

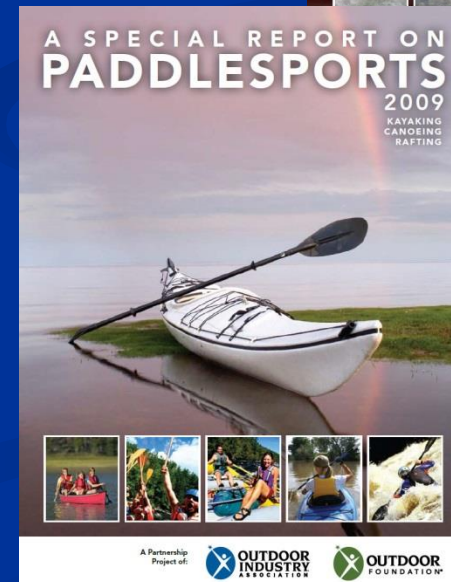
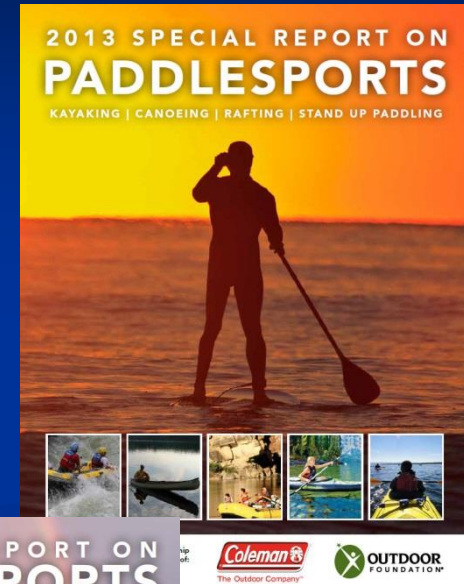
Fishing for Habitat Stewards: Rivers Access and Conservation Program

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Inland Fisheries Division
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**

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PARKS &
WILDLIFE

Paddling in the Southern US

- 19M Americans participated in paddlesports, averaging 7 trips per year
- 38% of paddlers were also freshwater anglers
- 10.3M Americans participated in kayaking
- 3.4M of kayakers live in the southern US



Texas Kayak Fishing



- ~ 1-2M Texans participate in paddlesports
- Texas Paddling Trails generate an estimated annual economic impact of >\$160M

TPWD Leased Fishing Access Areas

Where does the funding come from?

- U.S. Department of Agriculture's Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive
- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation
- Sport Fish Restoration Act

Who are our partners?



TPWD Leased Fishing Access Areas



Coming soon: Lower Nueces River near Corpus Christi, Middle Brazos River near Gholson, and Lower Colorado River near Bastrop!

Want More Information?

- Directions, details, and any limitations on the use of individual sites can be found on TPWD's website:

Tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/recreational/rivers

- Or Google "*Texas Leased Access*"

What Will You Find at the Sites?

- Maps and informational sheets describing the site
- Surveys regarding fish caught and overall experience at the site.
 - Please fill these out! They help guide our future conservation management strategies.

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River Access and Conservation Area Angling Survey

