition FB Page / trail information and status
- Trinity River Paddling Trail Association FB Group Page / 1,900+
- Trinity Coalition Meetup Page / 4,000 paddlers



Safety Challenges in Opening the Trinity River Southern Dallas and Southern Dallas Co.



View of L & D #1 looking up stream, dam (left) and lock (right) have dangerous hydraulics; debris and remaining hardware can trap or snag canoeists and kayakers

Safety Challenges in Opening the Trinity River Southern Dallas and Southern Dallas Co.



Above are more hazards lying under the water that can that can trap or snag canoeists and kayakers

L & D #1 was a “Wicket” design;
seen above are remaining hinges

Safety Challenges in Opening the Trinity River Southern Dallas and Southern Dallas Co.

- View of lock side of L & D #1
- Metal brackets are steel straps that held the lock doors together
- Red oval on the right is what remains of one of the lock doors
- **This old Lock & Dam system can never be restored, there is no useful purpose for it, it is dangerous, and is the major roadblock for opening up the main branch of the Trinity River to southern Dallas and Dallas County**



Trinity River National Water Trail Master Plan Update

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson, NCTCOG

Trinity River National Water Trail

Master Plan



Agenda

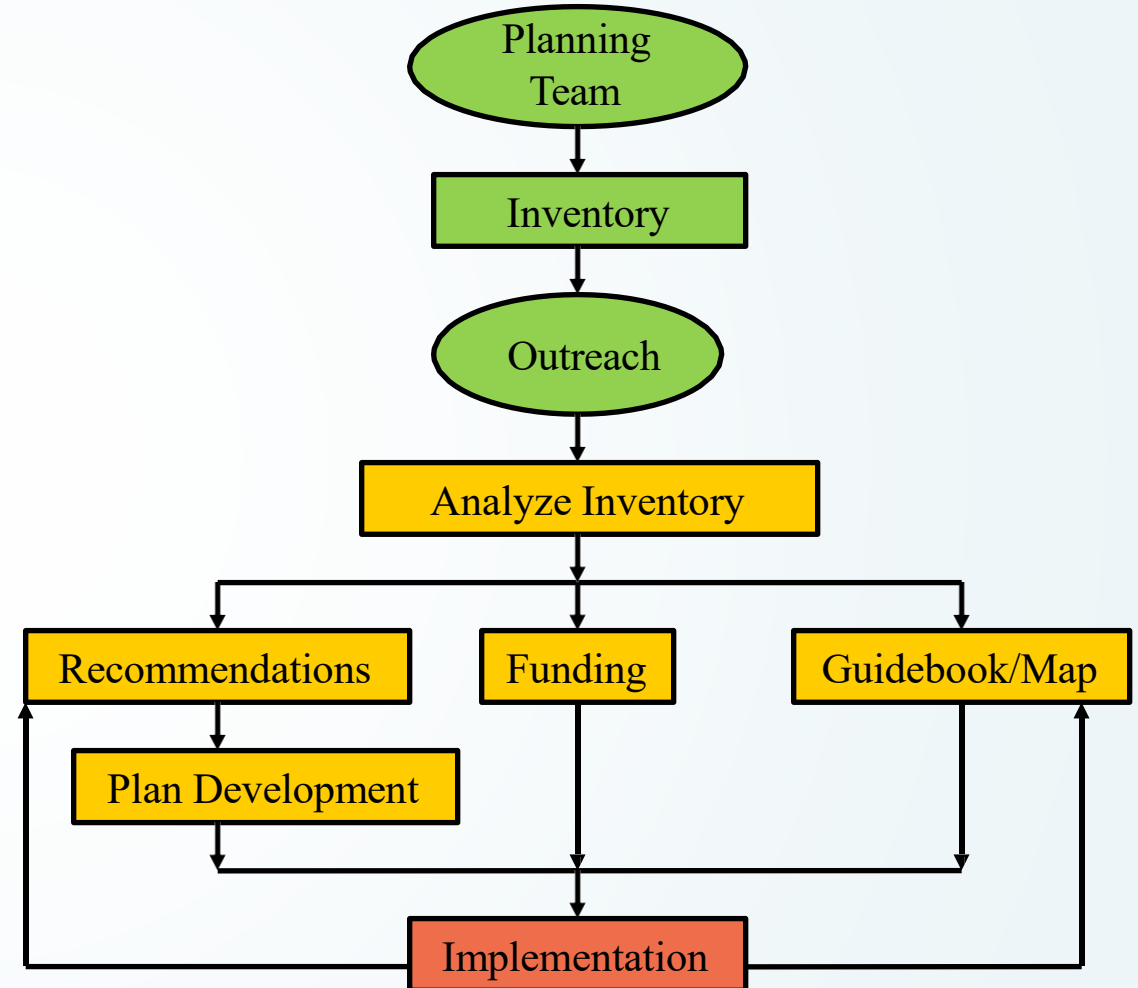
- Planning Process
- Vision & Goals
- Master Plan
 - Mapping Needs
 - Maintenance Needs
 - Branding and Signage Needs
- Next Steps

Planning Process



Phase of Implementation: Action Items

- Analyze inventory of Phase 1 & 2 deliverables
- Define goals for maintenance plan, mapping plan, and promotion and branding plan
- Defining recommendations



Vision & Goals



Vision for the Trail

- To assemble the various segments of the Upper Trinity River in North Texas into a fully integrated paddling trail.
- The Trinity River Water Trail covers 130 river miles, over nine cities and three counties. 21 launch sites along its length with access to 3 river tributaries and the main branch
 - Clear Fork
 - West Fork
 - Elm Fork

Goals for the Trail

- Develop new launch sites to shorten distances between sites
- Promote National Water Trail to cities and communities
- Make the trail more accessible
- Maintain condition of the existing and future launch sites
- Promote stewardship along the Trinity River
- Connect the Trinity River National Water Trail to the DFW Discovery Trail
- Extend the National Water Trail further south

Are there any additional goals we want to set for the Trinity River Corridor?

Master Plan Discussion



Master Plan Outline

Overview of the National Water Trail

- ▶ History & Background

Planning Process

Goals

- ▶ Education and Safety
- ▶ Stewardship & Conservation
- ▶ Community Engagement
- ▶ Maintenance
- ▶ Planning

Inventory of the Trinity River and Surrounding Parks/Trail

- ▶ Community Based Assessments
- ▶ Demand & Users
- ▶ Accessibility
- ▶ Gaps in Connectivity

Task Force Recommendations

- ▶ Launch Site Expansion
- ▶ Design Concepts
- ▶ Prioritize Locations
- ▶ Portals & Branding

Mapping Needs

Current Ideas

- Incorporating existing land trails and parks
 - Bike Paths
 - Hiking Trails
 - Nature Preserves
 - Nature Centers
 - Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Association
 - Area Lakes
- Map points of interest and services along the water trail

Maintenance & Infrastructure Needs

Infrastructure Needs

- ▶ New Launch Sites
 - ▶ Grand Prairie – Beltline Canoe Launch
 - ▶ Arlington – Viridian Canoe Launch
 - ▶ Irving – Trinity View Park Launch
 - ▶ Fort Worth – Riverside Park Launch
 - ▶ Lewisville – Lewisville Lake Paddling Loop
- ▶ Trail Signage

