

North Central Texas Council of Governments

North Central Texas Watershed Stakeholders Meeting

March 26, 2024

Alyssa Knox, Environment and Development Planner II

aknox@nctcog.org

This project was funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



www.nctcog.org/WaterResources

Housekeeping Items

- Please remember to fill out the sign-in sheet in the back and take an agenda
- Refreshments are available in the back
- Please silence cell phones and other devices
- Restrooms and emergency exits

Today's Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Presentation - Trinity River National Water Trail Master Plan

- Erin Blackman, Environment and Development Planner III
NCTCOG

Roundtable Discussion

- Attendees will have the opportunity to share current water quality activities or information and identify any areas of collaboration.

NCTCOG Updates

- Alyssa Knox, NCTCOG

Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Introductions

Trinity River National Water Trail Master Plan

Erin Blackman, NCTCOG

Trinity River National Water Trail Master Plan

March 26, 2024

North Central Texas Watershed Stakeholders Meeting



Background

- ▶ 130 miles of the Upper Trinity River was designated as a National Water Trail in 2020
- ▶ NCTCOG via the Trinity River National Water Trail Task Force supports Trinity Coalition's efforts to:
 - ▶ maintain this designation
 - ▶ partner with organizations and communities along the Water Trail



Master Plan

- Identify long-range actions that advance:
 - Tourism
 - Recreation
 - Economic Development
- Provide resources to help communities maintain and develop the Water Trail



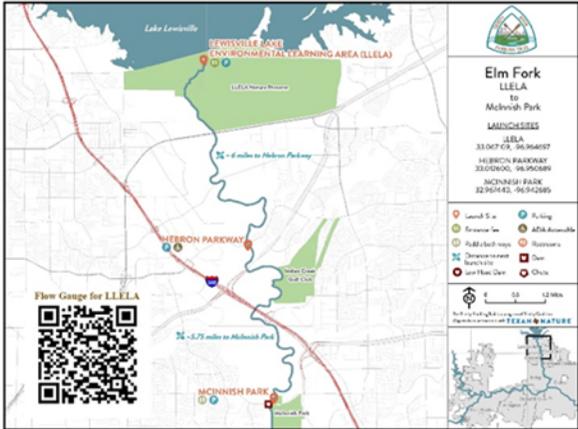
Master Plan Blueprint & Timeline



Stakeholder Meetings

- NCTCOG met with 12 stakeholders (i.e., cities, counties, nonprofits)
- Sought feedback on:
 - Goals for the Trinity River Corridor
 - Points of interest to highlight
 - Challenges and opportunities (e.g., design standards, maintenance, signage, safety, etc.)

Trinity River Paddling Trail
Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area



Current location: LLELA
Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area
DD: 33.067109° - 96.964697°

Next Take-out: Hebron Parkway Rd
~6 miles / ~2.5 hrs
DD: 33.012600° - 96.950689°

This section has Cell coverage. In case of emergency call 911. River section LLELA to Huffines Park at Hebron Parkway, Lewisville

River conditions: this section of the river starts out with shallow fast moving current. Downstream the river widens and slows. **Hazards:** please watch for fallen trees that can go completely across the river.

