One River!

“DFW’s – Place for a Paddling Adventure”

Steve Smith,
Board Chair, Trinity Nature Conservancy
One River Initiative

- **Who are we?**
  - Steve Smith – Board Chair, Trinity Nature Conservancy
  - Dale Harris – 15–year member Dallas Downriver Club, 7 years as club President
  - Alex Dubovsky – 5–year member Dallas Downriver Club, Newsletter editor
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Purpose of Presentation
- Inform the Task Force of an initiative to enhance the recreational value of the Trinity River in North Texas
- Receive feedback to improve the initiative
- Solicit written support for the possibility of bringing the National Park Service brand to the Trinity River
Your Group has a history of regulating segment of this river for what we are proposing

The 1989 Common Vision Regional Policy for the Trinity River Corridor designated your group as Stewards of the river corridor.
- Which means we need your Support to Move Forward

The Policy in 1989 included
- Initiate a World-Class Trinity Greenway Strategy for active and passive recreation linked to the regional trails system

A Goal our Proposal would Help Facilitate
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- Goals of the One River Initiative

1. Unite the North Texas paddling community into a single cohesive organization

2. Aggregate all North Texas Trinity River canoe launch sites into a single paddling trail of over 100 miles
   - Help establish additional sites
   - Maintain the river for safe paddling
   - Market the Trinity River as a single paddling trail

3. Receive National Park Service designation as a “National Water Trail”
Goal #1

- Unite the North Texas paddling community into a single cohesive organization
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- **Who is the North Texas Paddling Community?**
  - Paddling Clubs – Currently at least 6, with over 5,000 members
  - Businesses – Currently at least 17 that conduct paddling excursions and instructions and/or sell canoes/kayaks/ rafts
  - Public Officials – Organizations, such as members of this task force, with a public-sector stake in the Trinity River
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- **Proposed Organization – Trinity River Runners Council**
  - **Mission** – To help transform the Trinity River into a nationally recognized, high quality recreation asset

- Governance – Establish a board of directors with members from all the stakeholder groups

- Corporation type – Initially a task force of the Trinity Nature Conservancy (an existing 501c(3)) and eventually with its own 501c(3) designation
Goal #2

- Aggregate all North Texas Trinity River canoe launch sites into a single paddling trail of over 100 miles
Current Launch – McInnish Park
Current Launches – California Crossing
Current Launches – Bird’s Fort Park
Current Launches – Dimension Tract
Current Launches – Mt Creek Preserve
Current Launches – Handley–Ederville Rd
Current Launches – Trammell Crow Park
Current Launches – Moore Park
Current Launches – Loop 12 South Dallas
One River Initiative – ProposedLaunches

PROPOSED TRINITY RIVER WATER TRAIL - CURRENT & PROPOSED CANOE LAUNCH LOCATIONS
Goal #3

- Receive National Park Service designation as a “National Water Trail”
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**National Park Service Water Trails**

- The National Water Trail program began in 2012 to “establish a national system of exemplary water trails”.

- The program has expanded rapidly to 21 National Water Trails, ranging from 8 to 660 miles in length, with none currently in Texas.

- Most National Water Trails are managed by Non-Profit citizen groups, with the National Park Service only managing one because it is a National Recreation Area.
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How To Achieve National Water Trail Status

- Complete an application with 7 sections mostly on the river’s location/features and containing a commitment to maintain the river/launch sites according to National Park Service “Best Management Practices”

- The deadline for submitting the application is Nov. 1 of each year.

- The National Park Service evaluates each application, works with the applicant to fine-tune the application, and seemingly awards the National Water Trail to the majority of the applicants.
What Do We Need From You?

- Feedback on this 3-pronged proposal
- Agreement to allow your part of the river to be included in the One River Initiative
- A letter of support for our application to the National Park Service
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Benefits To You

- You will likely get an army of volunteers to help maintain your section of the river and your canoe launch sites.

- You will possibly get the National Park Service brand and likely its logo associated with your area of the river.

- The scale of the overall project should open a potential pipeline to significant private/public funding to upgrade and maintain the water trail.
Cost to You

- No expense associated with integrating all segments of the river into a single water trail

- Any expense associated with National Park Service designation, such as upgrading to their “Best Management Practices”, will be determined prior to submission of the National Water Trails application

- A communication channel will be established through NCTCOG to report to this group as the project develops
Leaders of Trinity Nature Conservancy and Dallas Downriver Club are proposing a One River Initiative which would:

- Unite the North Texas paddling community into a single cohesive organization

- Aggregate all North Texas Trinity River canoe launch sites and the river between these sites into a single paddling trail over 100 miles long and manage it with consistent quality standards

- Seek National Park Service designation of the Trinity River as a “National Water Trail”
Questions / Comments

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