1. Number of anglers fishing in your group? _____

2. Did you bank, wade or kayak fish? _____

3. How long was your fishing trip (hrs)? _____

4. What were you fishing with?

a. Rod & Spinning Reel _____

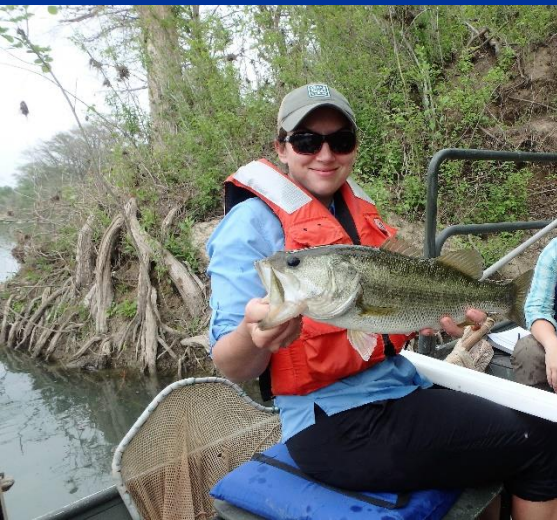
b. Fly Rod _____

c. Jugline/Trotline _____

d. Other: _____

No Time? Take the survey online! XXXXXXXXXXXX

Species	What were you fishing for? (Check all that apply)	Number Kept	Number Released
Largemouth Bass			
Guadalupe Bass			
Channel Catfish			
Carp			
Sunfish			
Other:			



and **FISH!!**





Parks Hunting Fishing Boating Game Warden Activities Wildlife Land Water Media Calendar More...



River Fishing

- [Leased Fishing Access](#)
- [Dallas-Fort Worth](#)
- [State Parks](#)
- [Texas Paddling Trails](#)
- [Texas River Guide](#)
- [Legal Issues](#)
 - [Texas Stream Navigation Law](#)
 - [If A River Runs Through It, What Law Applies?](#)
- [USGS Water Watch](#)
(current stream flow conditions)

More Places to Fish:

- **Freshwater**
 - [Lakes](#)
 - [Rivers](#)
- **Saltwater**
 - [Boat Ramps & Access Points](#)
 - [Wheelchair Access](#)
 - [Catch Rates by Minor Bay](#)
- [Urban Areas](#)
- [Free Fishing in State Parks](#)

Download printable maps (PDF)

- [Brazos River Access](#)
- [Colorado River Access](#)
- [Neches River Access](#)
- [River Fishing in DFW](#)

River Fishing in Texas

To prevent the spread of zebra mussels, the law requires draining of water from boats and onboard receptacles when leaving or approaching public fresh waters. [Get details.](#)

Recent surveys conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have shown a threefold increase over the past 10 years in the number of Texans that canoe and kayak, often using our rivers and streams. Interest in river fishing is also on the rise, and good river fishing spots can be found throughout the state.

Getting to the River

Since the Texas Paddling Trails Program began in 1998, TPWD has partnered with local communities to expand public access in river basins around the state. However, access to many of our state's 191,000 miles of rivers and streams is still limited. In 2012, TPWD initiated a new leased access program designed to build partnerships that offer river access across private property. Information on these leased fishing access areas is highlighted below, along with information on public river access available through Texas Paddling Trails and at State Parks and other public lands.

Leased Fishing Access Areas

With funding from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program, TPWD has signed temporary agreements with property owners to improve fishing access to rivers and streams. Visit the links below for directions, details and any limitations on the use of individual sites.

Brazos River - downstream from Lake Whitney

- [Brazos River Nature Center \(North\)](#)
- [Brazos River Nature Center \(South\)](#)

Colorado River - downstream from Lady Bird Lake

- [Texas River School River Camp](#)

Neches River - upstream from Lake Palestine

- [Chandler River Park](#)

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- [Free Fishing in State Parks](#)

Leased Fishing Access

Brazos River downstream from Lake Whitney

Brazos River Nature Center (South)

Located on the east bank of the Brazos River in Gholson, northern McLennan County. [See map.](#)

Lease extends through June 30, 2017

Phone: (254) 290-0029

E-mail: brazosrivernc@cs.com

Latitude: 31.698643

Longitude: -97.270316

Directions



From Dallas/Fort Worth/Austin

Take I-35 to the town of West. Turn west onto FM 1858 and travel approximately 10 miles toward the town of Gholson. When FM 1858 intersects FM 933, turn left onto FM 933 and then (immediately) turn right onto westbound FM 1858. Directions continued below - see "In Gholson."

From Waco

Take FM 933 north approximately 12 miles to the town of Gholson. Continue north approximately 1 mile past the Gholson Country Store, then turn left onto westbound FM 1858. Directions continued below - see "In Gholson."

