

**FACT SHEET**  
**THE CORPS' DALLAS FLOODWAY EXTENSION PROJECT**  
**(November 9, 2005)**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION.** The Corps' Dallas Floodway Extension (DFE) Project was authorized by Congress for construction in 1965. From 1991-1996, the DFE Project was refined with heavy public involvement to more specifically meet the needs of Dallas. The Chain of Wetlands and the levees portions of the DFE Project were approved by City Council on August 28, 1996, and March 26, 1997, respectively. The Corps' Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was produced in February 1999, and was finalized (Record of Decision) in December 1999. City and Corps' officials signed a Project Cooperation Agreement in December 2001 that outlines the fiscal and project responsibilities for project construction. The Corps produced a Supplement to the EIS that was finalized and submitted to the Federal District Court in Fort Worth in November 2003 in response to a Court injunction on DFE construction. The Court lifted its injunction on the Corps on May 5, 2004. As of November 2005, the Corps has completed demolition of the clubhouse at the Sleepy Hollow Golf Course, removed structures from the Cody property at the south end of Lamar Street, and completed construction of Wetland Cell D that is adjacent to I-45.

**CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.** Congressional legislation in the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 established that the cost (\$22.2 million) for portions of the City's levee construction (Rochester Park and the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant levees) that is compatible with the authorized DFE project would be credited back to the City as part of the project cost sharing for construction of the DFE Project. The Water Resources Development Act of 1999 provided Congressional legislation that added environmental restoration and recreation as project purposes to the original 1965 project authorizing language.

The Corps received \$2 million of "new start" construction funds for the DFE Project in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 budget year. Additionally, Congress appropriated \$10 million in FY2002, \$9.7 million in FY2003, \$9.3 million in FY2004, \$12.5 million in FY2005 and \$11.25 million for FY2006 for the DFE project. Each of these funded budget years has required the use of statutory ("Act") language to continue construction, design and environmental investigations for the overall project.

**PROJECT SCOPE.** The DFE Project includes a Chain of Wetlands that will have an average width of 600 feet and will provide secondary flowage capacity for flood waters along the west side of the Trinity River from the Dallas Floodway to Loop 12 (about 4 miles in length). The 170 surface acres of wetlands will not only provide for additional flood conveyance, but they also will include environmental restoration attributes to enhance ecological value.

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The Lamar Levee will connect the Dallas Floodway East Levee with the Rochester Park Levee located about 3.5 miles downstream. The Lamar Levee will be located along the east bank of the Trinity River, near and parallel (just west) with the Southern Pacific Railroad.

The Cadillac Heights Levee (west side of river) will extend about 2 miles from the vicinity of Cedar Creek (near Moore Park) to the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant and then tie into high ground near Kiest Boulevard and McGowan Road.

In the vicinity of IH-45 and the Trinity River, a 3,000-foot river realignment will place the Trinity River through an existing wider span of the IH-45 Bridge.

The DFE Project will also consist of an environmental mitigation plan to totally offset environmental impacts. This plan will involve the acquisition of 1,179 acres of bottomland hardwood and grasslands for preservation and enhancement.

The recreation component of the DFE Project will include about 31.5 miles of trails (hard surface, primitive, and equestrian), and corridor access facilities.

**PROJECT COSTS.**

	<u>City of Dallas</u>	<u>Corps</u>	<u>Total</u>
Flood Control	\$ -	\$87,240,300	\$ 87,240,300
Levee Credit	- 22,200,000	22,200,000	-
Cultural Resource	-	885,800	885,800
Lands, Relocations	38,947,600	-	38,947,600
Environmental Restoration	2,185,300	4,058,400	6,243,700
Recreation	3,741,300	3,741,300	7,482,600
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Total Project Cost	\$22,674,200	\$118,125,800	\$140,800,000

**BENEFITS.** The DFE Project will reduce flood elevations within the existing Dallas Floodway such that the existing levees can pass a 500-year flood event without overtopping. Currently, these levees only provide 300-year protection to the downtown Dallas vicinity. The DFE Project will provide Standard Project Flood (SPF) protection (800-year protection) for the Lamar area, Cadillac Heights, and Rochester Park. The project will also increase flood protection for the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant Levee from a 140-year level to a 500-year level.

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Approximately 10,000 structures will experience reduced flood risk in the downtown Dallas vicinity (both sides of the existing Dallas Floodway). An additional 2,500 structures will have increased flood protection along the southern Trinity River corridor within Dallas, downstream of the existing Dallas Floodway. The DFE Project will prevent in excess of \$8 billion of flood damages in the event that a SPF flood should occur.

The environmental mitigation plan will augment the City's pursuit to preserve a large forest, the Great Trinity Forest, in the midst of the City's dense population. The project's 31.5 miles of trail system will provide significant recreation benefits and public access to the river corridor. The Chain of Wetlands will provide ecological and wildlife value to the river corridor.

The river realignment at the IH-45 Bridge will eliminate a near-term need for replacement of the bridge, which is part of the Transportation System for National Defense.

<u><b>DFE PROJECT COMPONENT</b></u>	<u><b>SCHEDULE</b></u>	
	<u>Initiate</u>	<u>Complete</u>
Wetland plantings for Cell D	Oct 2006	June 2006
Construction for Lower Chain of Wetlands (IH-45 to Loop 12), plus river realignment	Aug 2005	Jul 2008
Construction for Upper Chain of Wetlands plus levees	Jan 2008	Jan 2012
Complete environmental mitigation and recreation	ongoing	Jan 2012

**CURRENT STATUS**

In August 2005, the Corps awarded a \$26 million construction contract to T.J. Lambrecht for wetland cells E, F, and G, that will extend from SH-310 to Loop-12. The construction contract for these 107 acres of wetlands will also include a river realignment at IH-45 in an effort to address hydraulic problems with the IH-45 bridge. The construction contract is expected to be completed by summer 2008.

The Corps of Engineers continues design efforts for the Upper Chain of Wetlands component, the Lamar Levee, and the Cadillac Heights Levee. The environmental mitigation plan is just beginning to be formulated and designed, which will include region-wide input. The recreation plan should start design by 2007. The City continues to pick up the required real estate to facilitate the footprint for the DFE Project. Real estate acquisition, relocations, and utilities work should be completed by the City by 2008.