

YOUth for the Forest: A Youth Vision for the Dallas Corridor

Dallas, Woodrow Wilson High School NAF Academy of Finance 11th Grade Managerial Accounting



ISSUE

The Trinity Corridor Project is the most complex and the largest public works and urban development effort undertaken by the City of Dallas. It encompasses 10,000 acres, including an 8,000 acre urban hardwood forest. The City owns 6,200 acres of what is known as the Great Trinity Forest, one of the most unique features in the world found in a large city. Recreation opportunities include a horse park, trails, gateways, soft-surface trails, amphitheater, and kayaking. However, many people, including young people, do not have easy access or know that these opportunities and resources exist. The Balanced Vision Plan (2013) includes 4 guiding principles: Flood Protection, Environmental Restoration, Recreation, and Transportation. The City partnered with Woodrow Wilson NAF Academy of Finance to gain a youth perspective on how to manage the land, impact stewardship in a positive way, increase access, and engage neighborhoods near the forest.

The real community partnerships make Y-PLAN different from regular classroom projects. The expectations are high – having a real world issue to solve makes students really take ownership and collaborate with peers they don't usually work with.

– Tomiko Lewis, Y-PLAN Instructor

QUESTION

How can the City of Dallas collaborate with businesses, neighborhoods, schools, and the larger community to teach them about the Great Trinity Forest and create a plan for preservation?

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: Y-PLAN TEAM

Y-PLAN Instructor: Denise Tucker

Students: 11th grade Managerial Accounting

Clients: The City of Dallas; Judy Schmidt, Communications and Marketing Manager, Trinity River Corridor Project

YOUTH DRIVEN DATA AND INSIGHTS

- Students are not aware of The Great Trinity Corridor Project, or recreational opportunities available
- Many students have never been to The Great Trinity Forest, or do not know it exists

EMERGING POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Partner with Dallas Independent School District (DISD) schools and students to generate awareness and stewardship of Great Trinity Forest
- Create a student-led Adopt-A-Forest Stewardship Program
- Create student-led marketing campaign to increase awareness of Great Trinity Forest resources and recreational opportunities

NEXT STEPS

This project created a cross-sector connection between the City of Dallas and DISD. Students collaborated with city officials, DISD, corporations, local neighborhood groups, and environmental non-profits to create a youth-driven Adopt-A-Forest marketing and implementation plan. Students will present their recommendations and marketing plan to elected officials Dallas City Council in June, 2014.



For more information on Y-PLAN, contact Jessie Stewart, Y-PLAN National Coordinator: jessie.stewart@berkeley.edu