



**For immediate release:**

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## **The Trinity Trust and the City of Dallas Break Ground on Moore Park Gateway**

**DALLAS, Texas, May 28, 2008** – On May 23, The Trinity Trust and the City of Dallas held a groundbreaking on Moore Park, which is the first major connection into the Trinity River Corridor from the Southern Sector. About 150 officials, supporters and neighbors joined in the festive community celebration to help get the “dirt flying” at the park.

The Moore Park Gateway expansion and renovation are made possible through funds from the City of Dallas and a \$2 million gift from the Hoblitzelle Foundation, which allows for additional park improvements. The distinctive landmark will be one of the first major connections between the Trinity River and Oak Cliff. When it is expanded and renovated, the Moore Park Gateway will serve as a starting point for such activities as a bike ride or walk along the river, walking to festivals, or simply viewing the beautiful downtown Dallas skyline.

The park improvements include:

- A shade pavilion and scenic overlook
- Pedestrian plaza
- A new grove of trees and amphitheater on the sloping lawn
- Connections to the Santa Fe Trestle Trail
- Athletic fields
- Canoe and kayak river access facilities
- An additional picnic area
- Environmental restoration and clean up of Cedar Creek

The Yvonne E. Ewell Townview High School Jazz Band and Director Dean Hill played and sang before the groundbreaking to help get the festivities started. Then, the Crows Nest singers of Boy Scout Venture Crew 67 led the flag ceremony, followed by a student jazz singer singing the national anthem.

Dr. Gail Thomas, president and CEO of The Trinity Trust Foundation, welcomed everyone. “This is no ordinary groundbreaking. This is an historic event because we are reclaiming a part of Dallas history. This place is full of stories that some of the neighbors have already told us,” said Thomas. She then thanked City Councilmembers in attendance; City of Dallas Planning Commission; City of Dallas Park & Recreation Department; Trinity River Corridor Staff, with special thanks to the City Manager and Assistant City Manager and their respective staff members; Groundwork Dallas; Eddie Deen & Company Catering for donating the BBQ lunch; M&M The Special Events Company; The Trinity Trust Foundation and City of Dallas staff; and all the residents.

Thomas introduced Paul Harris, Hoblitzelle Foundation president, and Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert to join her at the podium. She said, "Paul, you have some exciting news to tell the Mayor Leppert and all these fine people today."

Harris said, "Mayor Leppert and distinguished guests, on behalf of the Hoblitzelle Foundation, I am proud to announce a \$2 million gift from the foundation to help expand and renovate the Phase II plans for Moore Park Gateway, so that it can serve as the first major connection into the Trinity River Corridor from the Southern Sector." The audience applauded and cheered.

Mayor Leppert said, "I want to again thank Hoblitzelle Foundation for their vision and help with this endeavor. Moore Park Gateway is part of the Trinity River Corridor Project and due to its close proximity to the river, it is an important gateway area. It's a privilege to bring this project to the Southern Sector, and the surrounding families in the neighborhoods will enjoy this park and its beauty even more than they do today. This is an exciting time for The Trinity."

Councilmember Carolyn R. Davis, District 7, and member of the Trinity River Corridor Project Committee, told the history of Moore Park Gateway. "The City first bought this land in 1938 from the Crockett Estate – so this land has been designated as a park for 70 years, and at the time, it was designated as a park for African Americans and named after Will Moore who loved children and did a lot for them. He would be proud of this gateway, which will be instrumental in bringing people from around Dallas together in this place of retreat and natural beauty."

Mary Suhm, City of Dallas City Manager, then told about how large the Trinity Project is. "To really put the Trinity project into perspective -- because it is BIG, think about the size of New York Central Park, which is 843 acres. So now, compare it to Moore Park, which is 29 acres, and to the Great Trinity Forest, which is 6,000 acres. These are two elements of the Trinity River Corridor Project, and we're working with 10,000 total acres inside the levees, and 44,000 if you count the developable land outside of them," stated Suhm.

To close the ceremony, The Trinity Trust Board Chair Mary McDermott Cook said, "Now it's my pleasure to invite our special platform guests to join me next to the bulldozer. Let's get this dirt flying!" Mayor Tom Leppert sat in the backhoe's driver's seat and dug dirt to mark the official groundbreaking of Moore Park Gateway. Afterwards, guests enjoyed a delicious BBQ lunch, thanks to Eddie Deen & Company, while the Townview Jazz Band played and entertained participants with popular songs.

Project organizers and the City of Dallas plan to begin construction in the first phase of the Moore Gateway Park in May 2008, with plans for completion of this phase in approximately 12 months. Subsequent construction phases will take place in 2009-2011.

**About The Trinity Trust Foundation and The Trinity Center:**

The Trinity Trust raises private funds to implement the Balanced Vision Plan for the Trinity River Corridor in conjunction with the City of Dallas. The Trinity Trust has established The Trinity Center as the gathering place for all civic and non-profit groups working to revitalize the Trinity River in Dallas. It houses the offices of The Trinity Trust Foundation, Texas Horse Park, Groundwork Dallas and Trinity Strand Trail and hosts meetings, workshops and events for these organizations and the Trinity Commons Foundation. The Trinity Center facilitates collaboration between these entities and the City of Dallas and encourages seamless integration of all the components of the Trinity River Project. More information can be found by calling 214.740.1616, by emailing [info@thetrinitytrust.org](mailto:info@thetrinitytrust.org), or by visiting [www.thetrinitytrust.org](http://www.thetrinitytrust.org).

**About the Trinity River Corridor Project:**

The projected \$2 billion Trinity River Corridor Project is the largest public works and urban development project in the history of Dallas, and one of the largest of its type in the nation. It will reduce flood damage, provide recreational amenities and visionary environmental benefits, improve downtown traffic congestion, and encourage development along the Trinity River. The Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, designed by internationally known architect Santiago Calatrava, is now under construction; and in 2011, construction will begin on the second Calatrava designed bridge, the Margaret McDermott Bridge. The Trinity River Audubon Center, located at Loop 12 east of IH-45, will open October 2008, and work is underway on the Moore Park Gateway project to expand and renovate the park. In addition, an expanded system of pedestrian trails is planned for the Trinity River Corridor Project as well as the Texas Horse Park. For project updates and to watch the bridge progress, visit: [www.trinityrivercorridor.org](http://www.trinityrivercorridor.org).

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