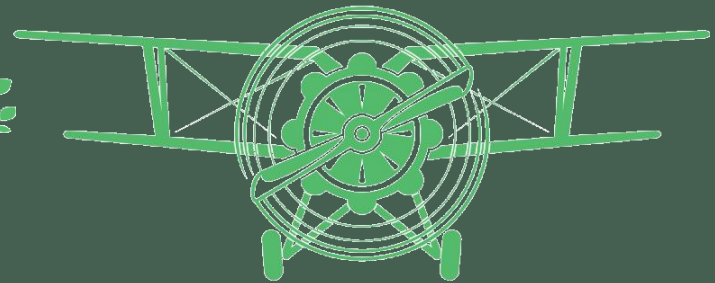


HARTLEE FIELD STATE PARK

Economics &
Ecosystems



Overview

DFW Metroplex Parkland Acquisition Through Centennial Fund: Hartlee Field State Park

- **Need & Goals** for parkland in the DFW metroplex
- **Proposal:** Hartlee Field State Park
- **Description** of the Hartlee Region
 - Environments, Ecosystems, & Flood mitigation
 - Historical Assets
- **Opportunities for** Recreation and Revenue
- **Access** and Availabilities to DFW communities
- **Community Support**
 - Neighbors want this
 - Local elected officials supporting
 - Willing Seller
- **Request for Support**
 - Create Hartlee Field State Park
 - Engage the Metroplex Community and State

NEEDS & GOALS:

Increase Texas Public Park Lands and Conserve Resources

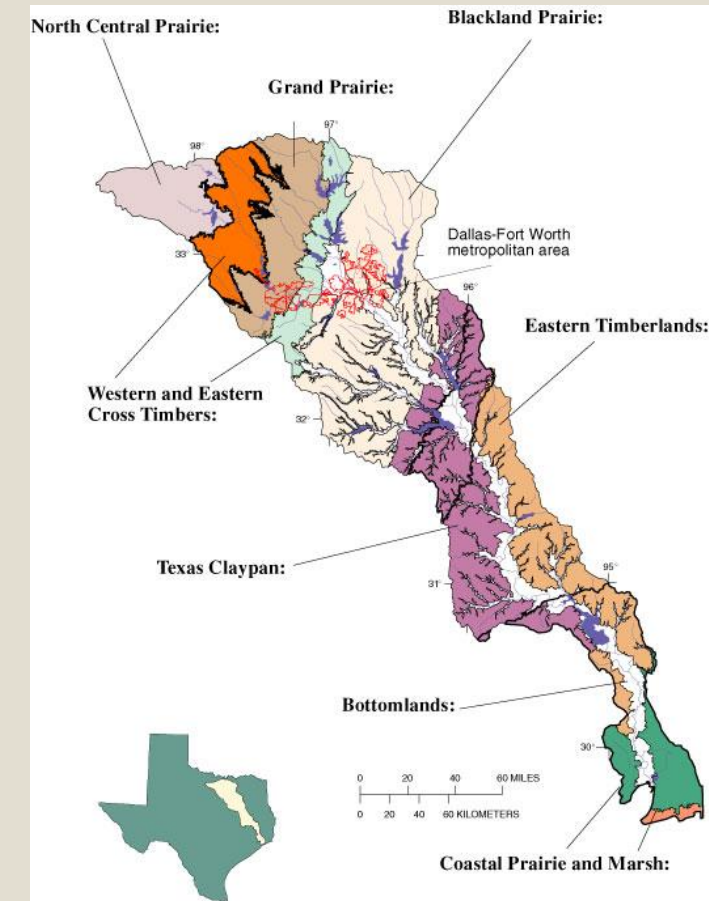
- **Texas lags behind most other states in state parkland**
 - Ranks 35th/50 in the nation for state park acreage per capita
 - Only ~636,000 acres of parkland for a population of over 29 million (2019)
 - Texas needs to add 1.4 million acres of state parks by 2030 to meet the needs of its residents.
 - 83.7% of the Texas population lives in urban areas, so parkland convenient to these population centers is critical
- **Senate Bill 1648 , Senate Joint Resolution 74, Senator Parker's Proposition 14**
 - Created a **Centennial Parks Conservation Fund**
 - Invest \$1 billion
 - Solely to buy more land for the state parks system.
 - **Proposition 14:** "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks."
 - Broad bipartisan support in both the legislature and voters
- **Governor Abbott**
 - Called for an increase in the budget for state parks
- **House Bill 3165 & House Joint Resolution 138**
 - Passed House, nearly passed Senate
 - Would create a conservation fund that would provide grants to preserve water resources as well as local and state parks

