



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

June 11, 2003

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT

**Draft Detailed Project Report and Integrated Environmental Assessment
For the Old Trinity River Channel Ecosystem Restoration, Dallas, Texas**

All interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, proposes to implement a fish and wildlife habitat restoration project on a portion of the old Trinity River channel located two miles west of downtown Dallas, Dallas County, Texas.

Authority. This Notice of Availability is being issued to all interested parties in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Public Law (PL) 91-190, as amended, and the implementing regulations in Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2.

Purpose and Background. The purpose of the study was to identify the environmental degradation caused by construction and operation of the Dallas Floodway project, evaluate alternatives to restoration of the degraded habitat, and recommend a plan for implementation, if one could be identified that was technically feasible and supportable by the non-Federal partner.

Proposed Action and Alternatives. At the request of the City of Dallas and under authority of the Chief of Engineers by Section 1135 (b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended (33 USC 2201), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, conducted a study to determine whether the construction and operation of the Dallas Floodway project (constructed 1959) and subsequent development have contributed to the degradation of the quality of the environment. The study also investigated the feasibility of implementing measures for restoration of wetlands, riparian and bottomland hardwoods, and improvements to the quality and value of habitat for multiple species of fish, birds, and wildlife.

The study area (Figure 1) is located in west Dallas in proximity of a portion of the Old Trinity River located downstream of the confluence of the West Fork and the Elm Fork of the Trinity River, adjacent to the main stem of the Trinity River channel, about 2 miles west of downtown Dallas, Texas. The Old Trinity River channel is a remnant of the Trinity River that existed prior to construction of the Dallas Floodway Flood Control Project and now serves to collect local drainage. As a result of the study, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing to implement fish and wildlife habitat restoration activities.

The recommended plan would restore or create approximately 23.93 acres of emergent wetlands, improve the quality of habitat on 28.42 acres of bottomland hardwood and mixed deciduous forest stands, and reforest 53.48 acres of open space to bottomland hardwoods. Subsequently, the remaining acres of habitat within the study area become more valuable by reducing fragmentation and restoring a contiguous corridor for migration of avian and wildlife species through the area. Multiple combination restoration alternatives were investigated,

including a "no action" plan, which would leave conditions within the project area unchanged. Cost effectiveness and incremental cost analyses revealed the recommended plan as outlined above to be the optimal plan. The recommended plan includes construction of a 975-foot long, 6-foot wide concrete recreation trail that would extend from Ladd Street through Bickers Park to the southeast corner of Pavaho Sump. The recreation plan also includes construction of a replacement footbridge that would span the restoration features of the Old Trinity River in Tipton Park.

A combined Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared, which presents the results of the investigation. The study report describes existing conditions and ecosystem needs, outlines project alternatives and levels of restoration efforts, identifies a recommended restoration plan, and addresses the affected environment and the potential environmental consequences of the proposed action.

The recommended plan would impact waters of the United States and is subject to provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The restoration activities recommended would meet the terms and conditions of Nationwide Permit 27, Wetland and Riparian Restoration and Creation Activities. The State of Texas has issued a water quality certificate for Nationwide Permit 27 and, therefore, no further coordination is required under Section 404. The project, as proposed, requires siting within the floodplain of the Trinity River to meet its intended purpose; but the project would not induce or increase flood damages within the area. Further, the proposed project would not adversely impact or result in any loss of wetland areas. The project is in compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 11990.

Cultural resources studies indicate a high likelihood of finding intact deeply buried cultural resources in the area of the proposed wetland expansion of the Pavaho Sump. However, because of the small size of the expansion, the State Historic Preservation Officer has concurred with the Corps of Engineers' proposal to conduct monitoring during excavation with provision that should any cultural resources be identified during the monitored excavation, all work would cease until a determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places can be made.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has concurred, based upon information available, that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered species or any critical habitat.

Public Review. The review period for this project ends 30 days after the date of this notice. No public meetings or hearings have been scheduled. Copies of the DPR and integrated EA and draft FONSI are available for review at the Dallas Public Library, 1515 Young Street and at the West Dallas Neighborhood Development Corporation, 2907 North Hampton Road, Dallas, Texas. Comments may be sent to or additional information may be requested from Ms. Marcia Hackett, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, CESWF-PM-C, P. O. BOX 17300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300. Ms. Hackett may be reached at 817-886-1373.


John R. Minahan
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Figure 1
Old Trinity
Study Area Map

