

TEXAS

PARKS &

WILDLIFE

Texas Parks and Wildlife's Texas Paddling Trails Program



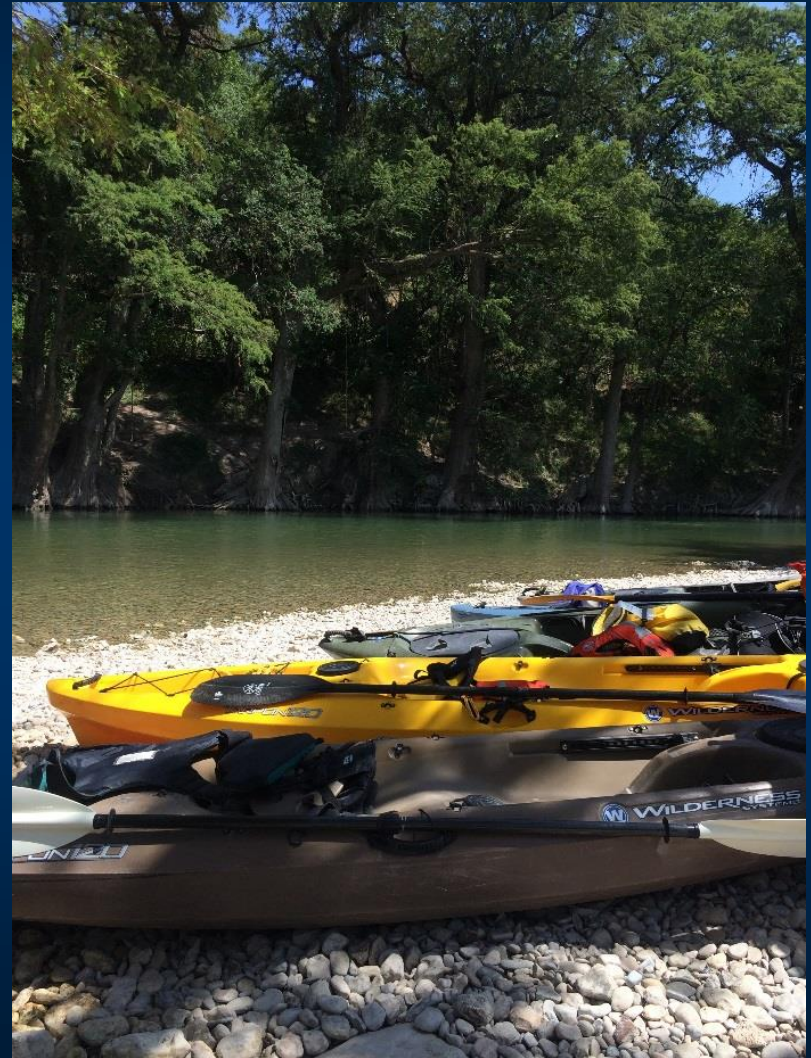
Shelly Plante

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/paddlingtrails

Program Goals

- Increase public access to water-based recreation
- Create **family-friendly** water trails statewide
- **Develop partnerships** to manage, develop and improve water access sites
- **Create sustainable nature tourism opportunities for community partners**
- Promote **habitat conservation**



1999-2005: 7 Coastal Trails

- Lighthouse Lakes
- Christmas Bay
- Armand Bayou
- South Bay
- Port O'Connor
- Mustang Island
- Galveston Island State Park



Potential Community Partners

- Convention and visitors bureaus
- Chambers of commerce
- County commissioners
- Local river groups and liveries
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Local river authorities
- More!



General Texas Paddling Trail Criteria

- 4 - 12 mile segments
- Public access and parking
- Natural or historical attractions
- Adequate water quality, depth or river flows
- Population center nearby