Locations: Texas Public Park Land Opportunities

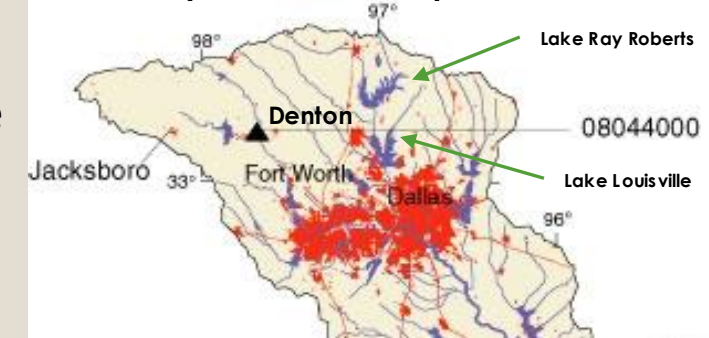


- **Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex Growth**
 - Annual population growth: **8.64%**
 - 2030 population projections: **9 Million**
 - Texas Parks near the metroplex: **only 8**
 - *~1.1 million people per park*
- **Opportunities for large parkland are dwindling as cities build out**
 - Dallas County: **77%** built-out
 - Tarrant County: **70%** built-out
 - City of Denton: **75%** built-out
- **What undeveloped land can serve as parkland for DFW?**
 - Parkland is often located in riparian river basins, like the **Trinity River basin**
 - The "**Green Belt**" between Lake Ray Roberts and Lake Lewisville provides a unique location and opportunity for the DFW metroplex.

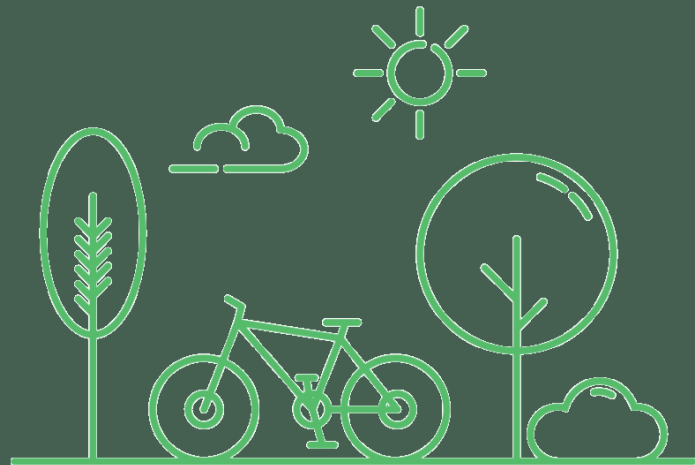
Trinity River Basin Ecosystems



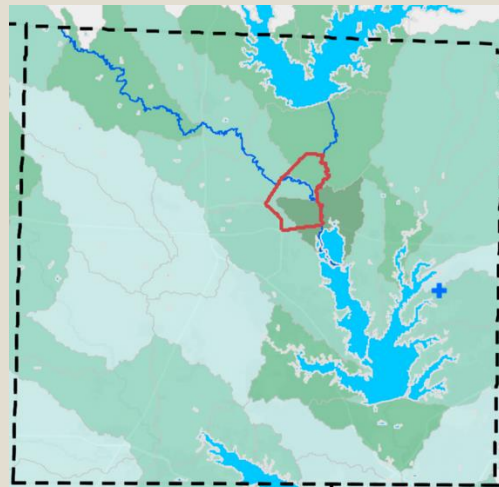
Trinity River Basin: Population Centers



Proposal: Hartlee Field State Park



- **Proposal:**
 - **HARTLEE FIELD STATE PARK**
 - ~827 acre historical and nature preserve expanding existing TPWD, Denton County, and City of Denton resources.



