

Great Trinity Forest Management Plan Update

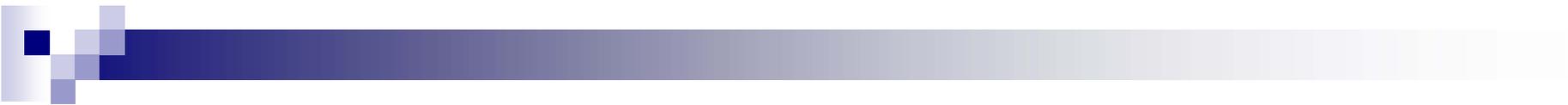
100-Year Management Plan Update

March 4th, 2008

For the

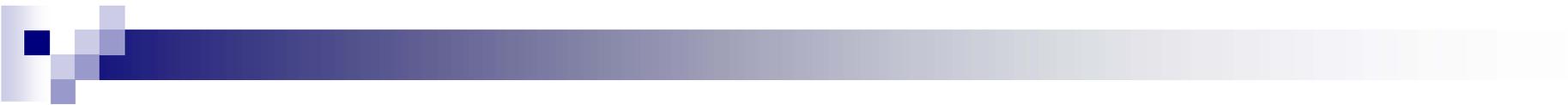
Trinity River Corridor Project Committee





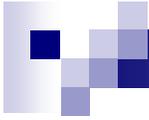
Purpose Of Briefing

- To inform new members of the Trinity River Corridor Project Committee (TRCPC):
 - On the current condition of the Great Trinity Forest
 - The reasoning behind a 100-year Forest Management Plan
 - Of progress on the Great Trinity Forest 100-Year Forest Management Plan contract



The Great Trinity Forest Today

- Dallas is unique in that it shares qualities of both the Cross Timbers and Blackland Prairie Region
 - When people first settled the area trees were located on or near our waterways with large swaths of prairie, enough to support small herds of buffalo
- The early settlers cut down the trees for cotton fields and pasture



- There are large trees in the Great Trinity Forest
 - There are locations within the forest with very old trees
 - However, after the 1960s and the end of the agricultural era, the majority of area that is the Great Trinity Forest, was fallow farm fields and pasture
 - This means a significant portion of the Great Trinity Forest is less than 50 years old



