

Trinity River Paddling Trail Emergency Rescue Points

The Trinity River Paddling Trail includes 130 miles of river trail along parts of the Clear Fork, West Fork Elm Fork and the main channel of the Trinity River. Currently there are 21 official river access locations with more being planned.

This document covers at a high level the official river access locations and emergency access locations on the West Fork, Elm Fork, and the main branch of the Trinity River. These emergency access locations, **in red**, are where first responders can extract a person off of the river when and if they cannot make it to an official put-in take-out location. This list is in downstream order.

Many of these “emergency” river locations are used today by local kayakers but are not easily accessible. In most cases a First Responder team can get off of the highway but not get all the way to the water from the river bank. Many of these emergency exit locations have a steep river bank.

The Clear Fork, Lake Worth and the downtown area of the West Fork are not covered. Due to the parks, bridges and bike trails in the downtown area, there are numerous places to rescue paddlers.

West Fork of the Trinity River

Beach Street – Official launch point: Lat / Long DD: 32.753314° -97.287573°. This location is on the northeast corner of Beach St. and the West Fork of the Trinity River. The launch site has a floating boat dock with a wide concrete path down to it.

Handley Ederville Rd – Official launch point: Lat / Long DD: 32.782309° -97.221497°. This location is on the northwest corner of Handley Ederville Rd and the West Fork of the Trinity River. The launch site is a low water bridge and its part of the bike trail. This site is pick-up drop-off site. There is not a parking lot - only a wide spot to pull off along side of the road.

Precinct Line Rd – Emergency access only: Lat / Long DD: 32.781677° -97.178335°. This location is on the southeast corner of Precinct Line Rd and the West Fork of the Trinity River. This is a steep soft trail down to the river bank. Emergency vehicles will only be able to get within ~80 yds of the river bank.

Greenbelt Rd – Emergency access only: Lat / Long DD: 32.788128° -97.139950°. This location is on the southeast corner of Precinct Line Rd and the West Fork of the Trinity River. This is a steep soft trail down to the river bank. Emergency vehicles will only be able to get within ~50 yds of the river bank.

River Legacy Park – Official launch point: Lat / Long DD: 32.788243° -97.100328°. This location is at River Legacy Park at the Colin St entrance. This site is a concrete sidewalk all the way down to the river.

Highway 360 – Emergency access only: Lat / Long DD: 32.813224° -97.056716°. This location is at the southwest corner of Hwy 360 and the West Fork of the Trinity River. The river bank is made up of large rock, called Rip Rap and it is a steep climb down to the river bank. Emergency vehicles will only be able to get within ~80 yds of the river bank.

Mike Lewis Park – Emergency access only: Lat / Long DD: 32.788013° -97.028733°. This location is at the northwest corner of the park under the power lines. Emergency vehicles will have to get on the bike trail near the power lines. Vehicles should be able to get within 50 yds of the river.

Mountain Creek Preserve – Emergency access only: Lat / Long DD: 32.782128° -96.926517°. Located at Mountain Creek Preserve at the end of S. Nursery Rd. Take the bike trail off the creek and bare left down to the river bank ~170 yds. The river bank is steep – but easy to navigate.

Elm Fork of the Trinity River

Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area, LLELA – Official launch site: Lat / Long DD: 33.067109° - 96.964697°. This launch is a gradual sloping grass bank ~20 yds from a grave parking lot. The water is coming from the base of Lewisville Lake Dam and it is shallow and fast moving. This is downstream only you cannot come upstream to this point.

Business 121 – Emergency access only: Lat / Long DD: 33.045536° -96.961784°. This site is on the southwest corner of Business 121 and the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. There is dirt road that goes down to the river bank. The bank under the bridge is steep. Emergency vehicles, depending on the size can park on the dirt road. It is ~100 yds to the river bank.

Hebron Parkway – Emergency access only: Lat / Long DD: 33.012600° -96.950689°. This site is located on the northwest corner of Hebron Pkwy and the Elm Fork. Emergency vehicles will need to park on Hebron Pkwy it is ~70 yds to the river. The bank is not real steep but it is cover with grouted Rip Rap.

