

# Trinity River National Water Trail Task Force

February 11, 2022



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments  
Environment & Development



# Welcome and Introductions

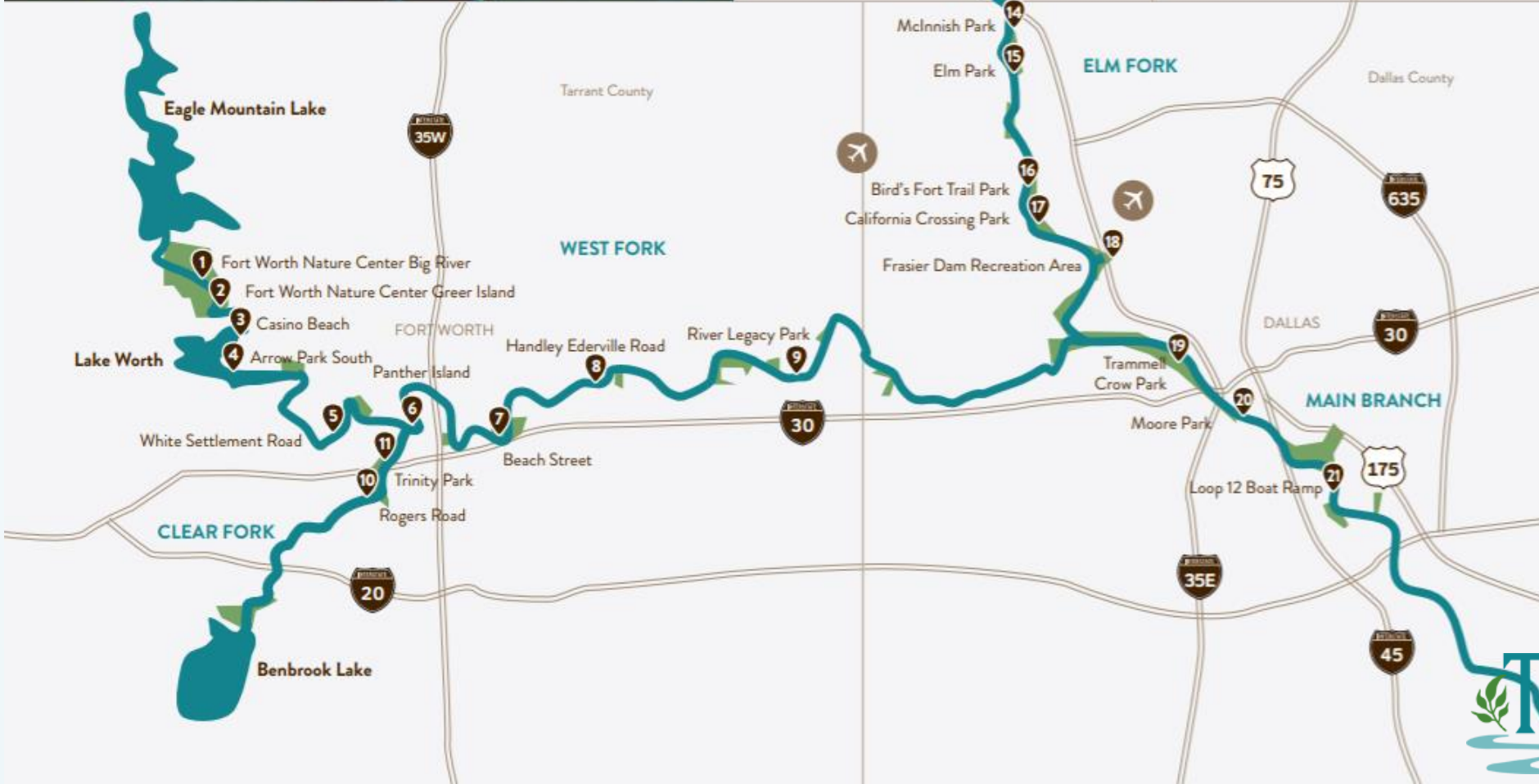
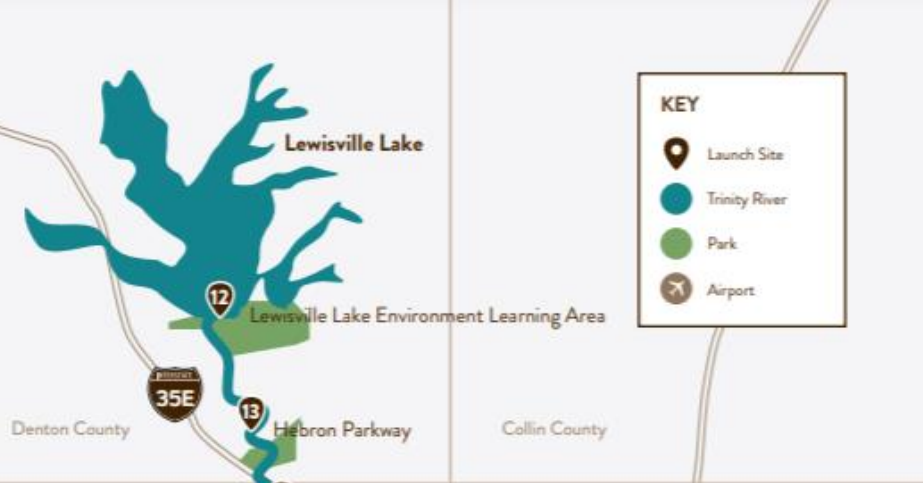
- Thanks for attending!
- Please introduce yourself in the chat box.
- Please mute your line.
- Unmute your line when you would like to speak during question and discussion time.
  - We will also watch the chat box for questions

# Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Meeting Purpose
2. Community Showcase: Trinity River Waterwheels Initiative – *Nixalis Benitez, City of Fort Worth*
3. State of the Trail: Belt Line Road Launch Site Update – *Duane Strawn, City of Grand Prairie*
4. Trail Usage & Promotion Strategies – *Teresa Patterson, Dale Harris, & Steve Smith, Trinity Coalition*
5. Regional Trail Branding & Wayfinding Project – *Shawn Conrad, NCTCOG*
6. Task Force Roundtable
7. Upcoming Opportunities









