

Trinity River Audubon Center

Pileated Woodpecker. American Kestrel. Painted Bunting. These are just a few of the almost 300 species of birds that you can find at the [Trinity River Audubon Center](#) in southeast Dallas. But it wasn't always that way. The land was once a sand and gravel mine located adjacent to a residential neighborhood called Deepwood. After the mine ceased operations, the mine pits were used as illegal dumps until the mid-1990s. The City of Dallas entered the site into the [Voluntary Cleanup Program](#) (VCP) in 2002. The remedy selected was to excavate a portion of the property. In addition, cap and continually monitor methane on the remainder of the former landfill while restoring the native grass prairie.



Figure 1. Trinity River Audubon Center reflected in the river at dusk.

In 2005, the Audubon Society finalized an agreement to run an interpretive birding center at the site. Trinity Trust (now [Trinity River Conservancy](#)) raised money to build the facility, and secured internationally renowned architect, Antoine Predock, to design the center. The city broke ground in 2006. The VCP certificates of completion for the site were issued in 2007, and the construction of the center was completed in 2008. The “green building” was built using low impact construction materials and became the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified project constructed by the City of Dallas Parks and Recreation Department.

Over 80,000 visitors a year visit the Trinity River Audubon Center. The center hosts programs for kids and citizen scientists, all while restoring the native vegetation to provide habitat for birds of the Great Trinity Forest.