



Scenic Texas
April 1, 2026



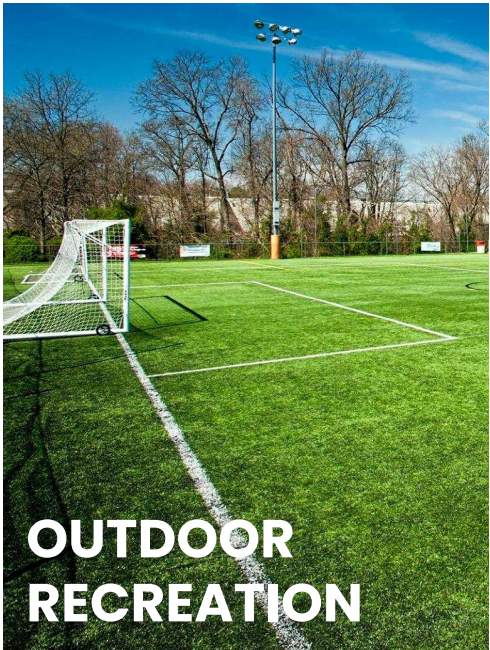
PARKS



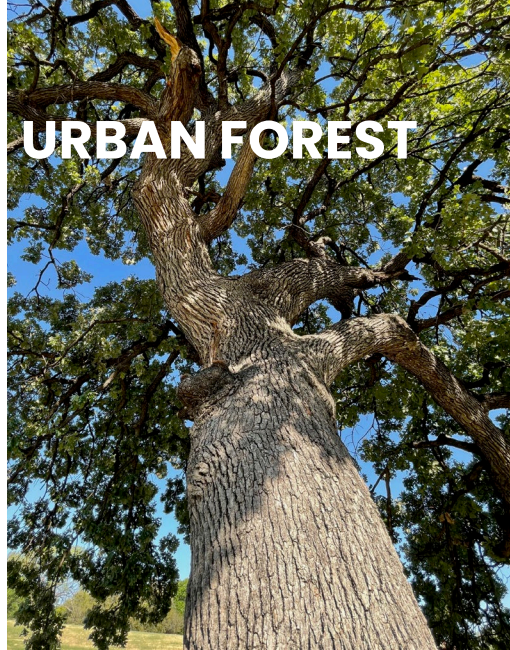
TRAILS



OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREAS



OUTDOOR RECREATION



URBAN FOREST



RIPARIAN & FLOODPLAIN



STREETSCAPES & PARKLETS

Green Space Benefits

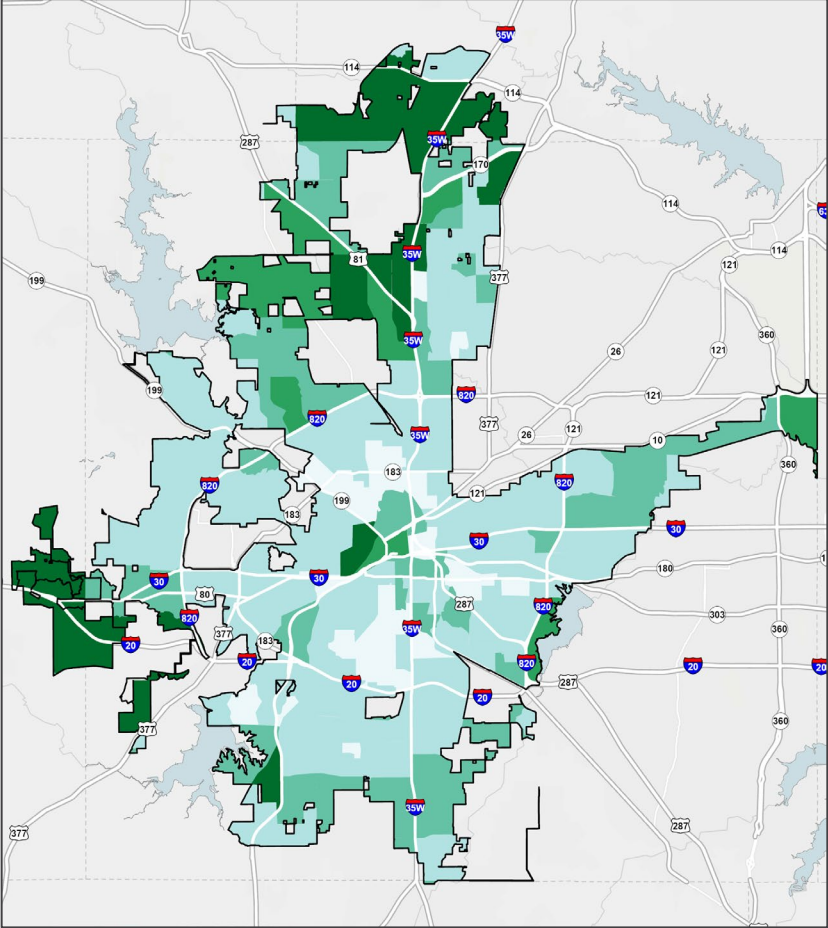
- 1. Physical Health** – Encourages and enables physical activity
- 2. Mental Health** – Reduces rates of depression and anxiety
- 3. Social Connection** – Community Gathering places, cultural activity spaces
- 4. Ecological Impact** – Improves air quality, filters water, reduces flood risk
- 5. Economic Vitality** – Attracts businesses and talented workforce, sustains property values