# Trinity River Waterwheels Initiative

*Code Compliance - Environmental Quality Division*

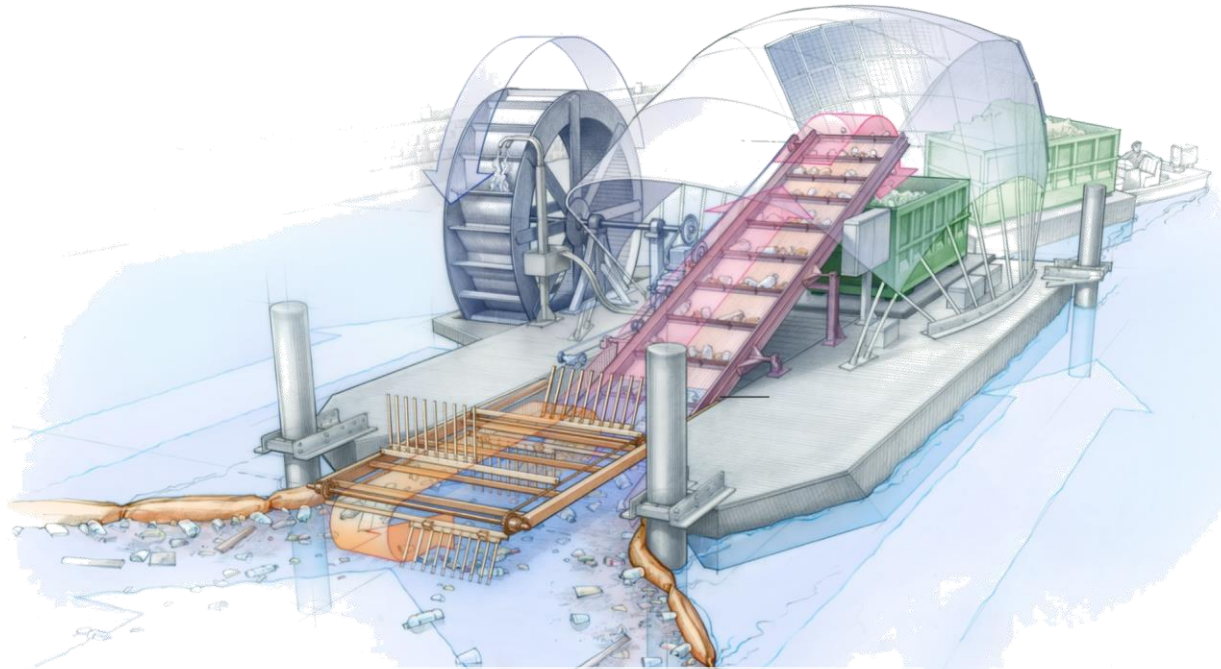


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# What is a Waterwheel?

A waterwheel is a pollution-control, wheel-based machine that is placed in flowing waterways to collect and remove floatable pollution.



The waterwheel measures 52' long, 24' wide with a wheel that is 14' in diameter and 3' wide.

A waterwheel can remove more than **50,000 pounds** of solid waste per day.



That's about the size of **2½** garbage trucks.

Photos and statistics courtesy of Clearwater Mills LLC. (2013) Clearwater Mills Sustainable Environmental Technologies. [www.clearwatermills.com](http://www.clearwatermills.com)

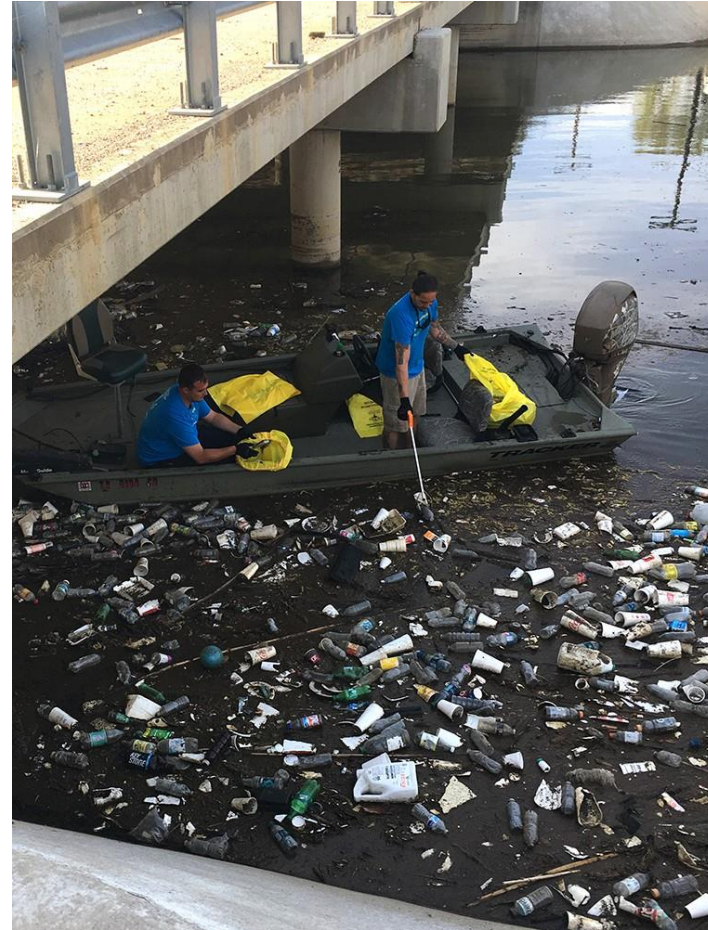
# Benefits of a Waterwheel

- 1 Collects trash and litter from rivers and streams
- 2 Improves the aesthetics and the usability of waterways
- 3 Improves aquatic ecosystems for fish and wildlife
- 4 Uses solar power – a sustainable energy source
- 5 Provides an opportunity to educate the general public about the problem of pollution
- 6 Inspires people to become a part of the solution to end litter

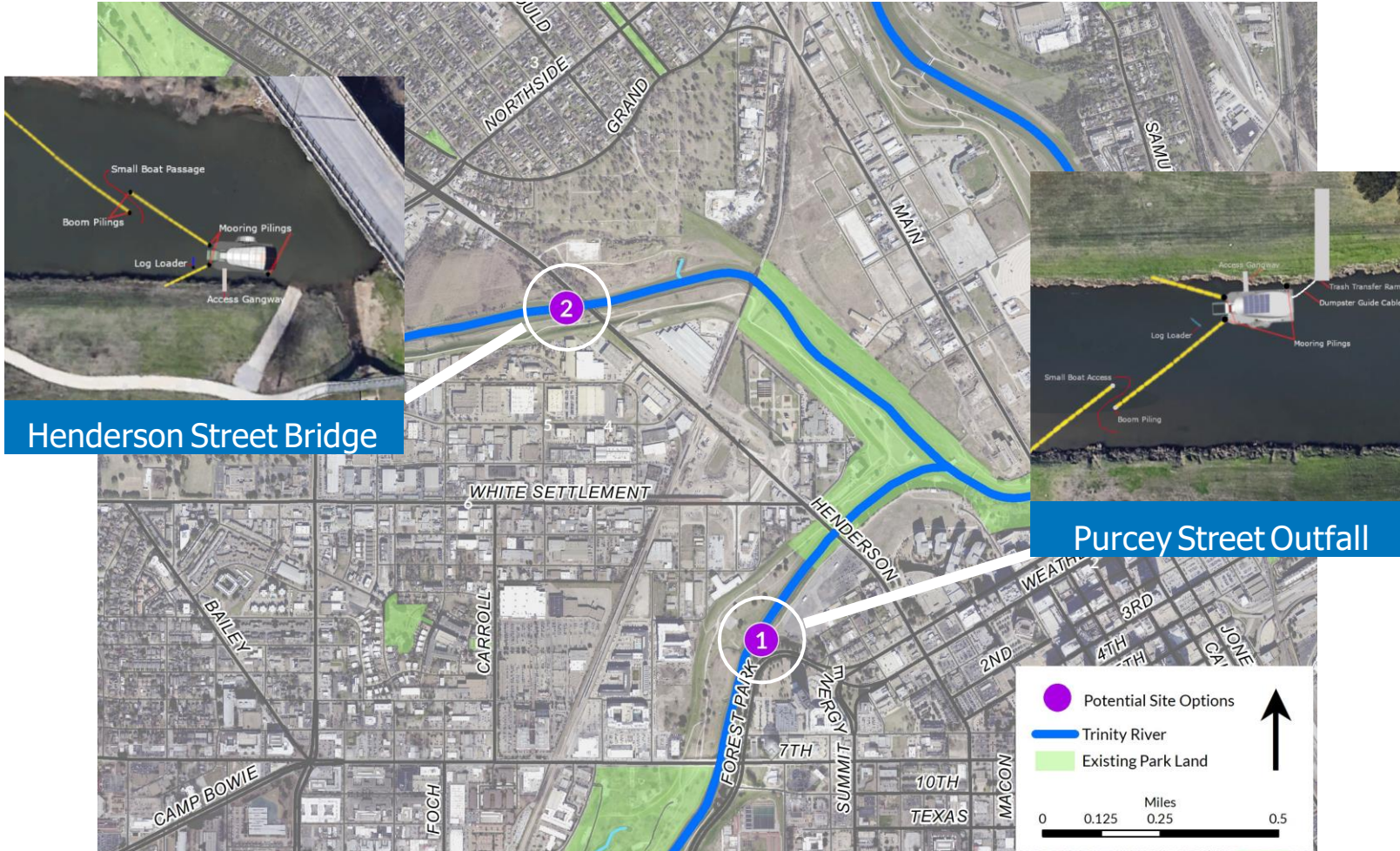


# Importance of Protecting Our Water Quality

- 1 Provides drinking water for Fort Worth and customers cities
- 2 Supports efforts for economic development
- 3 Contributes to positive community appeal, appearance and overall quality of life
- 4 Provides habitat for aquatic life and recreation