<http://www.playlewisville.com/>



For more information: <https://trinitycoalition.org/>

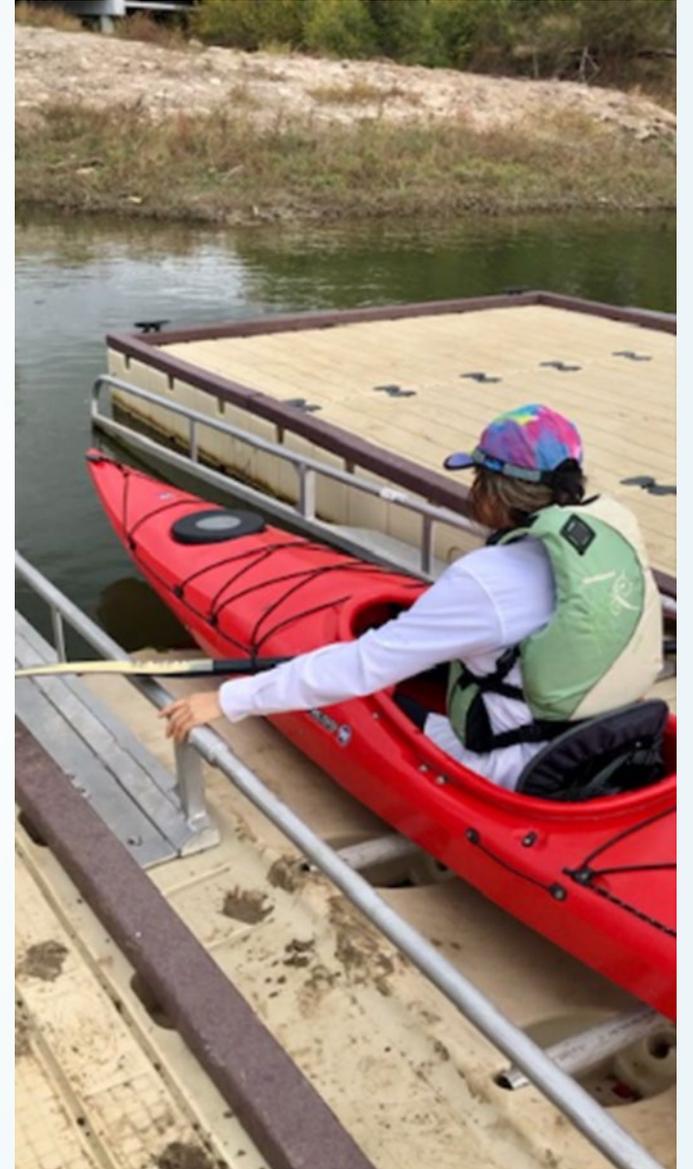
Draft Vision and Mission Statements

Vision: The Trinity River National Water Trail seeks to elevate the value of the Trinity River through community access to the river.

Mission: This will be achieved by ensuring access is safe and equitable, protecting natural resources, promoting economic and cultural assets, and integrating land trail connections and trail expansion. This Trinity River National Water Trail Master Plan will identify long-range actions to advance these ideas, and to help communities maintain and develop the Water Trail and identify resources.

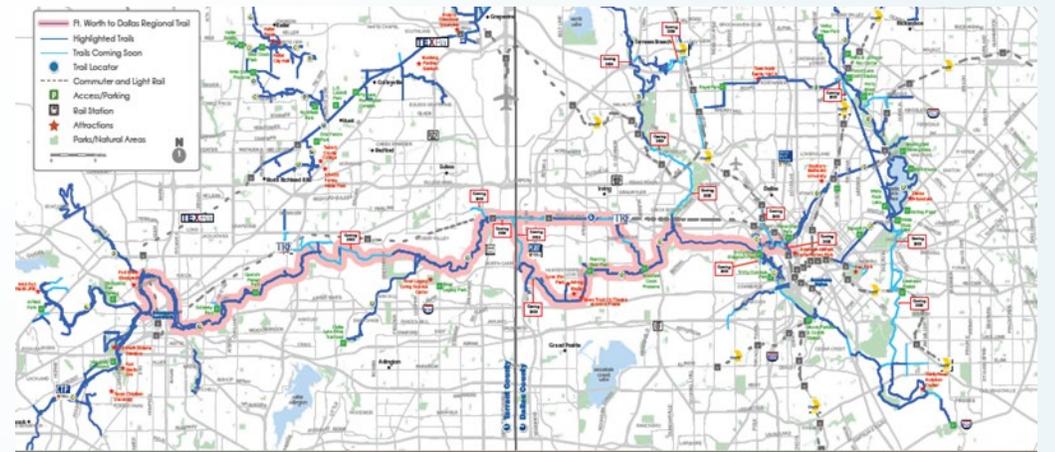
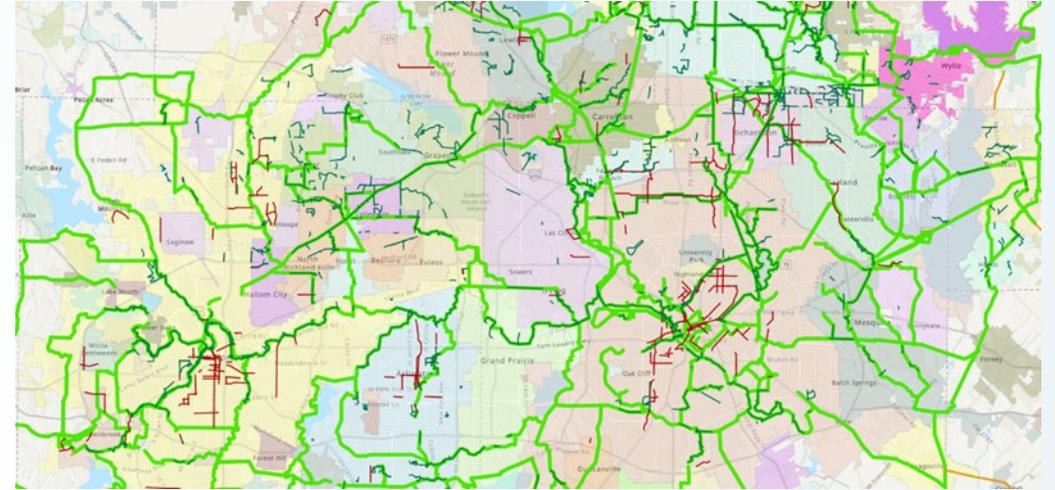
Draft Goals