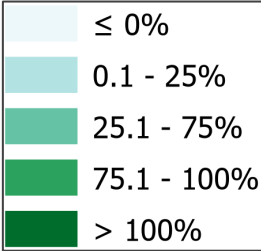
Photo Credit:
CFW PARD

Fort Worth Population Forecast

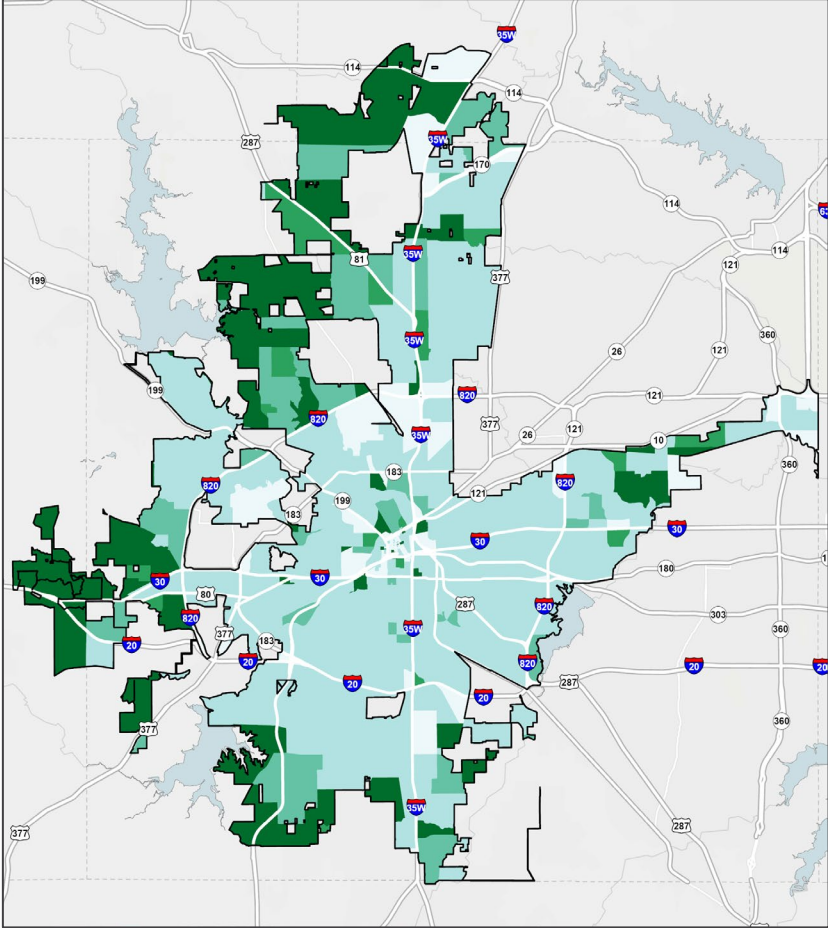
2010-2020



**Future growth
expected to
occur on outer
City limits**



2025-2050



Source: U.S. Census 2019-2023; NCTCOG 2045 Projections Data by TAZ, 2025



3 Main Goals:

- To increase access for every Fort Worth resident and family to nature.
- To preserve the city's natural heritage and support quality of life as a part of balanced, long-term economic growth and vitality.
- To steward the health and security of the regional water supply while supporting citywide flood control.

Citywide Alignment

Strategic “Green Planning”

Good Naturesd Green Space Initiative goal to **conserve 10,000 acres**

Utilizing Greenspace to guide future land & spur economic development
Key strategy in 2050 Comp Plan

Urban Forestry Goal of **30% canopy coverage** citywide

TPW MIM Coordination
Identifying Opportunities for connection & trail gap study

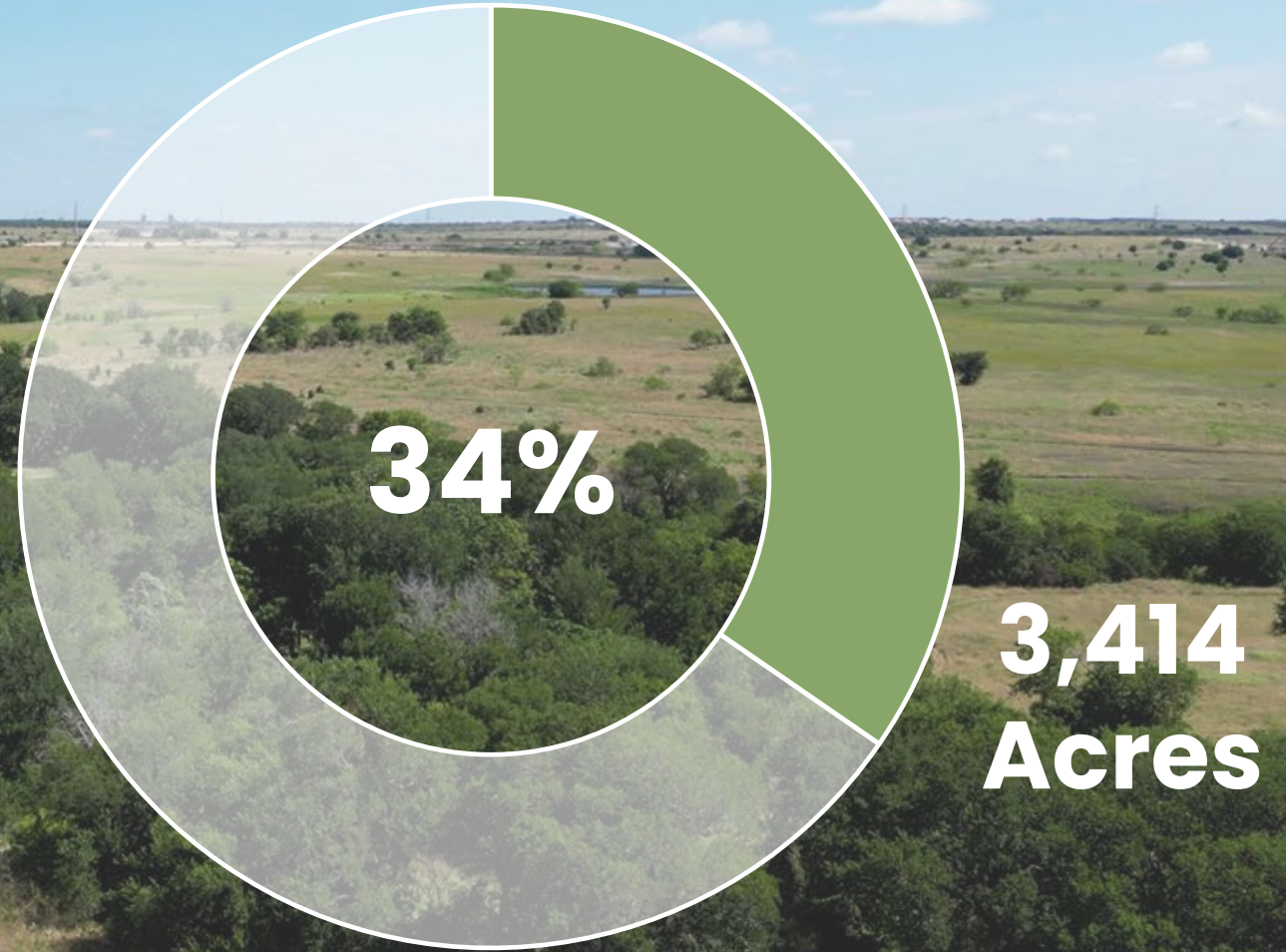
PARD GREENprint Master Plan Strategic Goals
Vibrant Nature – Cultivate Natural Spaces