Community Vision for Preservation of Historical Hartlee Field & NE Denton

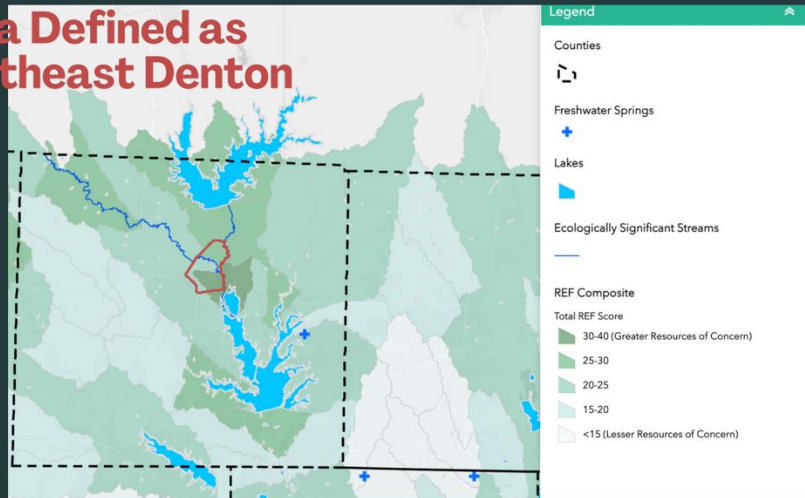


Figure 2. Preliminary plan

Ecological Assets



Area Defined as Northeast Denton



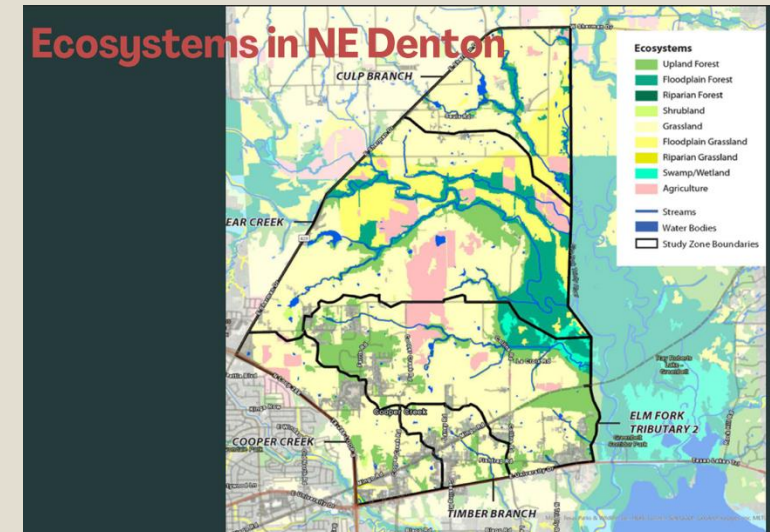
• Description of Region:

- Minimally-developed Trinity River:Elm Fork riparian basin
 - Connects Lake Ray Roberts State Park, USACE lands, the “GreenBelt”, City of Denton Clear Creek Park, and Lake Lewisville
- Most ecologically diverse region in DFW as measured by NCTCOG *Regional Ecosystem Framework (REF)*.
 - REF Score = 35
 - 11 different ecosystems

Species diversity:

- 450 species of birds
- 73 species of mammals
- 5,584 species of insects
 - (51 species of bees and 1,660 species of butterflies and moths alone)
- 90 species of reptiles
- 46 species of amphibians
- 3,300 species of plants

Ecosystems in NE Denton



Ecological Assets:

Flood mitigation



- **Stormwater Flooding Mitigation:**
- Area **Critical** to Trinity basin flood control management in Denton County and the DFW metroplex
 - Ranked highest priority for preservation in Denton County's 30-year plan

