



# River Access and Conservation Areas Information for Landowners

The River Access and Conservation Area (RACA) program aims to increase sustainable fishing and paddling access to rivers and streams across private lands. This partnership between local landowners, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and cooperating organizations will allow Texans to more fully enjoy the natural beauty that our rivers have to offer!



## How Do I Know Whether My Property Is a Good Fit?

The purpose of this program is to increase opportunities for bank, wade, and kayak angling and sustainable paddling activities. The program will focus on riverfront properties and segments of river that may:

- Contain high quality river and shoreline habitats
- Present habitat restoration opportunities
- Offer unique paddling or sport fishing opportunities
- Have limited public access
- Are strategically positioned to expand a current Texas Paddling Trail, connect to parks, or provide connections to other public river access areas

## What If My Property Needs Improvement?

TPWD can provide financial assistance for fencing, road base material, seed planting to ensure bank stabilization, or other improvements to increase river access and encourage sustainable use.

## How Does the Lease Payment Work?

TPWD and the landowner negotiate a quarterly payment amount. Lease agreements will go through June 30, 2017. The landowner will set up a Texas Taxpayer ID to ensure efficient payment.

## Can I Still Regulate Use of My Property?

Yes! Terms will be set in the lease agreement regarding the types of recreational opportunities available and special conditions for public use of the property. In general, use is limited to angling and paddling activities.

## How is Sustainability Maintained at These Sites?

Together with Texas Tech University, TPWD will conduct scientific surveys at each site to monitor fish populations, stream bank vegetation, and public use of the access point. Surveys will occur at the beginning, midpoint, and renegotiation phases of a contract. Survey data will be used to ensure that increased public use does not have a negative impact on our natural resources.



## How Do I Get Involved?

Contact RACA Coordinator Jessica East to discuss the suitability of your property for river access and set up a site visit and ecological assessment. If the RACA program is a good fit, you will work together to create a lease agreement.

(512) 754-6844, ext. 222

[jessica.east@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:jessica.east@tpwd.texas.gov)

<http://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/rivers/#lease>

