

JOINING FORCES

READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM MARCH 2024

REPI EFFORTS

The 2018 Joint Land Use Study recommended to explore REPI Program opportunities for military- and conservation-based projects within areas around Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth and/ or near off-base training areas. Though much of the land surrounding NAS JRB Fort Worth is developed, there are areas that could be explored to be kept as open space or to be protected by conservation easements or acquisition.

Meetings were held with the prior NAS JRB Fort Worth Community Planning Liaison Officer and the City of Fort Worth in late 2022. Fort Worth had recently approved an Open Space Plan (<u>Fort Worth Open Space Conservation Program – Welcome to the City of Fort Worth (fortworthtexas.gov)</u>¹) and had developed a tool to prioritize open space to acquire or secure in perpetuity through easements. Due to other priorities and a new CPLO getting up to speed, work slowed for a period of time.

In the interim, project staff worked on developing a methodology (discussed in a separate white paper) for the Strategic Parcel Acquisition and Reuse Program which would prioritize parcels of compatibility concern. The intent is to use this program to identify parcels which would be most appropriate for REPI in the future.

During 2023, the CPLO for NAS JRB Fort Worth began having discussions regarding REPI. One set of discussions was with the Trust for Public Lands, an entity that acts alongside the military to reach out to landowners and hold conservation easements. The other discussions were with the Navy and other Navy bases in Texas to enter into one agreement for all Texas Navy bases with the REPI program and TPL. Project staff entered these discussions as well and may become party to the agreement.

Discussions are still ongoing and the agreement is anticipated in the first half of 2024. The initial area is likely to be a 5-mile radius around NAS JRB Fort Worth. When parcels are prioritized, a combination of the Fort Worth Open Space Plan and the NCTCOG SPARP prioritization will likely be used. Priority parcels include the Hawk's Creek Golf Course in Westworth Village and open space to the north of NAS JRB Fort Worth.