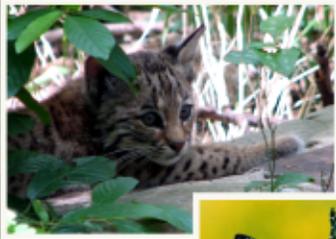


RIVER LEGACY PARKS

PRESERVATION, RECREATION AND EDUCATION

The photos shown here are a part of many species you will find in River Legacy Parks.
Below: A Bobcat cub awaits eagerly for his mother to return.



Above: A Monarch Butterfly lands on a flower during its annual migration to Mexico.

With the vision, dedication and determination of a small group of Arlington citizens, the jewel of nature known as River Legacy Parks was created in the early 1980s. The park was developed by combining several donations of land along the Trinity River with Rose-Brown-May Park.

In 1988, River Legacy Foundation was chartered as a nonprofit organization in a public/private partnership with the City of Arlington. The Foundation was charged with preserving and enhancing the Trinity River flood plain forest as an extraordinary natural, educational and recreational amenity.

Through collaborations and contributions from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the City of Arlington, Tarrant County and private donations from area businesses and citizens, Phase I of River Legacy Parks opened to the public in 1990 with 376 acres and amenities that included a grand entryway, hiking and biking trails, nature trails, river overlooks, picnic areas and a playground. Phase II enhancements, completed in 1993, included a grand picnic pavilion and additions to the roadways and parking lots.

Understanding that education is key to cultivating future generations of land stewards, in 1994 the River Legacy Foundation began fund-raising efforts to construct an education center in River Legacy Parks. In July 1996, the River Legacy Living Science Center opened and stands today as an icon of sustainable, ecological, green construction. The 12,000-square-foot center serves as a portal to the park, offering guests an introduction to the ecology, culture and history of the Trinity River corridor.

By 2002, River Legacy Parks had grown to more than 1,000 acres offering visitors a variety of recreational amenities to enjoy. In 2004, a milestone was reached with completion of the last link in the eight miles of continuous trail in River Legacy Parks, fulfilling Arlington's segment of the regional Trinity Trails project. The project also included a 300-foot pedestrian bridge spanning the Trinity River to connect trails north and south of the river, along with a second gated entrance and parking area on Collins Street.

Today, hundreds of species of plants and animals can be found in River Legacy Parks. It is also a haven for bird-watchers, botanists and outdoor enthusiasts. Thanks to the vision and financial support of passionate Arlington residents, donors and the River Legacy Foundation, this land where dinosaurs once roamed, Native Americans hunted and pioneers farmed, has been preserved for future generations.



The River Legacy Living Science Center was built in 1996 to educate future generations on embracing the art of nature and sustainable design. For class information, please call the center at 817.860.6752.



The Legacy Pavilion, constructed in 1992, is one of the featured structures commonly used for picnics, reunions and special events. For rental information, please call 817.459.5473.



A 300-foot pedestrian bridge was built in 2006 for trail users to seek out new areas of the park.



A canoe & kayak launch was built in 2008 for easy access to the river.

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