Increasing community access to Nature.
Improving Fort Worth’s Trust for Public Land Parkscore

Good Natured Conservation Goal

10,000 additional acres

Category	Acres
Open Space Acquisitions	537
Parkland Additions	510
City Policy Protections	269
Internal Partnerships	1,358
External Partnerships	740



Conservation & Partnerships



BOTANICAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS



CMO - Green Space Initiatives



CITY OF FORT WORTH OPEN SPACE

Conserve **high-quality natural areas**

1. Providing **environmental benefits**,
 - *Protects our air & water quality*
 - *Helps regulate high temperatures*
 - *Critical to supporting stormwater infrastructure & mitigating flood conditions*
2. Encouraging **outdoor recreation**,
3. Supporting **economic development**, &
4. Enhancing the **livability and desirability** of the City of Fort Worth.

Open Space Report

- Adopted by Council in 2022
- Guiding document for Open Space Conservation Program
- TPL Research & Benchmarking Study
- Data-Driven Approach with Detailed Analysis
- Incorporation of Public & Stakeholder Input
- Identify Potential Funding Options
- Program Recommendations



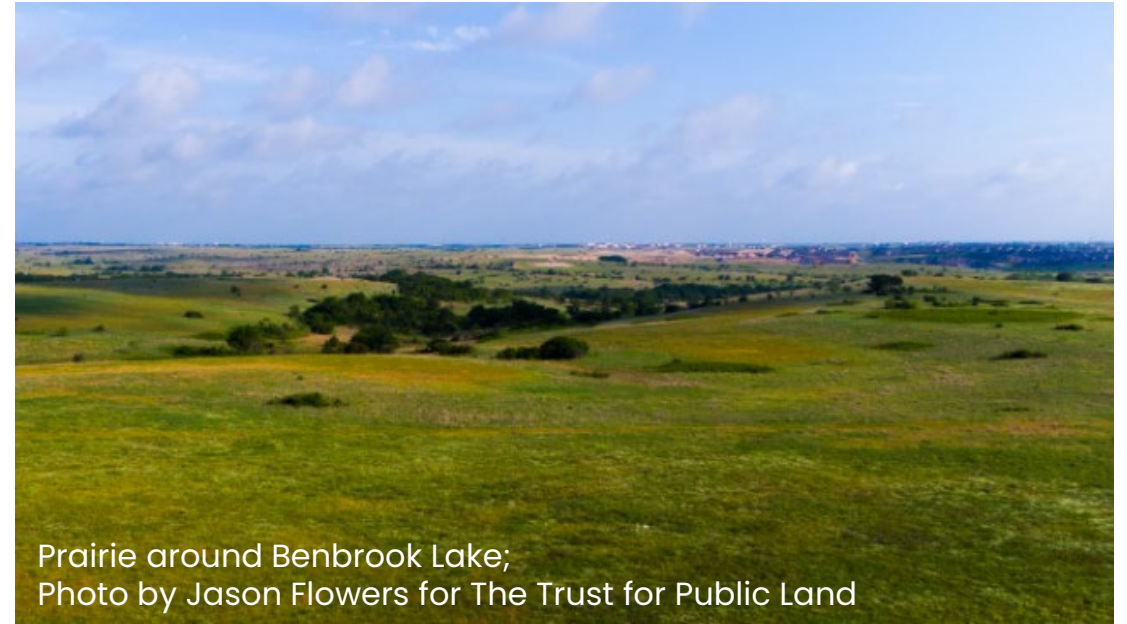
Public Engagement – Key Takeaways

Strong Public Support

- **96%** define conservation of natural areas as **“Very Important”**
- **99%** think the city should establish a **permanent program** to conserve natural areas
- **88%** strongly support **dedicating public funding** for land conservation
- **37%** willing to **volunteer**

Top Priorities

- Ecosystem Preservation
- Stream, River, and Lake Health
- Community Health



Prairie around Benbrook Lake;
Photo by Jason Flowers for The Trust for Public Land

City Code – Newly Adopted Chapter 36

Establishes rules and regulations for the City's Open Space properties:

- Hours of operation from sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise posted. These areas will not include lighting.
- Prohibiting littering, camping, fires, fireworks, swimming and alcoholic beverages – these will be pack-in, pack-out areas. We do not anticipate having trash receptacles and restroom service at this time.
- Limiting vehicles, including bicycles, to designated areas.
- Prohibiting harm to vegetation and wildlife. This includes staying on designated trails and not walking over sensitive vegetation like prairie grasses.