I-35E – Emergency access only: Lat / Long DD: 32.994434° -96.948528°. It is located between Sam Rayburn Tollway and Pres George Bush Tollway on the frontage Rd for I-35E going north on I-35E. This site is located on the northeast corner of I-35E Frontage and the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. From the frontage road pull off immediately after crossing over the river. It is ~80 yds down to the river.

McInnish Park Boat Ramp – Official launch site: Lat / Long DD: This location is on the northeast corner of McInnish Park. It is physically north of Sandy Lake Rd. This launch is a boat ramp that has some damage where it enters the water at low levels. Canoeists and kayakers do not have any problems with it. This is an upstream location only - Carrollton dam is 300 yds downstream.

Elm Park / Dimension Tract – Official launch site: Lat / Long DD: 32.947701° -96.937420°. This site is located below Beltline Rd in Carrollton on the east side of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. The launch point is ~150 yds from the parking lot. It is a soft trail that is level and easy to traverse. The launch is concrete steps down to the water.

Sam Houston Trail Park – Emergency access only: Lat / Long DD: 32.917194° -96.940991°. This is a park with no official river access. At the northeast edge of the park is a concrete low water crossing used for official construction vehicles that allows easy emergency vehicle access to the channel leading to the Elm Fork. It is ~100 yds from the parking lot to the low water crossing. This location is ~400 yds by boat from the main channel of the river. Sam Houston Park is accessible from Valley View lane.

T.W. Richardson Grove Park – Emergency access only: Lat / Long DD: 32.909996° -96.931521°. This is a park with no official river access. The banks are steep and the most likely place for a rescue is under the I-635 Bridge. It is ~400 yds from the parking lot to the bridge. The Campion Trail goes to the bridge so smaller emergency vehicles could take the trail down to the river bank. T. W. Richardson is not easy to get to you must head east on the I-635 access rd, stay on the access rd under I-635 and exit immediately on the westbound side of the access rd.

Bird's Fort Trail Park – Official launch point: Lat / Long DD: 32.881112° -96.930073°. This location is a boat ramp on the west side of the river. It is ~50 yds from the parking lot with the bike trail going to it. A small water craft could be launched from this point and cover the river from Elm Park to California Crossing Park.

California Crossing Park – Official launch site: Lat / Long DD: 32.868437° -96.923538°. This site had two small boat ramps that are blocked from vehicle traffic. Small watercraft could launch from here in emergencies. Each boat ramp is ~50 yds from the parking lot.

Frasier Dam Recreation Area – does not have an official boat ramp or launch site. Lat / Long DD: 32.845331° -96.879353°. This location is off of the access ramp to I-35E going south from Harry Hines Blvd just south of Webb Chapel Extension. There is not a launch point – there is a packed gravel rd the follows the old river channel for about 400 yds. The road is closed to public except for hiking and biking. First responders can meet up with paddlers in need along this road. It is flat with easy access to the water. First Responders should make sure they have a key to get through the gate and closer to the water.

The Main Branch the Trinity River

Trammell Crow Park – has boat ramp under Sylvan Bridge, 3700 Sylvan Ave, Dallas, TX 75207 Lat / Long DD: 32.789872° -96.834669°. The put-in is a boat ramp connect to the parking lot. A power boat or small water craft could be launched from this point and cover the river up to Trinity View Park in Irving down to Loop 12 in southern Dallas. Use caution with a power boat there are some riffles and downed trees.

Moore Park, Dallas, TX, 1900 E 8th St, Dallas, TX 75203. The canoe / kayak launch is ~ 500yds north of Moore Park. Lat / Long DD: 32.753207° -96.792298°. Take 8th street to Santa Fe Ave then east to the river and the canoe launch. This is a very small boat ramp with a narrow concrete path winding down to the water. It is a gentle slope to the boat ramp.

Loop 12 Boat Ramp, Dallas, TX. Southwest corner of Loop 12 and the Trinity River. Lat / Long DD: 32.707197° -96.735997° this access road is on the southwest corner of Loop 12 and the Trinity River. This site has a real boat ramp, however it is located at the base of a riffle which could make it be difficult to get a boat into the river.