1. Develop new entry sites to shorten distances between sites
2. Promote the use of the Water Tail and educate all users
3. Make the Water Trail more accessible to all
4. Maintain condition and safety of the existing and future launch sites
5. Promote stewardship along the Trinity River



Draft Goals (cont.)

6. Connect the Water Trail to existing land trails
7. Extend the Water Trail further south
8. Promote the economic benefits of the Water Trail
9. Highlight the cultural and historical context of the Water Trail



Maps of Regional Veloweb (top) and DFW Discovery Trail (bottom)

Recommendation Examples

- Goal: Develop new entry sites to shorten distances between sites
 - Recommendation: Identify priority gaps in public access along the water trail
- Goal: Promote the use of the Water Trail and educate all users
 - Recommendation: Provide information that may impact the safe use of the trail (water quality, water levels, etc.).
- Make the Water Trail more accessible to all
 - Recommendation: Identify ADA accessible launch sites on the trail

Next Steps

- **March 26:** Meet with the Master Plan Committee to finalize vision and mission statements, goals, and recommendations
- **April 10:** Task Force meeting
- **May:** Community visits
- **June/July:** Meet with Master Plan Committee to review Master Plan Draft
- **August 13:** Task Force Meeting
- **September:** Finalize Master Plan

More Information

- ▶ NCTCOG: <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/committees/trinity-river-national-water-trail-task-force>
- ▶ Trinity Coalition: <https://trinitycoalition.org/>



**North Central Texas
Council of Governments**



**TRINITY
COALITION**

Contact

Erin Blackman

Environment & Development Planner
North Central Texas Council of Governments

ERBlackman@nctcog.org

817.608.2360

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson

Environment & Development Planner
North Central Texas Council of Governments

JHayes-Jackson@nctcog.org

817.695.9212

Connect



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nctcogenv



youtube.com/user/nctcoged



EandD@nctcog.org



nctcog.org/envir



Questions and Comments

Roundtable

Please share your current relevant water quality related activities or information and, if applicable, identify any areas of potential collaboration.

NCTCOG Updates

1. Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan
2. Exploring Urban Forestry in NCTCOG's Water Quality Management Plan