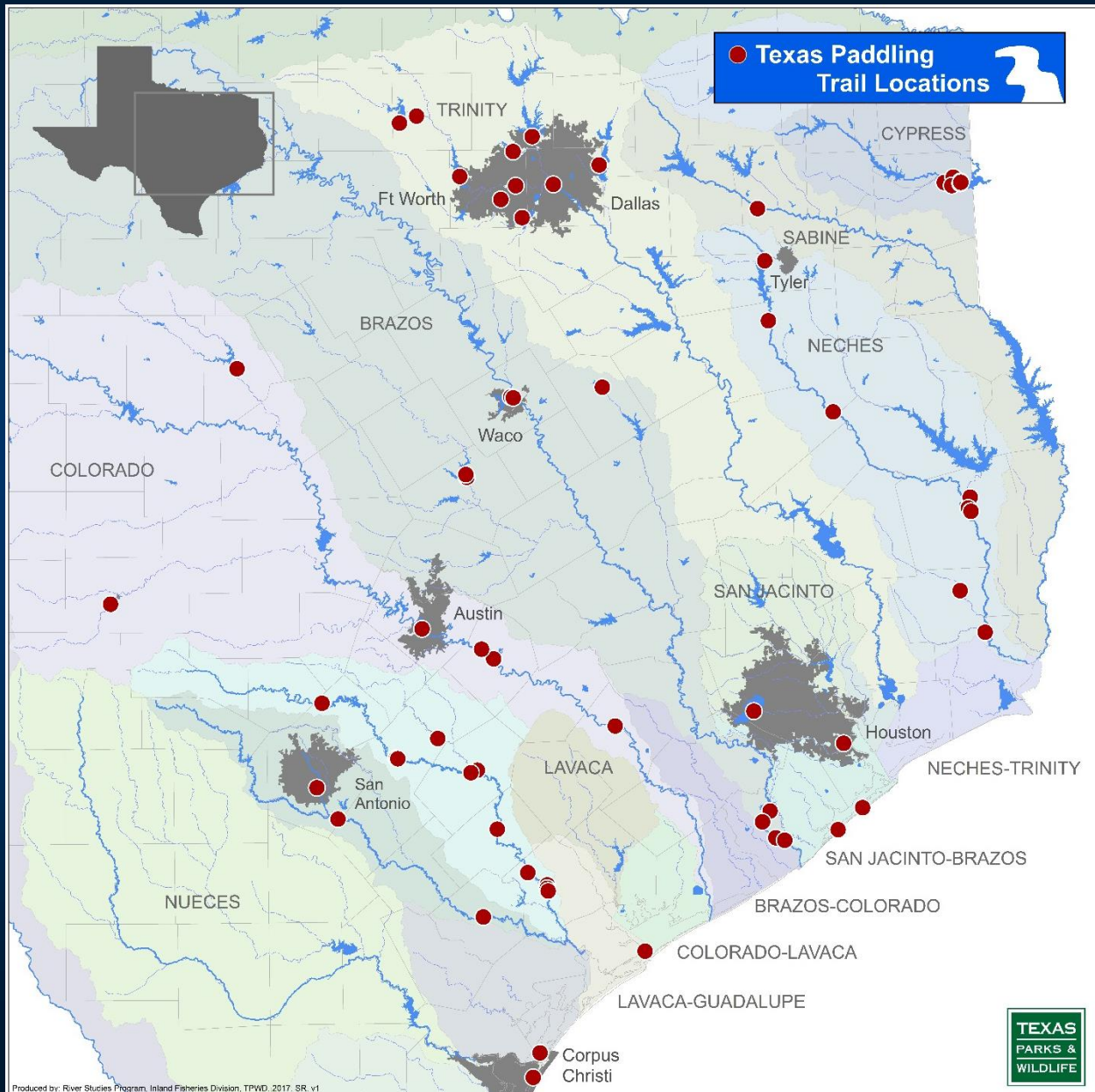


March 2006: First Inland Trail

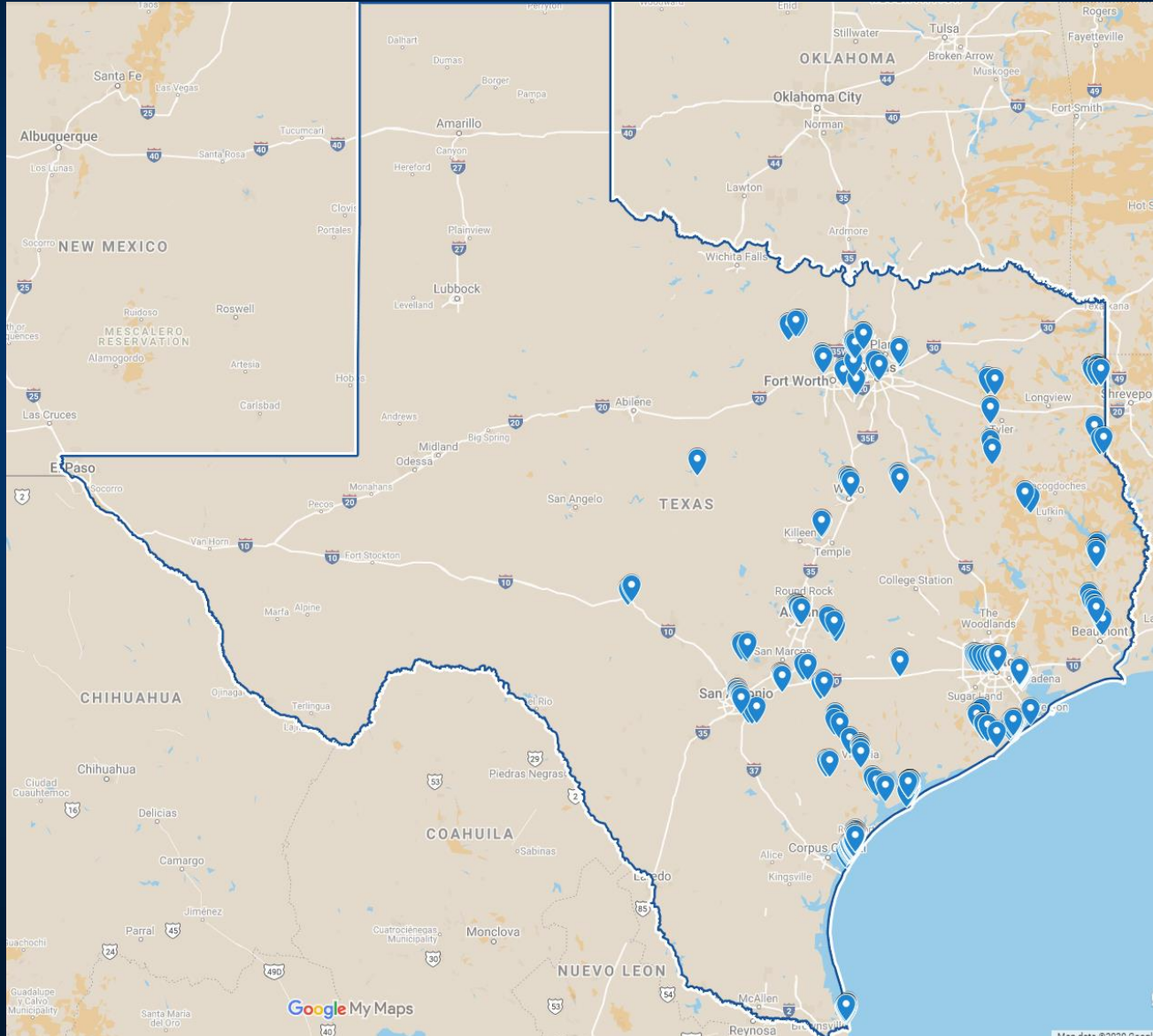


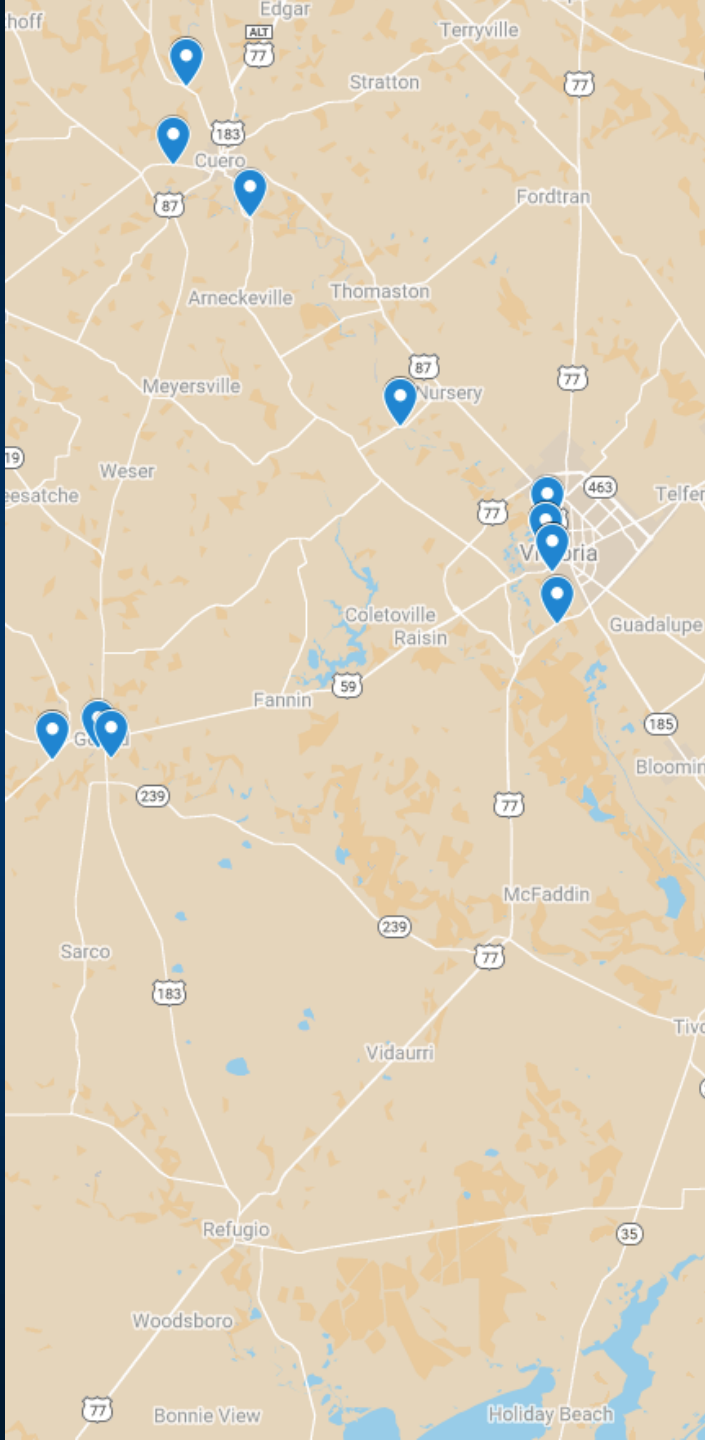
Luling-Zedler Mill Paddling Trail

78 Texas Paddling Trails



141 Access Sites, 400+ GPS Coordinates, 642+ Miles of Trails!





Port O'Connor:

- 6 trails, 3 access sites

Seadrift:

- 1 trail, 4 access sites

Victoria:

- 4 trails, 6 access sites

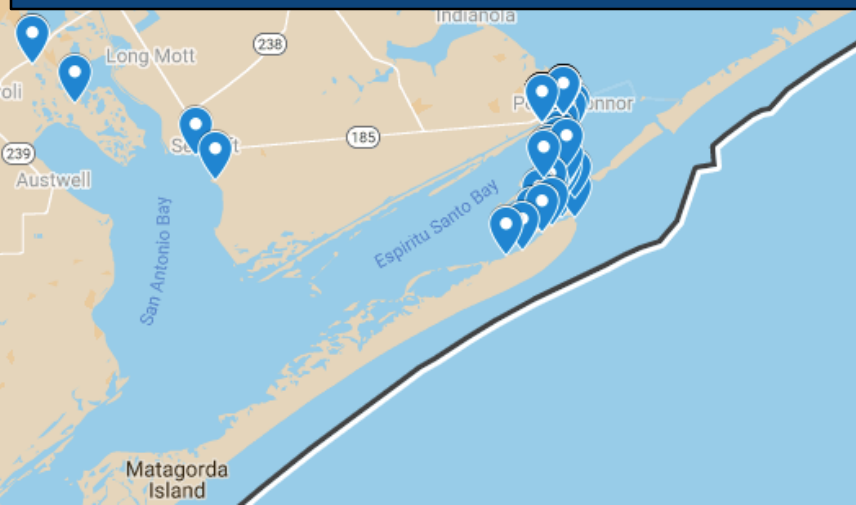
Cuero:

- 1 trail, 3 access sites

Goliad:

- 1 trail, 3 access sites

= 105.1 miles of trail from Cuero/Goliad to Port O'Connor



Examples of Access Improvements

- New public water access points
- New canoe/kayak boat ramps
- TPWD available to help communities determine best location and suggest improvements



Examples of Access Improvements

- Local site maintenance
- Improvements to existing boat launches
- Increased visibility, more sustainable use of land



Kiosk Consistency

- Provide interpretive materials for kiosks
- Help with kiosk design specifications



OLD Interpretive Panel Design

Welcome!



Cherokee Neches Paddling Trail

Neches River

PADDLING TRAIL LENGTH: 6.6 miles

FLOAT TIME:

~3-5 hours (depending on water levels and flow rate and wind speed)



Wildlife and Ecology

The riparian corridor of the Neches River supports a great diversity of plant and animal life along the river and beyond the banks. Birds spotted here include an occasional American

Bald Eagle, Crows, Kingfisher, Great Heron and seasonal migratory waterfowl and songbirds. Pristine Oak trees grow along the river making this hardwood forest a unique wildlife habitat. Common wildlife encountered include feral hogs, whitetail deer, river otter, beaver, cat and fox squirrels, turtles, snakes and an occasional alligator.



Fishing

This section of the river supports numerous species of fish including several species of gar (spotted, longnose and alligator), channel catfish, drum and spotted (Kentucky) bass. Small lures such as jigs, plastic worms, spinner baits and light-line are recommended.

River Conditions

A variety of water types including quiet pools and several small riffles are present. Although there are no man-made obstructions on this reach, there may be snags to avoid, especially when water levels are low. Heavy rains and high water can create dangerous conditions. This section of the Neches River is a natural river that is unrestrained by flood control dams or other man-made structures. As such, the Neches River is readily influenced by rainfall runoff that may create temporary high flows and undesirable water quality conditions.

Local Activities

Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce
www.jacksonvilletexas.com
(903) 586-2217

Partnership

This trail was made possible through a partnership between Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Neches River Run Park, Friends of the Neches River, and Texas Conservation Alliance.

Always remember:

Be safe

Rivers are ever-changing dynamic systems with inherent dangers.

Follow basic safety rules:

- Never paddle alone.
- Always file a "float plan" - tell someone where you are going and when you are expected to return.
- Check weather forecasts.
- Carry a map of the stream so you can find your location at any time.
- Wear a Coast Guard approved Type III-V lifejacket and protective footwear.
- Carry drinking water, sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Plan your trip so that your paddling skills are equal to the water conditions.

Conserve

Streams contribute to the flowing waters in Texas, influence downstream water quality, and assimilate domestic wastewater. Healthy rivers and streams supply drinking water, support agriculture and industry, sustain diverse fish and wildlife populations, and promote excellent fishing, hunting, and other recreational activities which positively affect Texas' economy. Water conservation is one way to ensure that the natural heritage of Texas is protected for all...every drop counts! To conserve rivers and streams, keep them clean, maintain native vegetation along the banks, and support water conservation efforts focused on maintaining streamflows for future generations.