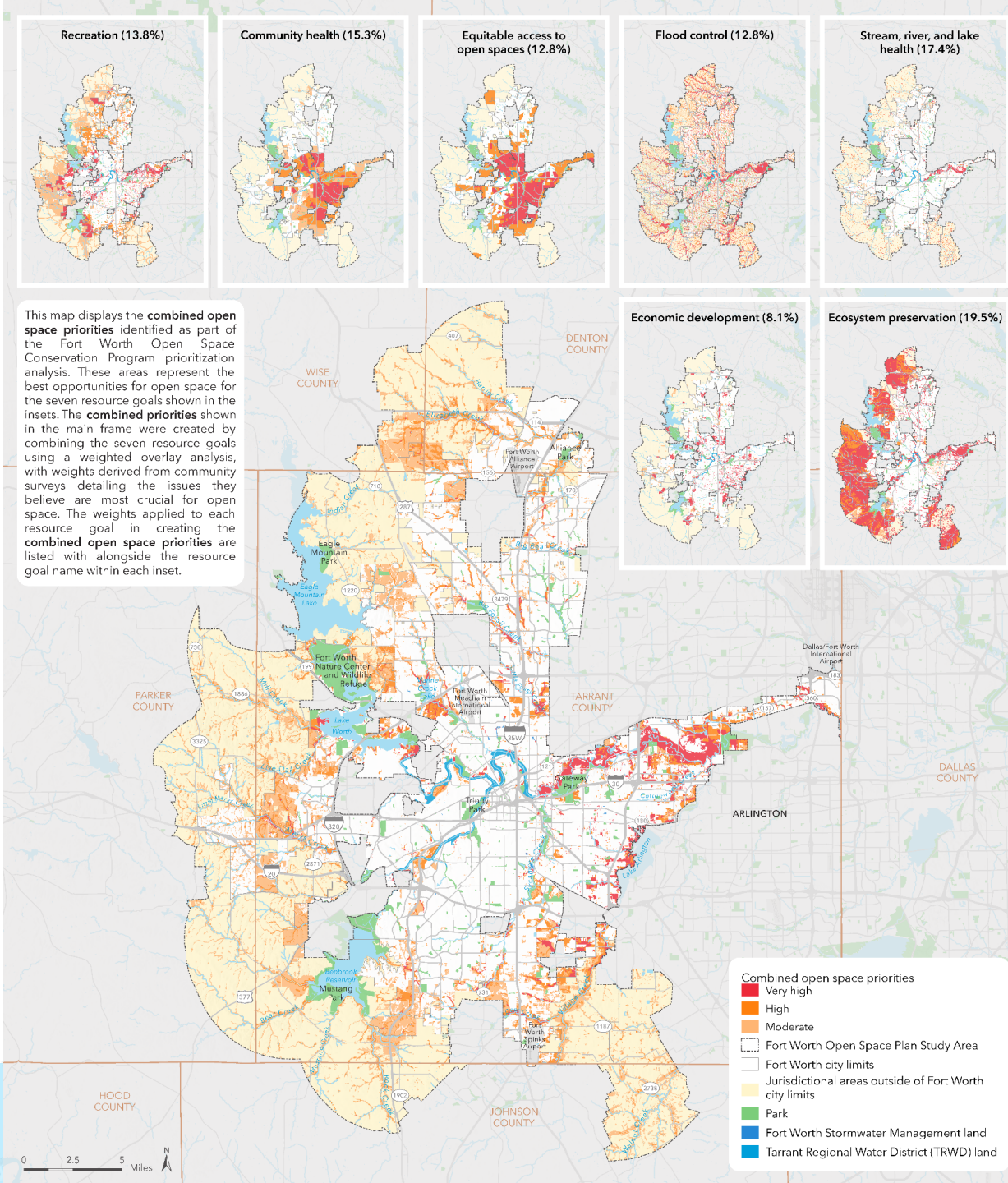
Combined Open Space Priorities

Prioritized based on feedback

- Public Survey and Meetings
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Open Space Working Group

Online Open Space Tool

- Overall Results
- Goal Area Results
- Individual Criteria



Open Space Program

Current Status:

