

# Partnering for Success!

## Lewisville Lake Wildlife Management Area Challenge/ Partnership Agreement

City of The Colony, TX

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Ft. Worth  
District

Presented by: Pam Nelson, Community  
Services Director – The Colony, TX

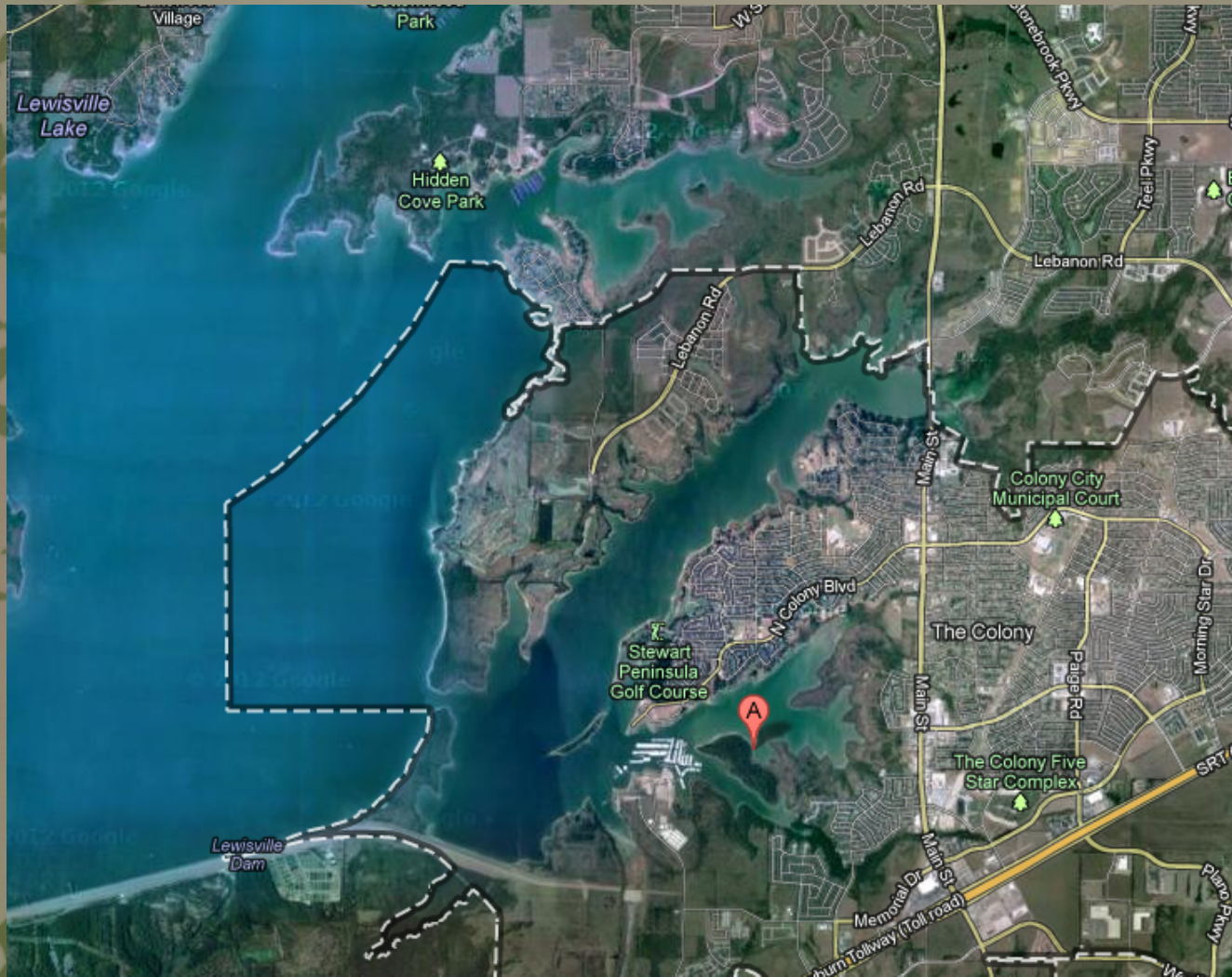


# The Colony/Corps Partnership

- 4 Park leases over the past 30 years
- Portions or all of each park subleased
- Camping, boating, marina, picnic, golf courses, soccer facilities
- Long-standing relationship resulting in successful outdoor recreational uses and stewardship of federal parkland
- What about the rest of Corps property in our city and its use (or misuse)?

