



# CREATING CONNECTIONS

Jonathan Cook, Director of Parks and Recreation



CITY OF WACO

# Trails Master Plan, Strategic Plan, and Preliminary Design Services Introduction

RES-2020-895: Resolution would approve a professional services agreement for planning and design services with Halff Associates, Inc., to provide: 1) a City-wide Trails Master Plan; 2) conceptual design services for high priority venues and corridors within the Master Plan area; and 3) a Parks and Recreation Department Strategic Plan with a recreation focus in an amount not to exceed \$294,834.00

# Presentation Overview

- Benefits of Trail System Planning
- Overview of Current Trail System
- Planning and Design Strategy
- Create and Activate



# Trails Boost Health

- The COVID-19 impact in 2020 has spotlighted the public's desire and the benefits of spending more time outdoors
- Physical Health
  - For every \$1 spent on trails, there is a \$3 savings in healthcare costs (*National Recreation and Parks Association Annual Report*)
  - Healthy hearts = healthy communities
- Mental Health
  - Spending 20 minutes outside can reduce stress
  - A natural prescription





# Trails Make Economic Sense

Trails are the foundation of the outdoor recreation industry and a crucial economic driver

- Trails drive spending, development and tourism
- Trails create jobs
- Trails increase property values, boost taxes
- Trails make communities desirable place to live



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IN TEXAS OUTDOOR RECREATION GENERATES:

**\$52.6  
BILLION**  
IN CONSUMER  
SPENDING ANNUALLY



**411,000**  
DIRECT  
JOBS



**\$15.8  
BILLION**  
IN WAGES AND  
SALARIES



**\$3.5  
BILLION**  
IN STATE AND LOCAL  
TAX REVENUE



OF WACO

# Trails Are For Everyone

- Trails enhance neighborhoods and create connections to attractions, schools, etc.
- Trails provide transportation alternatives
- Trails promote social, racial, gender, and economic equity. They are accessible, free to use and always open



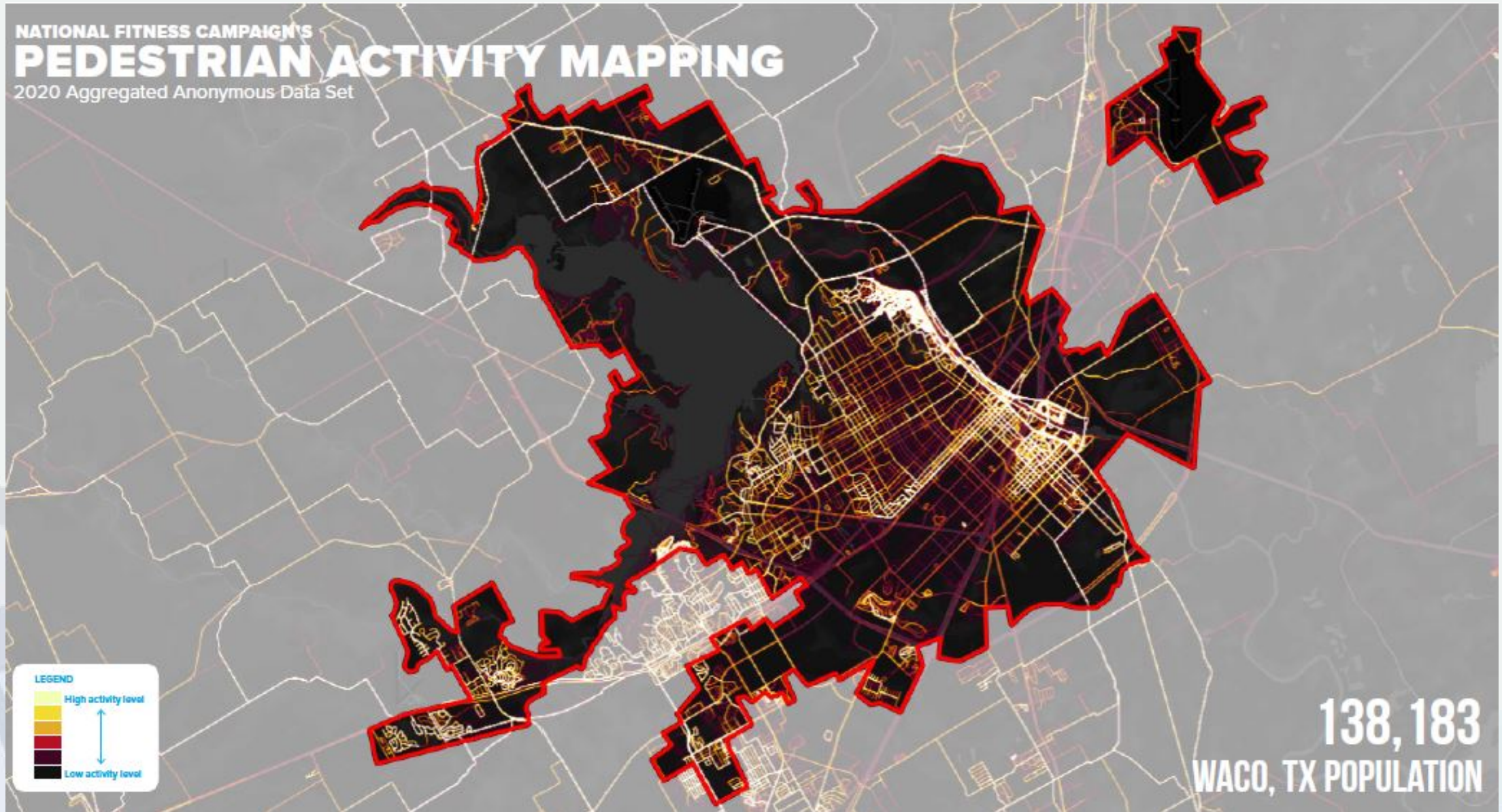
# Waco's Current Trail System

- 13 miles of urban trail
  - Downtown Riverwalk
  - Cottonbelt Trail
  - Lake Waco Dam Trail (*Corps of Engineers*)
- 24 miles of neighborhood and community park loops
  - Installation of Fitness Equipment
- 20+ miles of Cameron Park Trails
  - National Recreation Trail

