



Texas Paddling Trails Program Community Application for Assistance



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Texas Paddling Trails (TPT) is a new program to develop public inland and coastal paddling trails throughout the state and support these trails with maps, signage and other information. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) continues to seek partnerships with communities interested in developing a paddling trail in their area. Applications for new trails are accepted each year during the months of February and March only. The remainder of the year is spent surveying and preparing the trails for official certification.

TPWD will provide the following assistance to approved applicants:

- Survey proposed trail to map and assess potential certification
- Promote paddling trail as part of the Texas Paddling Trails
- Provide TPT kiosk design options and estimated costs
- Develop trail map and local interpretive information for use in marketing materials (i.e., kiosk inserts and website)
- Provide conservation and river/lake/bay/bayou information for use in marketing materials
- Provide official TPT marker signage for roadways at put-in/take-out locations
- Provide interpretive panel insert for approved community TPT kiosk
- Promote your paddling trail on the TPWD website
- Assist community partner with event to officially launch new trail

TRAIL CRITERIA

Designated paddling trails will have public access points for kayaks and canoes and must meet the following criteria:

- Public access must be a minimum of four paddling miles to a maximum of twelve paddling miles for each linear segment (loop trails on lakes, bays, etc. may be less than 4 miles in certain circumstances)
- Presence of natural or historical attractions such as rapids, mature trees or unique habitat, wildlife diversity, historic sites, etc.
- Adequate water quality, river flows or water depth (seasonal flows acceptable)
- Population center within 100 miles
- Designated parking
- Local partner(s) to maintain parking and trashcans for put-in/take-out locations
- Ability to post all applicable TPT marker signage and kiosk
- If possible, access to canoe and/or kayak rentals and/or shuttles from local sources

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The application must be completed by a representative of the community group wishing to partner with TPWD. Community partners can include municipal, county, state, federal, river authority, tourist office, parks and recreation, or other official organizations (no private businesses). Please note that the landowner(s) of the put-in and take-out access points must be partners in the project.

PROPOSED PADDLING TRAIL INFORMATION

River, Lake, Bay, or Estuary: _____

County(ies): _____

Community partner (group or organization; list all involved in trail certification): _____

Website (if applicable): _____

Main contact name(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Phone number(s): _____

TRAIL CRITERIA

☐ **Public access must be a minimum of four paddling miles to a maximum of twelve paddling miles for each segment (exception: loop-trails on lakes, bays, slow-moving rivers).**

Estimated distance in paddling miles between the put-in and take-out: _____

Proposed put-in location: _____

Name of put-in site owner/manager: _____

Describe the bank or land adjacent to the put-in (sand, gravel, boat launch, steps, etc):

Proposed take out location: _____

Name of take out site owner/manager: _____

Describe the bank or land adjacent to the take-out (sand, gravel, boat launch, steps, etc):

☐ **Presence of natural or historical attractions such as rapids, mature trees or unique habitat, wildlife diversity, historic sites, etc.**

Describe the natural and historical attractions of the proposed paddling trail:

☐ **Adequate water quality, river flows or water depth (seasonal flows acceptable)**

If on a river, is river floatable based on historic flows? _____

If coastal water, describe the water depths, access channels, etc.:

☐ **Population center within 100 miles.**

List nearby cities and towns and their distances to the put-in:

☐ **Local partner(s) to maintain put-in/take-outs and keep them clean.**

Local partner(s) responsible for general maintenance of the put-in and take out points:

☐ **Canoe and kayak rentals from local sources.**

List all canoe and kayak rental businesses that could serve this trail:

☐ **Designated parking**

Approximately how many cars can park at the proposed put-in: _____

Approximately how many cars can park at the proposed take-out: _____

☐ **TPT marker signage and kiosk**

TPWD will provide 'Texas Paddling Trail' marker signage for roadways, put-ins and take-outs.

Local partner responsible for putting up marker signage: _____

A TPT kiosk will be required at the put-in and take out locations. TPWD will provide TPT kiosk options and estimated costs; the community partner is responsible for purchasing, installing and maintaining the approved kiosks. The kiosk's interpretive inserts will be provided by TPWD to kiosk specifications.

Group or person responsible for kiosks: _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If on a river, describe dams or other permanent obstructions that would require paddlers to portage:

Include any other pertinent information about the proposed trail site:

Note: Applications will be prioritized based on above criteria to achieve statewide representation.

Send Texas Paddling Trail applications by email to paddlingtrails@tpwd.texas.gov, or by mail to:
Shelly Plante, Nature Tourism Manager
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744
Telephone (512) 389-4500

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department maintains the information collected through this form. With few exceptions, you are entitled to be informed about the information we collect. Under Sections 552.021 and 553.023 of the Texas Government Code, you are also entitled to receive and review the information. Under Section 559.004, you are also entitled to have this information corrected. For assistance call 800-792-1112.