

# CHAPTER 25: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

The City of Fort Worth interacts on a formal and informal basis with various entities and agencies to provide quality services to citizens, to reduce costs, and to comply with state and federal regulations. This chapter identifies and describes existing agreements and presents opportunities for additional interaction and coordination.

## BACKGROUND

The City of Fort Worth interacts with other agencies in a formal manner through interlocal agreements, membership and participation in coordinating organizations, participation in regular meetings of governing bodies, joint meetings, workshops, working groups, and special task forces. The City also relates on an informal basis through personal contact by staff and elected officials. The City Council sets intergovernmental policies and executes formal agreements.

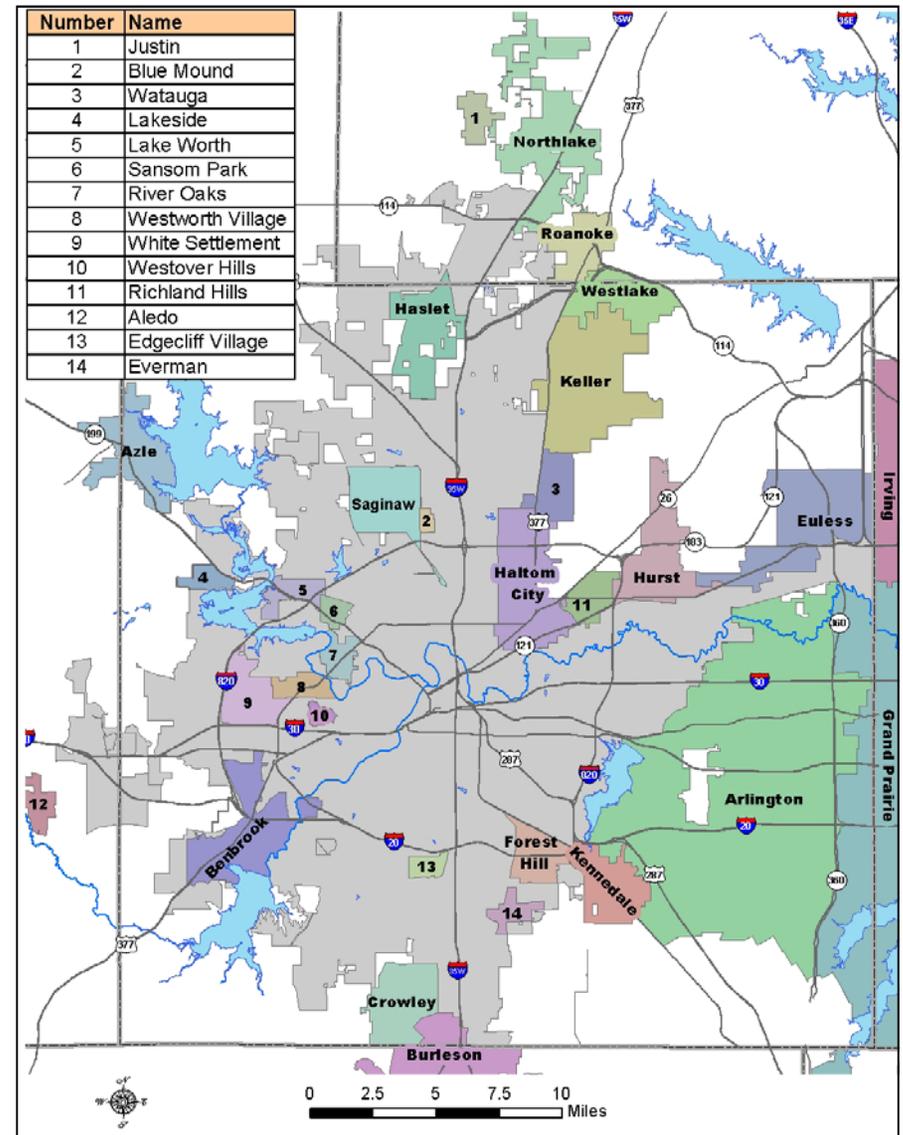
### Partnerships with Surrounding Cities

The City of Fort Worth shares its corporate limits with 28 cities. Interlocal agreements have been adopted with many of these cities, including agreements for shared facilities and coordinated provision of services, participation in household hazardous waste collections, and regulations of the Rabies Control Act. Coordinated policies and programs for particular services such as public health, libraries, parks, fire, and police are described in the corresponding chapters. Water and wastewater agreements are listed in Chapter 18: Environmental Quality.