PRIORITY WATERSHEDS AND STREAMS

In the planning area, forty-one sub-watersheds to the Elm Fork of the Trinity River contribute flow directly to the three Denton County reservoirs. Within those 41 sub-watersheds, there are 73 named streams including the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. Each of the named streams, their tributaries, and their watersheds were ranked based on a high, medium, or low priority status, which translates to a timeline for implementing the Plan. The planning horizon associated with the prioritization rankings is:

1. High – 1-10 years
2. Medium – 10-20 years
3. Low – 20 years and beyond

Of the 41 sub-watersheds, 11 were ranked as high priority; and, of the 73 named streams, 26 were identified as high priority streams. Figure ES-5 shows the priority status associated with the 41 sub-watersheds and the 73 named streams and their tributaries. As shown, the majority of the high priority watersheds and streams are near the three major reservoirs and the major urban centers within Denton County.

The existing Greenbelts and Greenbelt Opportunities were then overlaid onto the prioritized watersheds and streams. This helps to identify the greenbelts in need of protection and/or preservation. Figure ES-6, on the following page, shows the highest priority watershed with existing Greenbelts and Greenbelt Opportunities identified. Each of the 41 sub-watersheds are identified in the Appendices with the existing Greenbelts and Greenbelt Opportunities shown.

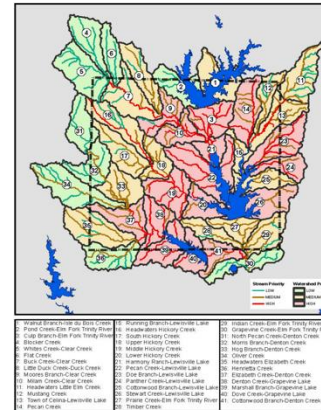
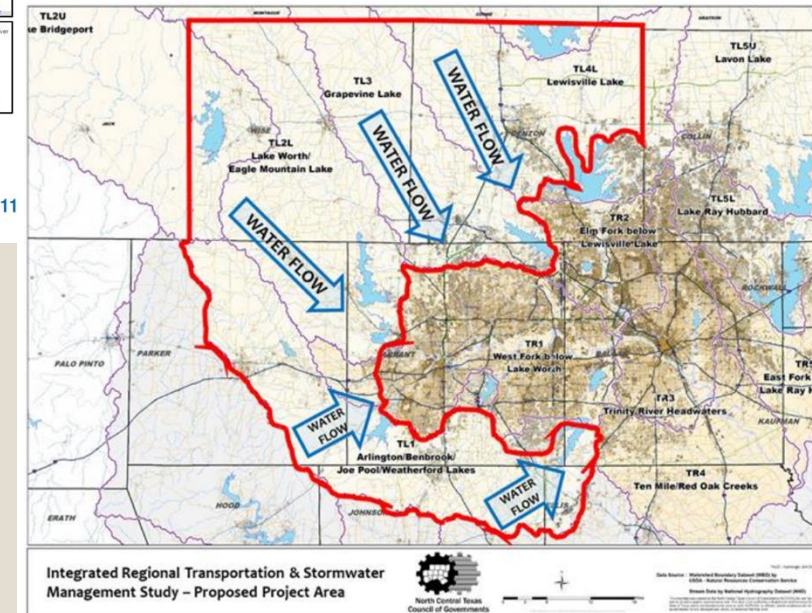


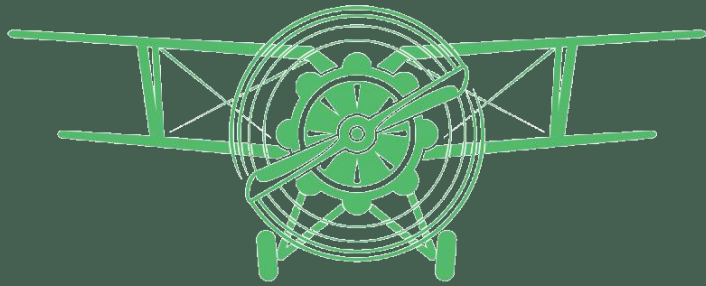
Figure ES-5 Watershed Priority Status

11

“The Trinity River flow is strongly influenced by both natural and anthropogenic sources. The basin provides drinking water for approximately half of the State’s population, including the Dallas Fort-Worth (DFW) metropolitan area to the north, as well as Houston to the south (Trinity River Authority 2007, Jamie Baxter-Slye 2013).”