693 acres acquired or in process

\$26,769,409 total budget

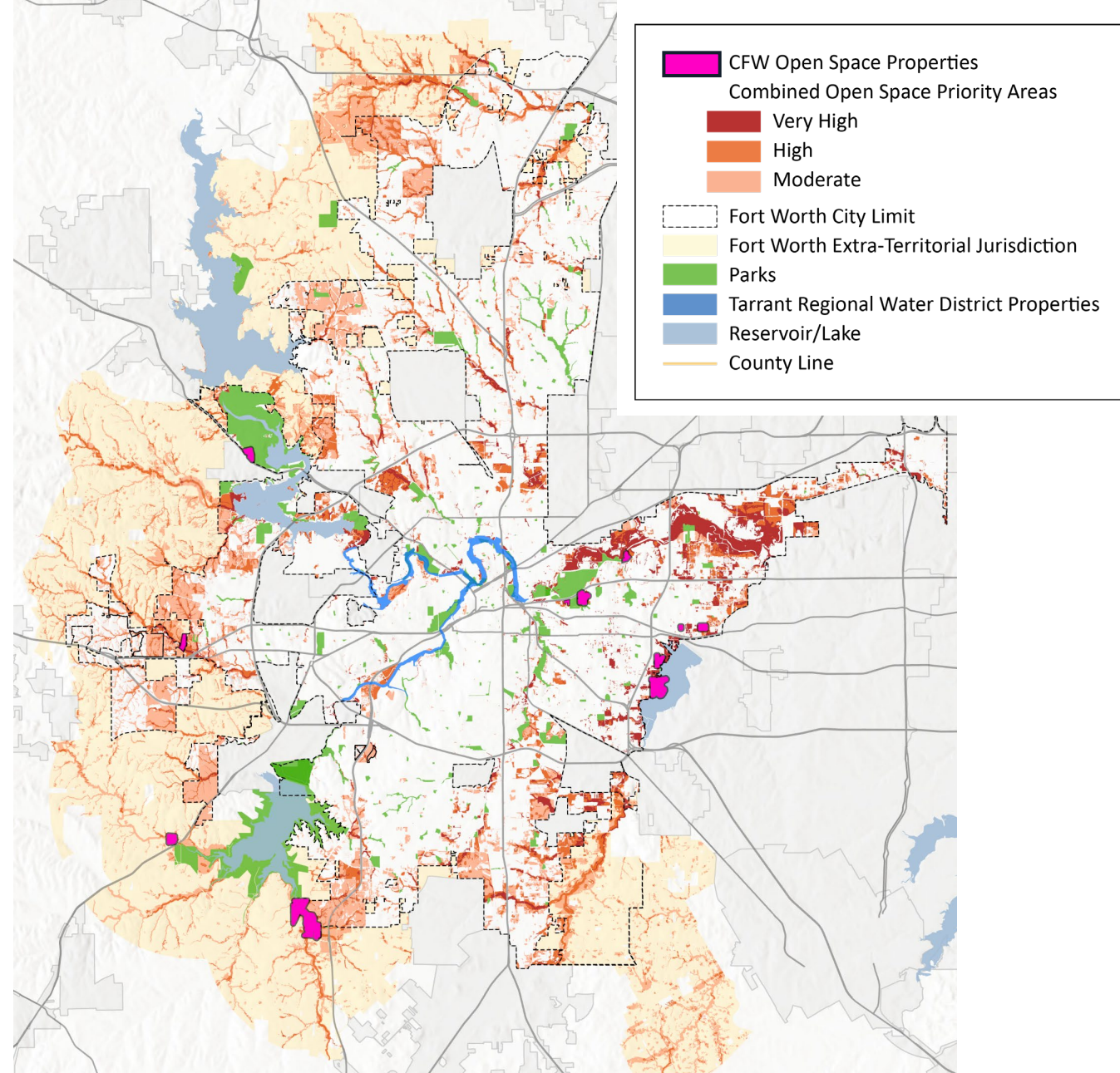
97% Spent or allocated

- Average cost – \$50k per acre
- Median cost – \$35k per acre

Leverage funding –

6 joint acquisitions with Parks

1 joint acquisition with TRWD



Open Space Program

Planning & Activation:

- Initial site reviews
- Biological site assessments and ecosystem inventory
- Strategic plan & site suitability analysis



Conservation & Activation at Broadcast Hill

2 Miles of natural trails & informational signage



Open Space Program

Natural Land Management:



