

Trinity River National Water Trail Task Force

February 14, 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 and Meeting Purpose
2. State of the Trail
3. Lewisville Lake Paddling Trail Update
4. Trinity River National Water Trail Master Plan
5. National Park Service Best Management Practices
6. Roundtable
7. Upcoming Events and Opportunities



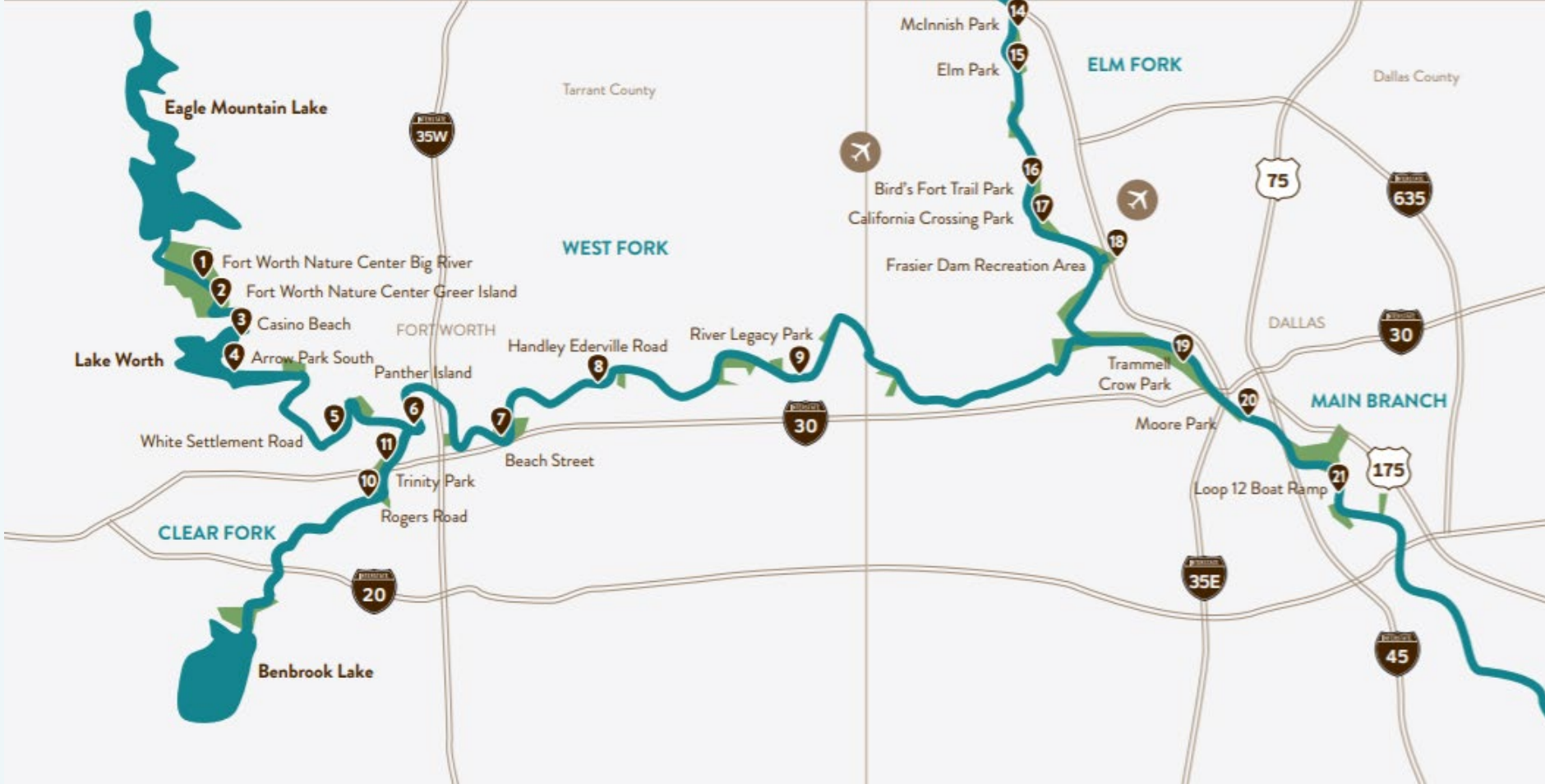
Welcome and Meeting Purpose

Steve Smith, Trinity Coalition



KEY

- Launch Site
- Trinity River
- Park
- Airport

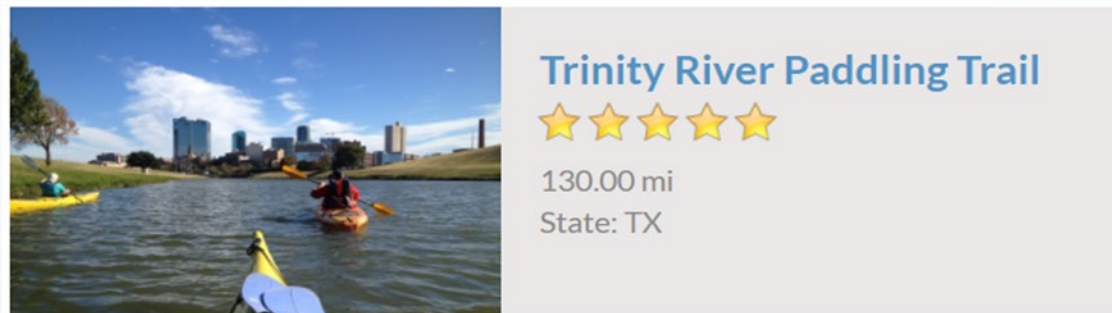


State of the Trail

*Teresa Patterson, Dale Harris, & Steve Smith,
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

All but 2 sections are 4-6 miles in length

- One 12-mile section
- One 24-mile section
- New expansion sites will shorten some of these distances

TEXAS

Trinity River Paddling Trail



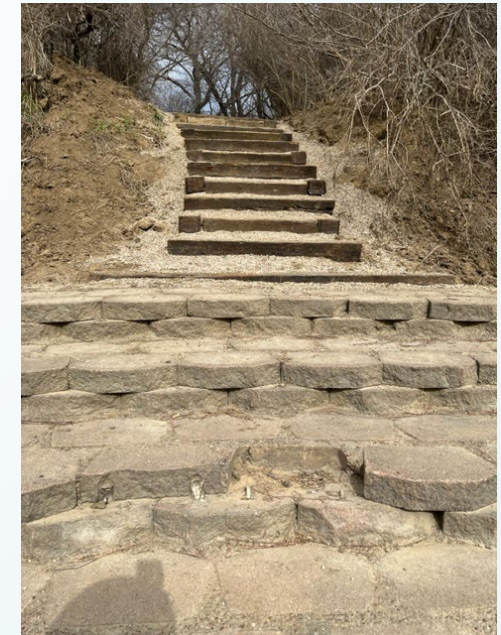
The Trinity River Paddling Trail consists of 130 miles of river accessed by 21 official launch sites. The paddling trail traverses 9 municipalities including Dallas and Ft. Worth, and is located in the middle of America's 4th largest metro area with a population of 7.5 million people. Over 5 million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



Paddling Trail Status February 2023

Currently 19 out of 21 launch sites are open.

- One launch site is getting difficult to use
- Loop 12 closed - flood damage and safety concerns
- The access path to the Dimension Tract launch in Carrollton got washed out and became unusable - Thank You Carrollton for the quick repair!



Trail Expansions

- New Beltline canoe launch
- New Viridian canoe launch
- New launch at Riverside Park in Fort Worth – in planning stages
- Trinity View Park canoe and kayak launch summer / fall 2023
- Lewisville Lake Paddling Loop
- Talks ongoing about adding USACE boat ramps on Corps lakes

Interfacing with the Paddling Public

Trinity Coalition maintains 4 social media sites:

- Trinity Coalition Web Site
- Trinity Coalition Facebook Page / trail information and status
- Trinity River Paddling Trail Association FB Group Page / 1,900+
- Trinity Coalition Meetup Page / 4,000 paddlers



Trash cleanup at Walnut Creek

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.