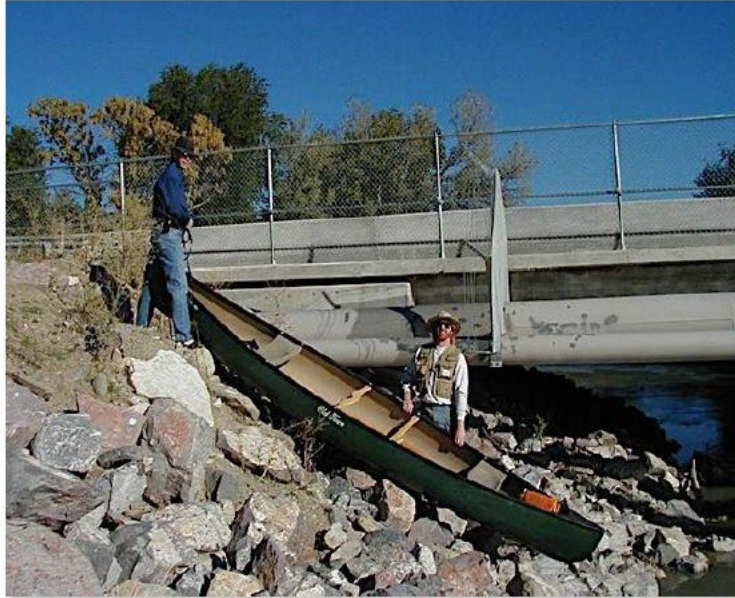
Maintenance Needs

- ▶ Repair and Restoration of Launch Sites
- ▶ Standard Operations and Procedures
- ▶ Water Trail Cleanups

Design for Ease of Access



Example of a launch that is too high!



Poor Design: Steep slope, rugged terrain



Good Design: Wide, sturdy staircase

Branding and Signage Needs



Trinity River Paddling Trail
Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area

Current location:
LLELA
Lewisville Lake
Environmental
Learning Area
DD: 33.067109° -
96.964697°

Next Take-out:
Hebron
Parkway Rd
~6 miles /
~ 2.5 hrs
DD: 33.012600° -
96.950689°

This section has Cell coverage. In case of emergency call 911. River section LLELA to Huffines Park at Hebron Parkway, Lewisville

River conditions: this section of the river starts out with shallow fast moving current. Downstream the river widens and slows. **Hazards:** please watch for fallen trees that can go completely across the river.

<http://www.playlewisville.com/>

For more information: <https://trinitycoalition.org/>

Maintenance & Infrastructure Questions

Launch & Access Site Needs

- ▶ Do the designs comply with regulations/NPS Recommendations?
- ▶ Are launches designed with accessibility in mind?
- ▶ Is there a way to communicate with water trail users in case of an emergency?

Signage

- ▶ Is there a plan for creating and locating signs?
- ▶ Do signs along the water trail follow consistent standards ?
- ▶ What information do signs provide (safety, navigation, distance, hazards)?

Trail Maintenance

- ▶ Who maintains which segments of trail?
- ▶ **Are there partnership or adopt-a-trail agreements?**

Mapping and Branding Questions

Mapping Needs

- ▶ Is trip planning information (directions, access, logistics) easily accessible?
- ▶ Are regulations clearly posted and written on maps and guidebooks?
- ▶ Are dams and other hazards clearly and consistently signed on maps and on the water trail itself?
- ▶ Are current flow conditions including flood available through a wide variety of channels?

Promotion and Branding Needs

- ▶ How should the trail be marketed to cities and residents? (Water Bills?)
- ▶ What economic benefits should be promoted?

Next Steps?

Trinity Coalition Action Items

- ▶ Reviewing and compiling past documents and inventory
- ▶ Drafting history and background

NCTCOG Action Items

- ▶ Obtaining GIS mapping data
- ▶ Community outreach and engagement
- ▶ Continue master plan research

Community Action Items

- ▶ Provide input on collaboration, challenges, and opportunities for the trail

Contact

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Tarrant Regional Water District River Plan

Brian Trusty, Pros Consulting

Adam Brewster, Dunaway Associates



RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Public Engagement Meeting

July 27, 2023



Who We Are

For almost 100 years **Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD)** has improved the quality of life in our communities by providing:

- **Reliable water supply**
- **Flood protection**
- **Recreation opportunities**
- **Environmental stewardship**

What We Do

Water Supply

TRWD supplies raw water to 2.3 million people in 11 North Texas counties.

TRWD uses a system of lakes and pipelines to deliver raw water to more than 30 wholesale water providers in the North Texas region.

Flood Protection

TRWD works in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to help reduce the risk of flooding in our communities through an extensive 27-mile floodway levee system.

What We Do

Recreation

TRWD manages four lakes, three parks and more than 100 miles of trails.

TRWD's Trinity Trail System spans more than 100 plus miles, connecting 61 neighborhoods and 21 city parks.

Environmental Stewardship

We help protect the areas around our lakes and rivers to ensure the communities we serve have a safe and clean water supply.

- Spring and Fall Trash Bash
- Adopt-a-River program

Recreation Master Plan

Purpose

To foster healthy communities, promote environmental stewardship, and provide outstanding recreation opportunities while also connecting neighborhoods throughout our service areas.