The City of Fort Worth and the City of Dallas are joint owners of the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. An 11-member board operates the Airport; the board consists of the Mayor of each city, three members appointed by Fort Worth City Council, and six members appointed by Dallas City Council. The board prepares a budget each year that must be approved by the governing bodies of both cities. Individually, the two cities have executed covenants whereby they can levy a maintenance tax to assure the airport is efficiently operated and maintained. However, neither has implemented the maintenance tax to date. The Board makes agreements with air carriers and other parties that use the airport and sets rental rates and fees to produce adequate revenues.

The Trinity Railway Express commuter rail project was originally a joint venture of the City of Fort Worth and the City of Dallas. Each city owned a 50 percent interest in right of way formerly owned by Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad that joins the two cities. The property was acquired to preserve the freight service until such time that mass transit could be re-introduced in the corridor. The Federal Transit Administration and the Texas Department of Transportation contributed \$31.6 million toward acquisition, and the cities jointly contributed \$2.4 million. A joint project by the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T) and Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) has been implemented to provide commuter rail on the existing track between Dallas and Fort Worth, from which the service will connect to the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. Direct commuter rail service between

Adjacent and Surrounding Cities



Fort Worth shares boundaries with 28 cities. The City has various service and facility agreements with these cities and other nearby municipalities. (Source: Planning and Development Department, 2011.)

Dallas and Fort Worth began in December 2001, with the opening of two commuter rail stations in Downtown Fort Worth. The cities of Fort Worth and Dallas have both transferred ownership of the rail corridor property to their respective public transportation providers, The T and DART, who are responsible for implementing the Trinity Railway Express plan of services.

A second regional passenger rail connection between Fort Worth and Dallas—the TEX Rail line initiated by The T—is scheduled to begin service in 2015. The TEX Rail line will run between southwest Fort Worth and the DFW Airport, with stops at a number of stations in between including downtown Fort Worth and downtown Grapevine. The TEX Rail line will meet an extension of the DART Orange Line inside DFW Airport at Terminals A/B. An Innovative Financing Initiative study is being conducted in 2011 by the North Central Texas Council of Governments to determine if a plan to extend the Cottonbelt Corridor portion of the TEX Rail line could be funded as a joint effort of participating agencies and cities along the rail line.

The Area Metropolitan Ambulance Authority (AMAA) is a coalition of 14 municipalities within Tarrant County (including Burleson, which is also in Johnson County) that participate in the service by contract or interlocal agreement. AMAA oversees the administrative aspect of the emergency medical service system. The Authority assures residents within its service area an equal level of medical care by establishing uniform ambulance ordinances and operating procedures. The City registered a trade name, MedStar, for the system so that service contractors can be granted licenses to operate under the same name. MedStar provides emergency and non-emergency services, and is the only ambulance provider within the Authority's jurisdiction. The City's contract with AMAA stipulates that the Fort Worth Fire Department will provide the first response to emergencies within the Fort Worth city limits. Each participating jurisdiction has the responsibility of providing first response services within its boundaries. The AMAA Board has policy authority over MedStar. The Board consists of six members, four of whom are appointed by the Fort Worth City Council.

#### **Governmental Entities with Taxing Authority**

The Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T) oversees public transportation services in its service area, which includes the cities of Fort Worth, Richland Hills, and Blue Mound. The City of Fort Worth and The T have a contract whereby The T provides transportation services to the City based on a service plan adopted by The T's Executive Committee. The City Council appoints eight of the Executive Committee members, and the County Commissioners Court appoints one. The Authority is funded by a one-half percent sales tax.

The Tarrant County Hospital District, through the operation of the JPS Health Network, provides health services for county residents and is a primary provider of indigent health care services. JPS consists of John Peter Smith Hospital, Trinity Springs Pavilion for Psychiatric Care, and a network of community-based health centers located throughout the county. The Hospital District Board of Managers, appointed by the Tarrant County Commissioners Court, is responsible for appointing

### **Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport**



The official groundbreaking ceremony, held December 11, 1968, for the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, marked the beginning of construction for the “world’s biggest airport.” This project is one of the most successful joint ventures in which the City of Fort Worth has engaged. The airport is currently one of the nation’s top three domestic hubs. (Source: *Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, 2009.*)

the district administrator and overseeing operations of the district. The Commissioners Court sets and approves the ad valorem tax rate that provides partial funding of the Hospital District's operations. The City of Fort Worth transfers associated grant funding and a General Fund subsidy to help support health initiatives previously operated by the City that are now part of the JPS Health Network. The 2010 Tarrant County Hospital District property tax rate is \$0.228 per \$100.

