

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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(DALLAS, TX) Mayor Tom Leppert and Councilman Dave Neumann, Chairman of the Council's Trinity River Corridor Project Council Committee announced the winners of the 2010 Trinity River Photo Contest at the City Council Briefing meeting this morning.

The 2010 Trinity River Photo Contest was a huge success. This year, the number of photos submitted increased by 59% over last year. In 2009, we had 350 photos and this year the judges examined 858 photos! This represents a significant jump in participants and we are pleased to see it because it means that the City's efforts to revitalize interest in the land all along the Trinity River Corridor are garnering results and that hundreds of people learned something new about their City.

The 2009 exhibit debuted at Methodist Medical Center Dallas early this year, and then traveled throughout 2010 to: Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, Mattie Nash and Myrtle Davis Recreation Center, Janette Kennedy Gallery, some photos went to the Texas Discovery Gardens during the State Fair of Texas, and it is currently at the African American Museum where it has been on display since before and during the State Fair. Our estimate is that tens of thousands of people saw the photos during the traveling exhibit and through the images, it is clear they gained a new impression of Dallas.

The 2010 contest once again used the Trinity River as the backbone of this competition. This means that all the major components of this project are highlighted through the amazing photography we will reveal.

This contest gets people down to the river to see the levee system and floodway, which provide vital flood protection for Dallas, and these flood protection components represent a major focus for the Trinity River Corridor Project. Photographers went into Dallas' Great Trinity Forest and saw over 20 miles of trail system right in the heart of the City – Rochester Park Bois d'arc Trail, the Texas Buckeye Trail and many less traveled areas. It showcased the Cityscape views and the construction progress of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, which is a transportation component for the Trinity River Corridor Project.

Overall, the pictures show there is definitely outdoor adventure and fun in Dallas - and the photographers had a chance to experience it first hand by "capturing their own photo adventure".

The contest period was from June 30, 2010 to October 15, 2010. Photographers submitted their photographs in three groups: Professional (receive all or a major portion of their income from photography), the Amateur group (beginning or novice photographers) and the Youth group (18 years of age and under). The photos were submitted in four categories: Architecture/Structures, Forest/Prairie, River/Ponds, and Wildlife. The Dallas Camera Club consulted with staff to put together this contest and the materials, and then worked with the City and Canon to offer a free Canon Photography Workshop in July of this year. The workshop was held at the Trinity River Audubon Center and there were 85 photography enthusiasts in attendance.

We had children from schools participate including Ferris High School, Ferris; St. John's Episcopal School, Dallas; The Canterbury Episcopal School, DeSoto; School of Talented and Gifted (TAG), Dallas; George Dealey Bannerman Montessori, Dallas, and McKamy Middle School, Lewisville. Photographers participated from the Dallas Camera Club, Fort Worth Camera Club, Heard Nature Photographers, patients of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital and their families, as well as the 45 City of Dallas Recreation Center visitors.

Last week, the judging was conducted by a panel of five distinguished professional photographers and you will see all of them in our video presentation. There are three prize levels: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and the judges selected Honorable Mention photos, too. From out of all of these winning selections, the panel of judges then selected the grand prize winner; an image of coyotes at the Trinity River Audubon Center during last February's snowstorm. The image was taken by Sean Fitzgerald.