Historical Assets



- **Archaeology & Paleontology:**

- *"The estimated age for the occupations at Aubrey of 11,565 bp makes Aubrey the oldest Clovis [Paleoindian] site known thus far from anywhere in North America"*
- *"Extraordinary fossil record underfoot (saber-tooth tigers, etc.) is exposed at the escarpment where the prairie drops into the bottomland forest of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River."*
- <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/tr/pdf/ADA391588.pdf>

- **Historic Hartlee Field**

- Flight training facility for WWII glider pilots
- 4000+ pilots trained

- **Cooper Creek historic settlement**

- **Denton County "Poor Farm"**

- **Cemetery Preservation**
 - 2 cemeteries in Cooper Creek
 - 1 slave cemetery found near Deerwood neighborhood

NE Denton's Historic Hartlee Field

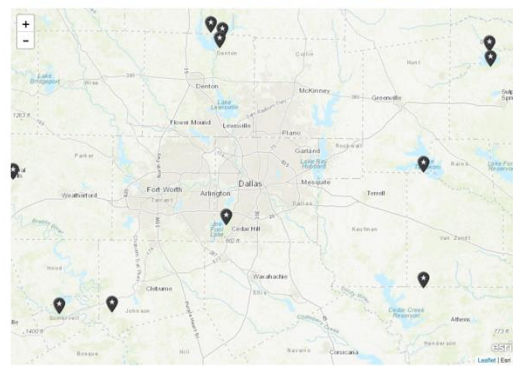


On Sept. 22, 1942, Hartlee Field opened as a World War II cadet flight training academy with two grass turf runways and a third landing strip. A year later, Harte's Flying Service was one of 11 centers contracted to train Army glider pilots, training more than 4,000 World War II pilots for the 17th Glider Training Detachment. Cadets lived in NTSTC's Chilton Hall.

Recreational Opportunities

Parks Near Dallas & Fort Worth

View: All Parks | Abilene | Austin | Dallas / Fort Worth | El Paso | Houston | Lubbock | San Angelo | San Antonio