# Waterwheel Locations



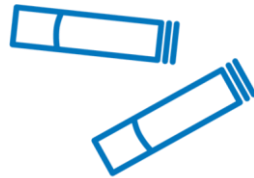
# Projected Impact

Waterwheels are a proven, sustainable, lower-cost technology to clean our valuable Trinity River.

1,561 tons of trash and debris:



**755,558**  
Plastic Bags



**12,109,248**  
Cigarette  
Butts



**1,278,972**  
Foam  
Containers



**1,256,194**  
Plastic Bottles

\*data excerpted from Baltimore, MD Healthy Harbor Initiative



# Cost & Operations

Cost per waterwheel

**\$597,000**

(2x) = **\$1.2M**

Annual Operational Costs

**Approximately \$50,000**

- *Daily, weekly and monthly system checks with annual system audits.*





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkQbcrzyAeE>

How will you help?

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Questions?

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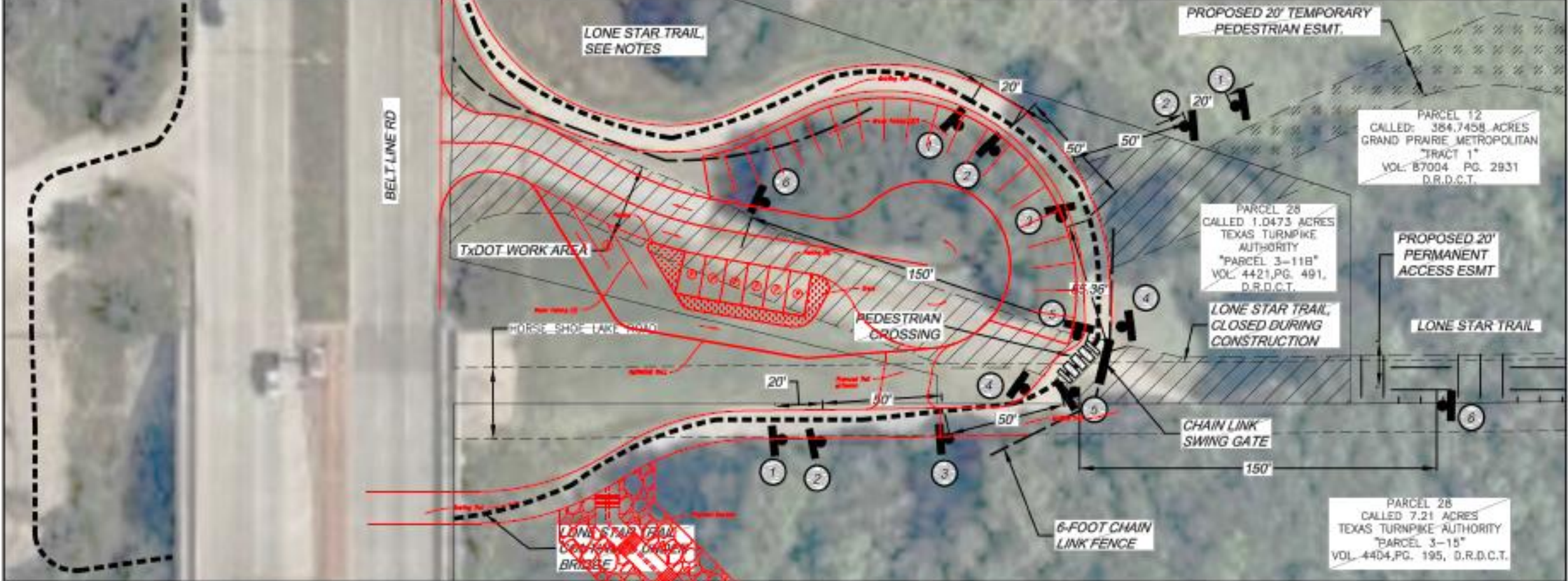




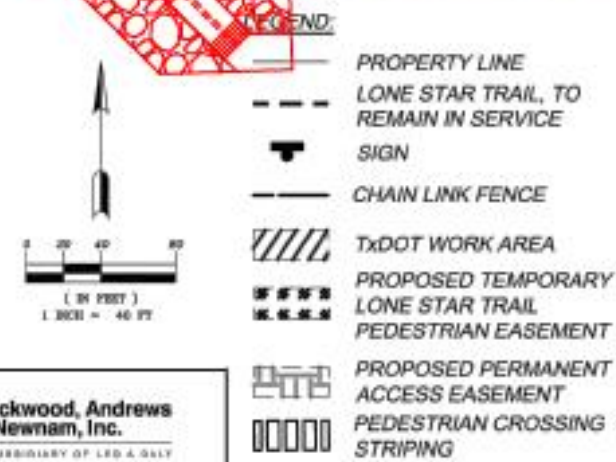
## **Grand Prairie Belt Line Launch Site Update**

Duane Strawn

Director



LEGEND					
1	2	3	4	5	6



- NOTES:**
- LONE STAR TRAIL AS INDICATED ALONG THE EXISTING TRAIL AND TEMPORARY PEDESTRIAN EASEMENT TO REMAIN OPEN AT ALL TIMES.
  - CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN A CLEAN PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE TRAIL, FREE FROM DEBRIS, TRASH & REFUSE AT ALL TIME.
  - ISOLATE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY FROM TRAIL SYSTEM AT ALL TIMES. A FLAGGER MUST BE ON SITE AT ALL TIMES DURING CONSTRUCTION AND TRUCK ACTIVITY.
  - PROVIDE ADVANCED WARNING SIGNAGE FOR PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE TRAFFIC 50 FEET AND 100 FEET FROM CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY. SUBMIT SIGNAGE PLAN TO ENGINEER FOR REVIEW. PROVIDE DUST CONTROL DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE TRAFFIC ADJACENT TO WORK SITE.
  - REPAIR ANY DAMAGE TO EXISTING TRAIL SYSTEM TO PRE-CONSTRUCTION CONDITIONS OR BETTER. NO SEPERATE PAY.