Respect private property

Respect private property by not trespassing or littering and keeping noise levels down. This river is classified as navigable, which permits public use of the streambed and, if necessary, the banks to portage any hazard. Any other use of private river banks without permission of the landowner can be considered trespassing. Under Texas Penal Code (§30.05), criminal trespass occurs when one enters property after receiving notice not to enter. Notice includes verbal notice, a fence, sign(s), purple paint on posts or trees, or the visible presence of crops grown for human consumption.

Look for other day trips on the water

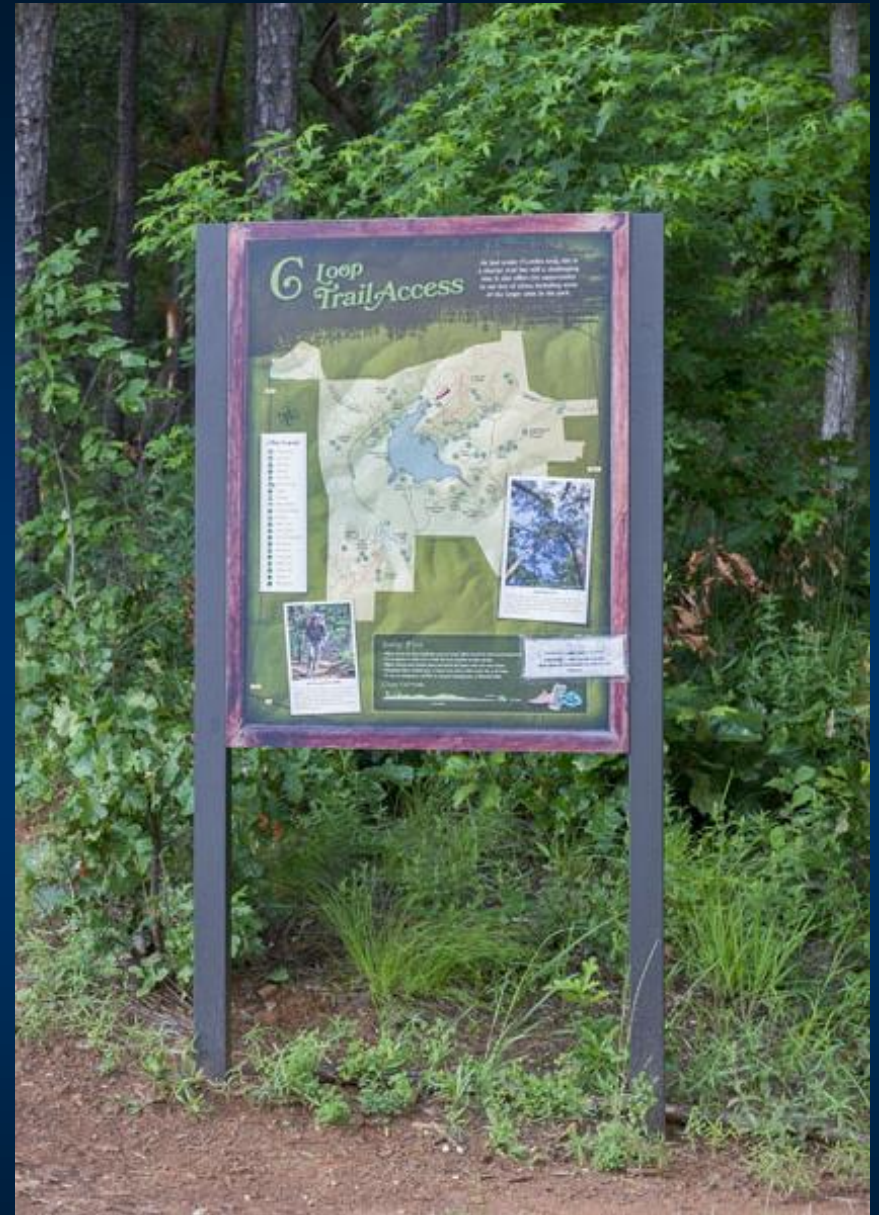
For information on inland and coastal Texas Paddling Trails, please visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/paddlingtrails

Emergency numbers

Cherokee County EMS	911
Anderson County Sheriff	(903) 729-6068
Cherokee County Sheriff	(903) 683-2271
Operation Game Thief	(800) 792-4263
Sign Maintenance	(903) 586-2217

Have fun!

NEW in 2019: Pre-fabricated Upright Kiosks



<https://panniergraphics.com>

NEW in 2019: Interpretive Panel Design

NUECES RIVER PADDLING TRAIL

GEORGE WEST

Enjoy this 4.3-mile stretch of the Nueces River for a closer, more relaxed view of nature, including a variety of birds, turtles, and fish.

Know Before You Go

TRAIL LENGTH:
4.3 miles

FLOAT TIMES:
2-4 hours
(depending on water level, flow rates, and wind speed)

Live Oak County EMS
911

Live Oak County Sheriff
(361) 449-2271

Operation Game Thief
(800) 792-4263

Sign Maintenance
(361) 449-2033



This paddling trail is established in partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Live Oak County, and George West Chamber of Commerce.