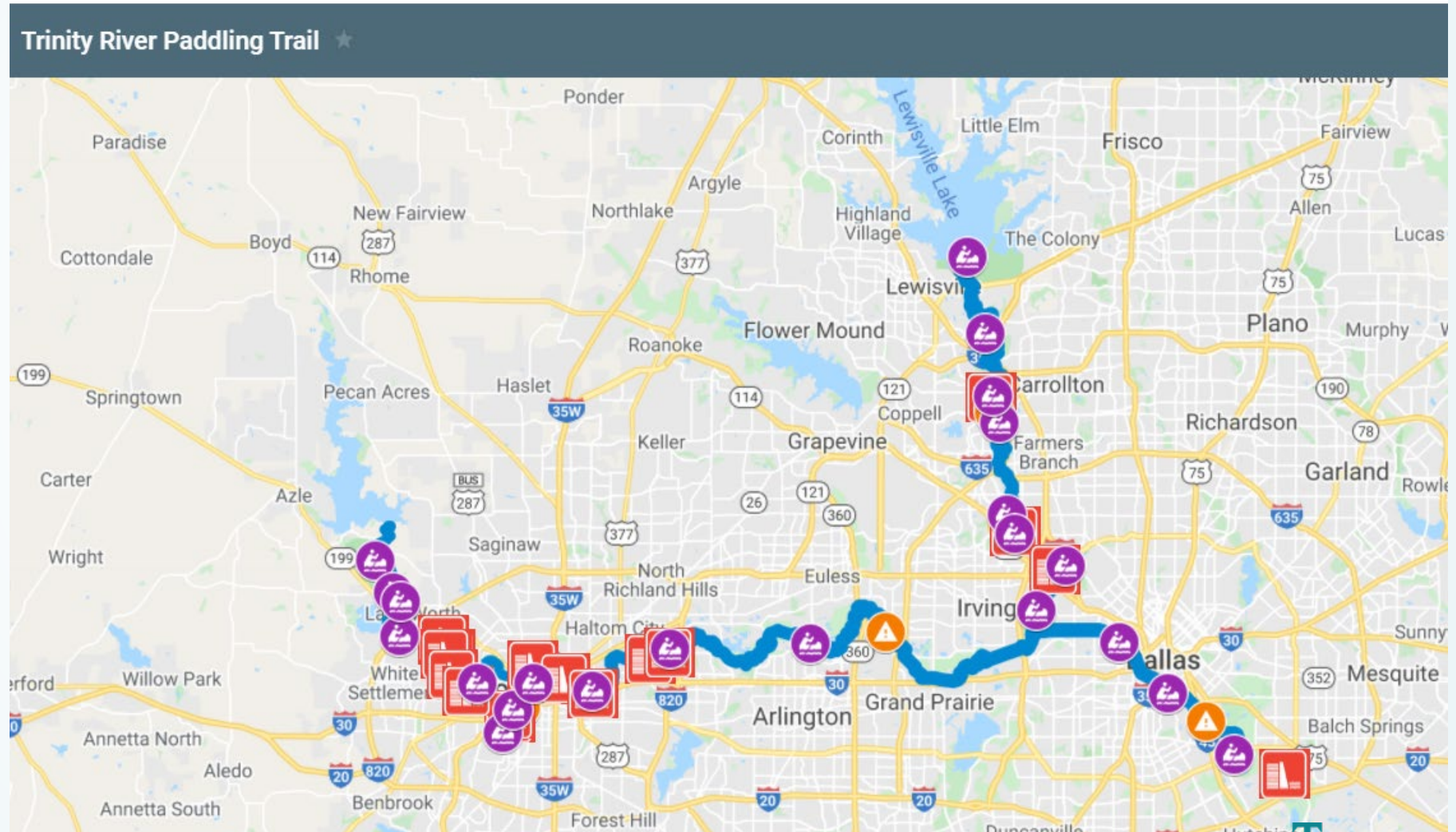
Launch Description: Long gentle slope to a concrete boat ramp.