**Lower White
Rock Creek
1949**



**Lower White
Rock Creek
Today**



Interior of GTF: typical in areas populated by ash

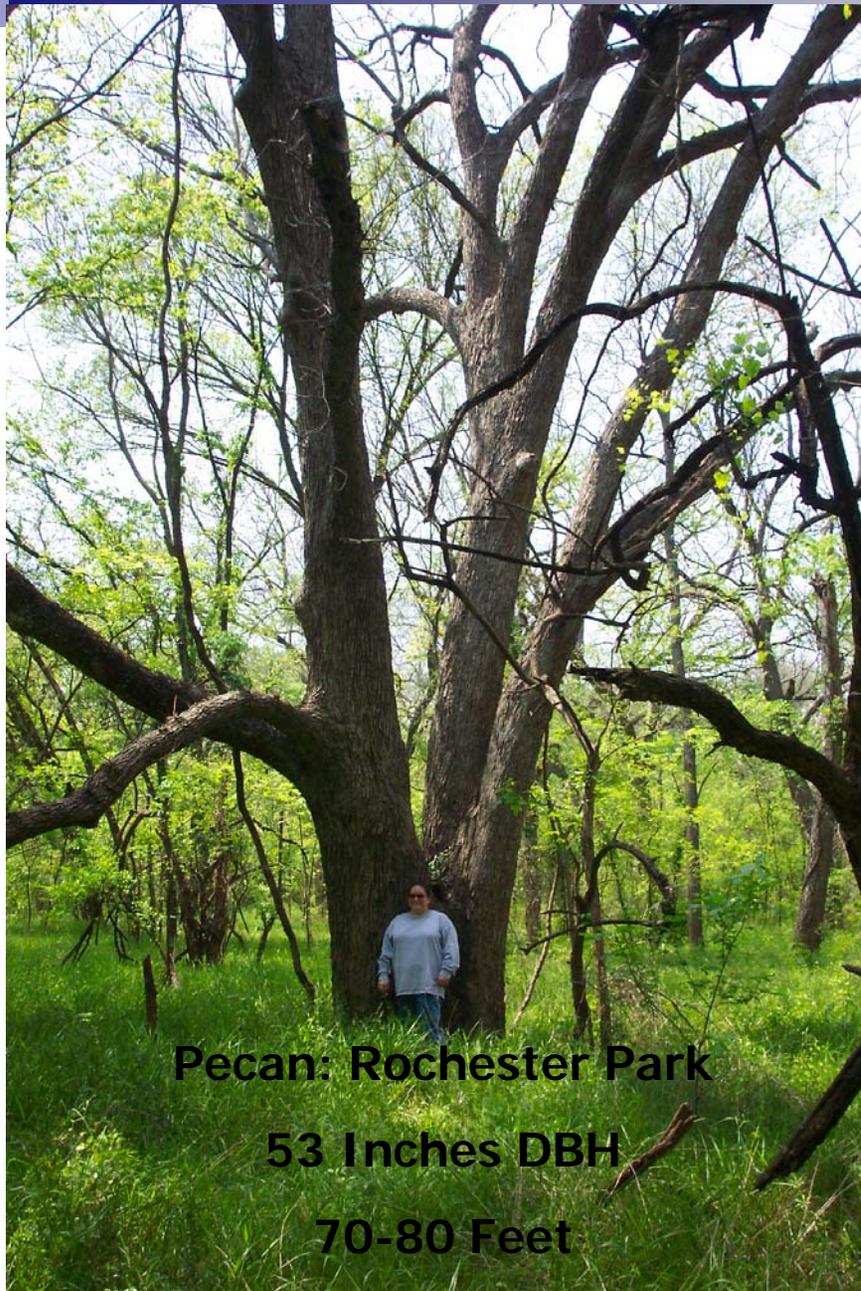


Interior of GTF: typical in areas populated by elm



What's Missing From The Great Trinity Forest?