In Gholson

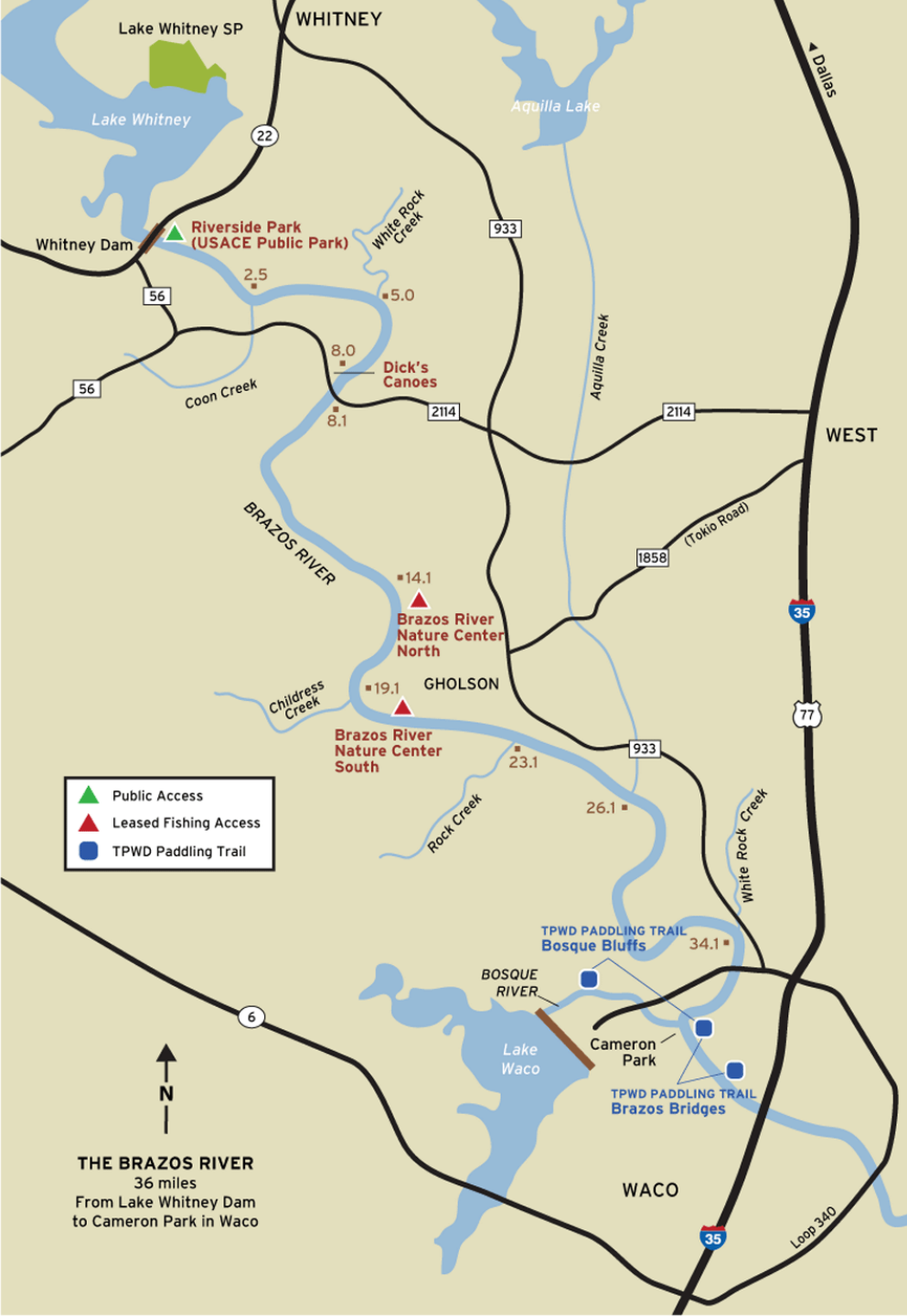
From intersection of FM 933 & West FM 1858, go west on FM 1858 approximately 0.4 miles to a "T" intersection of West FM 1858 and Wesley Chapel Road (Gholson Volunteer Fire Dept. on right). Turn right onto Wesley Chapel Road, go 0.1 mile then turn left onto Hamilton Drive (Gholson School on left). Continue on Hamilton Drive approximately 2.5 miles to the entrance of the Brazos River Nature Center (South), located on the right side of Hamilton Drive.

