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Editorials

Editorial: We need a little more patience on our Trinity Park

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You can be forgiven for the sense that a park will rise along the Trinity River around the same time your feet start getting cold from hell freezing over.

The pace has been glacial – to be kind. But the truth is, we are getting close. And if we will stay true to the vision of a beautiful urban park served by a true parkway, we could begin to see the park take shape in a matter of a few years.

It's more than encouraging that the Trinity Trust has raised \$1 million in

private funds to pay for three important components as we move forward: public engagement, planning and design.

Critics have called for that money to go directly to the parks department to begin building amenities immediately in the park.

That might sound like a good idea. After all, we've waited so long. But a little more patience is needed, maybe now more than ever.

We have coalesced around a general vision for the Trinity. That vision was captured in an inspirational but preliminary sketch drawn up by a team of designers known as Mayor Mike Rawlings' "Dream Team" and led by Vancouver planner Larry Beasley.

The Beasley plan showed a sensitively designed four-lane road touching a vast park that has our river as its centerpiece.

Sketches, however, are not designs. And the voice of the public still needs to be heard as we go forward. This \$1 million gift will make both actual design and public input possible.

The expectation is that the money will fund 30 percent of the ultimate design of the major piece of the park, roughly the area between the Margaret McDermott Bridge to the south to the northern side of the Continental Bridge.

This area will make up the urban park residents have been seeking for more than a generation.

It was the right decision to have the Trinity Trust directly fund the design, as well, versus putting this money in the city's hands and forcing the design to be put through a bid process. The designers selected, including Beasley and Harvard University urban planner Alex Krieger, have been intimately involved with this project for many, many years. They understand the area. They have

already done a great deal of the work that needs to be done, and their vision is one that has broad agreement among those of us who care so deeply about the Trinity.

A final issue, however, does need resolution. The city must clarify how the parks department will participate in the park’s development and upkeep. And the park cannot be built without a clear plan to fund its long term maintenance. Building it without planning to pay to keep it beautiful would be a major mistake.

We should be pleased, though. We are nearer to our park than ever. We need to keep pushing ahead.

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Theresa May Holds First Prime Minister's
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