The Tarrant Regional Water District is a political subdivision of the State of Texas providing raw water resources to more than 30 different customers in the North Central Texas area, including the cities of Fort Worth, Arlington, and Mansfield as well as the Trinity River Authority of Texas. In addition to supplying quality water to its customers, the Water District also provides vital flood control along the banks of the Trinity River, preserves and protects the environment, and enhances recreational opportunities for the public. The Water District maintains four reservoirs (Eagle Mountain, Bridgeport, Cedar Creek, and Richland-Chambers), 150 miles of water-transport pipelines, 27 miles of floodway levees, and the Trinity River Trails. All Water District revenue from the sale of water is used for water supply projects. Water District property taxes are used for flood control projects. The 2010 Water District tax rate is \$0.020 per \$100.

Fort Worth Independent School District serves 52 percent of the land area in the City of Fort Worth. Fourteen adjoining independent school districts cover the remainder of the city. The independent school districts levy an ad valorem property tax for public education within each district that is collected by the county in which the property lies. Each district is governed by an elected board that has the authority to change the tax rate within the district and sell bonds to finance new facilities. A joint resolution was adopted in March of 1997 by the Fort Worth City Council and the Fort Worth Independent School District that supports the establishment of policy by both entities to promote city/school cooperation. The 2010 FWISD property tax rate is \$1.322 per \$100.

Tarrant County levies an ad valorem property tax on property within the county boundaries. The tax is used to fund county services and facilities. The tax rate is adjusted annually based on appraised property values. The 2010 Tarrant County property tax rate is \$0.264 per \$100. Denton, Johnson, Parker, and Wise counties also levy an ad valorem property tax on property within their boundaries. The 2010 Denton County property tax rate is \$0.250 per \$100, Johnson County is \$0.410, Parker is \$0.390, and Wise County is \$0.389 per \$100.

The Tarrant County College District (TCCD) levies an ad valorem tax on property within the county boundaries. There are two taxes levied by TCCD; one is used for maintenance operations and one is used to retire bond debt. The fiscal year 2010 TCCD rate is \$0.138 per \$100 value.

### **Counties**

Fort Worth's taxable city limits includes portions of three counties: Tarrant, Denton, and Wise counties. The State of Texas establishes one agency within each county as the appraiser of property values within that county. The Tarrant Appraisal District

### **Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus**



Nearly 80,000 people work and/or live within a three-mile radius of the new Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus at the former RadioShack complex. First classes were held at the new location in September 2009. (Source: *Tarrant County College*, 2009.)

(TAD), the Denton Central Appraisal District (DCAD), and the Wise County Appraisal District (WiseCAD) provide these services in their respective counties. The appraisal districts maintain records of ownership, applicable taxing entities, and their exemptions. TAD, DCAD, and WiseCAD forward tax roll changes to the City each month for updating. In July of each year, they provide the City with a final roll of taxable property within the City's taxing jurisdiction. City Council sets the tax rate for the fiscal year, beginning October 1, based on this information. City Council can establish ad valorem tax exemption policies within its statutory authority. Tarrant County Health Department provides certain health care services to city residents, such as vaccinations, immunizations, and WIC programs that issue food stamps and nutritional information. In case of an endemic disease outbreak, the City, County, and State would work together.

The City works with the Tarrant County Community Development Division on grants and participates in the Fort Worth and Tarrant County Housing Consortium to address affordable housing on a county level. Fort Worth resident housing needs are also addressed through Tarrant County Access to Homeless, Tarrant County Homeless Coalition, Tarrant County Disability Housing Coalition, Tarrant County Mental Health/Mental Retardation, and Consumer Credit Community Services. The City of Fort Worth Housing Department works with most of these agencies in addressing housing needs of city residents. Tarrant County has an agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide fair housing and tenant/landlord services to all residents of Tarrant County.

On June 30, 1999, U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman authorized Texas to begin implementing the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998. WIA requires states to streamline and consolidate their job training systems by creating a "one stop" approach for delivery of services. The Tarrant County Workforce Development Board administers the WIA, which provides grant money for skills training and job placement services.