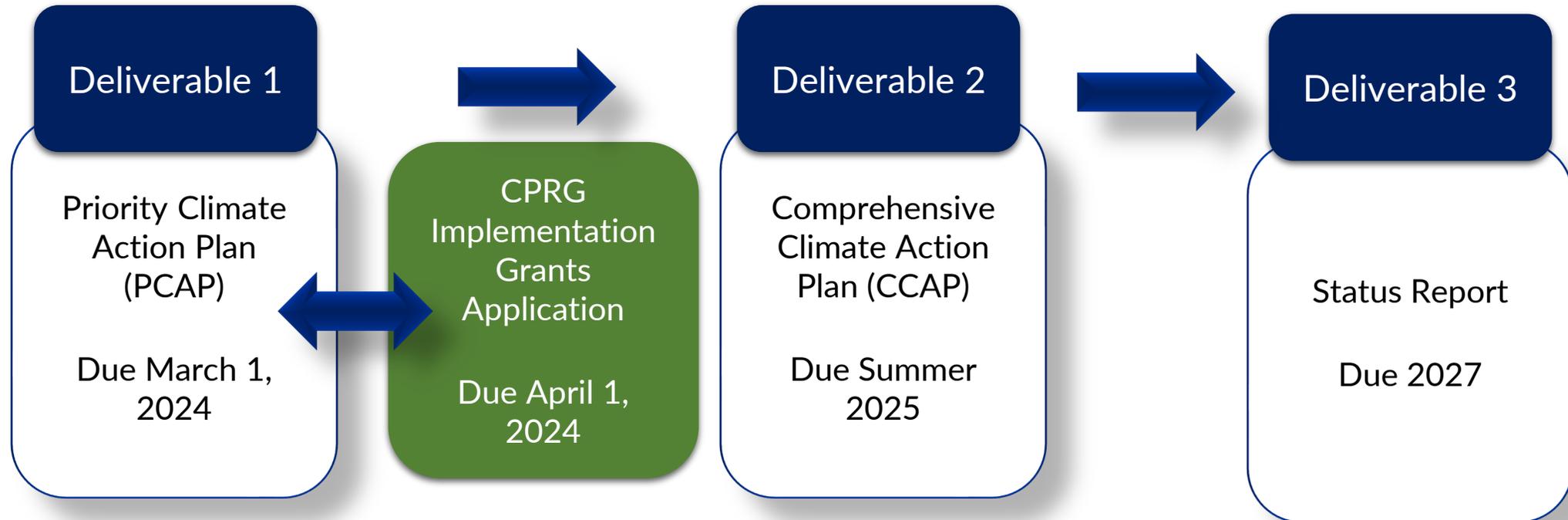
Background on Planning Grant

- **Funding:**

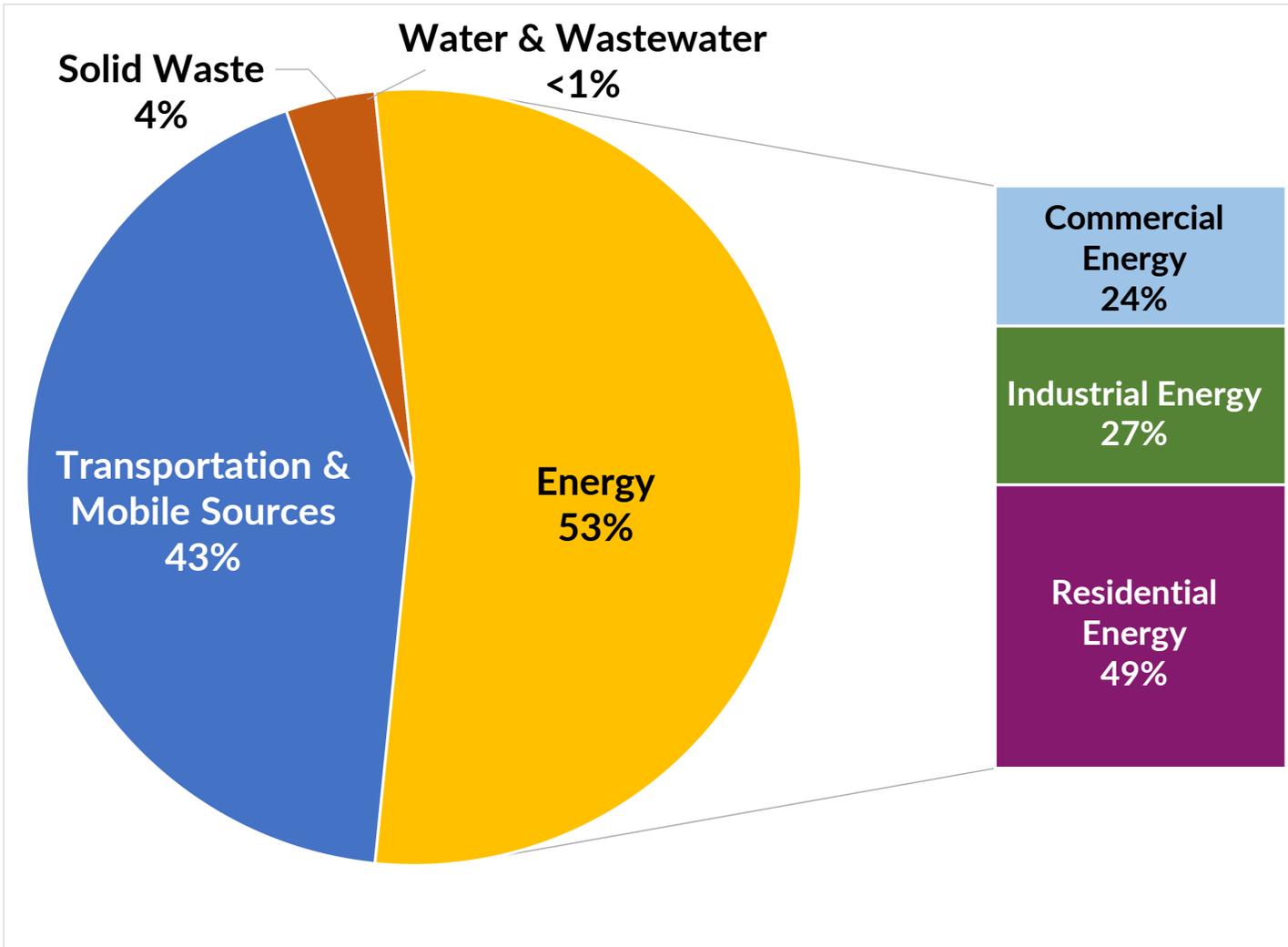
- \$1 million in Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Funds From [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant \(CPRG\) Planning Grant Program](#)