Planning Process



Planning Process Overview



Data Gathering



Recreational Resource and Programming



Public Engagement



Market Analysis



Conceptual Planning



Operational Model and Proforma



Preliminary Master Plan



Final Master Plan



Project Overview



Planning Areas

 **Eagle Mountain Park**

 **Walnut Creek**

Eagle Mountain Lake

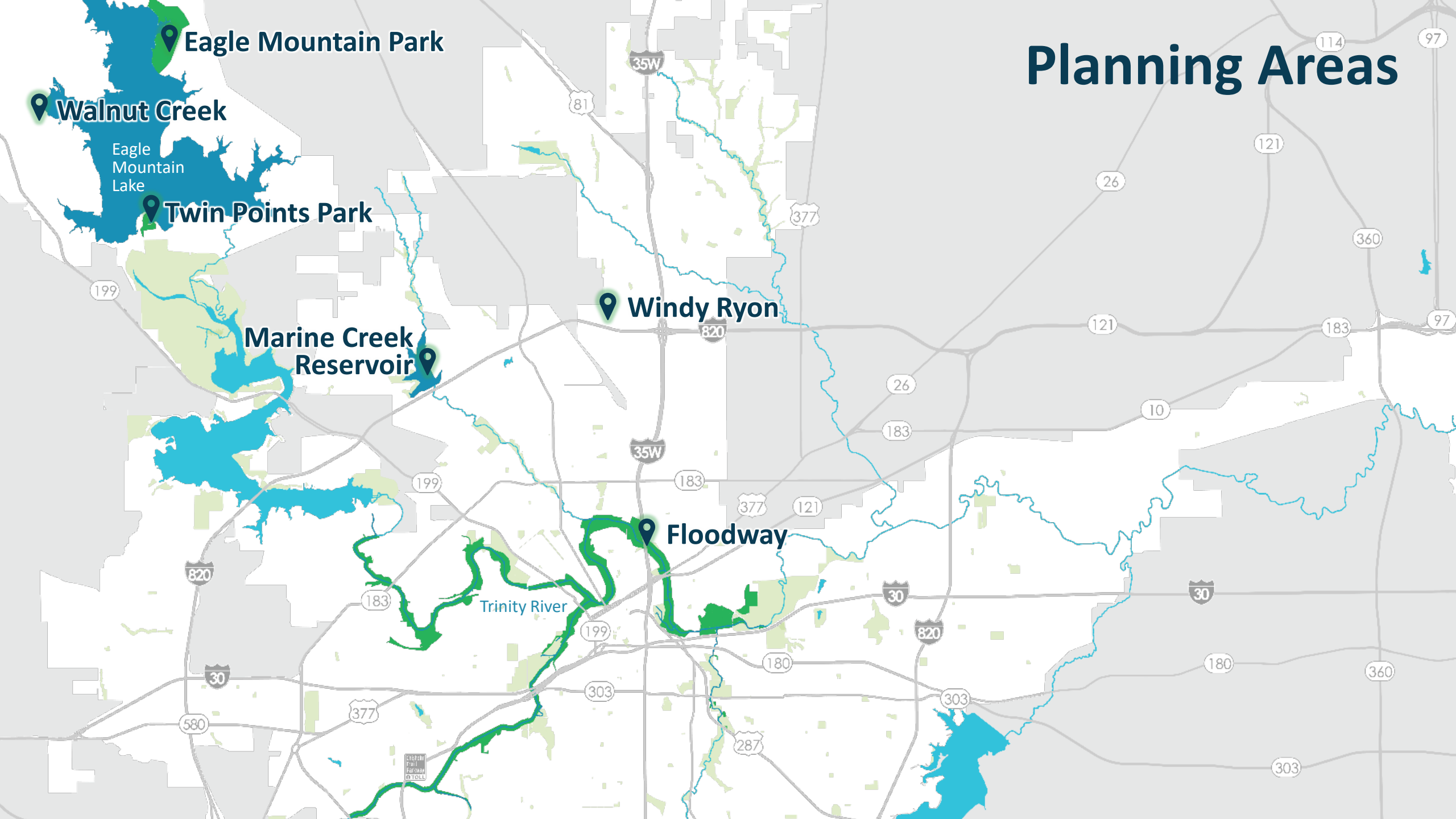
 **Twin Points Park**

Marine Creek Reservoir

 **Windy Ryon**

 **Floodway**

Trinity River