The City's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) includes portions of five counties: Denton, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant, and Wise. State law defines the responsibilities and jurisdictions allowed by cities within the ETJ — for example, the review of new subdivision plats. Chapter 22: Development Regulations provides a more detailed description of this relationship.

### **Regional Agencies**

The Trinity River Authority provides water resource planning for the Trinity River Basin, constructs dams, and supplies wastewater treatment through contracts with other agencies. The Trinity River serves as a primary water supply in the upper basin centered around the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area, and on the upper Gulf Coast of Texas centered around the greater Houston metropolitan area. Twenty counties fall within its boundaries, which extend from the mouth of the Trinity River near Galveston Bay, up to Dallas and Tarrant Counties. Each project undertaken by the Authority has an individual advisory committee. The City of Fort Worth appoints one member to the advisory committee for each pertinent project.

### **Area Metropolitan Ambulance Authority**



The Area Metropolitan Ambulance Authority (AMAA) oversees the administrative aspect of the emergency medical service system. The Authority is a coalition of 14 municipalities within Tarrant County, including Burleson, which is also in Johnson County, that participate by contract or interlocal agreement. Medstar, the registered trade name for the system, provides emergency and non-emergency services, and is the only ambulance provider within the Authority's jurisdiction. The City's contract with AMAA stipulates that the Fort Worth Fire Department will provide the first response to emergencies within Fort Worth city limits. (Source: City of Fort Worth, 2011.)

### Coordinating Agencies

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is a voluntary association of government entities in a 16-county metropolitan region centered around Fort Worth and Dallas. There are currently 234 governments that are members of NCTCOG, including 16 counties, 166 cities, 23 school districts, and 29 special districts. Its purpose is to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefits, and coordinating regional development. The City of Fort Worth is a member and pays dues based on population. The City has a permanent seat on the 11-member Executive Board. NCTCOG serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation and air quality in the Fort Worth-Dallas metropolitan area in accordance with federal law. NCTCOG is responsible for maintaining a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process for all modes of travel for the region, as well as regional air quality programs.

The City is an active participant in the Vision North Texas initiative. Vision North Texas is making an important contribution to the future quality of life, economic desirability, and long-term sustainability of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. It is increasing public awareness about important regional land use issues that affect mobility, air quality, water supply and other economic and environmental resources. In addition, it serves as a forum for discussion, education, research, and decisions about public and private sector actions to address these concerns. Importantly, it is addressing these concerns through a partnership of the private, public, nonprofit, and academic sectors.

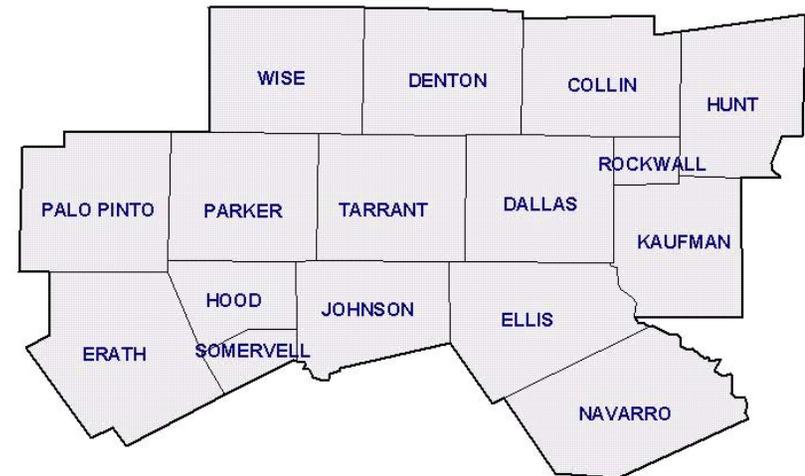
The City is a member of a number of different agencies that coordinate with cities and city leaders in an attempt to address common issues.

- The City of Fort Worth is a member of the North Texas Commission, a regional, independent, nonprofit economic development consortium made up of municipalities, chambers of commerce, and corporations established to develop regional programs to market the North Texas Region on the national and international level. The City pays membership dues and has a position on the Board of Directors.
- The Texas Municipal League consists of all cities in the State of Texas. It provides services, such as lobbying the state legislature, that individual cities do not have the financial resources or political strength to do alone. Professional organizations also participate in committees to provide and share information.
- Collaborative Leadership Council consists of members and representatives of City Council, Fort Worth Independent School District, chambers of commerce, Tarrant County Commissioners, United Way of Tarrant County, The T, Fort Worth Housing Authority, the Crime Prevention Resource Center (CPRC), JPS Health Network, Intel Corporation, Thos S. Byrne, Inc., TXU, and the Burnett Foundation. Topics of mutual interest are discussed, and dialogues are opened among the various entities.