Area Description



This 53-acre property provides 1,863 feet of river frontage for bank and wade fishing. Amenities include potable water, picnic tables and restrooms. The area serves as a take-out for anglers paddling from upstream river access areas.

This site is 5 miles downstream from the leased fishing access area at [Brazos River Nature Center](#)



Detailed maps
available for
download

This 33-acre property provides 1,000 feet of river frontage for bank and wade fishing. Amenities include potable water, picnic tables and restrooms. The area serves as a take-out for anglers paddling from upstream river access areas.

This site is 5 miles downstream from the leased fishing access area at [Brazos River Nature Center \(North\)](#). It's 11 miles downstream of Dick's Canoes and the FM 2114 bridge crossing and 19 miles downstream of Riverside Park just below the Lake Whitney Dam. BRNC (South) is approximately 16 miles upstream of public river access areas near Cameron Park in Waco, associated with the [Bosque Bluffs and Brazos Bridges Paddling Trails](#).



Special Conditions on Public Use

A daily per-person access fee will be charged. Angler access is available during daylight hours and is restricted to designated trails and parking areas. No fires are permitted, other than the use of gas cook stoves. Advance reservations and advance fee payments are required, and must be made through the Brazos River Nature Center. Contact the center for a fee schedule and additional information.



Angling Opportunities

Fishing opportunities abound in this segment of the Brazos River for [largemouth](#), [spotted](#), and [smallmouth bass](#). TPWD stocked smallmouth bass in 2008, 2009, and 2011. Natural reproduction was documented in 2012, and reports of sizable smallmouths are on the rise. [Channel catfish](#) were stocked in 2007 and should be plentiful in the deep pools. The [white bass](#) run in February and March can be quite good, and the occasional [striped bass](#) will surprise an angler. Jigs and small spinners are very effective when concentrations of fish are located.

Anglers are encouraged to practice moderation in harvesting sportfish in this stretch of river, especially smallmouth bass. Environmental events such as drought and golden alga blooms can have long-term effects on fish populations. Overharvest during or after these events is a real concern.



Fishing Regulations

All species are currently managed under [statewide regulations](#).

TPWD has partnered with IFFF-Texas Council to :

- Expand angler and paddling access to Texas rivers through public-private partnerships
 - Texas is 95% private
 - ~4.1M acres of land lost to urbanization since '82
- Preserve wilderness experience
- Manage for sustainable use
- Facilitate watershed conservation



Next Steps

- ✓ **Secure 2-year leases**
 - > 20 proposed leases on 9 rivers
- ✓ **Survey & monitor leases**
 - Baseline habitat and fish population assessments
 - Development of sustainable use management plans
 - Monitoring of angler use



Riparian Conservation- Healthy Riparian Areas Support Healthy Fish Habitat



What is a Riparian Area?

Riparian Areas are the bands of vegetation that occur adjacent to the stream bank.

They are a transitional zone between the wetlands and upland areas.