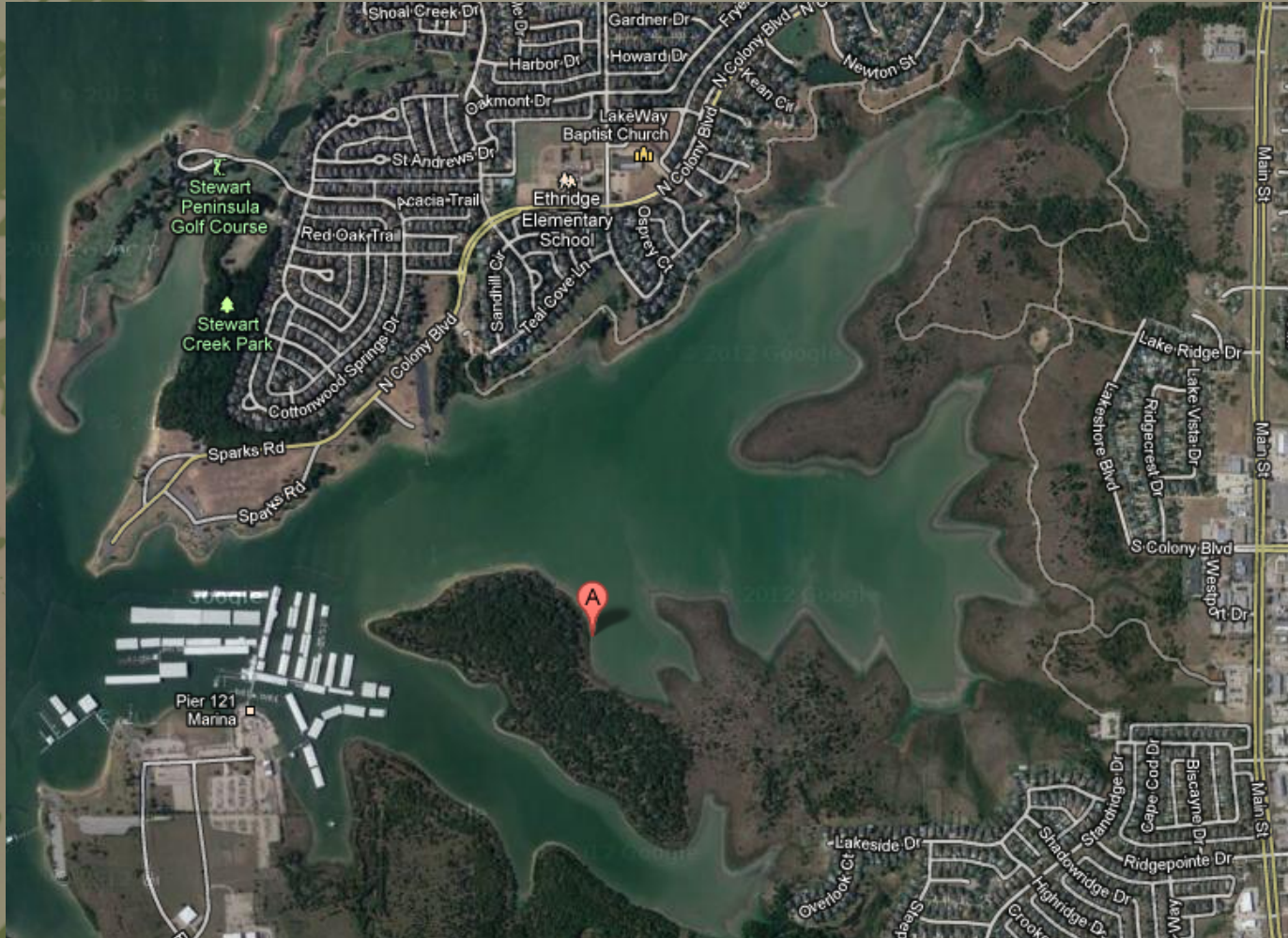


# The Colony/Corps Partnership





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# WMA Non- Parkland Challenges

- Hundreds of acres of Corps Wildlife Management Area (WMA) classification in the City's ETJ
- Illegal and destructive activities (mowing, ATV's, dumping)
- Adjacent property owners using WMA for private uses
- WMA difficult to access for enforcement action
- Corps resources stretched between 3 lakes
- Lake/shoreline inaccessible unless through fee paid parks or illegal entry