# TRA Construction Timeline

- Begin construction early 2023
- Complete construction early 2025



State of The

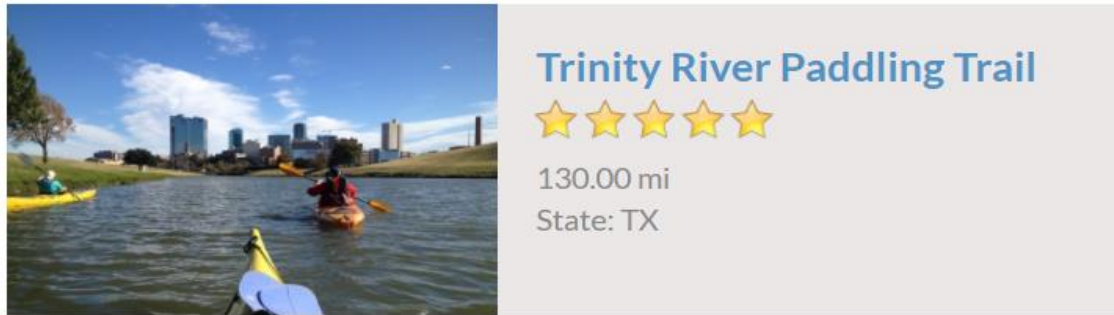


Winter 2022



# Trinity River National Water Trail

- One of 33 in the nation
- <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationaltrailssystem/national-water-trails-system.htm>
- Select “Find Your National Water Trail” up pops 33 Icons



- Select Trinity River Paddling Trail

## 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 February 2022











- Currently 20 out of 21 launch sites are open.
  - One launch is getting difficult to use.
- All but 2 sections are 4-6 mile in length
  - One 12 mile section
  - One 24 mile section
- Plans are in the works for three new launch sites
  - Belt Line Rd. in Grand Prairie
  - Veridian Lake Development in Arlington
  - Riverside Park in Fort Worth

**Trinity River Paddling Trail  
McInnish Park Boat Ramp**



Current location: McInnish Park Boat Ramp . 2335 Sandy Lake Rd, Carrollton, TX 75006  
DD: 32.967440° -96.942685°

Next Take-out: Elm Park. Carrollton, TX. Address is 1190-1198 Elm Park Dr, Carrollton, TX 75006.  
~1.5 miles / ~1hr  
DD: 32.947578° -96.937220°

 Launch Site	 Parking
 Entrance fee	 ADA Accessible
 Paddle both ways	 Restrooms
 Distance to next launch site	 Dam
 Low Head Dam	 Chute


This section has Cell coverage. Call 911 the local sections are Elm Fork, Denton Creek or Hidden Lake off of Denton Creek. Note: this a park and paddle location / Upstream on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River or into Denton Creek or to Hidden Lake, off of Denton Creek and return to this location.


Downstream: Dam portage required. Take out at Elm Park

**Hazard: Carrollton Dam 300 yards downstream – do not approach the dam.** Portage is on river left starting at the boat ramp. DART Trestle at Bellline is known for log jams.

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

Water levels: <https://trinitycoalition.org/water-levels>

 CARROLLTON TEXAS

 TRINITY RIVER PADDLING TRAIL



# Paddling Trail Status February 2022

- ▶ Trinity Coalition was asked to participate in two activities by the National Park Service:
  - ▶ Public Comment for National Water Trail Application Questions
  - ▶ Webinar panel member for National Water Trail Application Process
- ▶ Hired a part-time Water Trail Manager / Teresa Patterson
  - ▶ Manage TC WEB Site and Facebook Sites
  - ▶ River cleanups and fund raising
  - ▶ Correspondence with local cities and non-profit groups
- ▶ Four launch sites need repair or replacement
  - ▶ McInnish Park Boat Ramp –Temporarily repaired
  - ▶ Loop 12 Boat Ramp – closed for safety concerns
  - ▶ Moore Park – still usable but overgrown
  - ▶ River Legacy – limited use / may need replacement



# Examples of Repairs to be Undertaken

Cracked and unsupported /  
Too steep to use/ unsafe



Temporary Repair / September 2021

Useable at low water but still needs to be replaced





# Examples of Repairs to be Undertaken

- ▶ Armoring upstream and downstream has broken loose. Ramp itself still in working order.



Loop 12 Boat Ramp



# Examples of Repairs to be Undertaken



Loop 12 Boat Ramp  
Upstream side



Loop 12 Park Boat Ramp  
Downstream side



# Examples of Repairs to be Undertaken



Beautiful concrete pathway / appears to be ADA capable. This picture was on our NPS Water Trail application



Now in need of vegetation and silt removal



# Examples of Repairs to be Undertaken



The actual ramp into the river. This picture was on our NPS Water Trail application



The ramp is in need of vegetation removal and silt removal



# Examples of Repairs to be Undertaken



A little steep.

Still in use.



Launch does not go completely down to the water. The steps lead to the water level for a temporary launch from the bank.



# Examples of Repairs to be Undertaken



From the parking lot to the river bank.



From the top of the river bank to the water is a little rough.

# Typical Users of the Canoe / Kayak Launches

- ▶ Trinity River National Water Trail Users
  - ▶ The number one users are kayakers with Utility Kayaks.
    - ▶ I'm guessing 70%.
    - ▶ Utility Kayak is wide, stable, a little bulky and heavy.
    - ▶ Recreation and fishing.
    - ▶ Many users have a kayak cart and need a smooth path to the water.
  - ▶ The remaining users are SUPs, Specific purpose kayaks (touring, whitewater), small row boats, tubers and some power boats.

12 ft utility  
kayak

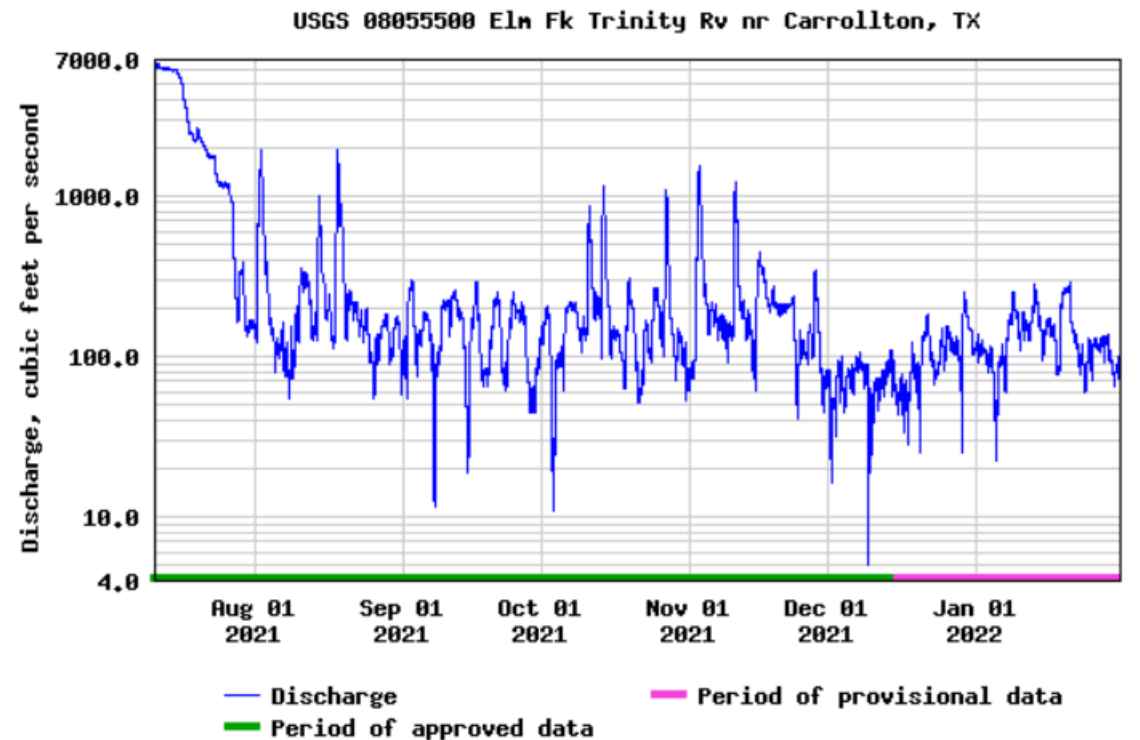




# Paddling Trail Usage Feb 2022

## ▶ Trinity River National Water Trail

- ▶ The trail has been usable since mid-July.
- ▶ In early September 2021 Texas Canoe and Kayak Racing Association conducted a canoe and kayak race from Hebron Parkway to California Crossing Park.
- ▶ All sections are clear and passable of any downed trees and log jams.
- ▶ One large trash jam has not yet been cleared.
  - ▶ It is located at the mouth of Joe's Creek and the Elm Fork.
- ▶ TRNWT is still interested in organizing a volunteer program to help cleanup the launch sites.



