



For Immediate Release

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NEW HIKING TRAIL OPENS AT POSSUM KINGDOM LAKE

The Brazos River Authority is opening a new extension to its popular system of hike and bike trails. The third phase opens Friday, July 2 and will link several Authority park and camping areas via an additional five miles of well mapped trails.

Along with the trail, a new trailhead entrance on Farm-to-Market Road 2951, between Frontier Unit and Hamilton Road allows easy access with ample parking, restrooms and a map of the trail.

The new section stretches five miles across the hills and valleys that make up Possum Kingdom's central peninsula. It brings the length of the trail system up to 16 miles and links all the Authority parks on the peninsula.

"The great feature of the trail system is that you can enjoy as little or as much as you like," said Ken Hyde, the Authority's PK chief of lake development. "With numerous trailheads located throughout the system, you can get on the trail at Scenic Cove and go all the way to Sandy Beach – or just to the next trail head. It's a great hike."

Hyde said the trails are five feet wide with an overhead clearance of 10 feet. Most of the trails are suitable for hikers of a wide range of abilities, averaging a 5 to 12 degree slope. Other sections, such as the portion that rises high above the lake to Johnson Peak, have more challenging slopes of up to 20 degrees. There are 19 lookouts along the trail that provide historical information on the area as well as outstanding views of the lake

The latest addition continues a trail project that began with the opening of the first five mile section in 2007. A second phase was completed in 2009.

As with all hiking or mountain biking trails in Texas, temperatures on the trail can rise to over 100 degrees during the summer. Those venturing onto the new trail are reminded to bring along plenty of water. Cell phone service is unreliable in this area.

For a free map of the Authority Hike and Bike Trails, call 1-888-922-6272.

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.