Characteristics of a Healthy Riparian Area:

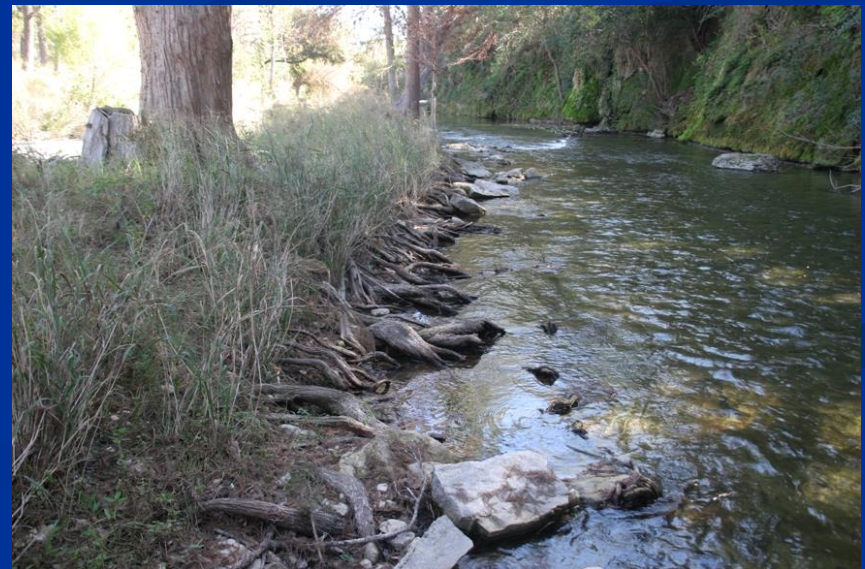
- Diverse collection of native vegetation in close association with water
- Many of these plants have deep roots that:
 - Act like a basket to hold the streambank in place
 - Protect against erosion



Benefits of Healthy Riparian Areas:

Provide important habitat for wildlife and fish:

- ✓ Food (detritus, insects)
- ✓ Shelter (undercut banks, large woody debris)
- ✓ Shading (temperature moderation for increased dissolved O₂)
- ✓ Travel corridors



Benefits of Healthy Riparian Areas:

- **Improve water quality**
 - Filter & catch sediment
 - Assimilate pollutants
- **Streambank stability**
 - Reduce velocity of flood water
 - Armor banks



Types of Riparian Area Plants

Woody Plants
(Trees &
Shrubs)