- **Scope:**

- Develop and implement plans to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) and other pollutants of local concern
- North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) serving as lead for the region



2019 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory



$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Carbon Dioxide Equivalent} \\ &\text{CO}_2\text{e} \\ &= \\ &\text{Greenhouse Gases} \\ &\text{(Carbon Dioxide CO}_2\text{,} \\ &\text{Methane CH}_4\text{,} \\ &\text{Nitrous Oxide N}_2\text{O)} \\ &\times \\ &\text{Respective} \\ &\text{Global Warming Potentials} \\ &\text{(GWP)} \end{aligned}$$

Note: The agricultural emissions, process & fugitive emissions were not part of this inventory

Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) 12-County MPA Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO₂e) = 102,856,587 Metric Tons

NCTCOG Approach

Leverage CPRG Planning Grant to Develop DFW AQIP

- Implement measures that reduce ozone-forming pollutants, particulate matter, and greenhouse gases (GHG)
- Create cost-effective benefits to the region, particularly low-income and disadvantaged communities
- Complement state efforts to attain federal ozone standards
- Include all 16 NCTCOG counties
- Coordinate across 3 NCTCOG Departments
 - Transportation
 - Environment and Development
 - Workforce Solutions of North Central Texas
- Collaborate with local governments, special districts, and other stakeholders
- Pursue Competitive Implementation Grant application



Transportation



Energy



Solid Waste



Water



Agriculture/
Forestry/Land Use



Process to Select Measures for PCAP

Brainstorm Measures

- 3 Workshops to Identify Strategies to Improve Air Quality
- 5 Meetings with Collaborating Agencies/Local Governments
- 1 Workshop with Entities Subject to Section 185 Fees
- 55 Responses to Survey for Implementing Agencies

Refine Measures

- ~200 Responses to Public Survey
- ~6 Public Meetings
- Local Governments Submit Proposed Measures

Finalize Measures



Selecting Measures and Projects

Review NCTCOG Screening Criteria:

- Is there interest in the region?
- Is someone willing to implement? (local governments, us (NCTCOG), third party entity)?
- Can it be done in the next five years?
- Does it provide broad, quantifiable greenhouse gas and criteria pollutant reductions?
- Does it need funding?



Review EPA Scoring Criteria:

- Reduces GHGs and Criteria Pollutants
- Benefits DACs
- Can be Implemented in 2025-2030
- Funds a Strategy for Which Other Funding is Unavailable or Insufficient
- Is Cost-Effective
- Advances Decarbonization
- Is Innovative



DALLAS-FORT WORTH AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Funded through the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants

- Plan submitted to EPA on March 1, 2024
- Implementation Grant Application submitted to EPA by April 1, 2024
- Applicable Water, Forestry, and Agriculture measures included in the plan:
 - Regional Green Space Project
 - Floodplain and Floodway Initiatives
 - Restoring Riparian Corridors
 - Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)
 - Updates to water and wastewater treatment facilities

DALLAS-FORT WORTH AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Funded through the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants

- Full plan is available on the [Dallas- Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan](#) page