Events



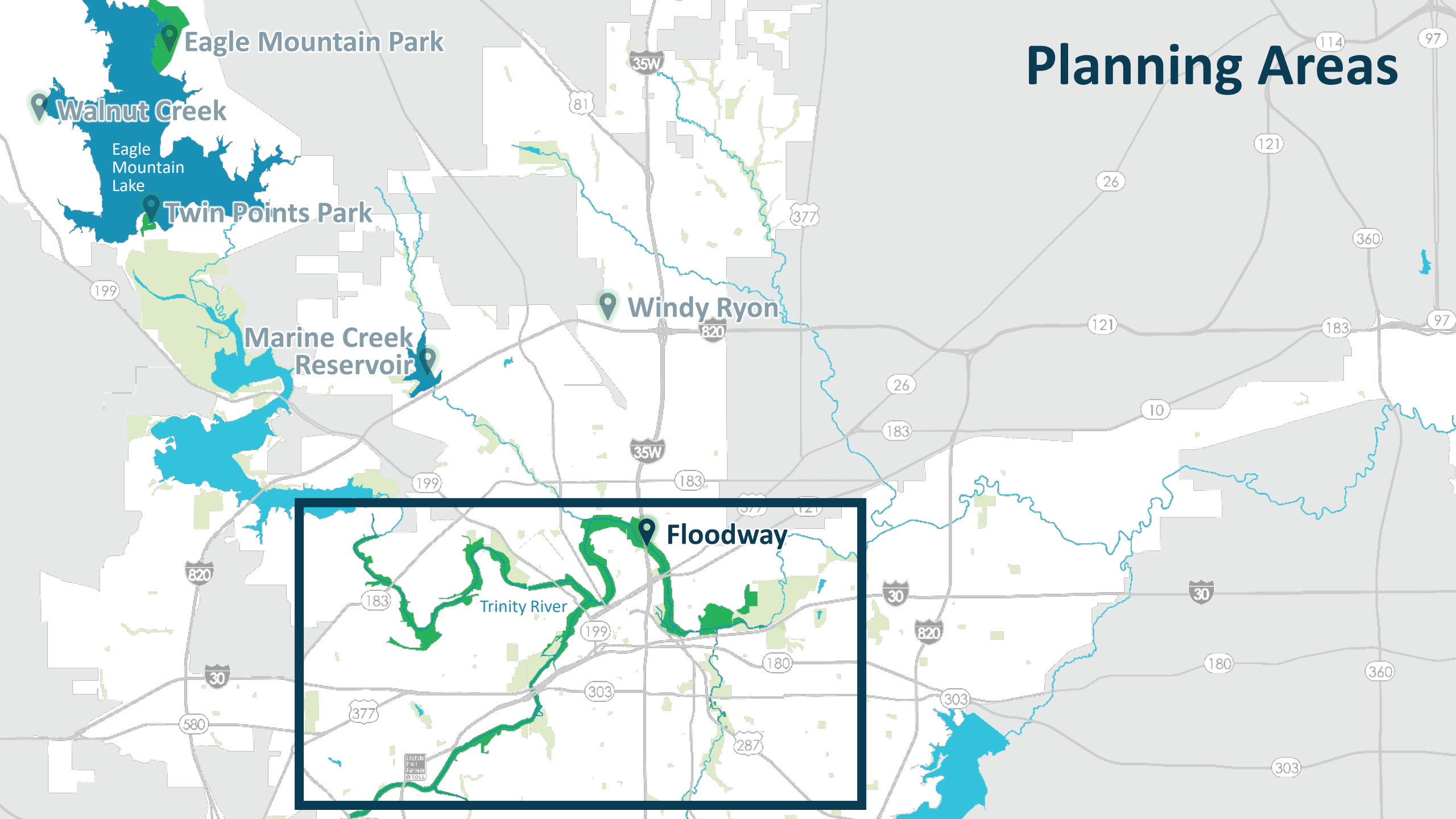
Events

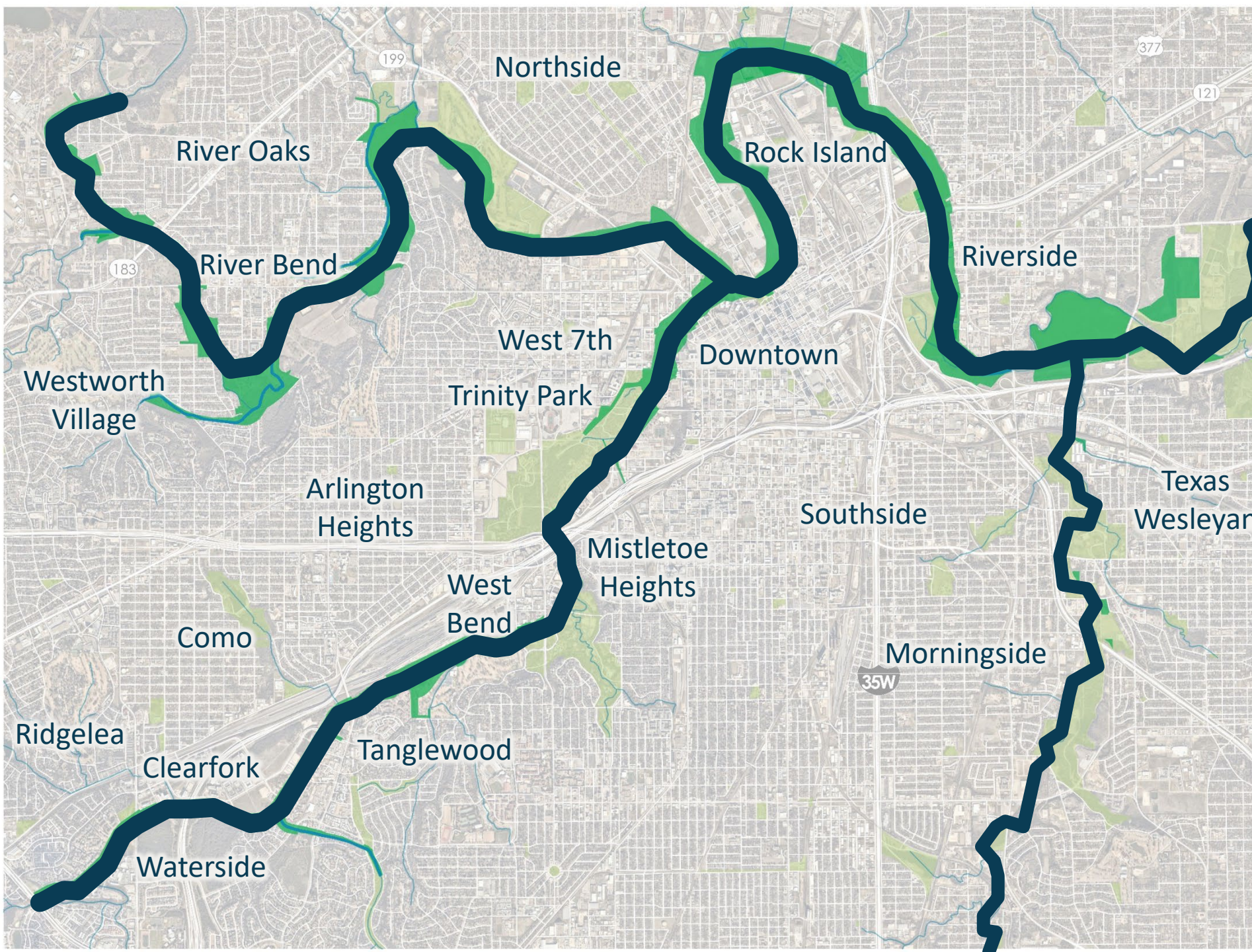


Trinity River Floodway



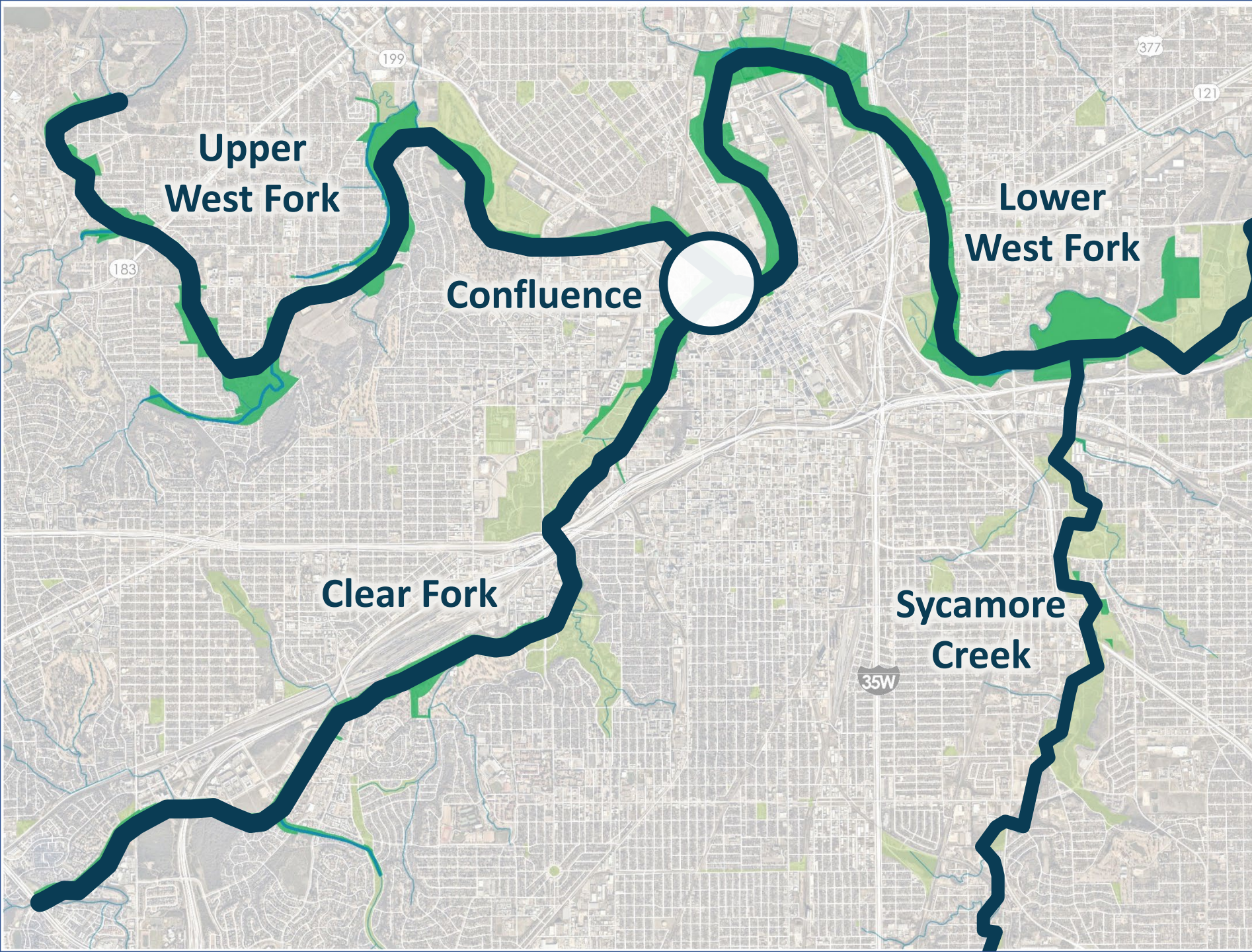
Planning Areas





Floodway

- Trails/Variety Types
- Trailheads
- *Kayaking*
- *Fishing*
- *Destinations*
- *Seasonal Events*
- *Festivals/Concerts*



Floodway

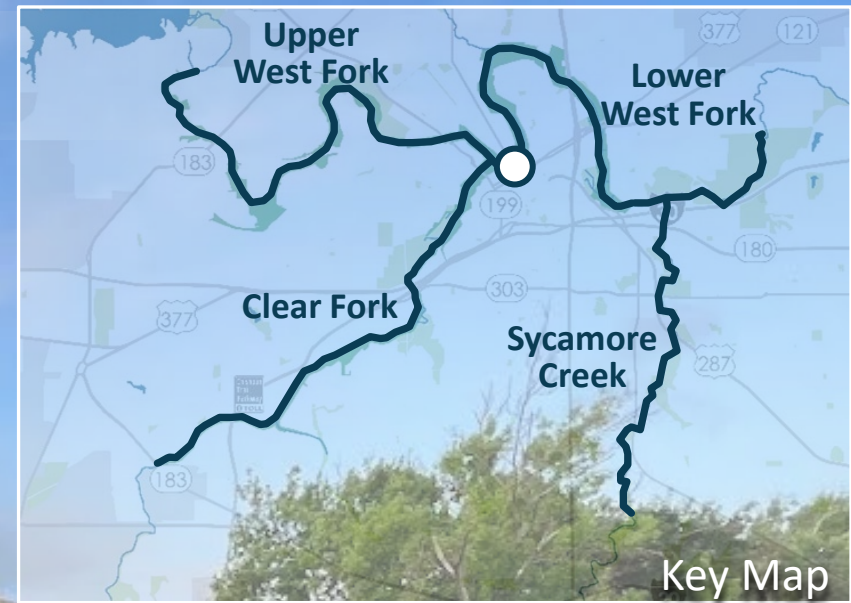
- Trails/Variou Types
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Lower West Fork