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>

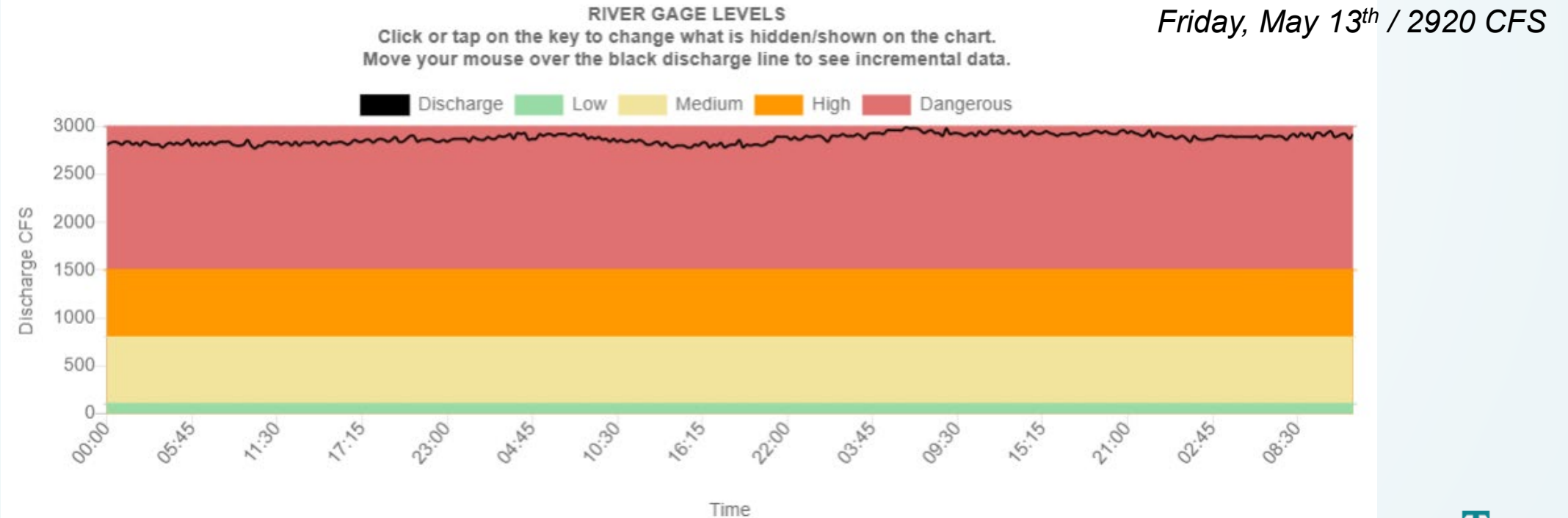


Trinity Coalition Web Site Tools / Water Levels

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

McInnish Park / Elm Fork, Carrollton, TX.

Latitude / Longitude DD: 32.967440° -96.942685°



Paddling Trail Usage February 2023

- The trail has been usable, except:
 - One day in April 2022
 - Approximately 3 weeks in May and June 2022
 - A few days in August 2022 where the river was 27 ft in Dallas
- The section between LLELA and Hebron Parkway has a tree blocking the river making it unpassable during very low water flows



Special Events

Educational Seminars on Feb 11th

- Held at Mariner Sails
- Cold Weather Paddling
- Camping out of your Canoe / Kayak



Special Events - Future

- Cowtown Cleanup - March 25
- GDPC Cleanup - April 8
- Earth X Expo - April 21-23
- Walnut Creek Cleanup - May 20



Photo Contest

- 2022 photo contest winner, National Recreation Trails – Paddling and Water Trails Division
- Record participation, with ~600 entries in 19 categories
- Third year in a row that Trinity River National Water Trail has won



Fireworks on the Trinity
2022 Winner
Credit: Teresa Patterson

Photo Contest



**Christmas on the Clear Fork
2021 Winner
Credit: Teresa Patterson**



**Fun on the Trinity
2020 Winner
Credit: Teresa Patterson**

Lewisville Lake Paddling Trail Update

Chris Escoto, City of Denton

Trinity River National Water Trail Master Plan

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson, NCTCOG

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, and 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 longer distances between sites
- Promote National Water Trail to cities and communities for recreational use
- Make the trail more accessible to the public
- Maintain a viable 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