Funding for this float panel was made possible by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Boating Access Program.

Live Oak County Park Access Point

Fishing and Wildlife

- Respect wildlife by keeping your distance and not harassing them.
- Enjoy fishing for numerous freshwater species including catfish, sunfish, and alligator gar.
- Small lures such as jigs, plastic worms, spinner baits and light-line are generally recommended.
- Heavier tackle is needed for bottom fishing and larger game fish attracted to live bait. Check Weekly Fishing Reports for timely updates: www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishing-report.

Trail Rules

- Public use of the river is allowed. If necessary, the banks may be used to portage hazards, but re-enter the water as soon as it is safe to do so to avoid trespassing.
- Respect landowners by not trespassing and keeping noise levels down.
- Stop invasive species! Clean, drain, and dry your boat and gear.
- No littering, dispose of trash properly.
- Avoid use of glass, plastic containers under 5oz., or styrofoam while on the water.



Safety Checklist

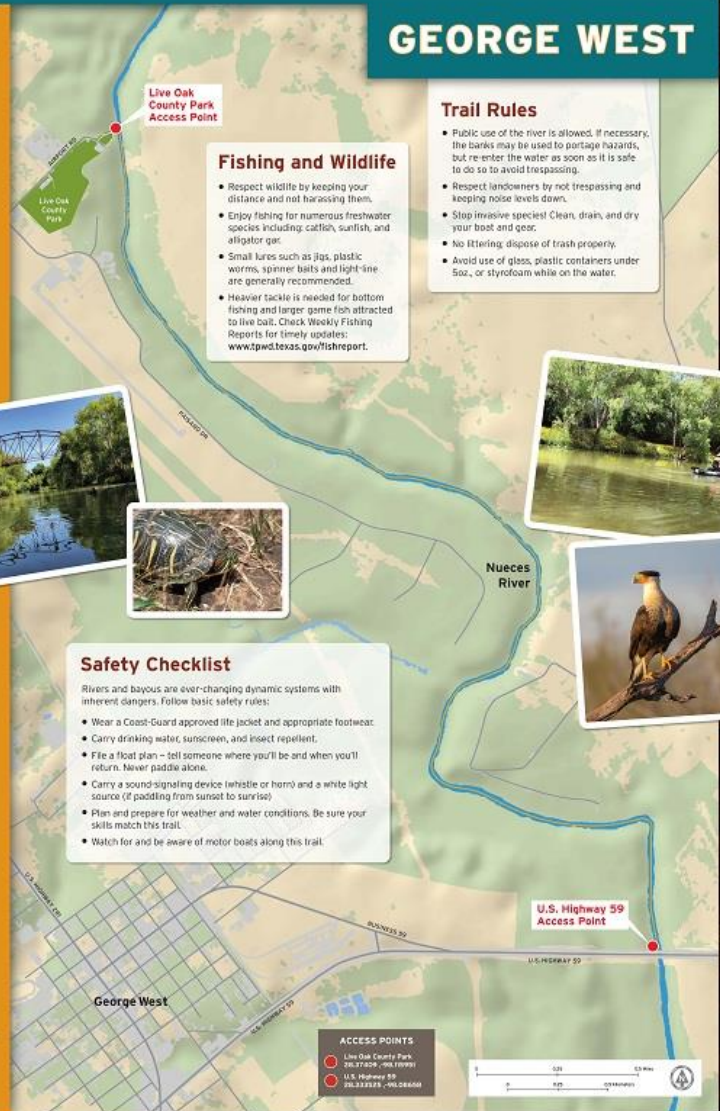
Rivers and bayous are ever-changing dynamic systems with inherent dangers. Follow basic safety rules:

- Wear a Coast-Guard approved life jacket and appropriate footwear.
- Carry drinking water, sunscreen, and insect repellent.
- File a float plan – tell someone where you'll be and when you'll return. Never paddle alone.
- Carry a sound-signaling device (whistle or horn) and a white light source (if paddling from sunset to sunrise).
- Plan and prepare for weather and water conditions. Be sure your skills match this trail.
- Watch for and be aware of motor boats along this trail.

U.S. Highway 59 Access Point

ACCESS POINTS

- Live Oak County Park, 20675202, 76107000
- U.S. Highway 59, 206332223, -90.08666



Trail Signage

- Provide official road signs for Texas Paddling Trails
- Work with community on additional signage



Trail Markers





Coastal Trail Markers



Local Marketing and Promotion Potential

- **Organizations** – paddle clubs, paddling trail committee, local instructors
- **Annual events** – flotillas, races, festivals
- **Local promotion** – table toppers, brochures, t-shirts, bumper stickers