### State

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is involved in nearly every aspect

### North Central Texas Council of Governments



The NCTCOG's purpose is to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefits, and coordinating regional development. It serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation and air quality in the Fort Worth-Dallas Metropolitan area in accordance with Federal law. (Source: North Central Texas Council of Governments, 2011.)

of transportation within the state. It administers state and federal funds for transportation projects selected at the regional, state, and federal levels. The majority of the City of Fort Worth is within TxDOT's Fort Worth District. However, the portion of the city that is within Denton County is within TxDOT's Dallas District. The districts are responsible for selecting projects for various funding categories in their local areas.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) was created to administer a comprehensive preservation program under state law. The agency also administers the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. It has an 18-member council, which plays an important role in selecting recipients of state grants for preservation projects. Projects in Fort Worth that are federally funded are subject to a historic review process administered by THC under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. THC also consults with citizens and organizations to preserve architectural, archeological, and cultural landmarks, and it sponsors educational conferences. The City of Fort Worth is a Certified Local Government with a Historic Preservation Officer and a Historic and Cultural Landmark Commission, making it eligible for grants from the THC.

The Texas Department of Human Services (DHS) provides financial, medical, and social services to eligible families, children, elderly people, and people with disabilities. Texas Works and the Aged and Disabled Programs serve Fort Worth residents through Tarrant County.

The Texas Department of Health records all births, deaths, marriages, and divorces in Texas through its Bureau of Vital Statistics. The Bureau of Vital Statistics also develops, analyzes, and disseminates information used to plan and evaluate public health programs and to identify specific problem areas, such as infant mortality, teen pregnancy, and tobacco use. The Department of Health is also charged by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to enforce asbestos and lead paint removal programs. The City of Fort Worth contracts with it for the removal of asbestos and lead paint identified at sites. In case of an endemic outbreak, the Texas Department of Health would assist. It also inspects summer and institutional programs within the Fort Worth city limits that are not sponsored by the City.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is the state's air quality regulatory agency. It is responsible for developing the emission reduction plan for the region. The City of Fort Worth assists the TCEQ with air monitoring and inspects and reports violations. Notices of violation are sent to the violator and to the TCEQ, who decides the type of enforcement that is applicable and what measures should be taken to address the situation. TCEQ and NCTCOG have developed a State Implementation Plan for North Texas to improve air quality in conformance with EPA standards described in the Clean Air Act.

Texas Parks and Wildlife operates more than 123 state parks and historic sites across Texas. It provides technical and funding assistance to local park programs. There are 27 parks operated by Texas Parks and Wildlife within 100 miles of the Fort Worth-Dallas Metroplex.

## Trinity River Trails



The Trinity River trails are a good example of coordination among various agencies. Federal transportation funds and City funds pay for the construction of the trails. The City and Tarrant Regional Water District have an agreement that provides for shared responsibility of maintenance and expansion of the greenway system. *Source: Streams and Valleys, 2009.*

The Texas Department of Economic Development administers economic development programs, including enterprise zones and projects, tourism, and funds for certain job training programs. The City's Housing and Economic Development Department works closely with the state on business development and reports annually on the status of enterprise zones and projects; tax abatements in the zones; and local Tax Increment Financing Districts (TIFs).

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs is Texas' lead agency responsible for affordable housing, community development, and community assistance programs, as well as the regulation of the state's manufactured housing industry. The Department is the source agency for several local programs, such as the Weatherization Assistance Program, which serve the low-income residents of Tarrant County.

The Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services is charged with protecting the rights of children and the rights of adults who are elderly or disabled. The department also licenses group day-care homes, day-care centers, and registered family homes.

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts is one of the largest agencies in state government. It collects state revenue, tracks state expenditures, and monitors the state's financial condition. It serves as the state's chief fiscal officer, bookkeeper, and economic forecaster. It collects 26 state taxes, including sales tax. The Research Division studies and reports on all sectors and geographic regions of the Texas economy. The Economic Development Division provides information about federal and state grant opportunities; distributes data about local economies; and helps businesses find purchasing and training opportunities.