Trails Offering Scenic Views

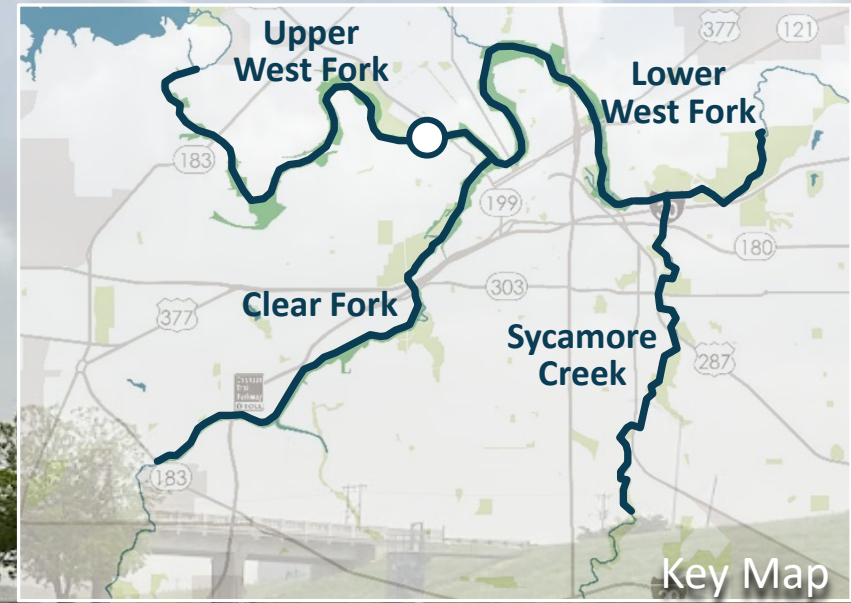
Lower West Fork



Key Map

Connection to Downtown

Upper West Fork



Trails & Open Space

Upper West Fork



Water Recreation

Clear Fork



Cycling

Clear Fork



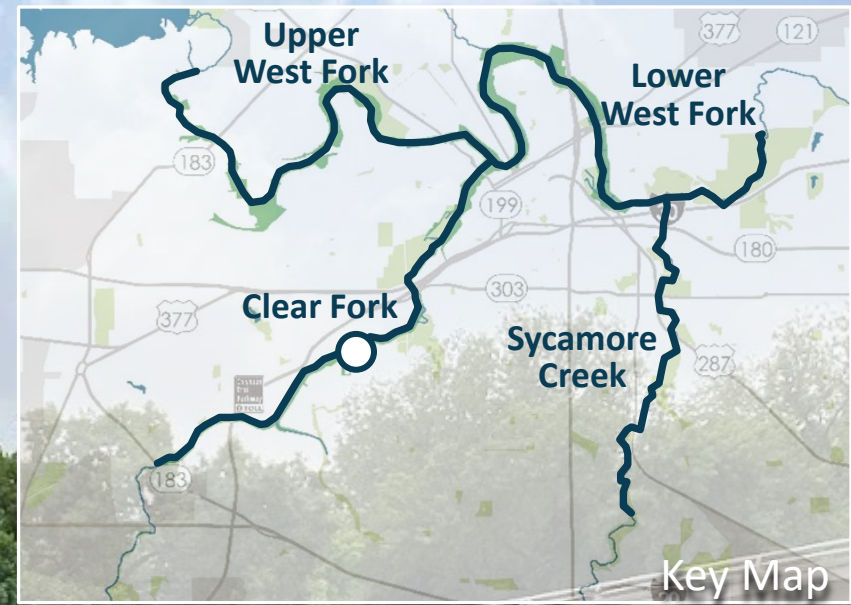
Transitioning to Water

Clear Fork



Enjoying Dynamics of Rivers

Clear Fork



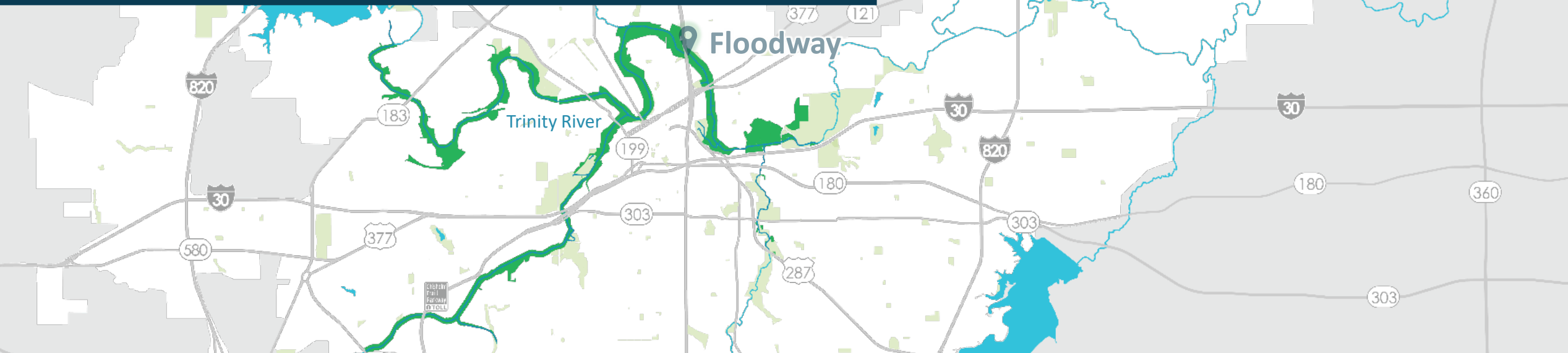
Waters Edge Activities

Sycamore Creek



Crossings as Enjoyable Destinations

Planning Areas



Windy Ryon



Recreational Fields

Marine Creek Reservoir



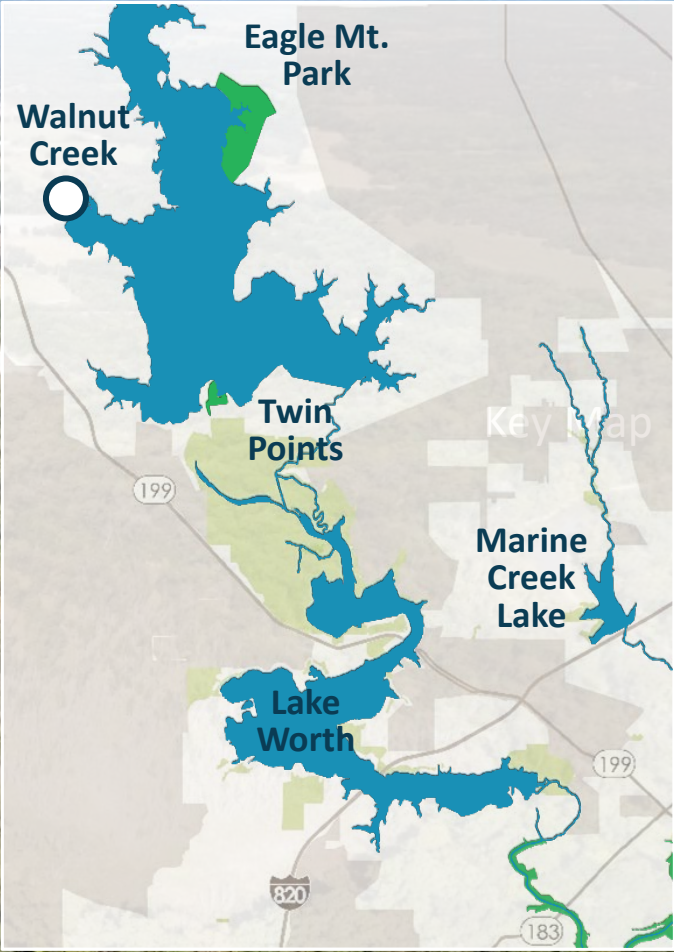
Park & Water Access

Marine Creek Reservoir



Loop Trail

Walnut Creek



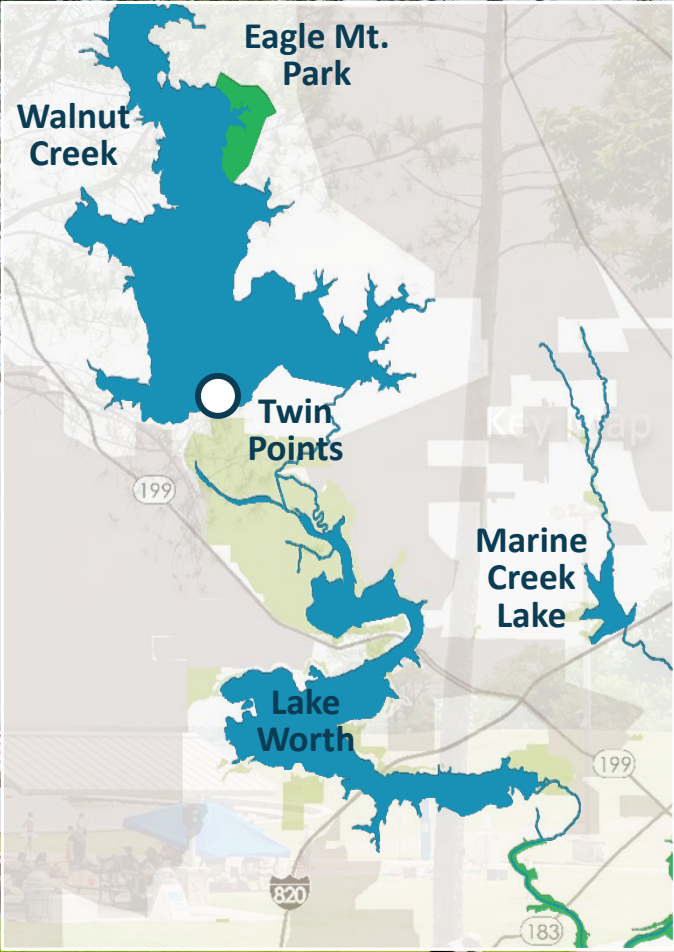
TRWD & Azle Joint-Use

Twin Points Park



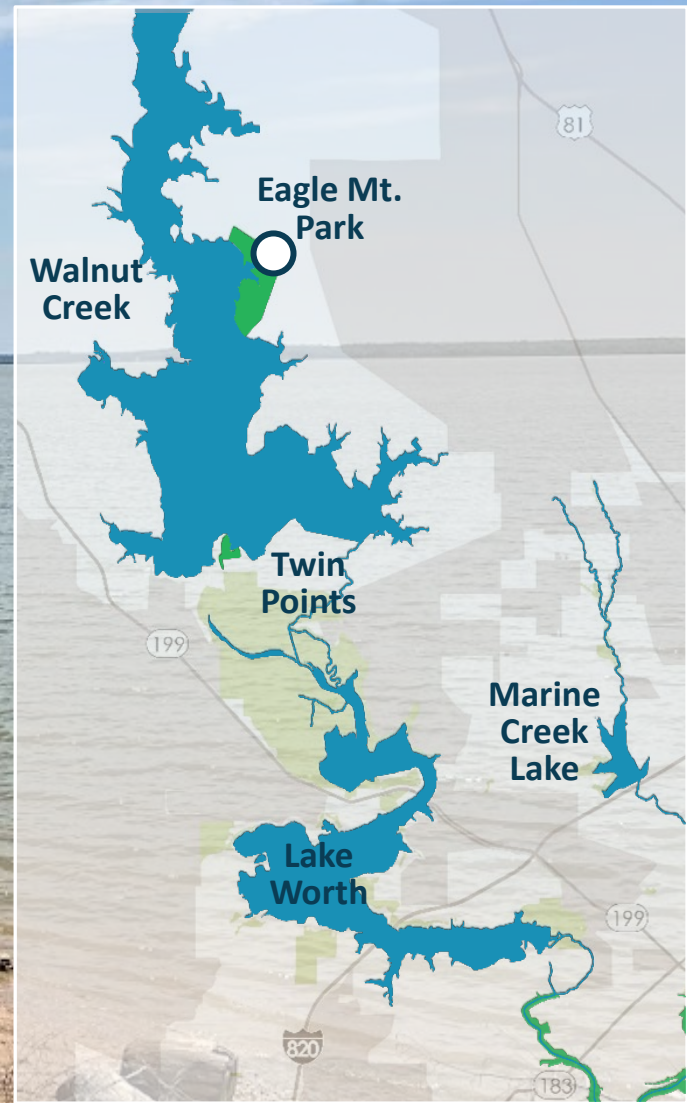
Destination Water Recreation

Twin Points Park



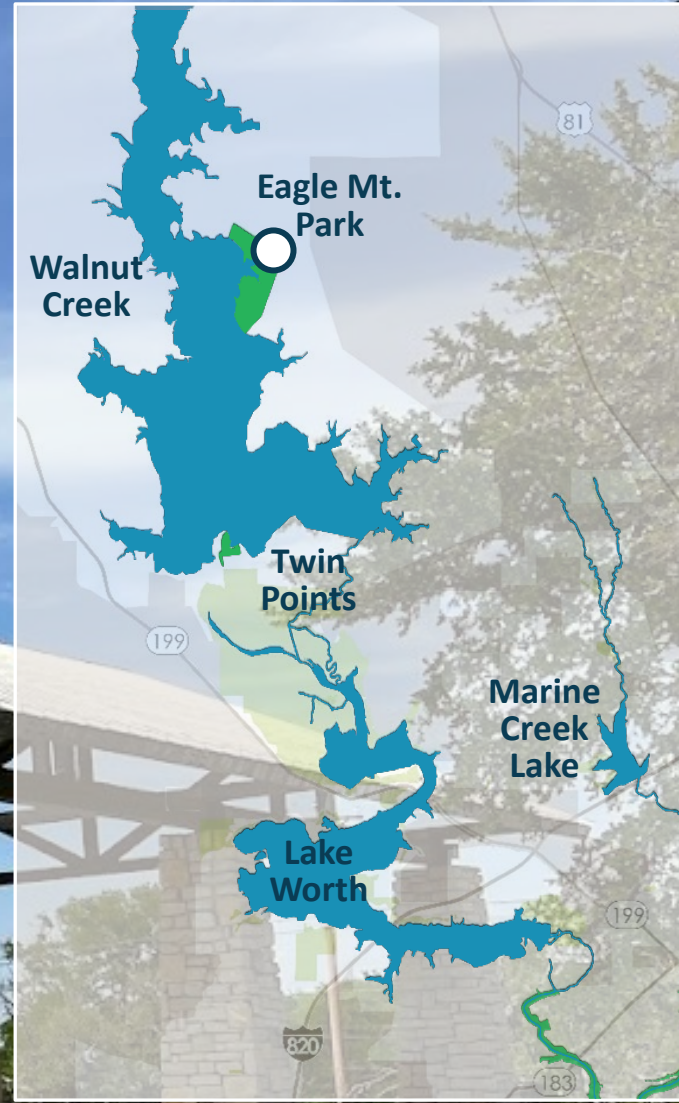