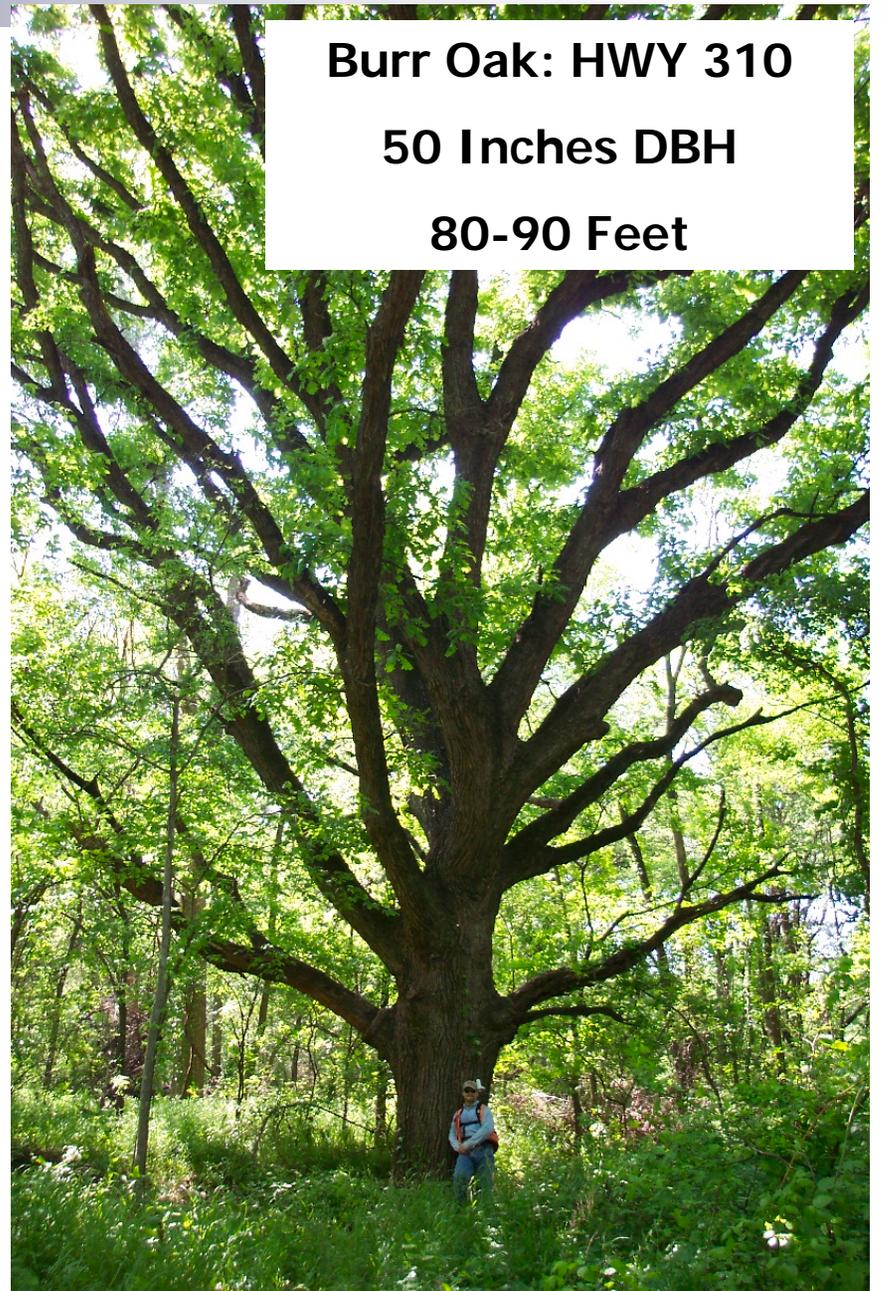
- Solid mast (nuts: acorns, pecans, etc.) producing trees (oak and pecan) in large enough numbers to support a healthy, diverse animal community
 - The forest also lacks a healthy, diverse under-story and middle-story - the smaller trees under the canopy - that provide shelter, food and resting places for native and migratory birds
- After farming ended, Native species were replaced by non-native invasive species brought to America for landscaping (ex: Chinese privet)
 - These are still important to the Great Trinity Forest because some are an important food source now



Pecan: Rochester Park

53 Inches DBH

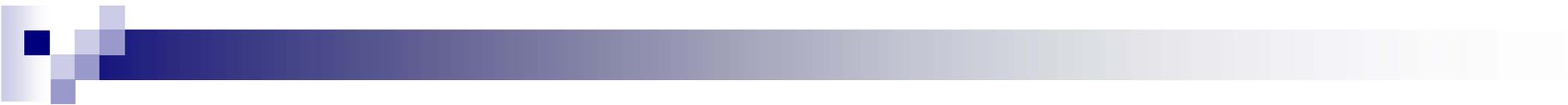
70-80 Feet



Burr Oak: HWY 310

50 Inches DBH

80-90 Feet



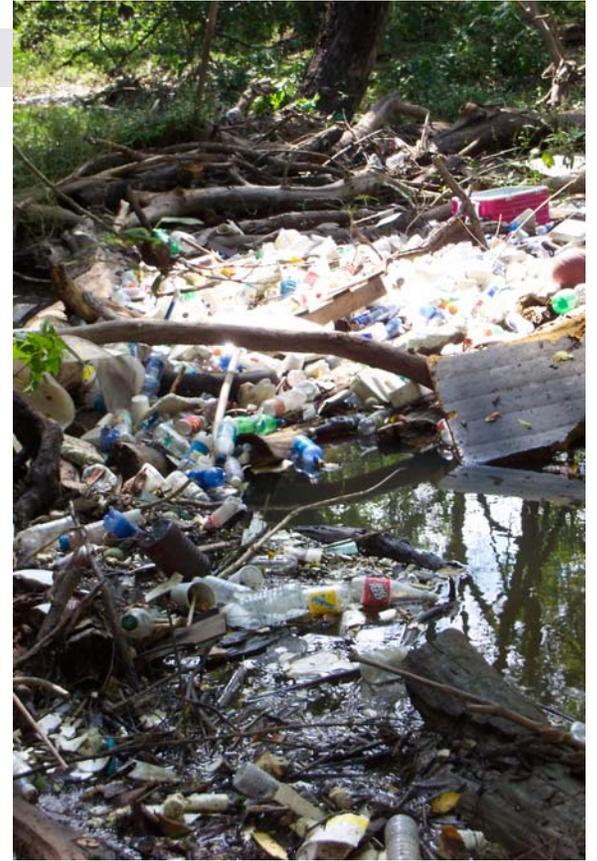
What Is A Forest Management Plan?