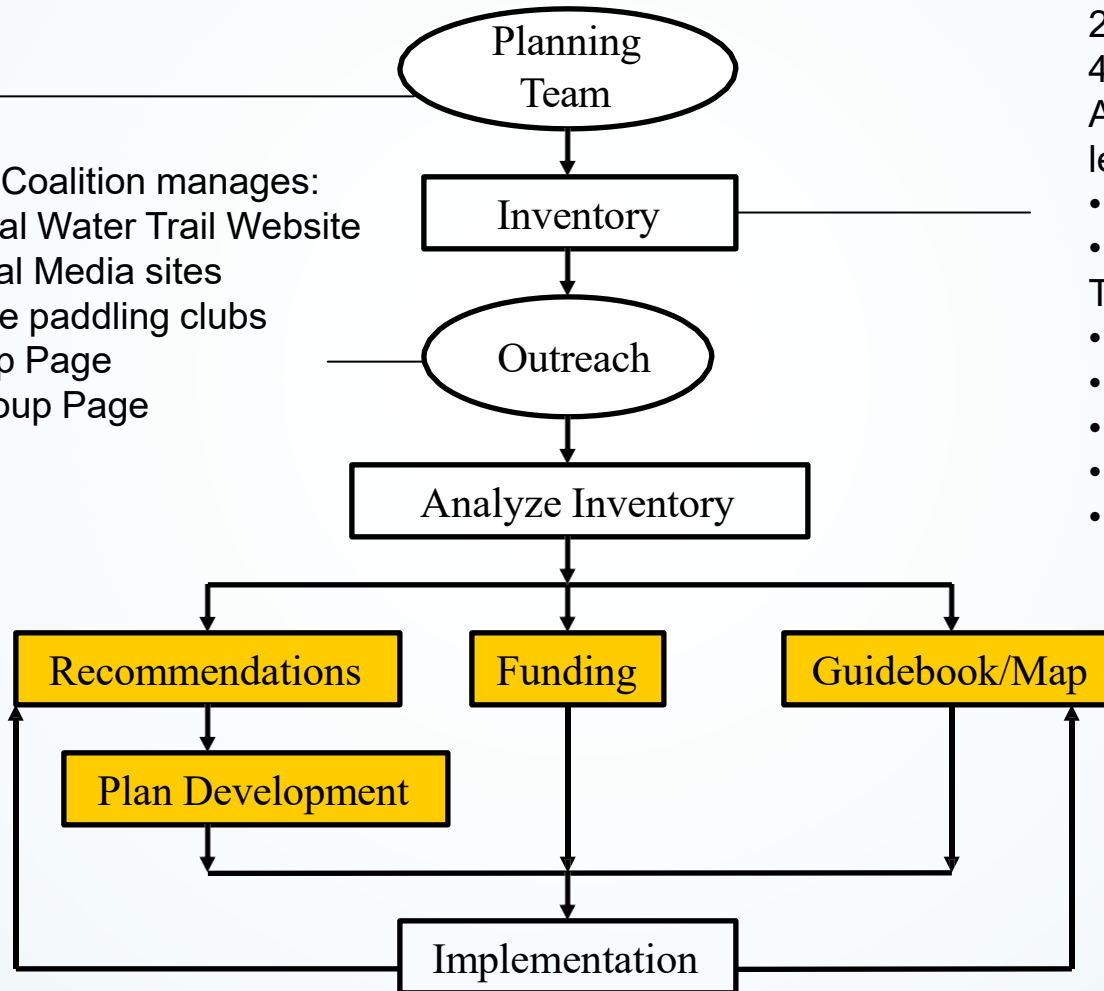
Steps For Planning & Development

Trinity Coalition
 NCTCOG
 9 Riverfront Cities

- City of Dallas
- City of Fort Worth
- City of Arlington
- City of Grand Prairie
- City of Lewisville
- City of Irving
- City of Coppell
- City of Farmers Branch
- City of Carrollton

Dallas County

Trinity Coalition manages:
 National Water Trail Website
 4 Social Media sites
 Multiple paddling clubs
 Meetup Page
 FB Group Page



21 Paddling Launch Site
 4 ADA Accessible Launch Sites
 All but 2 sections are 4-6 mile in length

- One 12-mile section
- One 24-mile section

Trail Expansion Sites

- Beltline Canoe Launch
- Viridian Canoe Launch
- Riverside Park Launch
- Trinity View Park Launch
- Lewisville Lake Paddling Loop

Master Plan Outline

- Overview of the National Water Trail
 - History and Background
- Planning Process
- Goals
 - Education and Safety
 - Stewardship and Conservation
 - Community Engagement
 - Maintenance
 - Planning
 - Funding Strategies