Beach Activities

Eagle Mountain Park



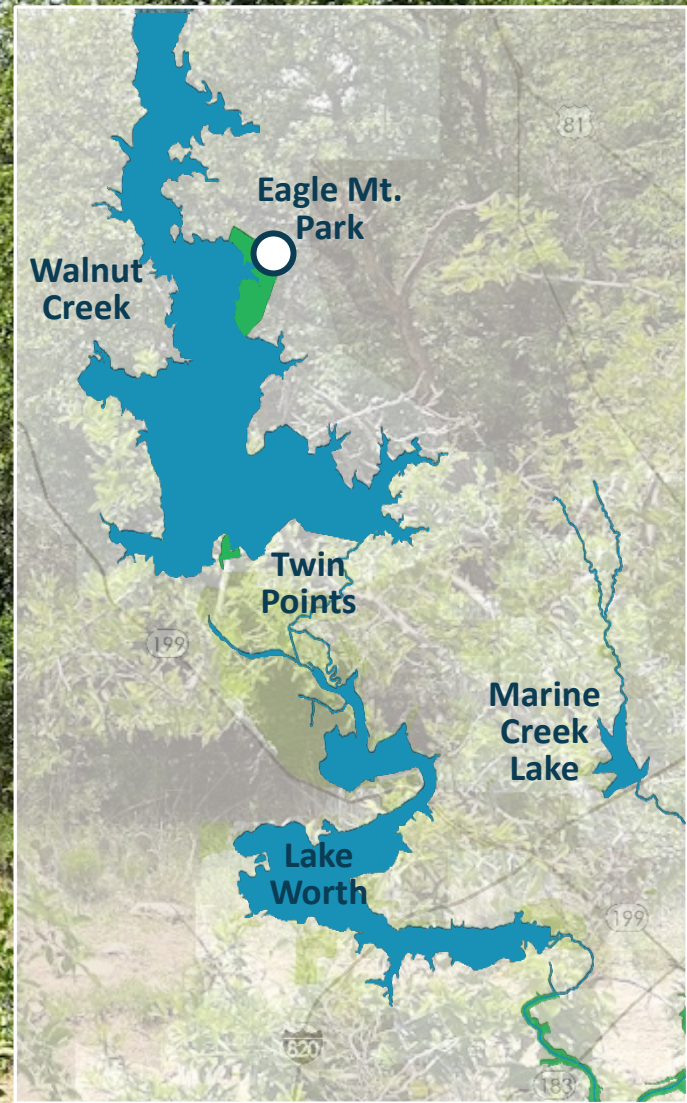
Lake Shore

Eagle Mountain Park



Group Pavilion with Cultural History

Eagle Mountain Park



Hiking

Eagle Mountain Park



Scenic Views



RECREATION MASTER PLAN



**LET YOUR OPINIONS
COME INTO PLAY**

Email us at
[**recreationmasterplan@trwd.com**](mailto:recreationmasterplan@trwd.com)

Or Visit
[**TRWD.com/MasterPlan**](http://TRWD.com/MasterPlan)

RECREATION MASTER PLAN



BREAK OUT TOPICS:

Trails / Trailheads
Events & Festivals
Water Recreation
Park Facilities

DFW Discovery Trail Update

Daniel Snyder, NCTCOG



DFW Discovery Trail Updates

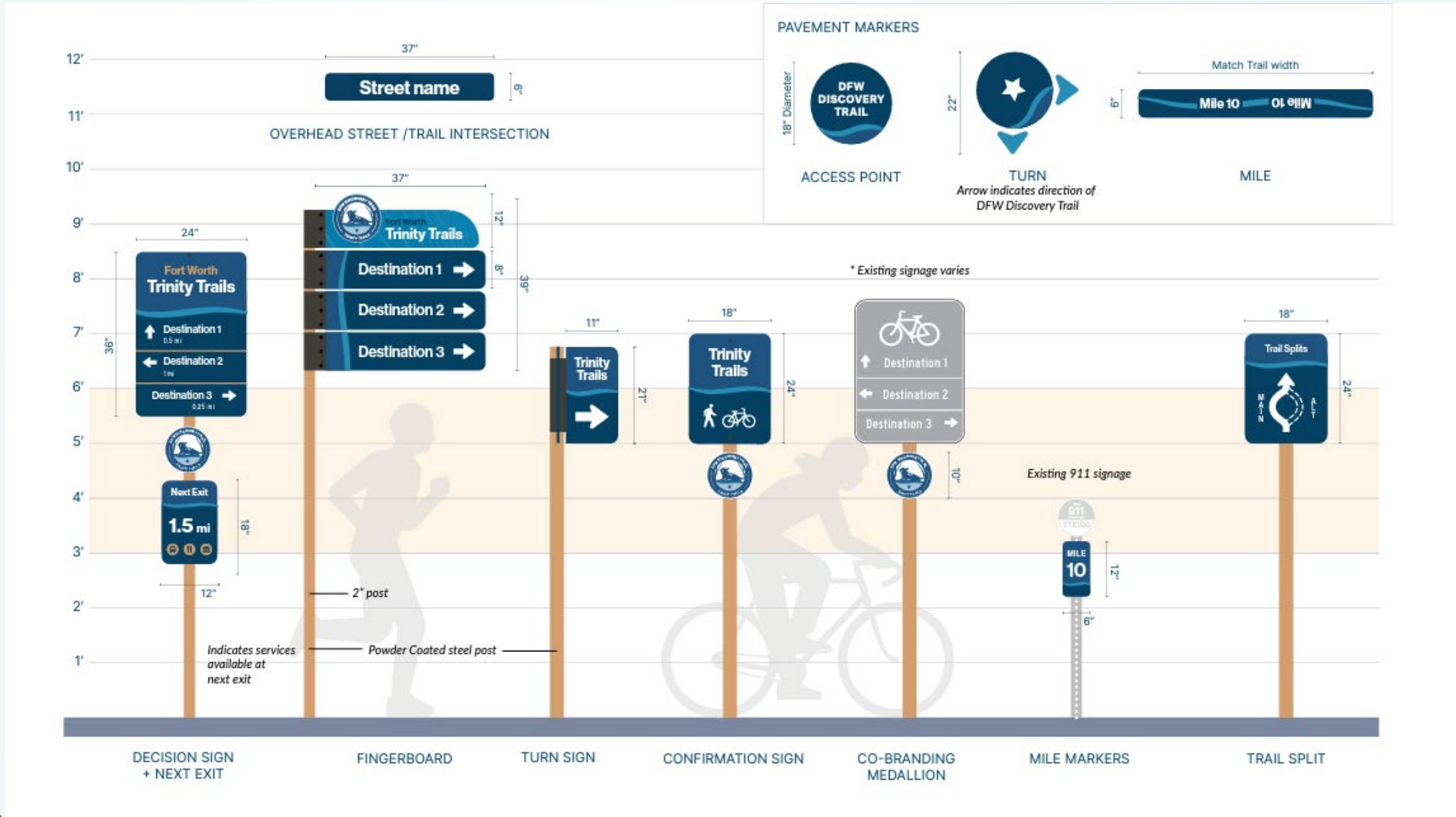
Trinity River National Water Trail Task Force Meeting
Daniel Snyder | 8.29.2023

Regional Trail Branding and Wayfinding Initiative

The regional Trail Branding and Wayfinding Initiative was completed in January 2023. Through this initiative, the five cities of Fort Worth, Arlington, Grand Prairie, Irving, and Dallas collaborated with NCTCOG to develop the following:

- A unified name, logos, and branding for the 60+ mile trail connecting downtown Fort Worth and downtown Dallas
- Wayfinding and signage best practices and implementation guidance
- Recommendations for:
 - Events: Local, regional, and national
 - Safety: 911 signage and trail lighting
 - Messaging: electronic message boards and counters
 - M&O: ongoing trail maintenance and operations, and marketing

Design Intent Drawings and Performance Specifications



Local Governments and Non-Profits Partnerships For Trails

“Friends of the Trail” are non-profit organizations that support local governments in a grassroots approach to fund and maintain enhancements along new and existing trail infrastructure.