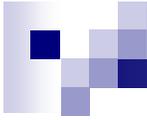
- A year-by-year set of instructions that will allow the City to manage the ecosystem (trees, grasslands and wildlife) of the Great Trinity Forest (GTF) and integrate recreational plans to create a multi-use forest park



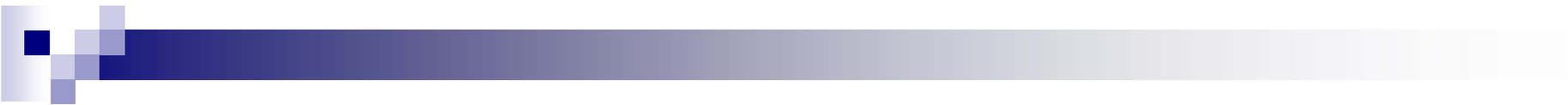
Why Do We Need To Manage The Entire Ecosystem?

- Industrialization from the early 1900s to the 1950s and the end of agriculture changed the way people used the land, and following a national trend, changed the way people related to the land
 - Nature and wilderness was not seen as a commodity
 - The Great Trinity Forest was not only farm land, but also gravel mines and landfills
 - Today, the forest has a reputation as the place to find burned-out cars, illegal dumping, tree theft, and a host of other illegal activities



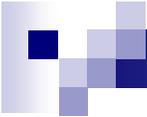


- However, the City of Dallas has not owned the majority of the GTF and had no say in its use or development
- The Management Plan will set up the proper framework for management and stewardship for public management



The Greening Of Dallas

- The City of Dallas Trinity River Corridor Project is developing a 100 Year Management Plan for the Great Trinity Forest because we value the natural and cultural resource in the heart of our city
- The Great Trinity Forest Management Plan is the first chance for the City and its citizens to be stewards for a resource that is unique in the United States, and will be, with this Management Plan, unique in the world
- The Great Trinity Forest is ours to take care of and will be a gift to future generations



Who Is Writing The GTF Management Plan?

- The Dallas City Council approved the contract for the GTF Management Plan on June 13, 2007
- Dr. Gary D. Kronrad, Distinguished Professor of Resource Economics and Forest Management at the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture at Stephen F. Austin State University is the lead consultant
- The Management Plan Team consists of 11 members who hold Ph.D. degrees in: wildlife biology, ecosystem management, recreation planning, interpretation, bottomland hardwood management, forest protection, landscape ecology, vegetation management, GIS, soil science, hydrology, and wildlife management
- The Great Trinity Forest is unique in the United States and so is the Management Plan team!



Stakeholder Information

- Members of the consultant team have traveled to Dallas and met with:
 - City Staff (TRCP, Parks Department),
 - The Urban Forest Advisory Committee
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Staff
 - Members of the TRCP Governance Committee
- Members of the consulting team and City staff have participated in two stakeholder meetings
 - City Hall and Janie C. Turner Recreation Center
- City staff has continued to meet with stakeholders
 - Paul Allen of the Buffalo Soldiers in early February 2008
 - Texas Horse Park stakeholders in early February 2008
 - Livy Dibbles (Joppa Community Leader) February 26, 2008