Master Plan Outline

- Inventory of the Trinity River and Surrounding Parks/Trail
 - Community-Based Assessments
 - Demand and Users
 - Accessibility
 - Gaps in Connectivity
- Task Force Recommendations
 - Launch Site Expansion
 - Design Concepts
 - Prioritize Locations
 - Portals and Branding

Mapping Needs

Ideas

- Incorporating existing land trails and parks
 - Bike paths
 - Hiking Trails
 - Nature Preserves
 - Nature Centers
- Map points of interest and services along the water trail

Trinity River Trail Map

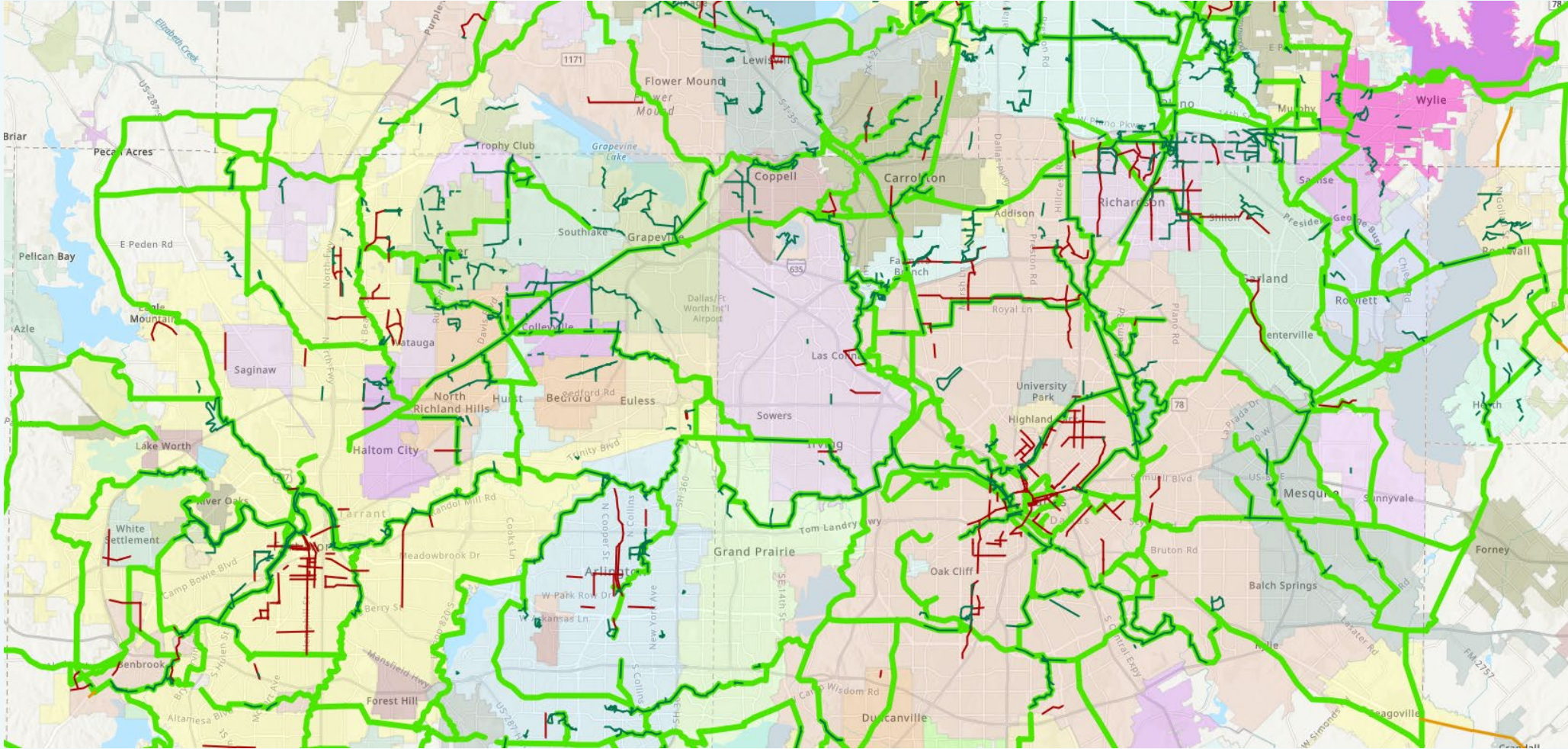


Rivers are a natural environment and constantly changing. Please check the local river gauges for current flow conditions. If you have questions, corrections, or updates to this map, email Teresa at teresa@trinitycoalition.org.

