

TEXAS

PARKS &

WILDLIFE

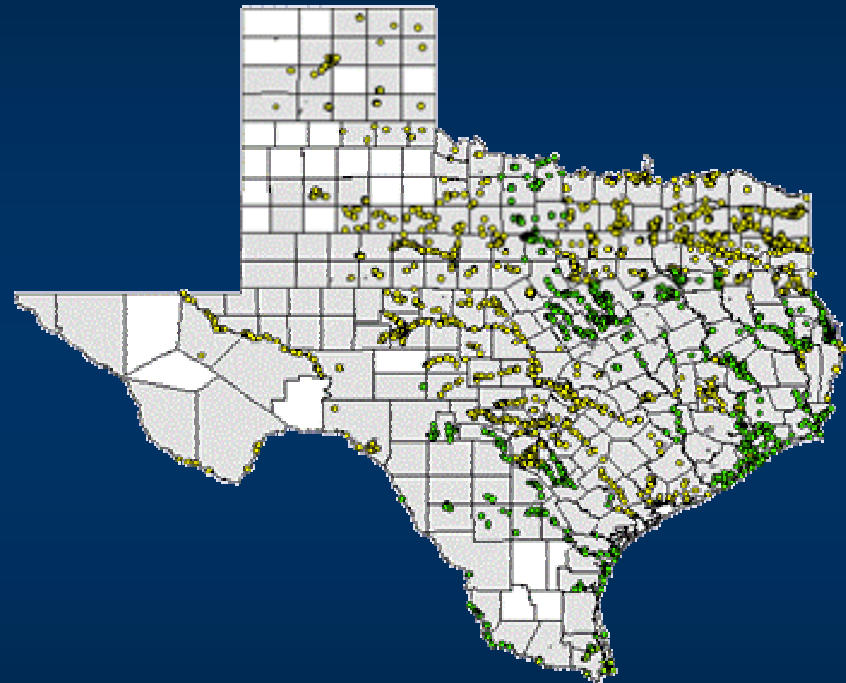
Texas Paddling Trails Program



Ron Smith - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Inland Fisheries Division

Texas is a “State of Water”

- Nearly **95%** privately owned land
- Nearly **2,400** public water access locations
- Over **3,000** miles of tidal shoreline
- **212** major reservoirs
- Around **3,700** named streams
- **15** major rivers



TPWD Goals

- Improve **resource conservation** and **awareness**
- Increase **outdoor recreation**
- Provide/enhance **public water access**
- Promote the **“Life’s Better Outside”** philosophy



Paddling Trail Team Objectives

- Increase opportunities for **public outreach/education**
- Provide **New or improved access** sites on every trail
- Tap a variety of professional strengths and expertise via **cross-divisional teamwork**
- **State-wide** program **presence**
- **Streamline** application and acceptance **processes**



Why Paddling Trails?

- Multiple **venues**
- Growing **participation** and **interest**
- **Crossover** potential

According to Outdoor Industry Association surveys:

- More Americans **paddle** (kayak, canoe, raft) than play soccer
- **Kayaking** participation nationwide **doubled** between 1998 and 2004



paddling Trail Program Acceptance Criteria

Required

- Community partner(s)
- Designated parking at water access locations
- Program kiosk and/or signage at every access location
- Four to 12 mile long segments
- Acceptable water quality and flow

Desired

- Presence of natural or historical attractions
- Population center(s) within reasonable traveling distance
- Rental opportunities



TPWD Provides

- Pre/post opening consultation
- Field surveys
- Maps/mapping
- Kiosk design plans and panels
- Signage
- Website
- Marketing
- Marketing materials



Paddling Trail Surveys and Mapping

Surveys

- Formulate recommendations
- Aids/hazards to navigation
- Natural/historical features
- Track/waypoint data (GPS)
- Interpretive information

Mapping

- Detailed GIS maps
- Interpretive “line” maps



Welcome to Goliad Paddling Trail

San Antonio River
Paddling Trail Length: 18.4 miles
Paddling Time: 2-4 hours, depending on water levels and the vessel.
Please Note: The river is used as a water supply for the city of San Antonio. The river is used as a water supply for the city of San Antonio. The river is used as a water supply for the city of San Antonio.

Have fun!



Website

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/paddlingtrails

- New and “spotlight” trails
- Coastal/Inland trails
- Safety and Ethics
- Maps
- FAQ's
- Stream Flow Information
- Texas River Guide
- Navigation Law
- Paddling Events
- Paddling Trail Application
- More



Community Partners

Community involvement is the **key** to our successful program!



- **Promote** local paddling trails
- **Oversee** water access locations
- **Construct** and **maintain** kiosks and signage
- **Plan** paddling trail opening and press releases
- **Address** local concerns
- **Enjoy** economic and many other benefits
- **Help** conserve Texas



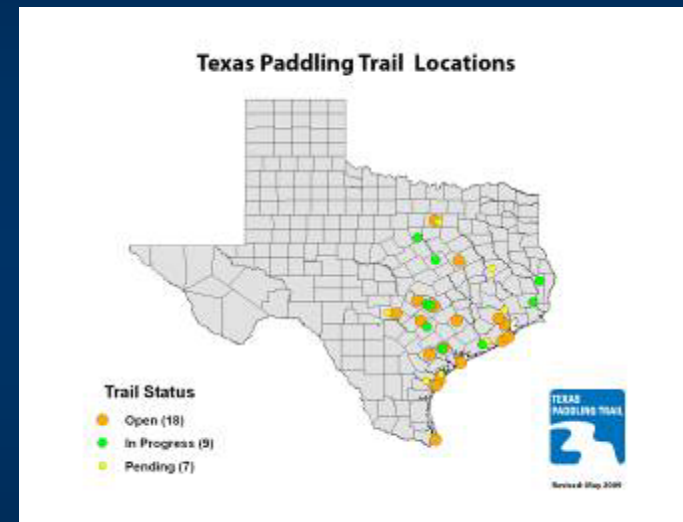
Various Paddling Trail Partners

- Texas Department of Transportation
- National Park Service
- Parks and Recreation Departments
- Convention and Visitors Bureaus
- Chambers of Commerce
- River Authorities
- Counties
- Cities
- Friends Groups
- Paddling/Fishing Clubs
- Liveries
- Citizens



Program Timeline

- First coastal paddling trail opened in 1998 near Port Aransas, TX.
- Seven coastal trails by 2004
- New paddling trail program “template” initiated in 2005
- First Inland paddling trail launched in 2006 in Luling, TX
- Eight paddling trails opened in FY09
- Nine paddling trail applications accepted
- Seven paddling trails pending



Program Accomplishments

- **18** paddling trails
- **247+** miles
- Two **new** public water access locations
- Several significantly **improved** water access locations
- All TPT water access locations (over 50) **enhanced** in some way





Thank you!