



## Sample Local River Access Plan

Adopted by: \_\_\_\_\_ County

Proposed Effective Date:

Means of Adoption: County Ordinance (copy attached)

### I. **Compliance with standards in Parks and Wildlife Code section 90.004(d)(1-7)**

*(Note: Below items are to serve as examples and may not be applicable to all situations. Depending on the nature of the proposed plan, more detail may need to be provided and/or certain bulleted examples may need to be deleted.)*

(1) How the plan protects fish, wildlife, water quality, and other natural resources

- The plan minimizes the removal or disturbance of both aquatic and terrestrial vegetation in the access area by utilizing previously cleared trails and limiting vehicle use to unvegetated rock or gravel areas.
- Where possible, clearing or disturbance of native vegetation will be avoided, unless absolutely necessary to keep approved parking areas/previously existing trails cleared. In any event, no native vegetation with a diameter of four inches or greater at 4 feet above the ground will be removed or destroyed. Areas of proposed clearing of vegetation are shown on attached map of approved routes for motor vehicles.
- See attached map showing approved route for motor vehicles and GPS coordinates.
- See attached county map showing location of local access plan within the county.
- To be sure vehicles remain within the allowed area, a description of the plan and its boundaries will be provided through the following means:
- Note that the approved route does not allow travel up and down riverbanks. All vehicle travel will be on exposed gravel bars (between the gradient boundaries of the streambed), except for water crossings at the points shown on the attached map. The approved route avoids pools that normally exist under low flow conditions. Water crossings will be at right angles to the stream in the most direct feasible route, and where the channel is straight and unobstructed.
- The plan does not allow vehicles to park in the water.
- The number of vehicles allowed to use the route will be limited to \_\_\_\_\_ per day. This limitation will be enforced by county sheriff's deputies, including through regular patrols and prompt response to complaint calls.

(2) How the plan protects public safety

- The county ordinance establishes a speed limit of 9 mph.
- The county ordinance prohibits glass bottles within the motor vehicle access area.

(3) How the plan provides for adequate enforcement

- The enforcement provisions of the county ordinance are: \_\_\_\_\_, and will be enforced by the county sheriff's office, including through regular patrols and prompt response to complaint calls.

- (4) How the plan coordinates with adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions.
- The plan area is within the jurisdiction of the \_\_\_\_\_ River Authority (XRA). A draft of the plan was provided to the XRA by certified mail. The XRA submitted written comments, which are included with this submission and were considered in the adoption of the plan.
  - The jurisdictional boundaries of this plan are: \_\_\_\_\_ (preferably defined by easily recognized physical boundaries such as road crossings, etc.)
  - A draft of the plan was provided to the city by certified mail. The city submitted written comments, which are included with this submission and were considered in the adoption of the plan.
- (5) How the plan provides for and publicizes adequate public access to a protected freshwater area
- \_\_\_\_\_ County has prepared a list of public access points within the county. An internet link to this list is provided at \_\_\_\_\_.
  - County will erect signs at the listed public access points.
  - County intends to apply for a local park grant from TPWD to purchase approximately 10 acres adjacent to the \_\_\_\_\_ River.
  - County will organize a yearly river festival and cleanup.
  - County has consulted with the Texas General Land Office.
- (6) How the plan provides for adequate public services relating to access to a protected freshwater areas
- The local park grant proposal includes funds for development of site amenities including picnic tables.
  - Users of the motor vehicle access area will pay an annual fee of \_\_\_\_\_. These funds will be used in part to pay for trash pickup at river access areas, and portable toilets where appropriate.
- (7) How the plan protects private property rights. *(Note: If the proposed plan utilizes a portion of navigable streambed adjacent to private property, a survey or off-stream boundary agreement with the adjacent private landowner may need to be provided in order to depict the plan boundaries to prevent trespass on private property. If the proposed plan utilizes a portion of a navigable streambed not directly adjacent to private property, such as an island in the center of the river that is accessed directly from an adjacent highway right-of-way, then a survey or off-stream boundary agreement may not be necessary.)*
- All landowners with property surrounding this protected freshwater area have been contacted by certified mail and provided with a draft of the access plan and map.
  - The plan will utilize existing gradient boundary surveys, if available, to delineate the bed of the stream within the plan area, and the remaining portion of the plan boundary will be delineated by a registered professional land surveyor, paid for by county funds from \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. Attachments

- County ordinance
- County map
- Detail map of motor vehicle access area showing GPS coordinates

- Comments received from XRA, City, and citizens regarding proposed local access plan