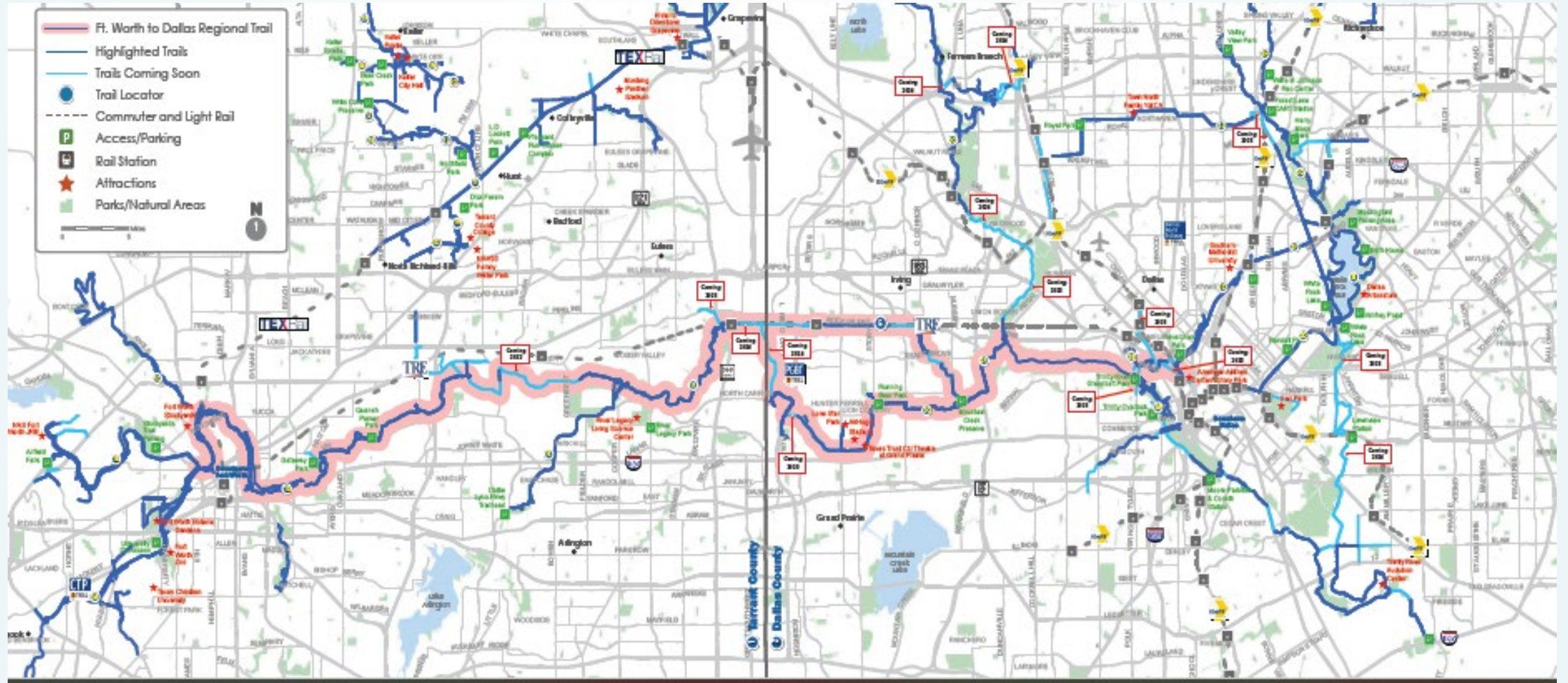


KEY	
	Launch Site
	Trinity River
	Park
	Airport

DFW Veloweb



DFW Discovery Trail



Infrastructure and Maintenance Needs

Infrastructure Needs

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

Maintenance Needs

- Repair of Launch Sites
- Water Trail Cleanups

NCTCOG

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National Park Service
Best Management Practices
Dale Harris & Teresa Patterson,
Trinity Coalition

