

Meeting Rescheduled For Public to Learn More About Proposed Great Trinity Forest Interpretive Center, equestrian centers, and trails

Imagine a place where you could learn about the Trinity River and Dallas' Great Trinity Forest... that's what City of Dallas staff members are hoping that the general public will do during a meeting on Tuesday, March 11.

The public meeting had been scheduled for late February but had to be rescheduled because of dangerous road conditions caused by snow and ice. Hosted by the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department, the Trinity River Corridor Project Management Office and Brown Reynolds Watford (BRW) Architects, the meeting will allow the general public to find out about early plans for a Trinity Interpretive Center, equestrian centers, trails and other related facilities. The facilities may ultimately be located in or near the Great Trinity Forest that is located in southeast Dallas.

The session will be held at Texas Discovery Gardens, formerly known as the Horticulture Center, at Fair Park, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on March 11. The address is 3601 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. at Second Ave. There is no charge to attend. Free parking will be available.

In August 2002, the Dallas City Council approved the awarding of a contract to BRW Architects to provide a feasibility study and master plan for the Trinity Interpretive Center, equestrian centers and other associated components. BRW Architects are leading a team of well-known and respected professionals, including Antoine Predock, design architect; and the firm of Lyons/Zaremba, Inc., interpretive planner. Their study and plan will include hard surface and soft surface trails. They will also be responsible for site selection of a maintenance facility for the Trinity River Corridor.

The Great Trinity Forest Master Plan Concept approved by the City Council in 1997, proposes the development of the Trinity Interpretive Center, equestrian facilities and nature trails, multipurpose trails to be used for recreation and transportation, boat launches, and trailhead improvements. It also outlines the acquisition and preservation of bottomland hardwood forest within the Trinity River Corridor.

The Trinity Interpretive Center is currently planned as a focus for educational and environmental interests in the Trinity River Corridor; eco-

tourism activities; aquatic, archaeological and historical exhibits; and theme gardens at the center of the Great Trinity Forest's trail system.

Equestrian centers are proposed in both the Great Trinity Forest and at a satellite center near downtown. Equestrian trails in the forest are also planned. Available to both local equestrian enthusiasts and tourists, the facilities can provide opportunities for those interested in entertainment for a few hours or an entire day.

The consultant team should complete their work on the feasibility study and master plan in March 2004. Design work would then begin and construction could begin in early 2006.

For more information about the March 11 public meeting, please call the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department at (214) 670-4107.