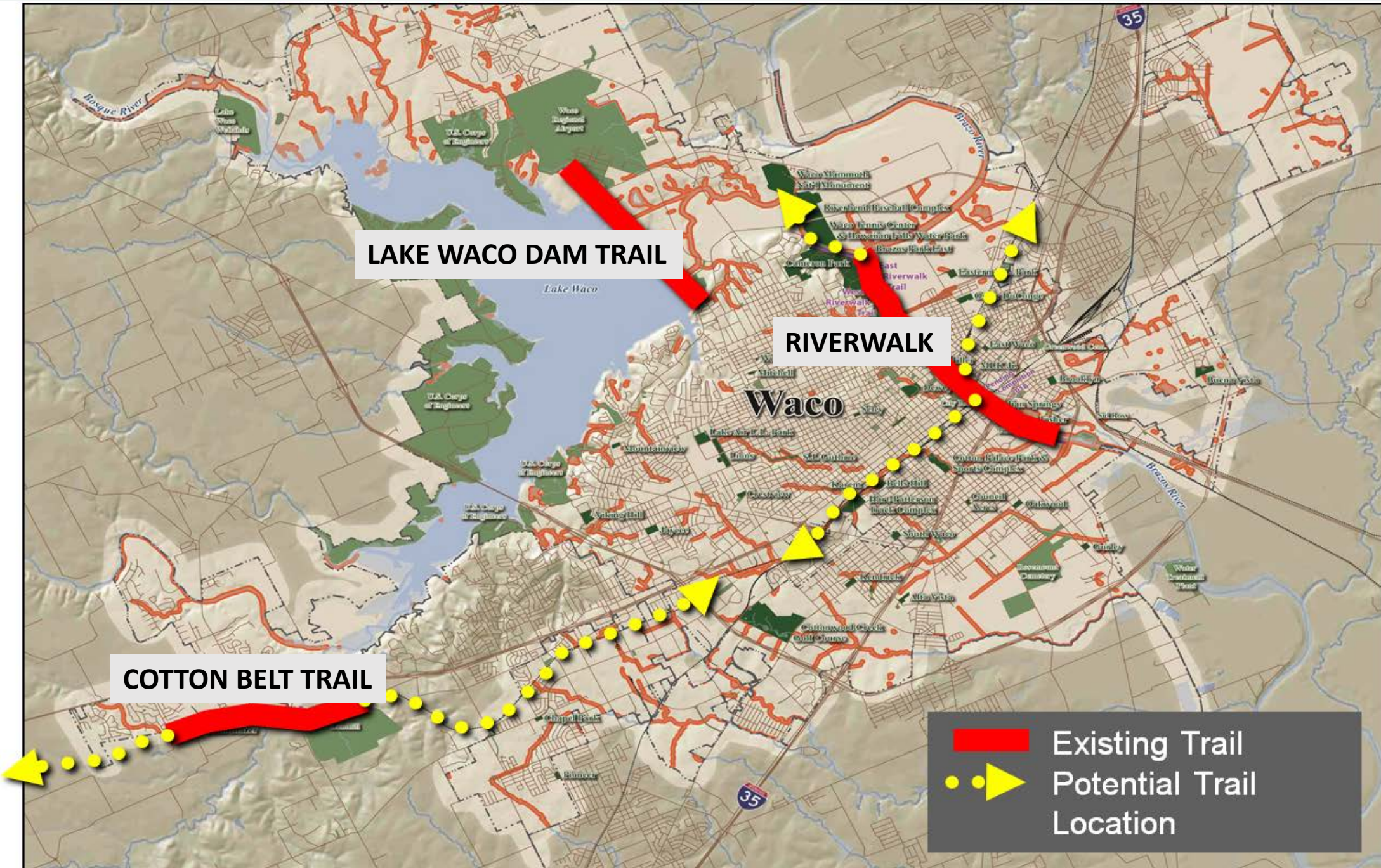




# Waco's Current Trail System









**LAKE WACO DAM TRAIL**

**RIVERWALK**

**COTTON BELT TRAIL**

-  Existing Trail
-  Potential Trail Location



# Planning and Design Services

- HALFF Associates
  - Wide range of park design and strategic planning experience in Texas
    - Lower Rio Grande Valley Transportation and Tourism Plan
    - Trinity Forest Spine Trail
    - City of Prosper Trails Plan
- Trails Master Plan, Design Services and Recreation Strategic Plan
  - A framework for multi-use trail connectivity and activation of public space throughout Waco to enhance transportation, recreation and quality of life



# Create, Activate and Sustain

- 10 to 12-month project
  - Document Inventories
  - Demographic and Count Studies
  - Develop Mapping
  - Engage Stakeholders
  - Strategies and Recommendations
- Action plan of priorities
  - Areas of activation, established corridors
  - Budgeting, partnerships
- Methods to sustain development and maintenance to meet community needs