# TC 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.

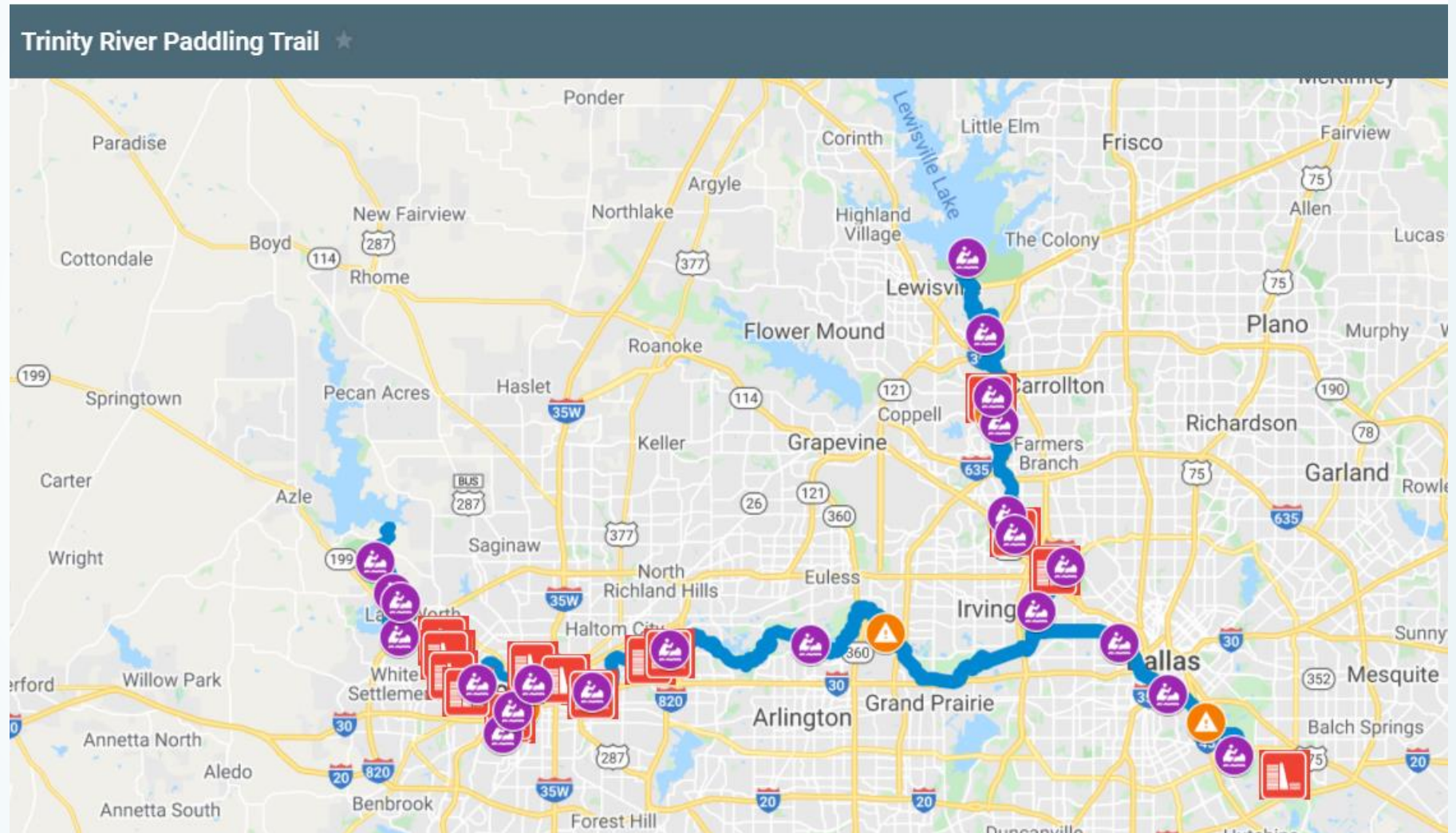
Launch Description: Long gentle slope to a concrete boat ramp.

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>

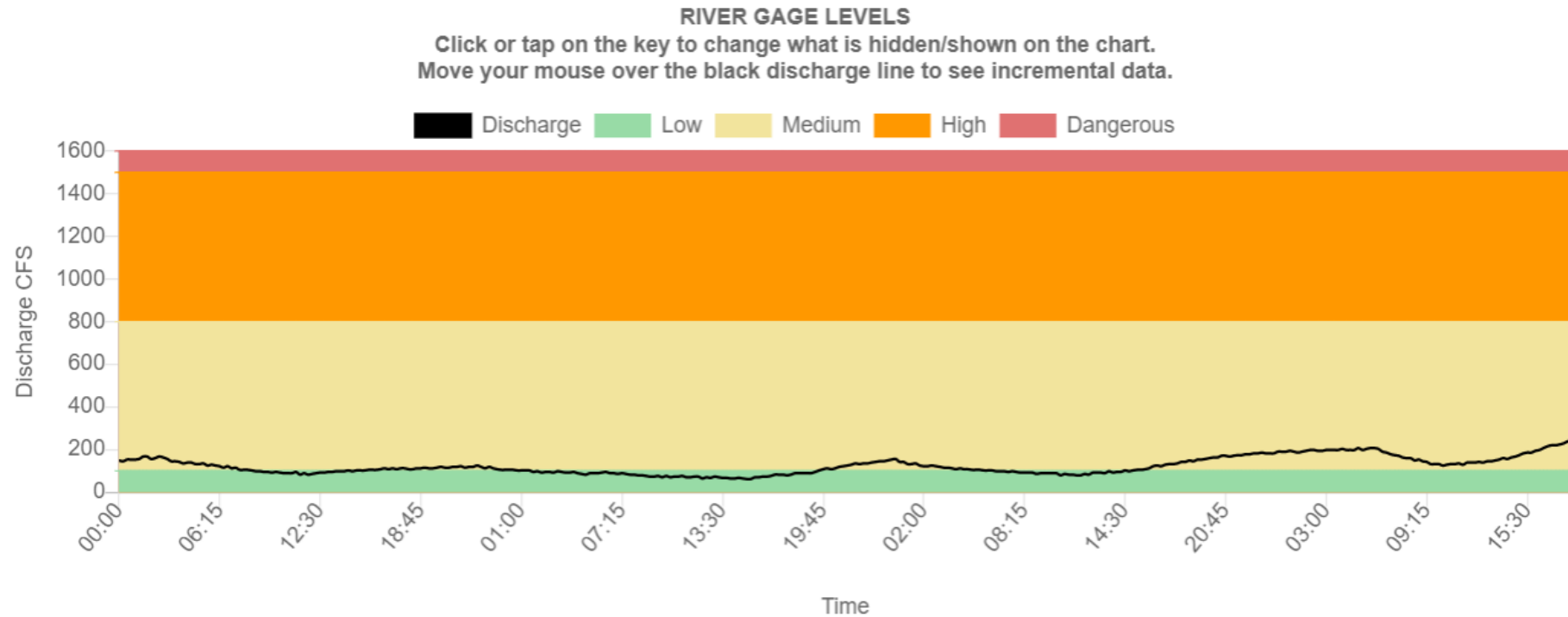


# TC Web Site Tools / Water Levels

## WATER LEVELS FOR AUG 7, 2021 TO AUG 10, 2021

McInnish Park / Elm Fork, Carrollton, TX.

