

Letter to the Editor Fort Worth Weekly, in response to “Diamond in the Muck” article, published July 14, 2007

Congratulations to Mr. Dan McGraw and Fort Worth Weekly for producing and publishing a major serious analysis and commentary on Lake Worth. Long overdue in media circles, it was very well done. Mr. McGraw effectively reported history, existing problems and most importantly, pegged the opportunity our City Leaders have to maximize this underutilized asset—Fort Worth’s own Lake Worth—for everyone’s collective benefit.

We *do* have in this city the opportunity to develop a truly world-class park system and safe recreational oasis. This *does* represent not only a potentially huge jump in “quality of life” for all citizens, but also sound fiscal/economic policy. Benefits from cleaning and dredging Lake Worth, and preserving surrounding city-owned undeveloped land for parks, range from as basic and near-term as improvements in our drinking water quality to significantly increased city revenue from multiple sources. But Mr. McGraw wrote about all that...

Fort Worth owns Lake Worth. We own thousands of acres, including 18 public parks, surrounding it. Repeat: Fort Worth already owns this. We don’t have to buy anything. And, Fort Worth owns the minerals under Lake Worth and this surrounding land. Simply, City Leaders should designate a substantial portion of that Barnett Shale related revenue derived from under and around Lake Worth to clean and dredge Lake Worth.... Leave enough of the money that comes from there out there. It makes sense. And, this is consistent with many of the city’s gas revenue expenditure policies, past and proposed. (Many believe that there will be more than enough money coming from under this lake to take care of this lake and contribute to other city needs.)

We know our City Leaders can be far sighted. (Think about downtown, what it is and what it used to be,... the Trinity River hike and bike trails system and related projects.) We citizens need that good judgment from our leaders. Coupled with gas related funding, we have a shot at doing something extraordinary, and cost-efficiently, that will benefit Fort Worth and all its citizens for many, many years.

Lake Worth Alliance is proud to be doing its part for the community. We’re working with elected FW City leaders, FW City Staff, Freese and Nichols, Inc., among others, toward a wonderful and realistically achievable goal. Lake Worth will make Fort Worth proud. So, all together now, *let’s do it!*

Sincerely,

Joe Waller
President, and on behalf of the Officers and Directors
Lake Worth Alliance