Questions and Comments

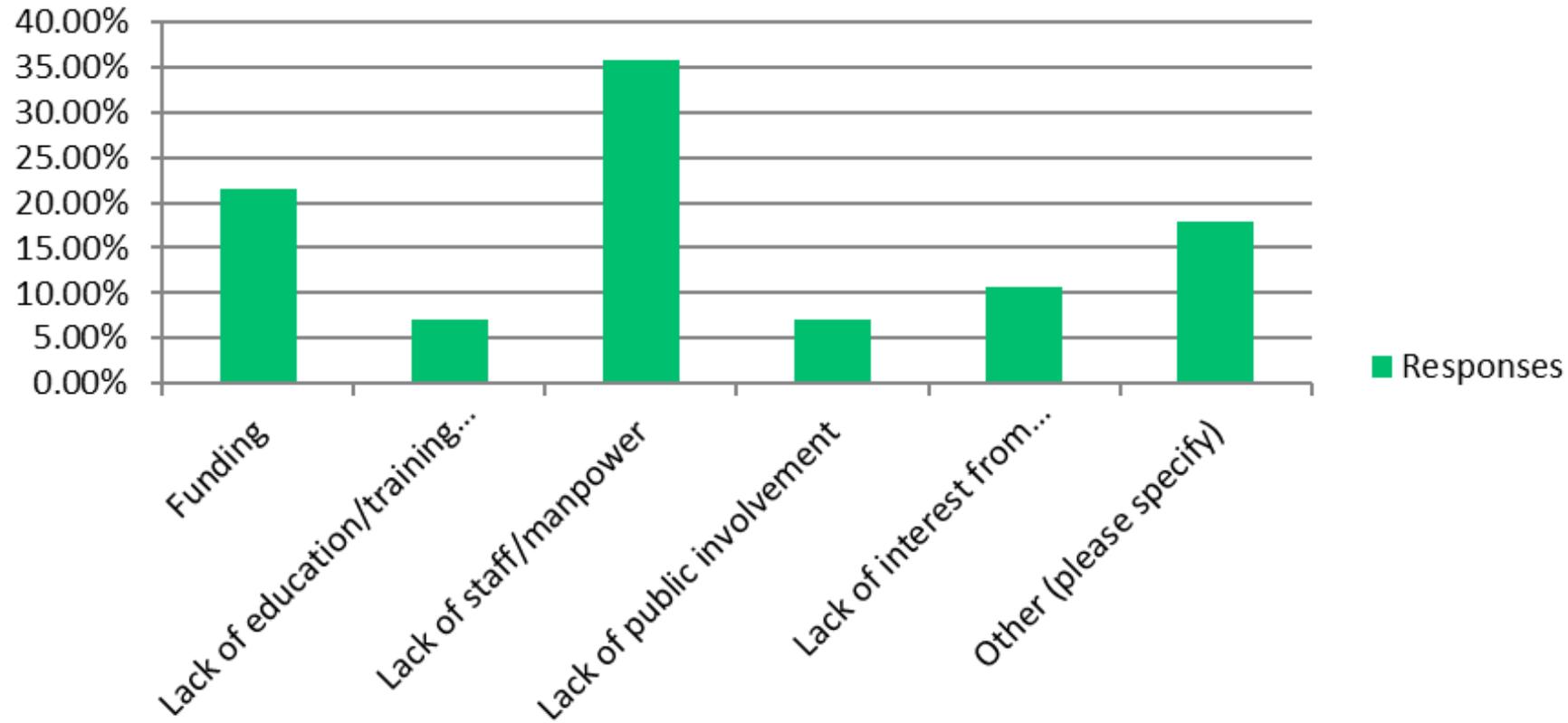
Integrating Urban Forestry into NCTCOG's Water Quality Management Planning program

- Comes as a result of new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding.
- Activities in FY2024:
 - Hosted webinar in October 2023 with Texas Trees Foundation, “Germinating Equitable Outcomes through Urban Forestry”
 - [Presentation Slides](#)
 - [Webinar Recording](#)
 - Distributed two surveys in fall 2023
 - Urban Forestry Information Survey for local governments
 - Urban Forestry Campus Information Survey for higher education campuses