Project Timeline

- Contract is currently 60% complete and the TRCP office has disbursed \$272,718 of the \$473,673 approved for the contract
- Activities 3rd Phase, December 1, 2007 through January 31, 2008 included:
 - Consultant Team meeting with Richard Lyon of Parks and Recreation Department maintenance staff
 - To discuss operation and maintenance costs
 - Tour of potential recreation sites in the forest including the proposed site for a campground
 - The Consultant Team finalized goals and objectives for the GTF
 - Determined species to be planted over the course of the Management Plan
 - Locally native and commercially available
 - Produced 500 stand location maps and tentative planting schedules
 - Completed current stand descriptions
 - Continued discussion of ways to manage the forest that will maximize multiple uses



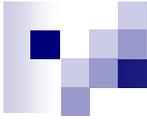
Project Timeline

- Planned activities for 4th Phase, February 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008
 - Formulate preliminary management schedules
 - Review potential environmental impacts
 - Produce all regulated stand maps
 - Specify all growth and yield assumptions for growth simulator programs
 - Calculate stand tables
 - Calculate carbon sequestration tonnage
 - Perform financial analyses of the proposed campground
 - Perform financial analyses of personnel needed to manage forest (completed for upcoming Trinity Governance meeting)

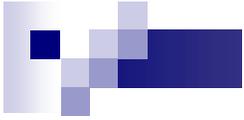


Final Product and Early Results

- The final management plan will consist of multiple volumes and be between 14,000 and 16,000 pages long
 - Basic components include sections detailing:
 - Historic overview
 - Executive summary
 - Site description and maps
 - Issue identification and Multiple-Use Management
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Purpose of the plan
 - Supportive information based on computer programs for growth and carbon accounting
 - Data and Assumptions
 - Species requirements
 - Habitat Evaluation Procedures
 - Recreation
 - General management practices and terminology
 - General operations information
 - Other TRCP plans
 - Army Corps of Engineers Plans
 - Stand and Stock tables
 - Timetable of Management Activities
 - Management Activities by stand
 - This list is a subset of the components

