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CITY OF WACO, BRAZOS RIVERWALK EXTENSION

Project Goals

As an outcome of a Citywide Bike Trail Master Plan prepared by Jacobs for the City of Waco, we provided services to extend the Brazos Riverwalk 1.2 miles to connect the Baylor University frontage and to provide improvements through Waco's Museum District. Project challenges include safety barriers requested by Baylor, modifying existing structures, controlling access, grading issues along the river's edge, and integrating the City of Waco, TxDOT, and Baylor University goals into a cohesive solution.

Project Results

Jacobs accomplished Baylor's barrier requirement by grading out an existing expanse and installing a retaining wall along the riverwalk edge providing a more usable lawn space. The retaining wall is topped with an iron rail fence that integrates with the more formal and traditional architecture of Baylor. A new landscaped edge on the river's side of the Law School and a 220 foot bridge over Waco Creek creates a new portal feature into the campus. The extension terminates at a new trailhead east of the campus.

Project Description

Jacobs prepared a design layout for the Riverwalk extension that connects the current system and follows the Brazos river from west of downtown along the Baylor Campus.



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The project includes a 12-foot-wide concrete trail, bridges over several waterways, safety and accent lighting and site furnishings, and grading and modifying existing structures to accommodate passage of the new riverwalk. The trail provides access to a marina and numerous points of interest, and connects to the museum while avoiding a direct route through the historic village area as a protective measure. The Baylor athletic facilities (tennis, soccer and baseball) are also bounded with an ornamental iron rail fence to control access to these events.

Our project team is responsible for:

- Planning charrettes with multiple stakeholders
- Coordinating with the Citywide Bike Trail Master Plan
- Design layout of 1.2 mile trail extension
- Modifying existing structures to accommodate passage of the riverwalk extension
- Integrating aesthetic and functional needs into a cohesive landscape architectural plan
- Grading plan and new landscape edge along the Brazos River
- Access management analysis and plan
- Barrier solutions for Baylor University
- New 220-foot bridge over Waco Creek as a portal entry
- New trailhead east of Baylor campus as terminus
- Bridges over several waterways
- Provisions for future connections