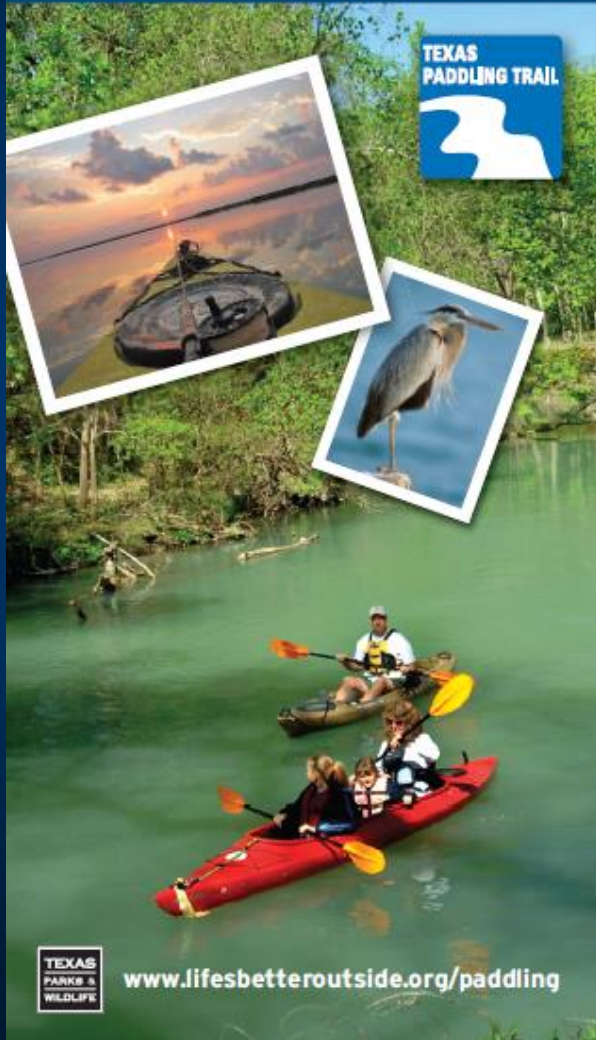
Local Community Engagement Potential

- **Annual events** – local volunteerism through river/bay clean-ups, “adopt-a-waterway” potential, access site management, more!
- **Local promotion** – active promotion of waterways as a community asset, increase in tourism/business, sustainable economics for region
- **New businesses** – local rentals, tour guides, overnight lodging, complimentary attractions

Paddling Trails

in Texas

Kayaking and Canoeing Made Easy



www.lifesbetteroutside.org/paddling

Paddling Trails Rackcards

- Free to CVBs, Chambers, Tourist Offices and TXDOT TICs
- Explains how to navigate and use the Paddling Trails website

Texas Paddling Trails offer you a brand-new perspective on the world. Get in the water to experience a closer view of wildlife and scenery, drop a fishing line or just relax.

Explore a trail today!

Visit www.lifesbetteroutside.org/paddling for all the information you need to follow these easy steps to start paddling:

- 1 Select a paddling trail.**
There are river, lake and bay trails throughout the state. Use the website to narrow down your choice based on its location, length and estimated paddling time. Learn about the wildlife, trail conditions, area attractions and get fishing tips for each trail.
- 2 Get your gear and go.**
Each trail's website lists rental and shuttle companies that serve the area, making it easier for you to rent kayaks, canoes and life jackets. Arrange for a shuttle to drop you off and pick you up for your trip.
- 3 Be safe and ethical on the water.**
It's important to play it safe and be responsible on the water. Before you go, check the FAQs and Safety & Ethics sections of the website.
- 4 Put-in, Paddle and Play!**
Maps to all trailheads are available online and they are easily identified by Texas Paddling Trail information kiosk and signs.

NOTE: Be sure to identify if the trail is a "loop" or one-way. The one-way trails have access sites miles apart, so arranging for transportation is a must! If you are bringing your own gear, be sure to arrange for a shuttle or leave a second car at the trail's take-out access site.

Sunset photo: © Slowtide Guide Services



4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

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Web Promotion

- Promote paddling trails: web development, conservation and river ethics information, press releases, etc.



Parks | Hunting | Fishing | Boating | Game Warden | Activities | Wildlife | Land | Water | Media | Calendar | Regulations | Education | Volunteer | More...



TEXAS PADDLING TRAIL

- Padding Trails Home
- Inland Trails
- Coastal Trails
- Safety & Ethics
- Invasive Species
- Future Trails
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Padding Events


- Texas River Guide
- River Flow Gages
- What Laws Apply?

Welcome to Texas Paddling Trails!

Mission Reach Paddling Trail Now Open

The [Mission Reach Paddling Trail](#) in San Antonio is now an official Texas Paddling Trail! Our 72nd trail offers 8 miles of scenic views along the San Antonio River, minutes from downtown San Antonio.

There are new trails being developed throughout the state, so check back often for more information.





Enjoy improved and maintained fishing and paddling access to rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds, bayous, and bays on any of the 72 official Texas Paddling Trails available throughout the state!!

These trails provide well-mapped accessible day trips in a variety of settings and for all levels of paddling experience.