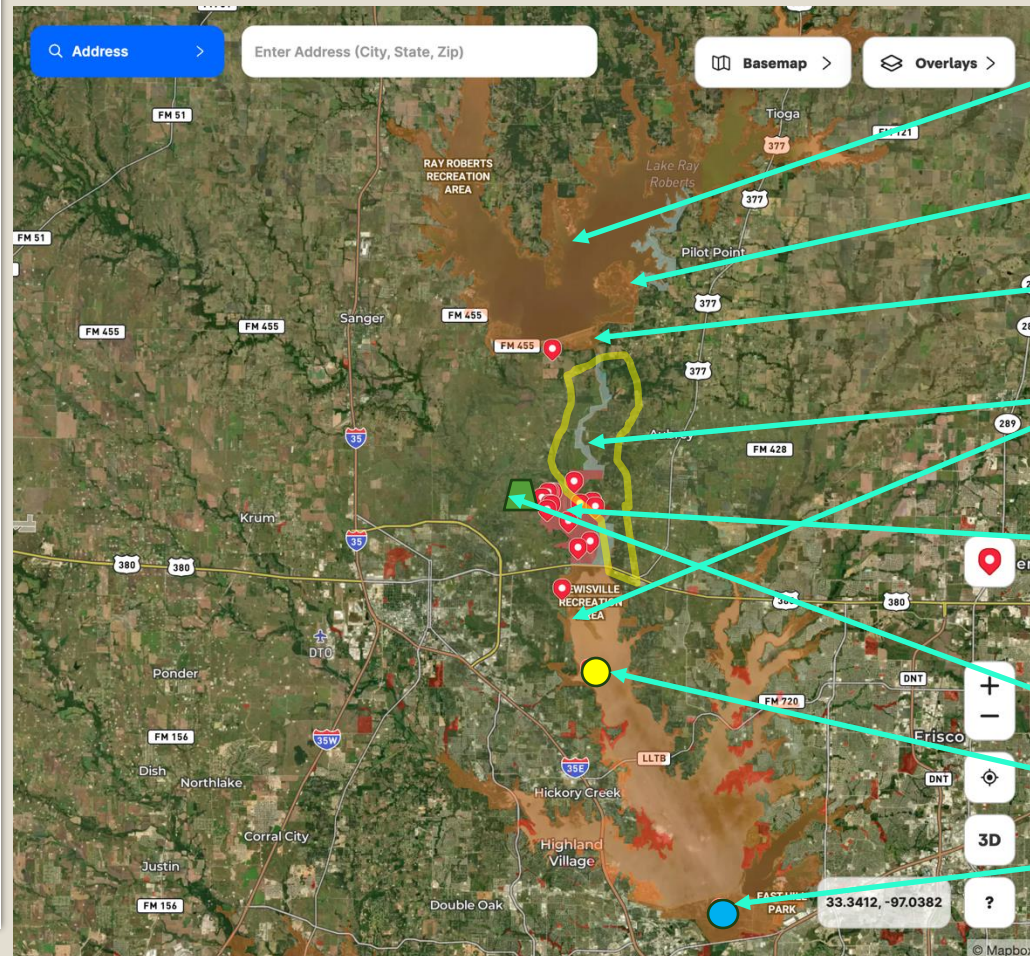


TPWD:
Nearby Parks

Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center



- Connection Creates **Contiguous** Regional Recreational Synergy
 - TPWD
 - Ray Roberts, Elm Fork/GreenBelt, Lewisville Areas/LLELA, **HARTLEE FIELD PARK**
 - **Camping, Fishing Boating, Hiking, Hunting**
 - **City of Denton:** Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center, Mountain Bike Trails, Canoe/Paddle Trail, **Needs Camping**
 - A Hartlee Field Park could expand local opportunities for relationships with Boy and Girl Scouts for camping.
 - **Camp Compass**
 - Potential for **Expansion** in **USACE** property and local **flood plain** parcels (see last slides)
 - **Opportunities for stakeholder value preservation through land trusts, easements, and eco-tourism**



Ray Roberts:
Johnson Branch

Ray Roberts:
Isle Du Bois

Ray Roberts:
Elm Fork

USACE

City of Denton:

