

JOPPA COMMUNITY

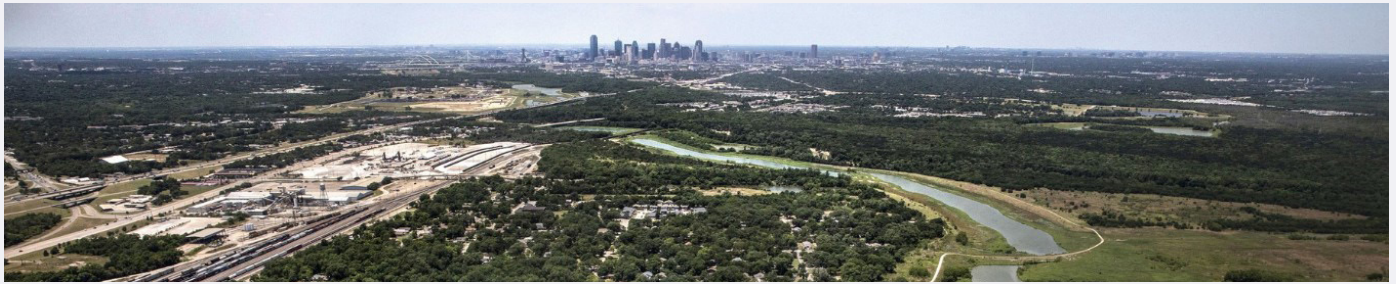
DISTRICT 7



City of Dallas

PROJECT DETAILS

The Joppa neighborhood in Dallas, Texas, pronounced “Joppee,” is one of the city’s oldest African American communities, with a rich history and ongoing development initiatives. [The Legacy of Freedmen’s Towns in North Texas](#)



A total of **\$1,000,000** in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds was allocated for street reconstruction in the Joppa area (Dallas 75216, City Council District 7), covering the following sections:

- ▶ **4600 Block of Stokes Street** – From Hull Avenue to the end of Stokes Street
- ▶ **7600 to 7900 Block of Hull Avenue** – From 300 feet of Linfield Road to Burma Road



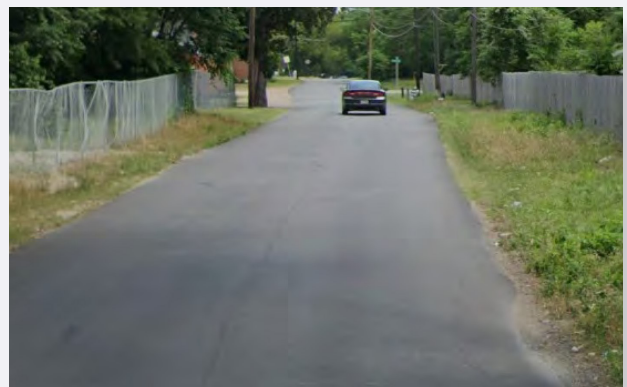
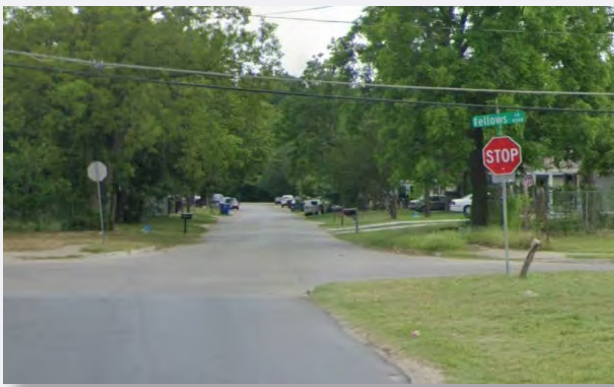
The targeted street sections are located in primarily residential areas and were identified for reconstruction due to their deteriorated condition. These neighborhood-serving streets fall within CDBG-designated census tracts, where the majority of residents are considered low to moderate income.



SCOPE OF WORK

PAVING & DRAINAGE

- Full removal and replacement of existing concrete pavement
- Reconstruction of approximately 1,300 linear feet of 26-foot-wide, 6-inch-thick, 4,000 psi reinforced concrete pavement with curbs and gutters
- Stormwater drainage improvements
- Sidewalk and driveway approach reconstruction
- Installation of new slope-downs and barrier-free ramps to ensure ADA compliance
- Work will be completed by City contractors in accordance with established City specifications
- The resulting improvements will have an estimated useful life of at least 20 years



WATER/WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

- Replacement of 1,350 linear feet of 8-inch water mains (upgrading from substandard, smaller-diameter lines)
- Replacement of 1,350 linear feet of 8-inch wastewater mains (upgrading from substandard, smaller-diameter lines)
- Necessary appurtenance adjustments



These upgrades will improve roadway durability, enhance accessibility, and strengthen critical infrastructure for the community.

HISTORY

Established in the late 1860s by freed African Americans, Joppa was one of over 30 Freedmen's Towns formed in North Texas following the abolition of slavery. The community was built along the Trinity River, where residents worked as farmers and laborers, establishing churches, schools, and businesses. The name "Joppa" was likely derived from the biblical town of Joppa, now known as Jaffa in Israel. In 1955, Joppa was annexed into the City of Dallas. Despite this incorporation, the neighborhood continued to face challenges, including limited access to city services and infrastructure. Community leaders, such as Laura Belle Foster, were instrumental in advocating for improvements like better bus services, sanitation, and water access. [Joppa Neighborhood Stories](#)



DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

In recent years, there have been efforts to revitalize Joppa and address longstanding issues:



Affordable Housing Initiatives: Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity has been active in Joppa for over three decades, constructing and repairing homes to promote neighborhood stabilization. In 2021, a \$1.6 million grant was approved to fund the construction of a new street and 30 affordable homes with 0% financing, aimed at assisting families earning 80% of the area median income.

Zoning and Environmental Concerns: The neighborhood has faced challenges related to industrial pollution due to its proximity to industrial facilities. In October 2024, Dallas officials supported rezoning efforts to limit industrial polluters near residential areas, aiming to improve living conditions and attract further development. [Dallas Officials Support Rezoning Joppa To Limit Industrial Polluters Near Residents](#)

Community Advocacy: Residents have actively sought to preserve the neighborhood's heritage while lobbying for infrastructural improvements. Efforts include initiatives to retain the community's character through measures like the proposed Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay submitted in 2021. [Joppa Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay](#) Despite these initiatives, challenges persist. Some development proposals have faced opposition due to concerns about infrastructure and environmental impacts.

Overall, Joppa's rich history and resilient community continue to shape its development trajectory, with ongoing efforts to address environmental concerns, improve infrastructure, and provide affordable housing opportunities.