Latitude / Longitude DD: 32.967440° -96.942685°



[More Information](#)



# Paddling Trail Status February 2022

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



# Paddle Trail / Future Goals

- Identify funding for and add 3 or 4 new launch sites on the main trail
- Identify funding for and add 2 or 3 new launch sites on the West Fork.
- Create a multi-year improve program with each city.
- Create a volunteer beautification program with each city.
- Extend the trail to Lake Ray Roberts through Lake Lewisville and the Greenbelt Park
- Identify area creeks and tributaries launch points and safety data for each







NCTCOG PRESENTATION

# Fort Worth to Dallas Regional Trail Branding and Wayfinding Project

SHAWN CONRAD | National Water Trail Task Force | 2.11.2022



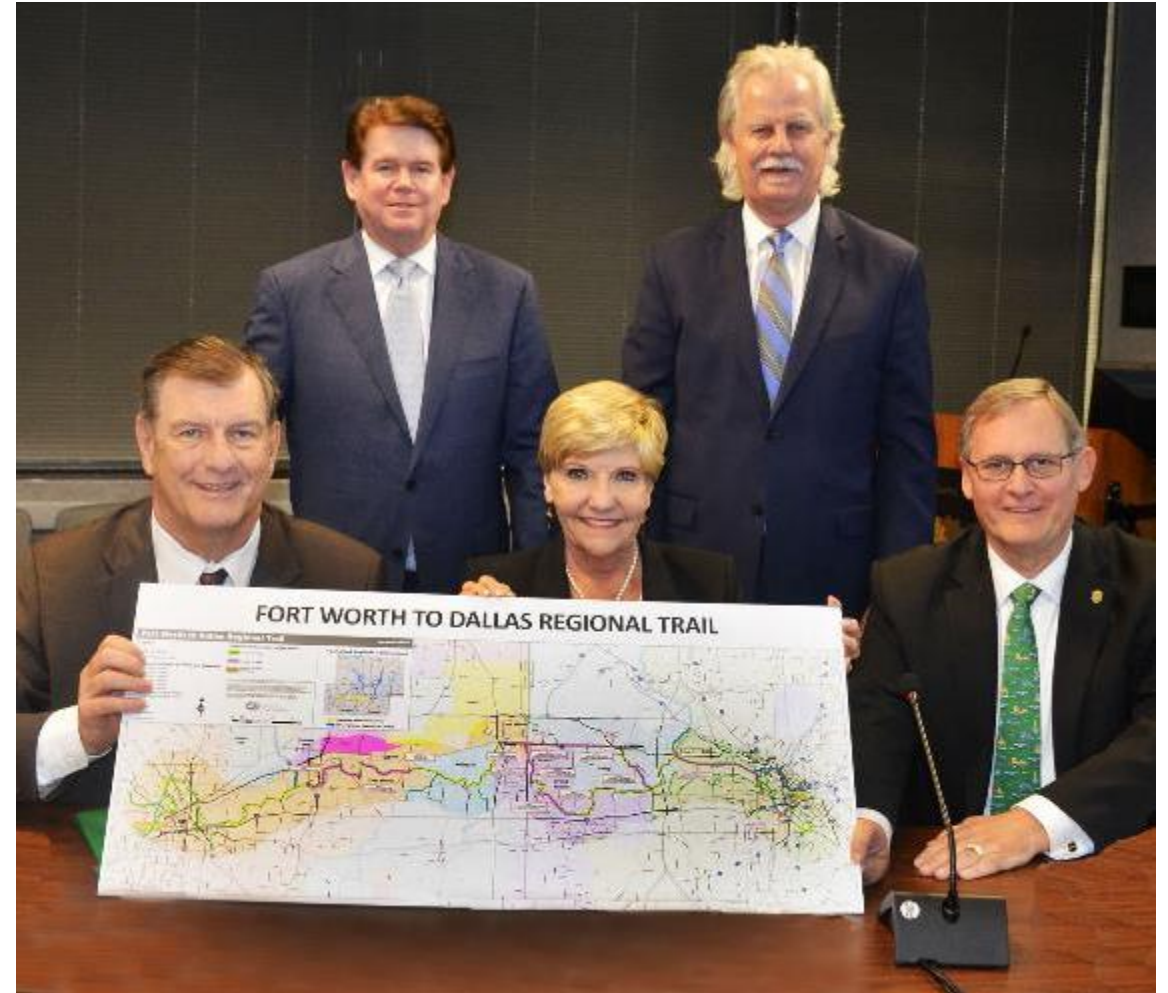
# FORT WORTH TO DALLAS REGIONAL TRAIL

- 66-mile multi-use trail spanning five cities: Fort Worth, Arlington, Grand Prairie, Irving, and Dallas
- >50 miles existing, 12.5 miles under construction
- Trail completion expected end of 2023/early 2024



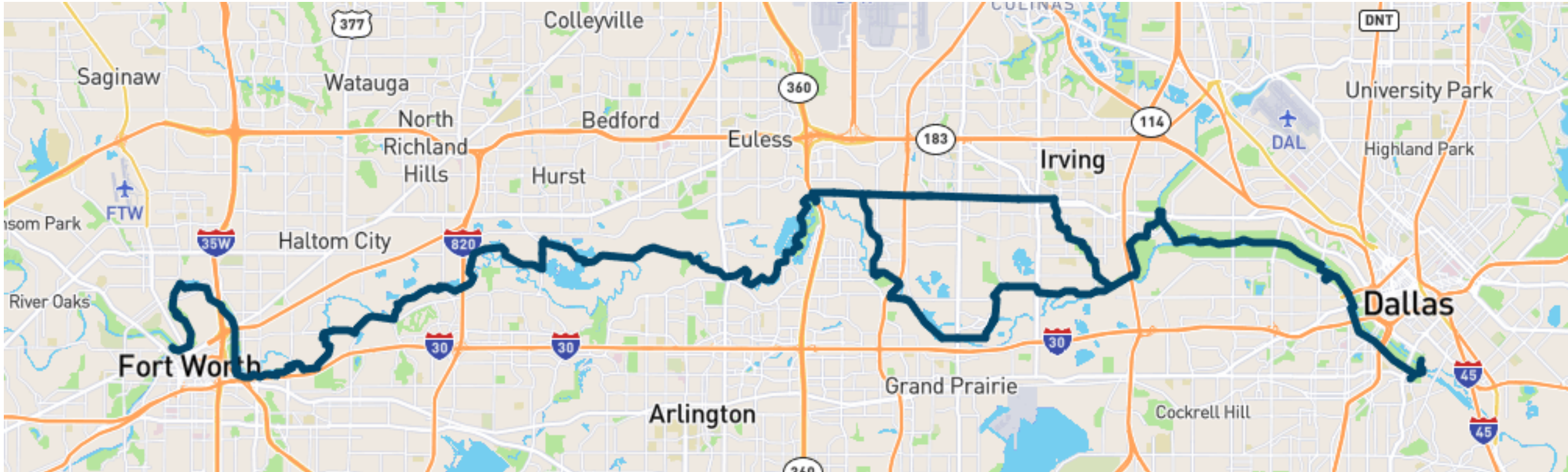
# VISION FOR THE REGIONAL TRAIL

- In 2013, mayors and staff of the five cities partnered to make trail vision a reality:
  - Uninterrupted 66-mile paved trail for active transportation
  - Recreation, transportation, events, and exploration uses
  - Regional, state, and national attraction for events and tourism





# TRAIL MAP



Existing: 50.4 miles  
Funded: 12.5 miles  
Planned: 2.8 miles



# TRAIL BRANDING PROJECT GOALS

Create a unified brand and signage package with cobranding of local trails

Recommendations for infrastructure to hold major regional and national events

Integrated regional 911 signage system and lighting recommendations

Electronic message boards/real-time display trail counters recommendations

Build consensus for ongoing marketing and operations





# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Stakeholder meetings held to solicit feedback on naming and branding process
- Primary Stakeholders (Steering Committee)
  - Staff of five cities: planners, marketing, parks and recreation, etc.
- Support Stakeholders
  - Convention and visitor bureaus, sports event organizations, advocacy groups, etc.



# VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE #1

- Open November 8 to December 11, 2021
- Current trail use habits: routes and destinations
- Current perceptions/associations
- Design and naming preferences
- Advertised to public via social media and trail signage





# VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE #1: TAKEAWAYS

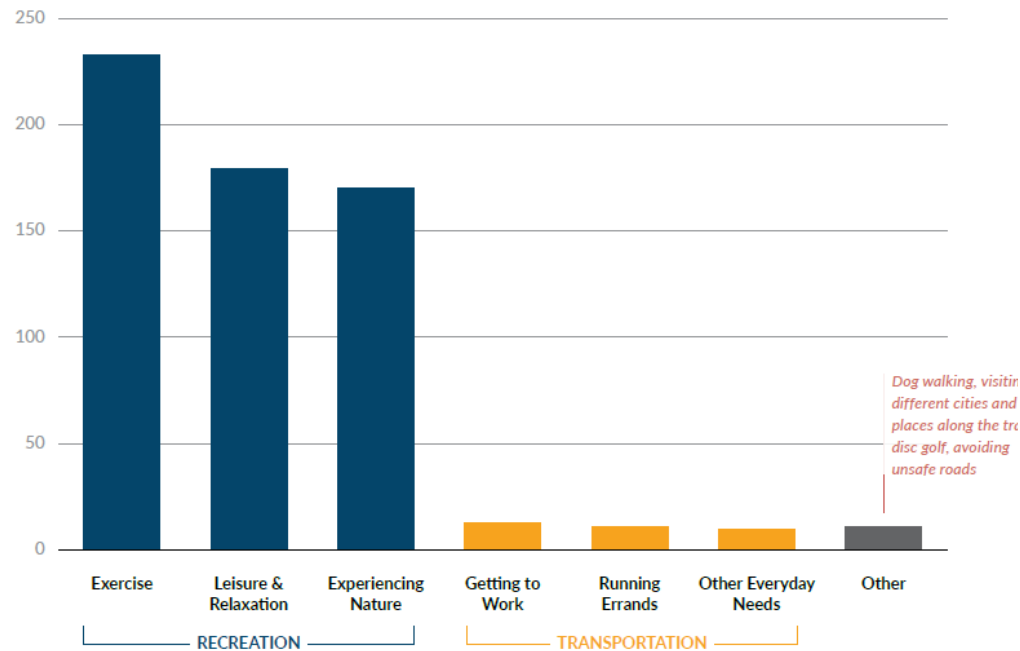
Users value trail for peace and quiet/nature and active recreation opportunities.

## Survey Results

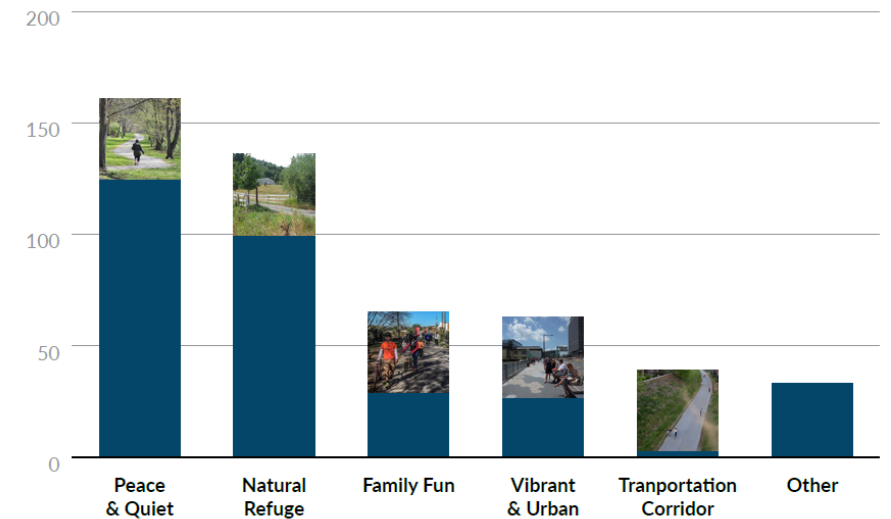
How often do you use the Dallas to Fort Worth Regional Trail?



What do you use the Dallas to Fort Worth Regional Trail for?  
Check all that apply.



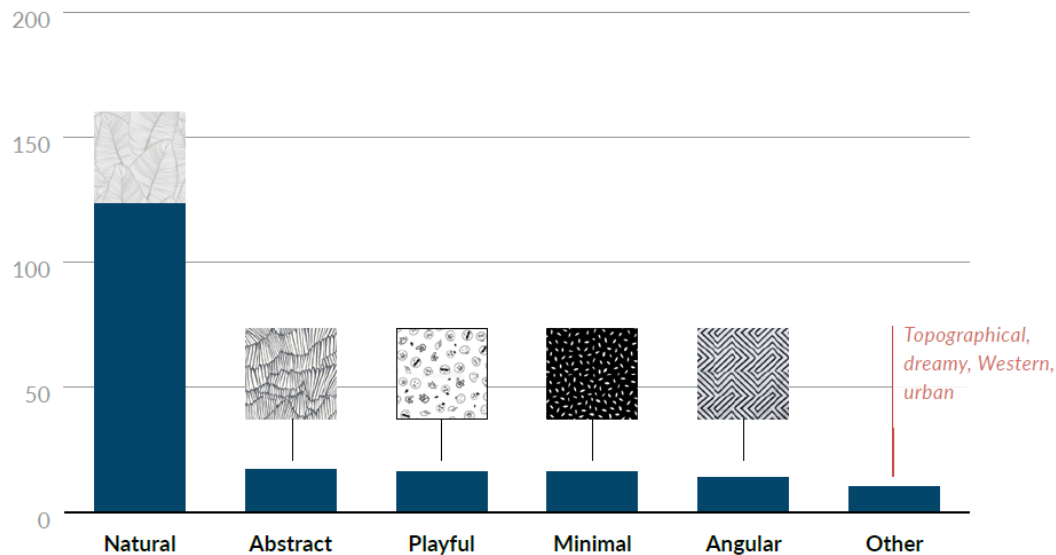
What is your primary or dominant experience of being on the path?



# VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE #1: TAKEAWAYS

- Natural colors and patterns resonated with participants
- Top responses for wayfinding system vision related to “Welcoming,” “Friendly,” “Timeless,” “Modern”

Do any of these patterns resonate with your vision for the look and feel of the Fort Worth to Dallas Regional Trail?



What words would you use to describe your vision for a region-wide wayfinding system?