- Clear Creek
- Mountain Bike
- Paddle Trail

Hartlee Field

Camp Compass

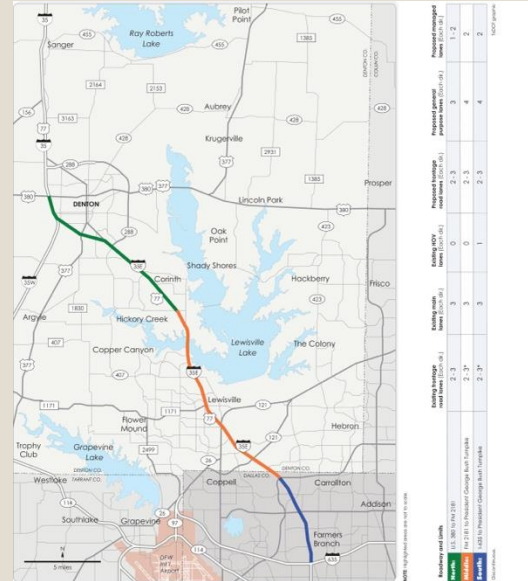
LLELA Nature Preserve

Future expansion

Access by DFW communities

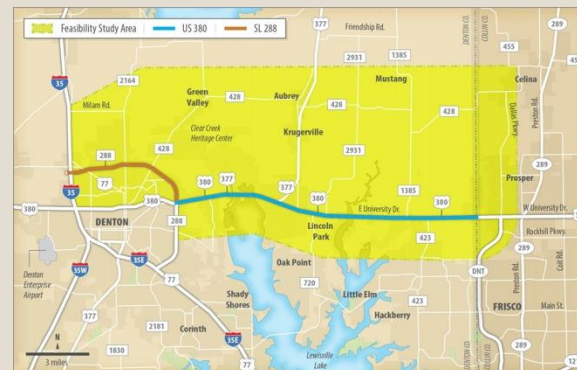


- Easy Access to DFW communities
- I-35E & I-35W expansions fully extended to Denton



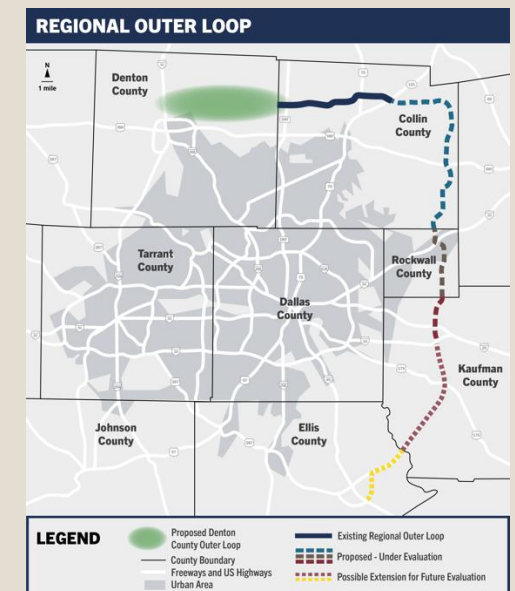
https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/dal/i35e/segment_map.jpg

- Outerloop and US-380 expansions will provide direct connection to the Hartlee Field Region



<https://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/projects/us-highways/us-380-denton-county-feasibility-study>

<https://burnsmcd.mysocialpinpoint.com/dentoncountyouterloop/home>



Community Support



- **Hartlee Field Communities Support Development of a Park**
 - Northeast Denton Neighborhood Association (NEDNA)
 - 100+ Members
 - Regional support on Social Media:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofnedenton>
 - Created proposal which was used as the genesis of the City of Denton's Northeast Denton Comprehensive Area Plan
 - <https://www.discussdenton.com/northeast-denton-area-plan>
 - Developed mockup of Hartlee Field State Park Brochure to demonstrate community support and regional opportunities
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oLK7cnDm2Rh_bc3ysjsFwet9eGLLLhKB/view



- Current landowners at both Hartlee Field and in the Elm Fork Bottom basin region are interested in opportunities to develop park land while maintaining value through **land acquisition, land trusts, and conservation easements. They are willing sellers.**
- **Local elected officials are assisting** the community in raising awareness of this unique but vanishing opportunity.

NEXT STEPS: Call to action



- **How can you help?**

- The community needs support and advice from local elected officials and community leaders to:

- **Recognize**

- the importance of preserving **Ecological, Historical, and Stormwater Management** properties in this region before they are gone
- the **value proposition** for recreation, eco-tourism, land-valuations, and related sales & property revenue that preservation will bring to the DFW metroplex

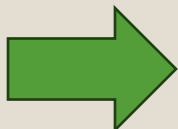
- **Vocalize and Authorize support**

- **Officially request TPWD to use the Centennial Fund** to expand into this region through land acquisition, trusts, and conservation easements