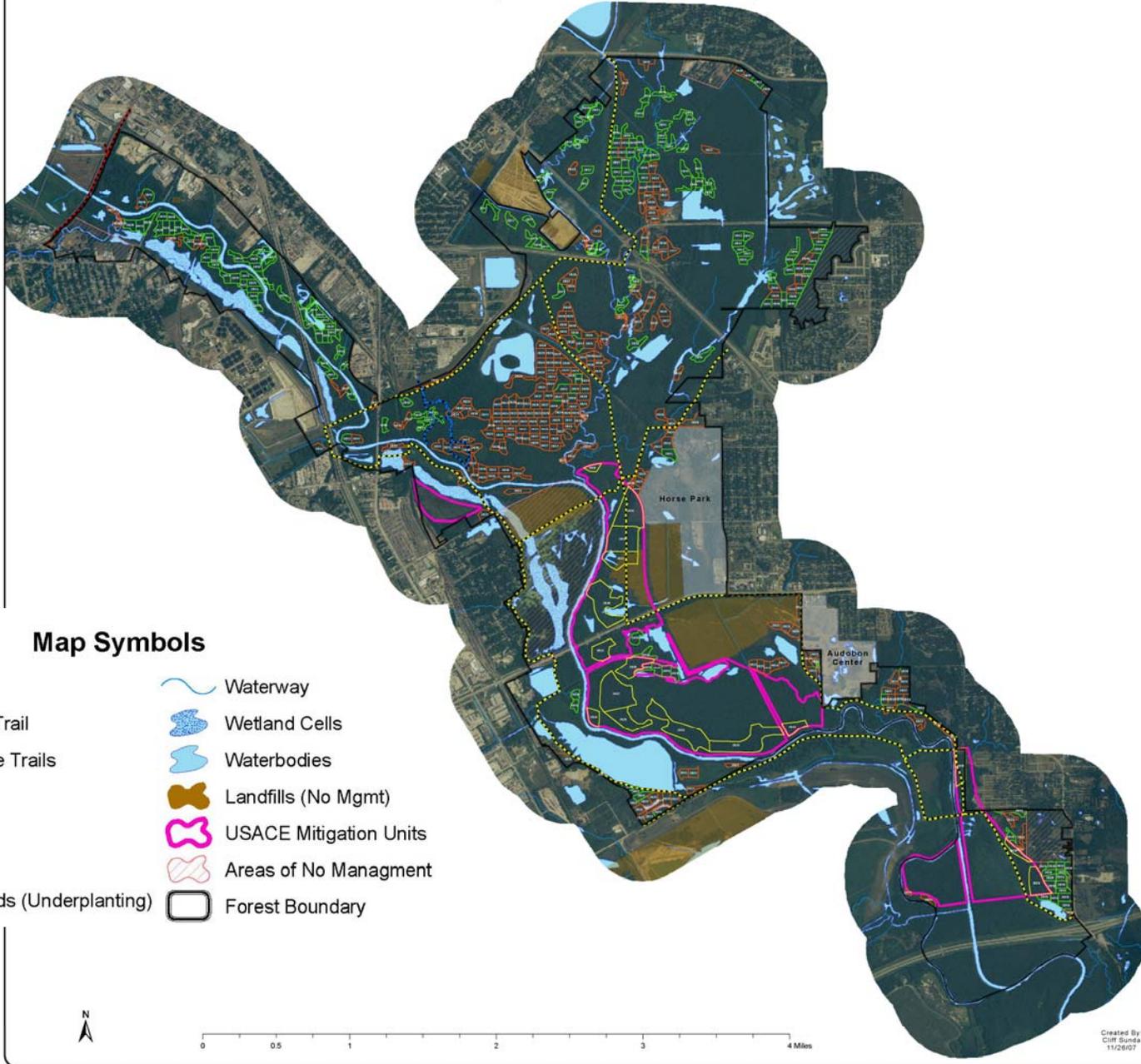


- City staff and Dr. Kronrad are collaborating on strategy for presenting a draft document to council and stakeholders in the 3rd quarter 2008
 - Document complexity and length are issues that are being addressed



PROPOSED FOREST IMPROVEMENT STANDS

Great Trinity Forest, Dallas, Texas





What Is A Stand?

- A stand is a single management unit in a forest management plan



How Were The Stands Delineated?

- The Management Plan Team created a computer model based on City of Dallas GIS data, GIS data generated and refined by TRCP staff, and flood plain data generated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- The Management Plan Team has been directed by City staff to create the most successful, most economically sound Forest Management Plan
- The results of this model and direction are reflected in the proposed stand map



The Great Trinity Forest Proposed Stands

- The Primary Stands (noted in green) are those with the highest potential for successful planting and establishment
 - These stands are located on:
 - the best soils
 - land that floods but doesn't retain water as long as other areas

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- The Secondary Stands (noted in orange) are those with the next highest potential for successful planting and establishment
 - These stands are located on:
 - suitable soils
 - land that floods but retains water longer than other areas

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- The Mitigation Stands are those areas inside the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers mitigation land with the highest potential for successful planting and establishment
 - To be managed after the land is turned over to the City Of Dallas by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - These stands are similar to the Primary Stands in the rest of the forest



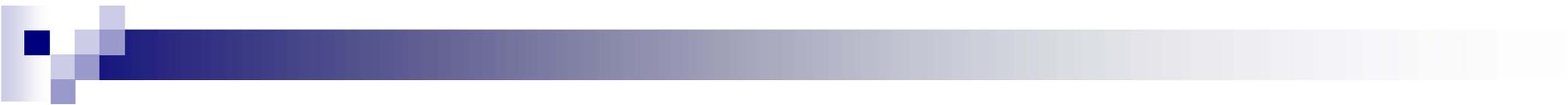
Are We Going To Manage The Area Outside The Primary and Secondary Stands?

- Not immediately
- The area outside the Primary and Secondary Stands will be listed as “Forester’s Choice”



What is Forester's Choice?

- The Great Trinity Forest Management Plan is laying out a 30-year planting schedule
- The Management Plan is a living document
 - If funding and personnel are available the area outside the Primary and Secondary Stands can be managed
 - The decision to manage this area will require constant field evaluation and a long term commitment by the City of Dallas to the Great Trinity Forest



Future Milestones

- Draft presented to council and stakeholders for comments (3rd quarter)
- Final Management Plan presented to council for adoption (later 3rd quarter)
- Implementation