



For Immediate Release

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BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY RECEIVES AWARD FOR POSSUM KINGDOM LAKE HIKE & BIKE TRAIL SYSTEM

WACO, Texas (Feb. 6, 2012) – The Brazos River Authority has been awarded “The Great Texas Trail Head Award – Public Category” for the trail system at Possum Kingdom Lake. The award, which recognizes innovative trail planning and design, was presented by the Texas Trails Network during its annual conference Feb. 3 in San Antonio. The Authority trail system was nominated for the award by the Possum Kingdom Chamber of Commerce.

The Possum Kingdom Hike and Bike Trail is a system of natural surface trails that winds 16 miles through cedar and oak forests adjacent to Park Road 36 and FM 2951. The trails were built in three phases beginning in June, 2006, with funding in part through the lake’s Water Recreational User Fee (revenues paid by the public to improve public recreation at Possum Kingdom) and several trail grants awarded to the Authority by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Though “family friendly” by design, the trails afford hikers and serious mountain bikers alike the opportunity to experience the Cross Timbers area of North Texas unlike any available in the past. The trails climb to breath-taking views 350 feet above Possum Kingdom Lake and descend to connect five of the 10 public parks maintained by the Authority. Amenities available along the trails include camping and restroom facilities along with 15 trailheads and 19 lookouts including educational interpretive signs.

This trail system was unaffected by the devastating wildfires which swept through Palo Pinto County last spring and summer and has proven to be a recreational draw to the area particularly during fall, winter, and spring.

In addition to the prestigious “Great Texas Trailhead” award, the PK trails were also rated as one of the top ten trails in the state by the Fort Worth Star Telegram in June, 2010 and were featured in the cover story of the August 2010 issue of “Texas Highways” magazine.

To learn more about the Possum Kingdom Lake Hike and Bike Trails, please go to www.brazos.org/Newsletter/Summer_2010_Pk-Nature.asp.

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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 Authority built, owns, and operates three reservoirs (Lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury, and Limestone). In addition to these water supply reservoirs, the Authority 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 owns and operates a regional wastewater system for the cities of Temple-Belton. The Authority also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Georgetown, Dime Box, Clute-Richwood and Sugar Land. Through an alliance with the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Brazos River Authority operates wastewater treatment plants at Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System in Round Rock, the city of Hutto and the city of Liberty Hill.

The Authority owns and operates water treatment systems at Lake Granbury (which supplies potable water to wholesale customers in Hood and Johnson Counties), and the City of Taylor. The Authority also operates a potable water treatment plant for the City of Dime Box. A water treatment plant for the City of Leander is operated by the Brazos River Authority through an alliance with the Lower Colorado River Authority.

The Authority also engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River basin. As a member of the Texas Clean River Program, the Authority samples and tests water from 157 locations throughout the basin on either a monthly or quarterly basis.

For further information on the Brazos River Authority, please contact Judi Pierce, Public Information Officer at 254-761-3103.