Results of the NCTCOG Urban Forestry Information Survey

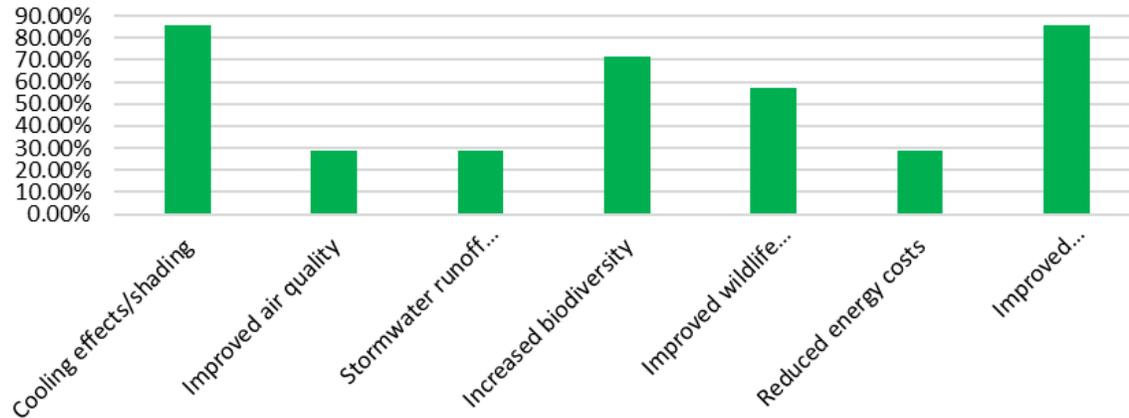
- Thirty-nine municipal responses
- 53% of cities do not have a dedicated program or department related to urban forestry, but stated that forestry related activities were spread across various departments
- 83% of communities have adopted ordinances related to supporting urban forestry, yet most (66%) do not have an established tree canopy goal.
- 73% of respondents are [Tree City USA](#) participants
 - Tree City USA is a program that provides cities with a framework to increase canopy cover in developed areas.
- 59% of respondents do not have an Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP), but 85% of those cities said they would be interested in creating one if given the correct resources.

What is the biggest barrier to achieving urban forestry goals in your community?



Results of the NCTCOG Urban Forestry Campus Information Survey

Please select what you believe to be the three biggest potential campus benefits of implementing or expanding an urban forestry program.



Answer Choices	Response	Responses
Cooling effects/shading	85.71%	6
Improved air quality	28.57%	2
Stormwater runoff mitigation	28.57%	2
Increased biodiversity	71.43%	5
Improved wildlife habitats	57.14%	4
Reduced energy costs	28.57%	2
Improved physical/mental health for students, faculty, and staff	85.71%	6
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0

- Eight colleges/universities responded
- Over 50% of respondents do have a department dedicated specifically to forestry.
- 43% have an existing UFMP; 100% of those who do not expressed interest in creating one.
- Both cities and campuses identified shading and improved health as the top benefits of urban forestry efforts.

NCTCOG Urban Forestry Workshops

- In partnership with Texas Trees Foundation and Texas A&M Forest Service
- Urban Forestry Stakeholders Meeting: Urban Forestry Master Plans 101- May 14, 2024, 10 a.m. Virtual, via Microsoft Teams.
 - [Add to calendar](#)
- Urban Forestry Stakeholders Meeting: Forestry Opportunities within Your Community- June 5, 2024, 10 a.m. Virtual, via Microsoft Teams.
 - [Add to calendar](#)



Questions and Comments

Upcoming NCTCOG Meetings

Water Resources Council - April 3, 2024 (In-person)

[Add to Calendar](#)

Wastewater and Treatment Education Roundtable
- April 23, 2024 (Hybrid; in-person and virtual).

[Add to Calendar](#)

Connect with NCTCOG E & D Happenings!

Environment and Development Events Webpage:
<https://www.nctcog.org/envir/events>

Subscribe to E & D Email Lists:
<https://www.nctcog.org/envir/mail>

NCTCOG Staff Contacts

➤ Alyssa Knox

- Environment and Development Planner II
- aknox@nctcog.org
- 817-695-9221

➤ Cassidy Campbell

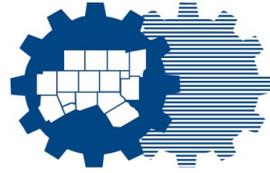
- Program Manager, Environment and Development
- Ccampbell@nctcog.org
- 817-608-2368

➤ Corinne Buckley

- Environment and Development Planner
- cbuckley@nctcog.org
- 817-704-2510

➤ Susan Alvarez

- Director, Environment and Development
- salvarez@nctcog.org
- 817-704-2549



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Thank you for attending!

**Watershed
Stakeholders
Meeting- March 26,
2024**

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Alyssa Knox, NCTCOG
aknox@nctcog.org



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