Sedges/Rushes

Grasses

Forbs



Functions/Roles of Riparian Vegetation

Erosion control



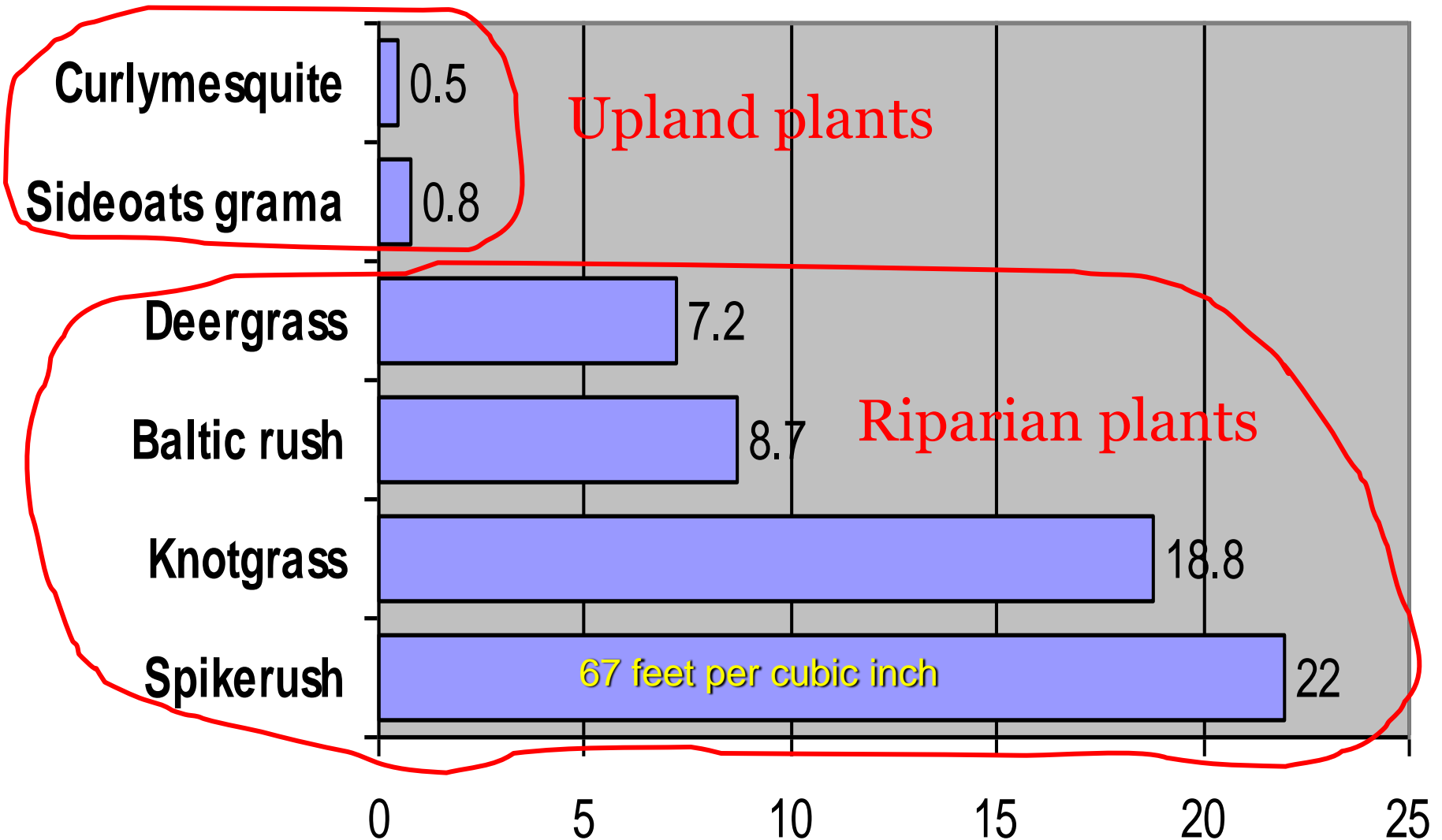
Sediment trap



Store water



Root Length; Miles per Cubic Foot



Root Mass of Riparian Plants

To imagine what a Spikerush root ball would look like, picture this:
67 feet of fishing line, wadded into 1 square inch.

That is a lot of root mass,
and is why riparian plants
are so important for bank stabilization.