Recreational Park Land

&



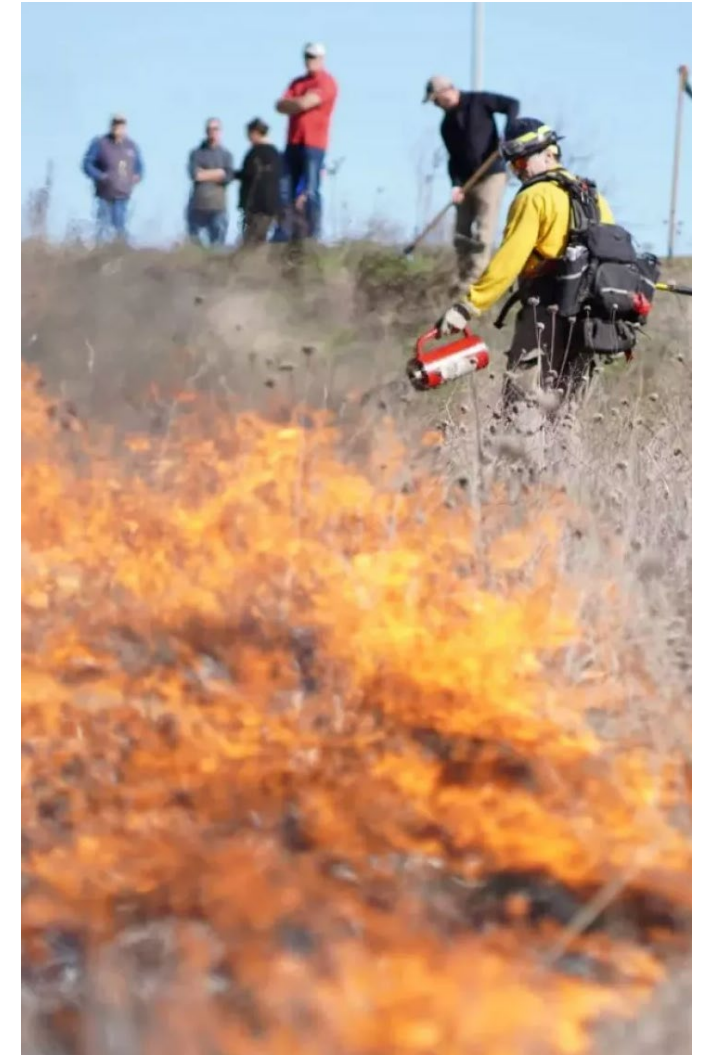
Open Space & Natural Areas



Habitat Assessment



Invasive Removal



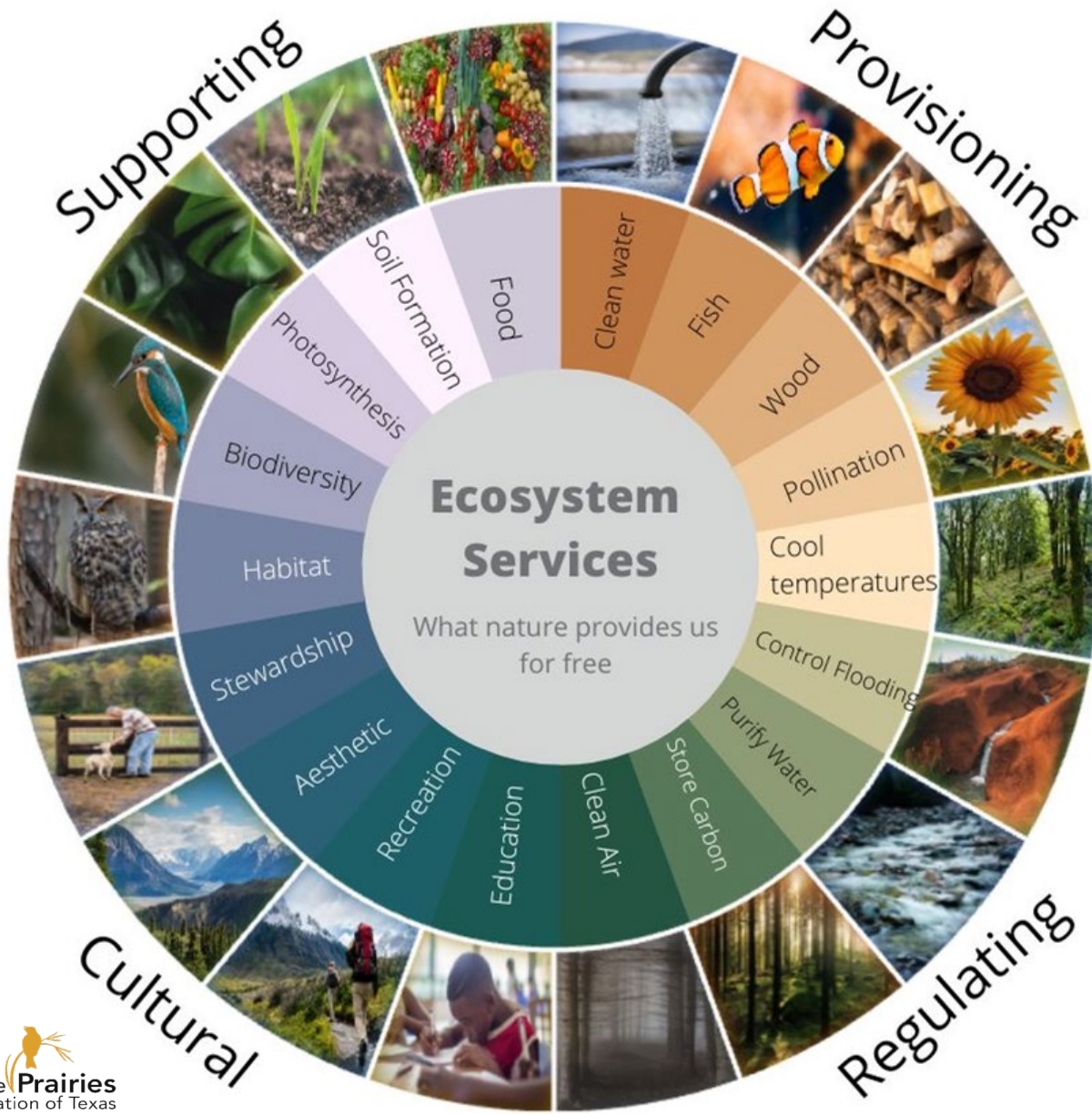
Prescribed Burns

Natural Land Management Policy

A guiding document to clearly outlines a responsible and cohesive citywide approach for long-term natural land stewardship and decision-making.

Goals & Objectives

- 1. Community Safety** – Ensuring a safe environment for residents
- 2. Resident Health & Well-Being** – Create meaningful opportunities to access to nature
- 3. Responsibility of Resources** – Prioritizing actions that deliver the greatest benefit while maximizing efficiency and long-term value.
- 4. Ecosystem Services** – support the benefits that natural systems provide



Ecosystem Services

- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Water Supply
- Mitigate Flooding Conditions
- Mitigate Urban Heat Island

Proposed Riparian Area Protections

Purpose:

To safeguard the health, safety and general welfare of residents by establishing a protected vegetative buffer zone along creeks, streams, rivers and lakeshores within the City of Fort Worth and it's ETJ.



Benefits of Protecting Riparian Areas

Helps protect people & property from flooding



Access to green space improves mental health



Provides recreation opportunities & trail connections



Stabilizes stream banks & reduces erosion



Preserves habitat & wildlife corridors



Filters pollutants & reduces sedimentation

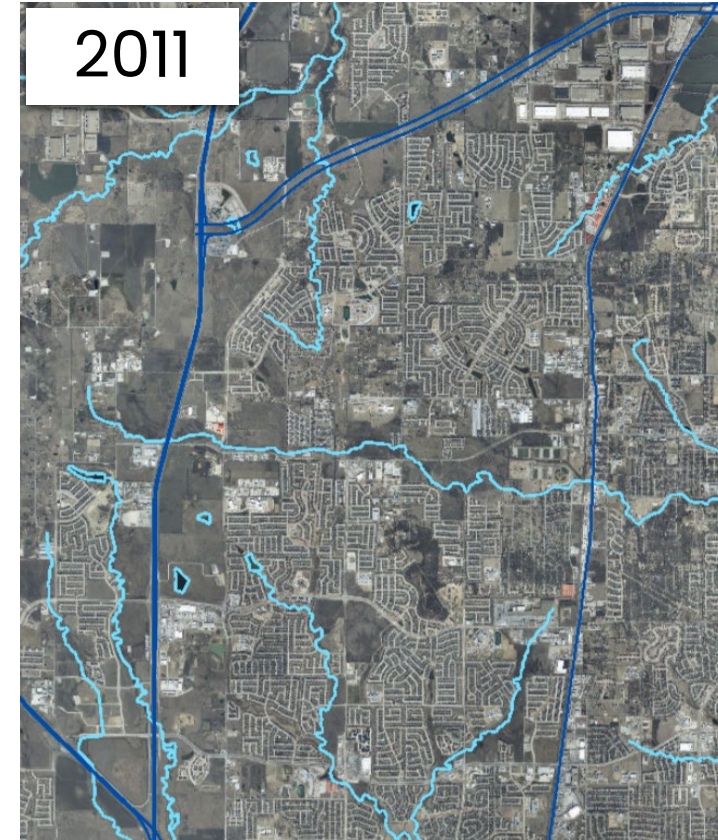
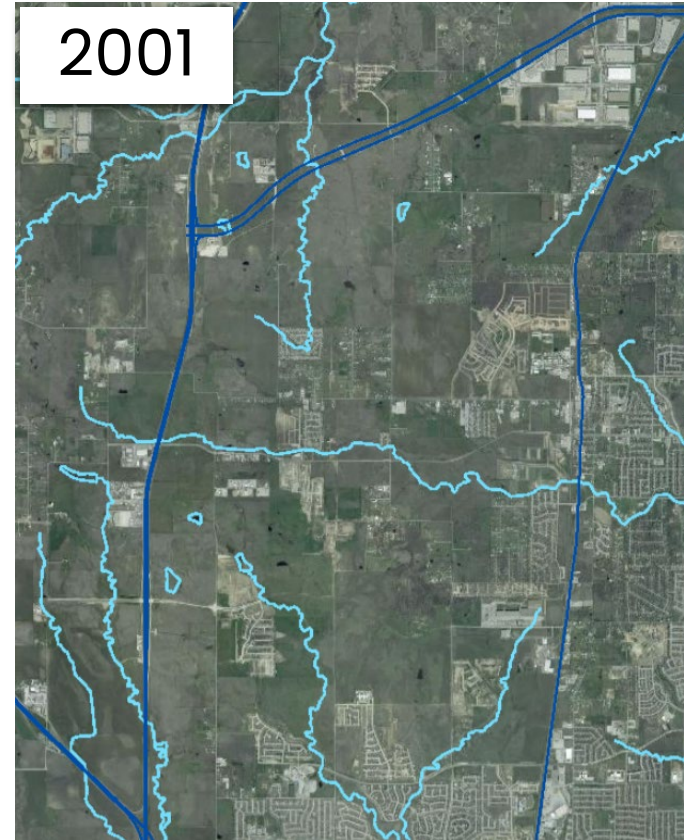


