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NEW LIFE JACKET LOANER STATION AT LAKE GRANBURY PARK

Granbury, Texas (June 17, 2022) – Children enjoying Lake Granbury this summer just had safety made more accessible.

Lake Granbury has its second free life jacket loaner station, thanks to Rancho Brazos Community Centers and Safe Kids North Texas - Fort Worth.

Built near the Rancho Brazos and Sandy Beach area, the loaner station will help not only those children who play in the water in that area, but anyone on the lake who needs a personal floatation device, said Sharla Caro, Rancho Brazos Community Centers executive director.

"Any way we can provide a safe space or something to make an area safer for them, we're going to do the most that we can," Caro said.

Those who volunteer at the community center already dedicate their time to helping those in need in the area, so the extension of this project seemed natural, she said.

To make the dream a reality, Caro coordinated with Kyle Lewis, the Brazos River Authority's project manager/program coordinator for Lake Granbury, and Jillian Mitchell, the program specialist in child safety for Cook Children's Medical Center's Safe Kids North Texas - Fort Worth. The new station is located near channel marker 25, or 3730 Sandy Beach Drive, near the community center.

Every day each summer, two to 20 children can be found playing in the reservoir in that area at any given time, Caro said.

In a perfect world, every boat or fishing dock or swim area on a lake would have lifejackets available to borrow, Mitchell said. Having community partners helps Cook Children's stay best informed about where to build and furnish loaner stations. She said they were very excited to build this station.

"Our goal is to get these loaner stations out at the lakes where we feel they are in the greatest need and make sure families have that option to keep their kids as safe as possible," Mitchell said.

The loaner station is near a memorial for a three-year-old boy who drowned in 2015, Lewis said. Many children and teenagers swim in that general vicinity of the lake and all efforts are worthwhile if the option to borrow a free life jacket helps save just one life, Lewis said.

Life jackets can be a life saver, but only if used, Lewis said. The best life jacket is the one you wear. Stay safe this summer, whether visiting the local pool, the Brazos River, or any of the three Brazos River Authority reservoirs. Water safety is essential today and every day.

A second lifejacket loaner station is located on Lake Granbury at the city of Granbury's City Beach near downtown.

- 30 -

About the Brazos River Authority

The Brazos River Authority, with headquarters in Waco, is the oldest river authority in Texas. Created by the Texas Legislature in 1929, the Authority's 42,000 square-mile territory includes all or part of 70 counties; extending from the Texas-New Mexico border west of Lubbock to the Gulf of Mexico near Freeport.

The BRA built, owns, and operates three reservoirs (Lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury, and Limestone). In addition to these water supply reservoirs, the BRA contracts with the Corps of Engineers for the water supply storage space at eight federal multi-purpose flood control and water conservation reservoirs (Lakes Whitney, Belton, Proctor, Somerville, Stillhouse Hollow, Granger, Georgetown and Aquilla).

The Brazos River Authority operates a regional wastewater system for the cities of Temple-Belton. The BRA also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Clute-Richwood, Sugar Land, and Hutto. The BRA owns and operates a potable water treatment system, the East Williamson County Regional Water System, for the City of Taylor.

The BRA engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River basin. As a member of the Texas Clean River Program, the BRA samples and tests water from more than 100 locations throughout the basin on either a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. For further information on the Brazos River Authority, please contact Judi Pierce, Public Information Officer at 254-761-3103.