Photo credit John P. O'Connell/Texas Sea Grant

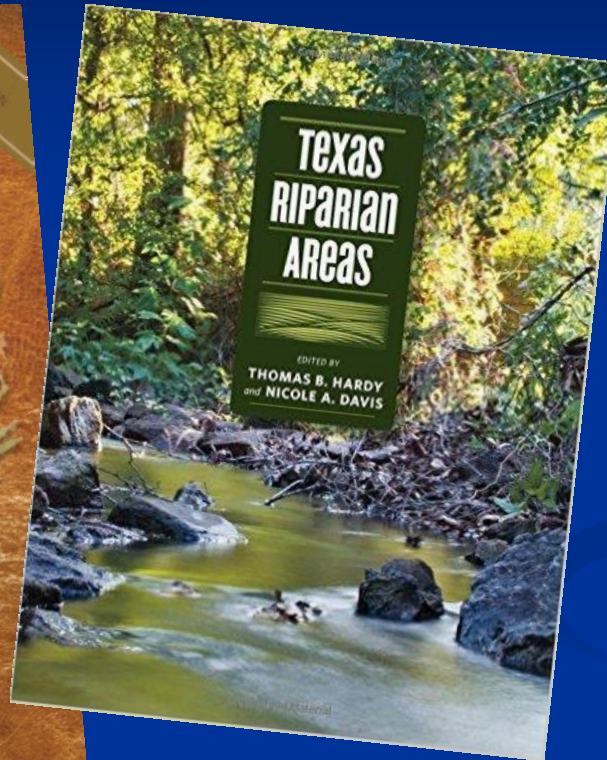
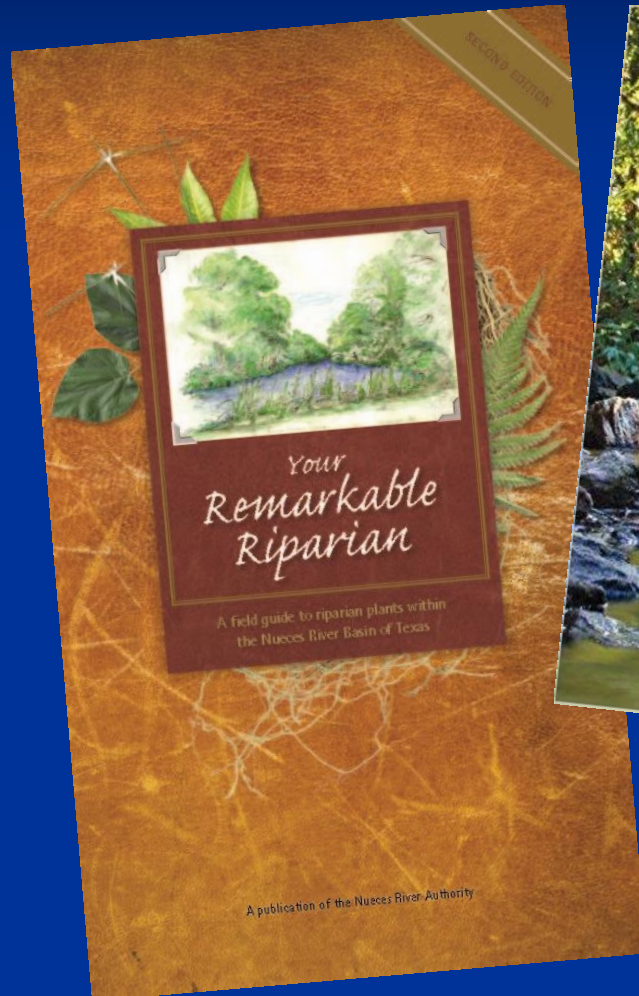
Fallen trees, logs and debris help too




Good Vegetation Outcomes

- ✓ Protects banks from excess erosion
- ✓ Dissipates energy and slows the velocity of floodwater
- ✓ Sediment dropped
- ✓ Sediment trapped and stabilized
- ✓ Floodplain / riparian sponge is enlarged
- ✓ Increased groundwater recharge
- ✓ Base-flow is sustained over time

Additional Resources



TAMUpress.com


NATIVE AMERICAN SEED

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Aid for Rebuilding Stream Bank Buffer Zones

Riparian Recovery Mix

Item #: 4506
Category: Native Seed Mixes
Habit: Annual & Perennial
Planting Rates:
9 lbs per acre

Price:
500 Sq Ft Dpak - \$14
5,000 Sq Ft (1 lb bag) - \$44
15,000 Sq Ft (3 lb bag) - \$124
Price Break Over 10 lbs - \$29 per lb

SOIL TYPE				SUNLIGHT				Soil
Sand	Loam	Clay	Caliche	Full	Partial	Dappled	Shade	Moisture
X	X	X	X	X				medium

weight range:
DPAK

Qty:
 Add to Cart



www.nueces-ra.org/YRR/pdfs/yrr2.pdf

www.seedsource.com/catalog/

Enjoy and Be Safe!

- ✓ Check the weather forecast
- ✓ File a float plan
- ✓ Wear your lifejacket
- ✓ Check the river flow
<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/tx/nwis/current/?type=flow>
- ✓ Leave No Trace

Contact Us!

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A scenic river flows through a forest with trees displaying vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, red, and yellow. Two kayakers are visible on the river; one in a blue kayak on the left and another in a red kayak on the right. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding trees and sky. A large, dark tree branch hangs over the river from the left bank.

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