Pressures on Riparian Areas

Development increases:

- Impervious surfaces and soil compaction
- Stormwater runoff, sedimentation, and pollutants
- Stream flow velocities that can cause erosion

Extreme rainfall events in Texas are becoming more frequent and severe, and are expected to worsen in the future



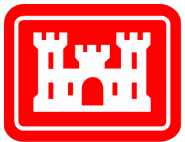
Riparian Area – Stakeholder Group

Communities & Industries

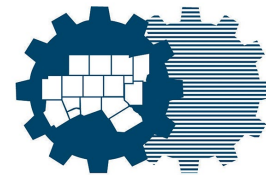
- Community Members
- Private Property Owners
- Academia
- Riparian Area & Water Specialists
- Engineers & Landscape Architects
- Development & Real Estate

Partner Agencies

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Department of Agriculture
- Texas Parks & Wildlife
- North Central Texas Council of Governments
- Tarrant Regional Water District
- Streams & Valleys



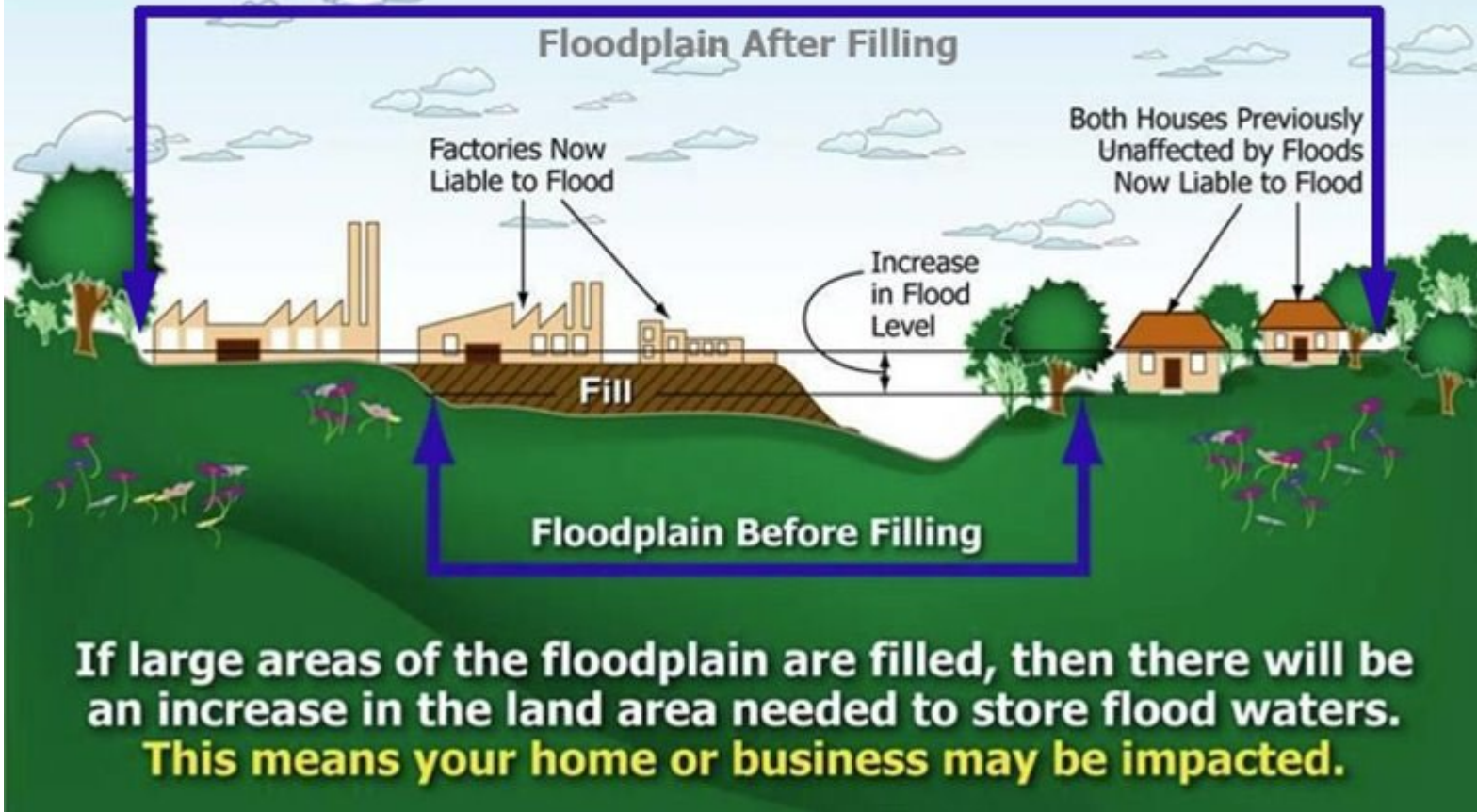
**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



