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GROUNDBREAKING HELD FOR FIRST TRINITY CORRIDOR BOAT LAUNCH

(Dallas)—Mayor Pro Tem Mary Poss and other dignitaries gathered on the banks of the Trinity River today to break ground for a boat launch, the first major groundbreaking for the City's Trinity River Corridor Project.

The boat launch, located next to Trammell Crow Lake Park, will be available early this fall to boating enthusiasts wishing to travel along the Trinity River especially near the downtown Dallas area. (Trammell Crow Lake Park is located in the 3700 block of Sylvan Avenue, just south of Industrial Boulevard.)

The event marks the first groundbreaking for the \$246-million bond program known as the Trinity River Corridor Project that was approved by Dallas voters in May 1998. When completed, the Trinity River Corridor Project will increase flood protection, improve traffic congestion in the downtown area, encourage redevelopment of the lands along the river, as well as provide recreational amenities and environmental benefits.

The boat launch will cost \$245,683 to build. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provided \$100,000 for the facility. The remaining costs will be paid from Trinity River Corridor Project funds.

"The Trinity River Corridor Project is now on its way towards becoming a reality," said Dallas Mayor Pro Tem Mary Poss. "With the continued guidance and assistance from our local, state and federal partners and Dallas citizens, this boat launch will be the first of many components of the Trinity River Corridor Project to enhance our quality of life by providing additional recreational opportunities in the corridor."

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Following remarks by Mayor Pro Tem Poss and Russ Downey of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Ken Brown, a Lakota/Creek Native American, offered a spiritual blessing.

The three speakers were joined by other members of the Dallas City Council; Dianne Curry, president of the Dallas Park and Recreation Board; Betty Svoboda, chairwoman of the Recreation Subcommittee of the Trinity River Corridor Citizens Committee; and Rebecca Dugger, director of the City of Dallas Trinity River Corridor Project to break ground for the boat launch. Instead of the usual groundbreaking shovels, the dignitaries used specially decorated canoe paddles to turn dirt. As the same time, a small group of canoeists paddled past the groundbreaking site towards downtown Dallas.

Crews for R-Con, Inc., the contractor hired to build the facility, will begin their work almost immediately. They are scheduled to complete their work in September.

The boat launch facility will include spaces for 20 vehicles with boat trailers. The City's Park and Recreation Department will maintain the self-service facility. There will be no charge to use the boat launch; however only properly licensed watercraft will be allowed on the river.

Designs have been prepared for two boat launches along the Trinity River. A second boat launch is being considered south of downtown. Design costs for both boat launches total \$57,675.

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