Launch Site Construction / Maintenance Resources

- Water Trails System Best Management Practices
 - Guidelines for building a community that mentors and promotes the development of water trails and shares BMPs with other water trails
 - www.americantrails.org/resources/nwts-best-management-practices
- River Access Planning and Design Guide
 - www.river-management.org/river-access-planning-guide
 - Guidelines for Accessing, Designing, and Building Sites for Carry-In Watercraft (see Chapter 3: Launch Design Types / Concrete Ramps, pages 146 - 151)
 - For the Trinity River and its tributaries, boat ramps should be pointed slightly downstream and adequately armored

River Access Planning and Design


RMS, in partnership with several other organizations, is proud to provide the following resources which support your work developing and improving river access points and boat launches!

Prepare to Launch!

Guidelines For Assessing, Designing & Building Access Sites For Carry-In Watercraft

Prepare to Launch! is a resource designed to help facility and trail planners and park and recreation project leaders plan and build or update an access site tailored to the needs of canoeists, kayakers, tubers, stand-up paddlers, or small craft sailors. It guides a reader through the development process from conception to design creation, and provides a variety of launch construction options. View the guide in four formats:

- [Web version](#): Organized by chapter, featuring photo galleries and linked resources. Best for viewing online, via a tablet or mobile device.
- [E-book](#): Easy to use online book. Best for skimming all contents.
- [Interactive PowerPoint Presentation](#): Can be downloaded to access interactive features. Best for presenting to audiences.
- [Chapter Breakdown \(.pdf format\)](#): Best for easy downloading.

- 
- a. [Introduction / Table of Contents](#)
 - b. [Chapter 1: Characteristics of a Launch Site](#)
 - c. [Chapter 2: Three Steps to a Desired Launch](#)
 - d. [Chapter 3: Launch Design Types](#)
 - e. [References / Glossary](#)

Prepare to Launch! is a joint project of the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program and the River Management Society, and is an update to *Logical Lasting Launches*. RMS and NPS appreciate and thank the river users, managers, and professional staff across the country who have contributed to this updated guide. Enjoy, learn and let us know what you think of this collaborative effort!

Task Force Roundtable

All Members

(please raise your hand and unmute yourself)

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

NCTCOG Staff

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Upper Trinity River Basin Coordinating Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 28 at 9:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams

Implements a basin-wide approach to address bacterial impairments

www.nctcog.org/envir/committees/upper-trinity-river-basin-coordinating-committee

Trash Free Texas Resources

Joint project with Houston-Galveston Area Council and The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment to address litter abatement and community engagement

<https://www.nctcog.org/envir/watershed-management/trash-free-waters-project>

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge / 2023 Mayors' Challenge

March 1- May 31 (deadline to join: April 15)

Friendly competition to see which communities can pick up the most litter per resident

www.communitycleanupchallenge.com/

TMDL Monitoring Coordination Forum Technical Subcommittee Meeting

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

Discusses monitoring projects and shares information to help address bacteria impairments

www.nctcog.org/envir/committees/bacteria-total-maximum-daily-load-program/monitoring-coordination-forum

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Joint TMDL Stormwater and Wastewater Technical Subcommittee Meeting

Tuesday, March 21 at 9:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams

Coordinates projects and shares information relating to Stormwater, Planning/Development, Pets, Livestock, and Wildlife

www.nctcog.org/envir/committees/bacteria-total-maximum-daily-load-program/tmdl-stormwater

Fort Worth Urban Forest Master Plan

Take the survey/attend the next virtual community workshop (Feb 15)

Texas Trees Foundation and the City of Fort Worth are developing a Plan for managing the City's trees to enhance quality of life in Fort Worth

www.texastrees.org/fortworthufmp/



CLIDE

Celebrating Leadership In Development Excellence
Awards 2023

Applications accepted February 1– March 1, 2023

www.developmentexcellence.com



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Connect



Facebook.com/TrinityRiverCoalition



Meetup.com/DFWPaddlesports

www

TrinityCoalition.org

www

NCTCOG.org/Envir

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