With more than 3,700 named streams, 15 major rivers and some 3,300 miles of tidal shoreline along the Gulf Coast, Texas offers unlimited possibilities for paddling adventures and angling opportunities of all types.

TPWD continues to seek partnerships with communities interested in developing a paddling trail in their area. Please see the [Future Trails](#) section on this site to learn more.

Before heading out, enjoy these short videos - one about the TPWD Texas Paddling Trails program and one how-to video that gives tips on how best to paddle a canoe:



Individual Trail Websites:

TEXAS PADDLING TRAIL

- Padding Trails Home
- Inland Trails
- Coastal Trails
- Safety & Ethics
- Invasive Species
- Future Trails
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Padding Events

Texas River Guide

River Flow Gages

What Laws Apply?

Seadrift Paddling Trail



The Seadrift Paddling Trail consists of 20 miles of paddling trails accessed from four access points and offers river, lake, and even some expert level bay paddling opportunities.

- Getting There
- Trail Description
- Map
- Fishing
- Wildlife & Ecology
- Private Property
- Area Attractions
- Partnership
- Rentals & Shuttles

Getting There

Access sites:
Calhoun's Riverside RV Retreat - (DD) 28.4765, -96.8616

125 Haeber Lane, Tivoli, TX 77990 off Hwy 35; 361-550-7536

Directions: Haeber Lane is off SH35, immediately east of the River Bridge near Tivoli. Turn south; signage for the Retreat is a block ahead. The Retreat is privately owned and charges for launch and parking. Ample parking is available. The concrete ramp is for small boats and canoes/kayaks. A restroom and shower are available.



Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area (WMA) - (DD) 28.4465, -96.8253



Trail Description and Landmarks

Trail Length: ~20 miles

Float Time: ~2-8 hours (as mapped, dependent on water levels, route, flow rate, and wind)

Please note: The stretch of trail across the bay is expert level paddling due to exposure to wind and waves. Please be sure to paddle at your skill level.

The Seadrift Paddling Trail consists of 20 miles of paddling trails accessed from four access points and several paddling options:

- 3.7 miles from Calhoun's RV Retreat to Guadalupe Delta WMA access at Traylor Cut
- 8.9 miles from Guadalupe Delta WMA to Seadrift Bayfront Park (Expert Level due to exposure to wind and waves)



Magazine Advertising

Discover the Natural Wonders
of the Texas Coast!

The Texas Coast has it all ...
14 paddling trails to and explore, 26 species
of saltwater fish waiting to be caught, more
than 450 kinds of birds to spot and 12 scenic
state parks to enjoy—all along the coast.

Start planning your Texas Coast adventure!
tpwd.texas.gov



Life's better outside.®



With over 70 designated trails, it's easier than ever to go
paddling! Each trail has a map and photos, directions to
access sites, rental info, fishing and wildlife, and more!

www.tpwd.texas.gov/paddling

Press Releases

March 2, 2017

- [Mission Reach Paddling Trail Announced as Official Texas Paddling Trail](#) [[Print](#) – [Plain Text](#) – [Permalink](#)]

SAN ANTONIO – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announced the San Antonio River Walk: Mission Reach Paddling Trail will be joining 71 other inland and coastal trails as an official Texas Paddling Trail March 2.

Nov. 10, 2015

- [City of Fort Worth Parks and Recreation Department Joins the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Paddling Trail System](#) [[News Images](#)] [[Print](#) – [Plain Text](#) – [Permalink](#)]

FORT WORTH – On Nov. 1, the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNC&R) hosted a community paddle event to officially open the 70th trail in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Texas Paddling Trail system.

Oct. 13, 2015

- [Cherokee Neches Paddling Trail Launches Oct. 17](#) [[News Images](#)] [[Print](#) – [Plain Text](#) – [Permalink](#)]

JACKSONVILLE – Paddlers now have another reason to experience one of Texas' wildest and most scenic rivers by traversing the latest addition to the Texas Paddling Trail system – the Cherokee Neches Paddling Trail. The public is invited to a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the trail at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct.17.

July 7, 2015

- [Port O'Connor Paddling Trail Expansion Opens July 9](#) [[Print](#) – [Plain Text](#) – [Permalink](#)]

PORT O'CONNOR, Texas – The official opening and ribbon cutting for the expanded Port O'Connor Paddling Trail and new kiosk will be on July 9 at 9 a.m. The ceremony will be held at the Little Jetties Launch Site and free kayaking lessons will follow afterwards.

Launching a Trail!

- Participate in any public meetings organized by the community partners
- Assist with official trail launch event!



General Trails Submission Process

- Submit TPT Application, working with TPWD staff as needed.
- Allow up to 3-6 months for application review. Certification could take 12-24 months.
- Receive acceptance email/letter/phone call or communication from TPWD staff on ways to improve your application.
- Meet in person after TPT acceptance and develop Partnership Agreement between TPWD and Community Partner. Schedule survey.

Texas Paddling Trails Initiative:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/paddlingtrails

Shelly Plante
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
512-389-4500
shelly.plante@tpwd.texas.gov