### **Federal**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implements major federal environmental legislation. The Clean Air Act (1970 and 1990) established emission standards for both motor vehicles and point source emitters of airborne pollutants, and set pollution control standards that require communities and industries to meet air quality standards. The City of Fort Worth assists the EPA with air monitoring, permitting, and enforcement through the Environmental Services Division of its Transportation and Public Works Department. The Clean Water Act of 1987 established a permitting program and criteria for the discharge of pollutants into the country's waters, including minimum water quality standards. The City has a federal permit to discharge storm water into local water bodies. The City is responsible for inspecting and enforcing the Clean Water Act based on terms of the permit.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) attempts to protect people, property, and infrastructure from all types of hazards through comprehensive emergency management programs of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. It administers the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, which established the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In order for property owners to purchase federally guaranteed flood insurance, a community must adopt and enforce flood plain management ordinances that meet NFIP requirements.

## **Evans and Rosedale Improvements**



The City has been awarded federal grants from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for improvements to the Evans and Rosedale area in Near Southeast Fort Worth. The City also conducted environmental site assessments on property in the area using a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). (Sources: Huitt-Zollars, Inc., Planning and Development Department, 2009.)

FEMA rewards local governments that make efforts to reduce flood losses through its Community Rating System. If a community receives a good CRS rating, flood insurance rates are lowered for property owners within the community. The City is a NFIP participant.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers the Community Development Block Grant program, HOPE VI public housing redevelopment funding, HOME, Empowerment Zone, and other federal programs to assist municipalities with housing and community development. The Fort Worth Housing Authority and the City of Fort Worth receive funding through HUD programs.

The Army Corps of Engineers is the primary enforcement agency for the Rivers and Harbors Act, which regulates all activities affecting the navigable waters of the United States, including activities in wetlands and the construction of bridges, roads, and docks. Permits are required from the Corps of Engineers before dredging and filling in wetlands around the Trinity River in Fort Worth and Dallas.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the Endangered Species Act. It establishes the criteria for listing plants and animals as threatened or endangered; issues permits for development sites that are five acres or greater to ensure listed species' habitats are not destroyed during development; and prepares Habitat Conservation Plans for endangered and threatened species. The agency keeps information on a county level.

## STRATEGIES

Each chapter in Parts II, III, and IV of this plan provides goals, objectives, and policies for addressing the existing and future needs of the City of Fort Worth. Many of these require cooperation among the government agencies that provide services and facilities for Fort Worth residents and businesses. Some key opportunities for cooperation among government agencies are identified below for those chapters.

### Land Use

- Plan for, facilitate, and aggressively pursue appropriate transit-oriented development (TOD) at existing and future transit station locations.
- Encourage new development in character with the existing neighborhood scale, architecture, and platting pattern, while working to improve pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access between adjacent neighborhoods and nearby destinations.
- Encourage and facilitate the location and design both urban and suburban of schools to maximize walkable, bikeable, and transit connectivity with all surrounding residential areas.

### Housing

- Aggressively expand land assembly for infill housing, particularly in designated urban villages, mixed-use growth centers, rail station areas that support Transit-Oriented Development, and Neighborhood Empowerment Zones.

## Public Outreach Libraries



The facilities for Butler Outreach Library (BOLD) and Cavile Outreach Opportunity Library (COOL) are provided by the Fort Worth Housing Authority, while the Fort Worth Public Library provides the materials, programs, and staff. (Source: Public Library, 2009.)

- Implement strategies and action items in the City’s Homelessness Plan, Directions Home, to facilitate the homeless population’s transition into housing.
- Support Fort Worth Housing Authority efforts to improve public housing, including mixed-income and mixed-use developments.

**Parks and Community Services**

- Improve and enhance the role Fort Worth’s significant park facilities play in tourism and educational opportunities.
- Seek grants and other non-City funding resources for riparian buffer conservation, park development, including bike trail linkages and other projects.
- Support implementation of the park, trail, and open space recommendations of the Lake Worth Vision Plan.

**Libraries**

- Assure Library’s role as “community builder” and “destination place” by promoting integrative, holistic concepts for facility planning and service delivery options.
- Provide services in conveniently located, easily accessible areas of the city.

