



# News Release

Brazos River Authority

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*For Immediate Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Grand opening of the Possum Kingdom hike and bike trail

**June 23, 2006 – Graford, Texas**— The Brazos River Authority (BRA) hosted a ribbon cutting and grand opening for a new, family oriented, hike and bike trail at Possum Kingdom Lake (PK) today.

The event marked the opening of phase one of a four-phase hike and bike trail at PK. Each of the phases will be five miles in length and will follow the PK wooded terrain to Sandy Beach.

“This first phase of the trail is a great new way for families and sports enthusiasts to enjoy Possum Kingdom Lake during the fall and winter months,” said BRA General Manager/CEO Phil Ford. “Until now, there were very few activities available at the lake during the off season.

The addition of the trail system is also expected to serve as a benefit for the PK economy.

“Many of the lake’s businesses close during the colder months due to a lack of tourists,” said BRA Board member and PK Lake Committee Chairman, Wade Gear. “The attraction of the trail system will draw recreationalists that will also visit local restaurants, hotels and stores. The PK business community should receive a boost in business as a result of the trail system.

The phase one trailhead is located off LaVilla road near the Possum Kingdom Lion’s Club and includes parking, restrooms and water fountains. The trail is divided into three shorter sections allowing families or those that do not wish to take the full five-mile trek a shorter alternative. Maps of the trail are color-coded and located at intervals throughout the trail with identifying “you are here” notations.

The full five miles of the natural surface trail is five feet wide to allow easy passage of hikers and bikers. At the summit of this trail, known as Angel View Lookout, cedar bench seating allows a resting spot along with a spectacular view of the lake.

The BRA was aided in the planning and design of the trails project by the Texas Bicycle Coalition's "Trail Doctor's." The trail's design allows the wilderness habitat to remain untouched outside of the marked trail area.

Funding for the first phase of the trails project was made available through grants from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with the BRA providing "in-kind" work including construction of areas of the trail and signage. RBR Construction of Weatherford served as general contractor for the project.

The BRA has submitted an application for grant funding to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Phase II of the project. Grant awards are expected to be announced in September, 2006.

For a printable map of the trails, you may visit [www.brazos.org](http://www.brazos.org) and click on Recreation or contact the BRA's main offices at 254-761-3111.

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***For an electronic version of the map for publication, please contact Judi Pierce at the phone number listed above or by email at [jpierce@brazos.org](mailto:jpierce@brazos.org).***

#### ***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 Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System in Round Rock, and the cities of Hutto, Georgetown, Dime Box, Clute-Richwood and Sugar Land.

The Authority owns and operates water treatment systems at Lake Granbury (which supplies potable water to wholesale customers in Hood and Johnson Counties), the City of Taylor and the City of Dime Box. A potable water treatment plant located in Leander is owned jointly by the Lower Colorado River Authority and the Brazos River Authority. The Authority also engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River Basin.

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