Top Responses

Welcoming: 52

Friendly: 40

Timeless: 32

Modern: 23





# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Stakeholder Feedback on Name and Brand Options: Spring 2022
- Virtual Open House #2: Anticipated Spring 2022
  - Draft concepts for naming and branding
- Project Completion: Anticipated Fall 2022



# PROJECT FINAL PRODUCTS

Branding & Wayfinding Best Practices and Guidelines, with trail name/logo, sign designs and placemaking

Recommendations for major events infrastructure

Recommendations for 911 signage system/lighting

Recommendations for electronic message boards, real-time display trail counters

Trail Maintenance and Operations Report





# NEXT STEPS AFTER COMPLETION

- Work with five cities to advance sign fabrication
- Identify champion for long-term marketing, advertising, and promotion of regional trail
- Advance development of 911 signage systems
- Advance installation of real-time display counters for trail usage data collection



MORE INFORMATION:

[www.nctcog.org/FWtoDalTrail](http://www.nctcog.org/FWtoDalTrail)





# CONTACT US:



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Principal Transportation Planner  
North Central Texas Council of Governments  
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Karla Windsor, AICP  
Senior Program Manager  
North Central Texas Council of Governments  
[kwindsor@nctcog.org](mailto:kwindsor@nctcog.org)



# Task Force Roundtable

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

## Discussion Items:

1. Determining ongoing Task Force representation from partner communities and organizations.
2. Connecting the Lewisville Lake Paddling Trail to the Trinity River National Water Trail.



# Upcoming Events & Opportunities

## Upper Trinity River Basin Coordinating Committee Meeting (Virtual)

Tuesday, February 15, 2022, from 9:30 – 11:30 am CST

Event details online at <https://www.addevent.com/event/yf8162977>

**Special Presentation:** *Partnerships, Trees and Water Quality – A Riparian Restoration Project on Wilson Creek.* Representatives from North Texas Municipal Water District and Texas A&M Forest Service will present information on a recent tree-planting event held in McKinney.

## NCTCOG Webinar: What Water Planners in Texas Need to Know About Climate

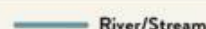

Wednesday, February 23, 2022, from 1:30 – 2:45 pm CST




Register online at <https://www.addevent.com/event/zt11133045>

Texas's State Climatologist will provide an overview of the future expected climate trends in Texas and the possible impact of those trends on water resource planning related to water supply, water quality, and urban flooding, among others.

# Proposed Trinity River National Recreation Area

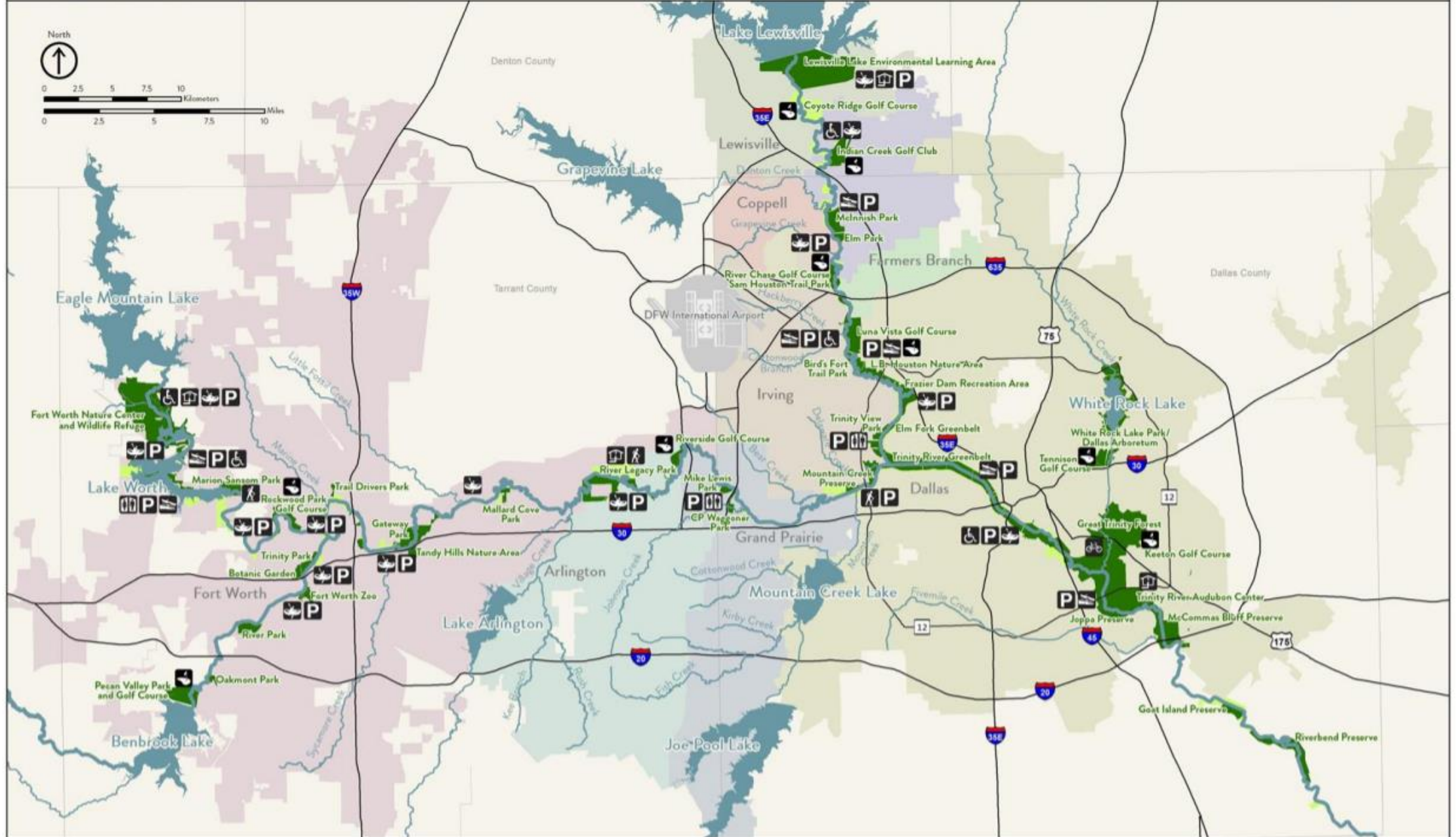
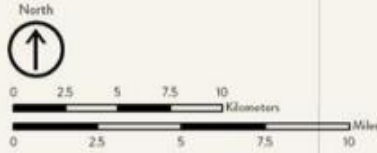
-  Lake
-  Local Government Land
-  Park, Preserve, or Greenbelt

-  River/Stream
-  Road

-  Visitor Center
-  Boat, Canoe, and Kayak Launch
-  Canoe and Kayak Launch

-  Parking
-  Wheelchair-accessible trail
-  Restrooms

-  Bicycle Trail
-  Hiking Trail
-  Golf Course





# Upcoming Events & Opportunities

## The National Park Service (NPS) – Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

The RTCA program supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the nation. NPS conservation and recreation planning professionals partner with community groups, non-profit organizations, tribes, and government agencies. This partnership assists local communities in realizing their conservation and outdoor recreation vision and goals by providing a broad range of services and skills. Assistance offered on an annual basis with extensions based on mutual agreement. *No monetary grants are made. Applications due March 1, 2022.*

Learn more or apply at: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/apply.htm>

# 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 Governments

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817.695.9148

# Connect



Facebook.com/TrinityRiverCoalition



Meetup.com/DFWPaddlesports

www

TrinityCoalition.org

www

NCTCOG.org/Envir

Materials from past meetings can be viewed at:

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