# Challenge Partnership Agreement

- City wanted to build a nature trail in the WMA to give public access to the lake without park fees
- Trail would provide public safety access to previously non-accessible areas for enforcement and emergency services
- Adjacent property owner violations would be managed and monitored
- City could assist Corps in educating residents, managing mowing permits, mitigation fees, patrolling, etc.
- Corps/City entered into a Challenge Partnership Agreement leasing the WMA to the City and giving us authority to construct the trail and manage activities



# The Colony Shoreline Trail



# Challenge Agreement Challenges

- Extreme opposition to the trail from adjacent landowners- divided our community
- City had funds to build the trail, but future resources for monitoring/ maintenance a concern
- Residents who previously used Corps land as their own now limited and very unhappy
- Mowing /irrigation permits and mitigation fees now being implemented by the City
- City Police Department unsure of its “new” authority



# Pam's new titles.....

Dragon Lady



Trail Hero





# Trail Construction- Decomposed Granite and Geoweb





# Trail Construction

## Pedestrian Crossings and Interpretive Signage





# Challenge Agreement Benefits

- New Trail provides citizen and public safety depts. access
- Easier monitoring of the area
- ATV destruction no longer an issue
- Adjacent landowners understand and more compliant with Corps regulations
- Citizen enjoyment and appreciation of shoreline and nature area that didn't previously exist
- Keeps people active- runners, walkers, birdwatchers, etc.



# Shoreline/Nature





# Adjacent Landowner Management

- Partnership Agreement gives City management authority over activities on Corps land and much needed enforcement assistance
- City adopts an ordinance setting fees to issue mowing/irrigation permits
- City educates adjacent landowners, issues permits, collects permit and mitigation fees
- City monitors shoreline and adjacent landowner activities- notifies residents of infractions
- Voluntary compliance – 45 permits - \$1100 fees collected
- \$5500 in mitigation fees collected– used for planting trees in Corps parks



# Trail Ranger Volunteer Program

## Mission

To establish a group of dedicated volunteers to provide the City with monitoring and maintenance assistance while utilizing city trails

# Trail Ranger Program Objectives

- ✿ Assist with monitoring and reporting maintenance issues and illegal activities
- ✿ Provide assistance and information to trail users
- ✿ Provide labor on volunteer work days and daily litter control
- ✿ Obtain knowledge of wildlife/habitat and proper human interaction
- ✿ Know trail rules/etiquette and set example



# Trail Ranger Requirements

- ✿ Age 18 or older with signed liability release
- ✿ Criminal background check
- ✿ 5-6 hour training
- ✿ Document time and incidents/issues on trail
- ✿ Must carry a cell phone
- ✿ Assist with work days and trash pick up as needed
- ✿ Wear TR T-shirt and/or carry TR ID badge on trail
- ✿ Attend ongoing trainings/events
- ✿ Ambassador....not enforcer!
- ✿ Be friendly, helpful, observant and have fun!

# Trail Ranger Training

- ✿ Trail tour – map, rest stations, mile markers, emergency access, interpretive signs, wildlife
- ✿ Goals/Expectations- ambassador not enforcer!!
- ✿ Trail rules and USACE Title 36 Regulations
- ✿ Partnership Agreement with USACE
- ✿ Adjacent property owner regulations
- ✿ Reporting Violations of laws or ordinances
- ✿ Wildlife encounters/sightings
- ✿ Medical/Fire Emergencies
- ✿ Role playing – “What to do if.....” scenarios
- ✿ Q & A and Yellow T-Shirt and ID card Issued



# Trail Ranger Training





# Trail Ranger Workdays





# Trail Ranger Results

- Illegal dumping and off-road activities now non-existent
- Assembly and installation of trash/recycling receptacles, pet waste stations, benches, signs
- Removal of illegally dumped brush and spread wood chips back on trail
- Maintenance days for spreading decomposed granite
- Regular trash clean-up along trail
- Assisted with 3 medical emergencies, reported 2 crimes in progress and 43 Rangers logged over 500 volunteer hrs. in first 4 months of program
- Texas Recreation & Parks Society – “Conservation Award”

# Trail Ranger Benefits

- ✿ Continual trail monitoring through normal use
- ✿ High profile presence- safety/security
- ✿ Volunteer labor saving the City big \$\$\$
- ✿ Significant reduction in destruction of wildlife habitat, dumping and vandalism
- ✿ Adjacent homeowners satisfied
- ✿ Sense of ownership, pride and involvement by citizens
- ✿ New Friendships!



# Challenge Partnership Agreement

Success!