Non-profit organizations may assist with planning, construction, and maintenance improvements of trail amenities, and cultural and safety improvements including but not limited to **landscaping, lighting, mile markers, bike racks, benches, trail heads, and public art.**

Examples of Non-Profit Organizations in the Dallas-Fort Worth Region

- Streams & Valleys, Inc.
- Circuit Trail Conservancy
- Friends of Katy Trail
- Friends of Santa Fe Trail
- Friends of Preston Ridge Trail
- Friends of Northaven Trail
- Friends of SoPac Trail
- Friends of Trinity Strand Trail
- Friends of White Rock Creek Trail



Opportunity for “Friends of the Trail” partnership for the DFW Discovery Trail

The [Trinity Coalition](#) has expressed interest in serving as a partner entity to assist local communities with the marketing, maintenance, and operations of the **DFW Discovery Trail**.

A conference call was held on 8/10 with representatives from each organization.



Questions / Comments

Contact Us



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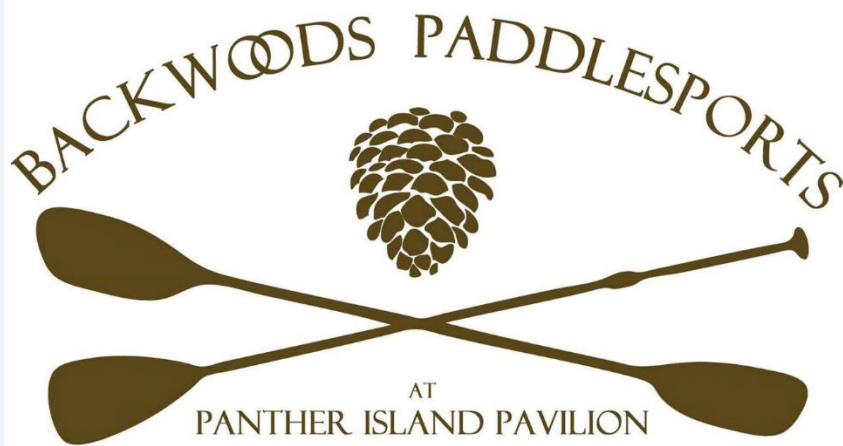


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Panther Island Paddle Sports Update

Teresa Patterson, Trinity Coalition



TRINITY
COALITION



trwvd Tarrant
Regional
Water
District



PADDLESPO RTS

at

Panther Island



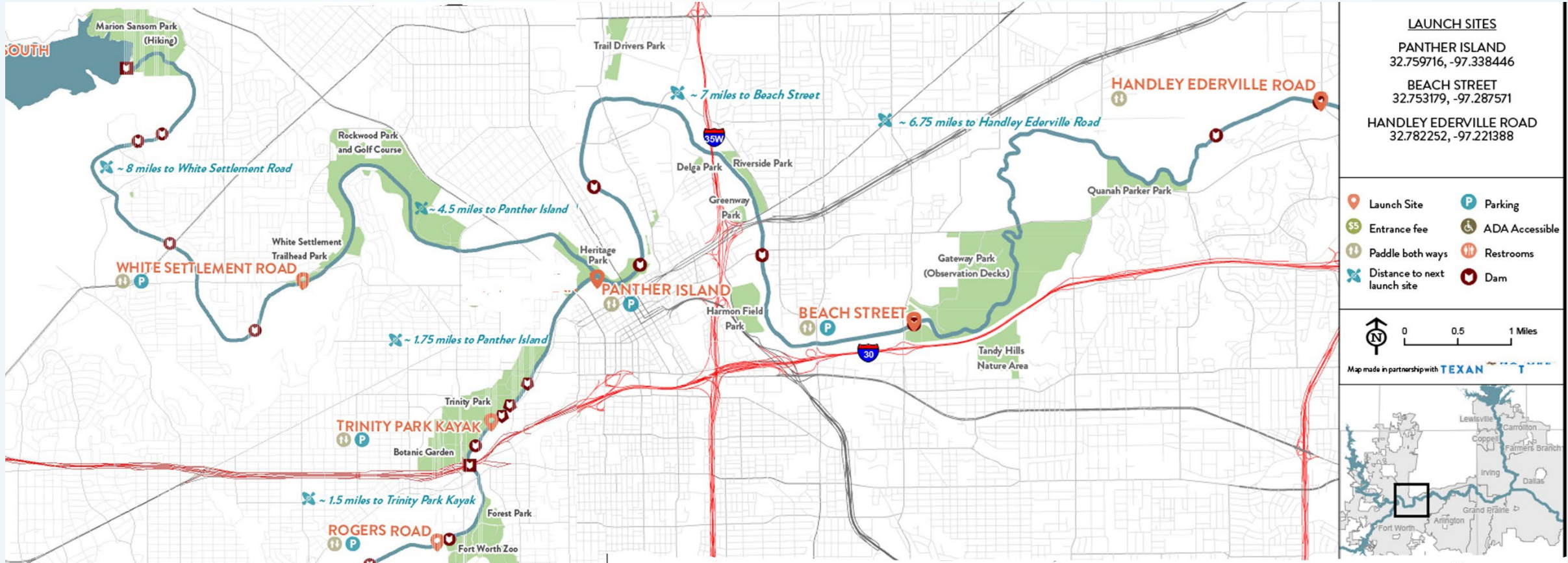
North Central Texas
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Environment & Development



TRINITY
COALITION

Panther Island

The heart of the Trinity in Fort Worth





TRINITY RIVER
Ft. Worth, TX

Rockin' the River –Texas Style



Special Events/ Group Trips



Provide trail information Wildlife reports



All 5 Star Reviews But still hard to find

TC Paddlesports at Panther Island

480 N Taylor St, Fort Worth, TX

Get more reviews

5.0 ★★★★★ 9 reviews ⓘ

People often mention

All

kayaks 5

paddle boarding 3

Sort by

Most relevant

Newest

Highest

Lowest



Ruby Herrera

Local Guide · 39 reviews · 16 photos



★★★★★ a month ago

It was my first time paddle-boarding!! I was so scared that I'd fall over but I was able to stand on my first try. I had the best time with my friend and the whole experience felt safe. They have live concerts on Thursdays and you can float ... [More](#)



Task Force Roundtable

All Members

(please raise your hand and unmute yourself)

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

NCTCOG Staff

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

- ▶ NCTCOG Events & Opportunities: <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/Events>
- ▶ Trinity Coalition Events & Opportunities: <https://trinitycoalition.org/events>

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Facebook.com/TrinityRiverCoalition



Meetup.com/DFWPaddlesports



TrinityCoalition.org



NCTCOG.org/Envir

Materials from past meetings can be viewed at:

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