- **Engage in proactive education, outreach, and public engagement**

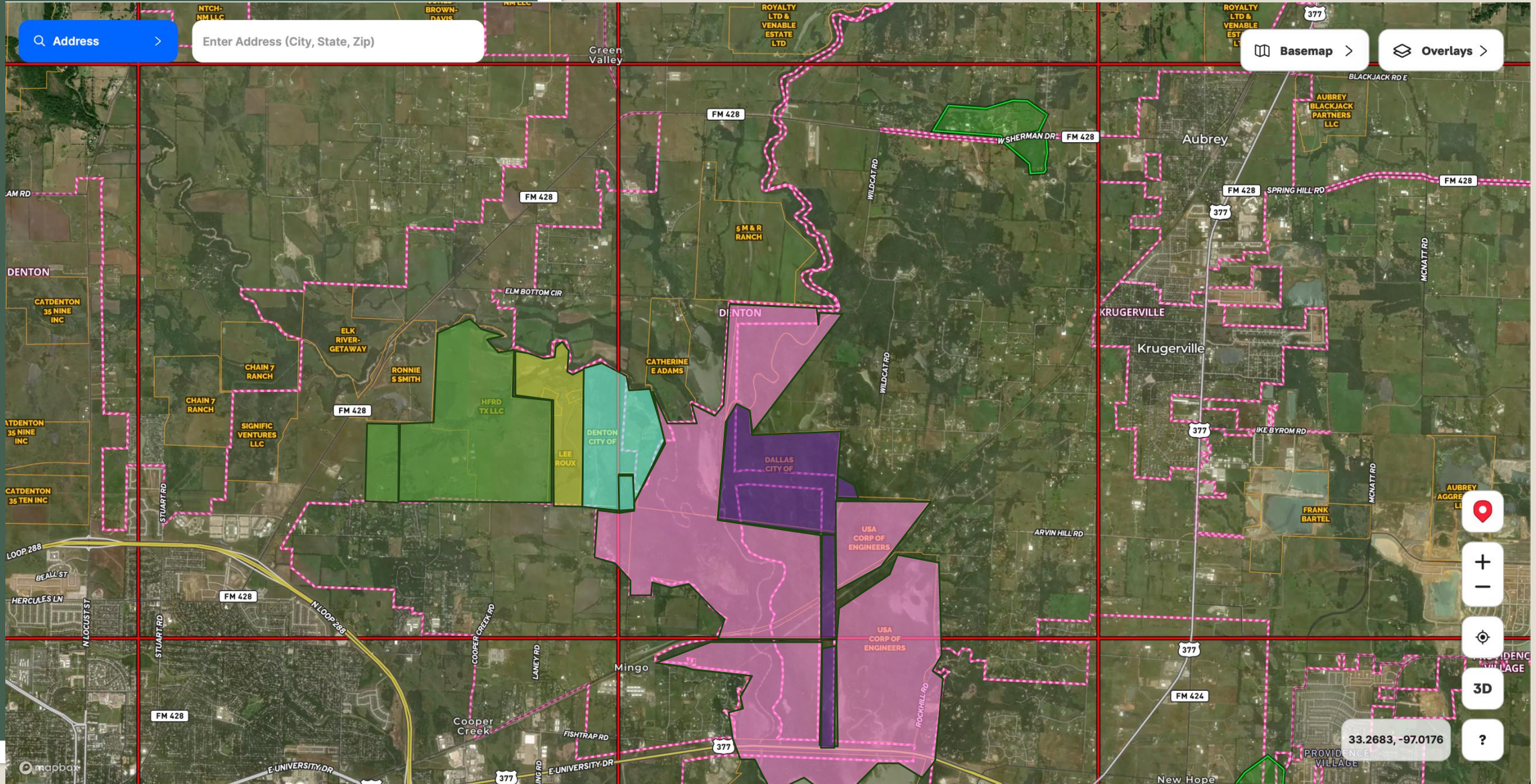
- Help expand awareness to residents, community leaders, educational institutions, and businesses

- **Work with local elected officials**



Park Expansion

- Potential for **Expansion** in **USACE**, CoDenton, CoDallas parcels
- **Orion: 827 ac** , **Roux 246**, **CoDenton 330**, **CoDallas 684**, **USACE 3262**
- Potential for Park : **5348** (or **6213** with USACE to Dam, next slide)



Park Expansion

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- **Potential for Park : 5348 or 6213 with USACE to Dam)**

