



Trinity River Master Plan Fort Worth, Texas

CREATING A VISION AND RESTORING A VITAL RESOURCE



Restoring the Trinity River Corridor will reshape how the community connects to and relates with the waterfront.

The recently completed Trinity River master planning effort, known as the Trinity River Vision, goes beyond trails and annual celebrations to restoring and preserving the river as vital to improving the quality of life for the citizens of Fort Worth. The plan prepared by the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) presents a bold vision, featuring the river as a focal point for Fort Worth neighborhoods and proposing a downtown waterfront. As stated in the master plan, the vision for the river is to “preserve and enhance the river corridor so that they remain as essential greenways for open space, trails, neighborhood focal points, wildlife, and special recreation areas.” The Trinity River Vision will shape how the City relates to the river and how Fort Worth is viewed by residents and visitors for decades to come.

TRWD hired CDM to lead an 18-month preliminary design effort to develop a final configuration and

preliminary design for a new waterfront on the Trinity River floodway adjacent to downtown Fort Worth. Envisioned as a key part of the Trinity River Vision master planning effort, CDM’s role in the Central City project involves preliminary design of a bypass channel between the Clear and West Forks of the Trinity River to redirect flood flows away from downtown, which would allow for revitalization and development of a new waterfront area. The newly created waterfront will then be completely redeveloped from the aged vacant commercial buildings into environmentally sensitive mixed-use medium to high density neighborhoods, a community college campus, and associated amenities.

Extensive Stakeholder and Community Involvement

The vision for the Trinity River Corridor was greatly enhanced by the diverse view and concerns from



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numerous stakeholder and community groups with interest in the environmental quality and quality of life for the citizens and visitors to Fort Worth. To ensure that the master plan reflected community input, over 50 formal working meetings and numerous informal meeting were held. Input from these meetings lead to the development of a plan for the 88 miles of river corridor that seeks to improve linkages of people and community throughout the entire area.

“It is time to take the Trinity River out of the community attic and make every mile of the river an asset to the neighborhoods that surround it, an asset for the cities through which it runs, and an asset for the county.”

Congresswoman Kay Granger, Star -Telegram, February 15, 2004

Efficient Land Use

The removal of a system of levees installed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the 1960s will allow for construction of a lake along an 850-acre area. The lake will provide open space, recreation, and conservation areas to support a growing population while providing flood protection. A bypass channel will be constructed to divert flow around the newly created lake and provide public access to the river.

Economic Development

This project will generate approximately 800 acres of new urban waterfront for residential, office, and retail development. A downtown urban waterfront was one of the key reasons that Radio Shack and Pier 1 decided to stay in Fort Worth and build new corporate campuses along the river. In 20 years the unattractive, mostly vacant land adjacent to the Trinity River near downtown Fort Worth will be replaced by medium to high density residential development shopping, restaurants, and entertainment venues.

Preservation and Restoration of Natural Resources

The Trinity River Vision calls for the beautification and restoration of about 4,800 acres of naturalized areas/green space and the addition of nature interpretive areas. The preservation of open space and green space will help improve air quality, water quality, and wildlife habitat and help sustain environmental health over the long-term.

Improved Quality of Life

Almost every part of the City will be linked with the river and its tributaries by trails and greenways. About 60 miles of new trails will be added to complement the exiting 40 miles in place or under construction. The addition of new trailheads will allow easier access to the river, trails, parks, and recreational areas and attract more people to the riverfront.



Linking the city to the river via trailways and green space will add aesthetic appeal as well as provide recreational opportunities for citizens.

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