**North Central Texas
Council of Governments**



Today's Floodplain Is Not Necessarily Tomorrow's Floodplain



Driver for Change

- Case study shows filling in Valley Storage increases flood risk downstream
- Frequent storms most impacted by Valley Storage losses
 - Increases flood risk
 - Increases erosion

Recommendation

- Preserve Valley Storage citywide at 1:1 ratio- No loss (0.0%) in Valley Storage

Riparian Area – Proposed Buffer Size

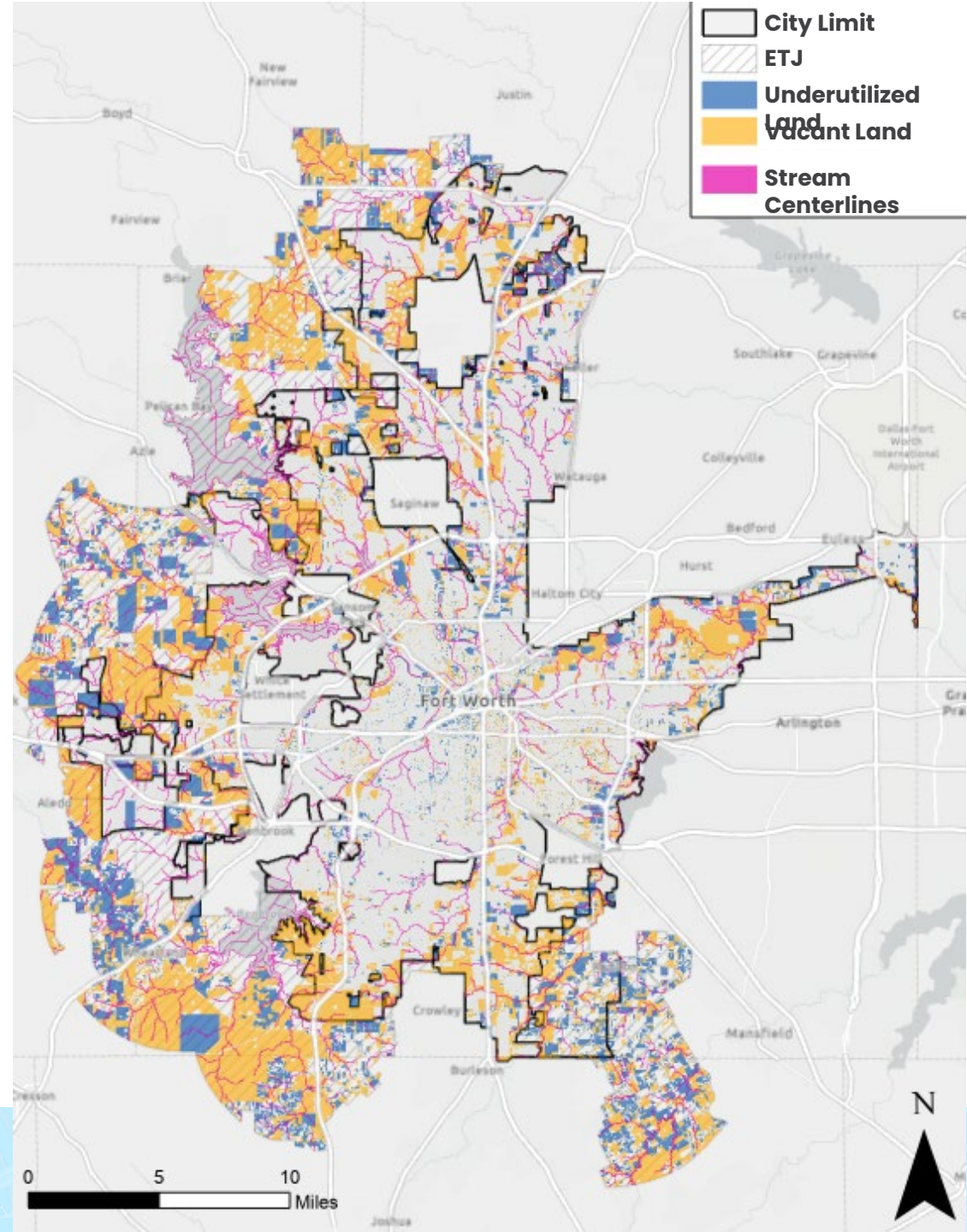
33,951 acres – Total Developable Land in City Limits & ETJ

Current Proposed Buffer Size:

- FEMA Floodplain or 100ft from centerline, whichever is greater
- Includes **15,839.8 acres** of “Developable Land” within City Limits (note that **5,023 acres are not** in the floodway)

Exemptions:

- Utilities, access roads and bridges, trails, stormwater outfalls & infrastructure, kayak/watercraft launches & ephemeral streams



Riparian Area – Anticipated Outcomes

- Adopt a **Riparian Area Ordinance** that implements a protection buffer zone and is seamlessly incorporated into the city's development process
- Provide a clear **map of the buffer area** for developers, residents and City staff
- Provide a clear overlay map showing where **administrative relief** can apply
- **Update manuals, ordinances, and policies** & other applicable development criteria



Thank you!

Contacts

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Senior Planner: Brandi.Kelp@fortworthtexas.gov

Resources

Good Natured: fortworthtexas.gov/departments/citymanager/departments-divisions/fw-good-natured-initiative

Open Space: fortworthtexas.gov/departments/parks/services/fort-worth-open-space-conservation-program