**Economic Development**

- Encourage the use of federal brownfields programs to assist in central city revitalization.
- Use appropriate incentives to promote development of vacant land and redevelopment or reuse of deteriorated properties within designated commercial districts.
- Continue the close partnership between the City and the local chambers of commerce in marketing Fort Worth to business prospects.
- Enhance collaboration between the Business Assistance Center (BAC) and local chambers of commerce in offering technical and mentorship services to central city businesses.

**Transportation**

- Identify and promote potential locations for transit-oriented development, especially in designated growth centers and urban villages.
- Continue to work with The T to expand and integrate public transit, including rail transit, into the City’s transportation system.
- Ensure collaboration among City departments, The T, and the community to address issues concerning coordination among the various transportation modes.
- Seek input from other entities, including schools, cities, counties, The T, NCTCOG, and TxDOT when making land use and transportation decisions.
- Continue to coordinate with NCTCOG to use the travel forecasting model.

**Education**

- When possible, share school and City facilities to provide efficient access to services and to ensure efficient use of public funds.
- Ensure that the design of schools reflects their status as important community



The City of Fort Worth participated with The T in the North Central Texas Council of Governments’ Regional Rail Corridor Study. Completed in 2004, the study evaluated the feasibility of implementing passenger rail service along existing rail corridors in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, including the TEX rail corridor. (Source: North Central Texas Council of Governments, 2009.)

facilities while providing a creative, safe environment for students.

- Improve pedestrian and bicycle access to schools as a means of encouraging physical activity and fighting childhood obesity.

**Urban Design**

- Involve affected property owners, residents, and other interested parties in the development of urban design approaches and the selection of appropriate urban design elements.
- Promote the development of quality, mixed-income housing within Trinity Uptown that is inclusive of all Fort Worth residents.
- Locate telecommunications facilities in a manner that is compatible with adjacent and nearby uses.

**Arts and Culture**

- Encourage increased private and public sector support for the arts.
- Encourage nonprofit and private arts organizations to work closely with historic preservation organizations to reuse historical buildings for cultural centers, assisting in neighborhood revitalization.

**Police Services**

- Deploy Neighborhood Police Officers (NPOs) as community problem solvers. NPOs will continue to form relationships with the community to encourage involvement in Citizens on Patrol (COP), crime prevention, and problem solving.

**Fire and Emergency Services**

- Increase public participation in education programs such as Learn Not to Burn, Youth Fire Academy, and Citizens Fire Academy.
- Coordinate the expenditure of Homeland Security grant funds with the Emergency Management Office.

**Environmental Quality**

- Implement a sustainable development online forum — an educational and networking resource that will inform the public about local opportunities and the benefits of sustainable development while increasing builder and developer participation.
- Encourage planting and maintenance of native vegetation near buildings and along paved surfaces to directly shield them from the sun’s rays, reducing urban heat island effects.
- Reduce the reliance on potable water use by encouraging the appropriate reuse and reclamation of water in new development and redevelopment.
- When feasible, develop linear parks with walking and biking trails along drainage ways as an effective means of filtering out water pollutants and connecting neighborhoods.

**City and ISD Shared Facilities**

Park/School Site	Shared Facility
Daggett Park	Includes a play field that City leases from FWISD and parking lot built by the City.
Diamond Hill High School	City built 4 tennis courts on land leased from FWISD.
Eastern Hills High School	City built 4 tennis courts and a play area on land leased from FWISD.
Morningside Middle School	City built and maintains park facilities on land leased from FWISD.
Ridglea Hills	City built and maintains park facilities on land leased from FWISD.
O. D. Wyatt School	City built 6 tennis courts which are maintained by FWISD.
Southwest Park and Community Center	Portion of park facilities and parking areas on land leased from FWISD.
Atwood McDonald Elementary School	Parks Department installed and maintains play equipment donated by the school's Parent Teacher Organization. Site is adjacent to Sunset Hills Park.
Thomas Place	City leases land and a building from FWISD for a small community center.
Van Zandt-Guinn	Portion of park facilities built on land leased from FWISD.
Westwind Parks	Portion of park facilities built on land leased from FWISD.
Seminary Hills Park	FWISD leases land from City for use as elementary school/park site, and provides for joint use of site as school and neighborhood park.
Summerfield Northwest Park	Joint development agreement with the Keller ISD.

The 13 agreements listed above are examples of cooperation between the City and the Independent School Districts (ISDs), including Fort Worth ISD and Keller ISD. The agreements provide for shared facilities and maintenance and allow for the efficient provision of services and facilities. (Source: Parks and Community Services Department, 2009.)