

River Access and Conservation Areas Program Updates

NETX Conservation Delivery Network
Committee Meeting
September 15, 2020

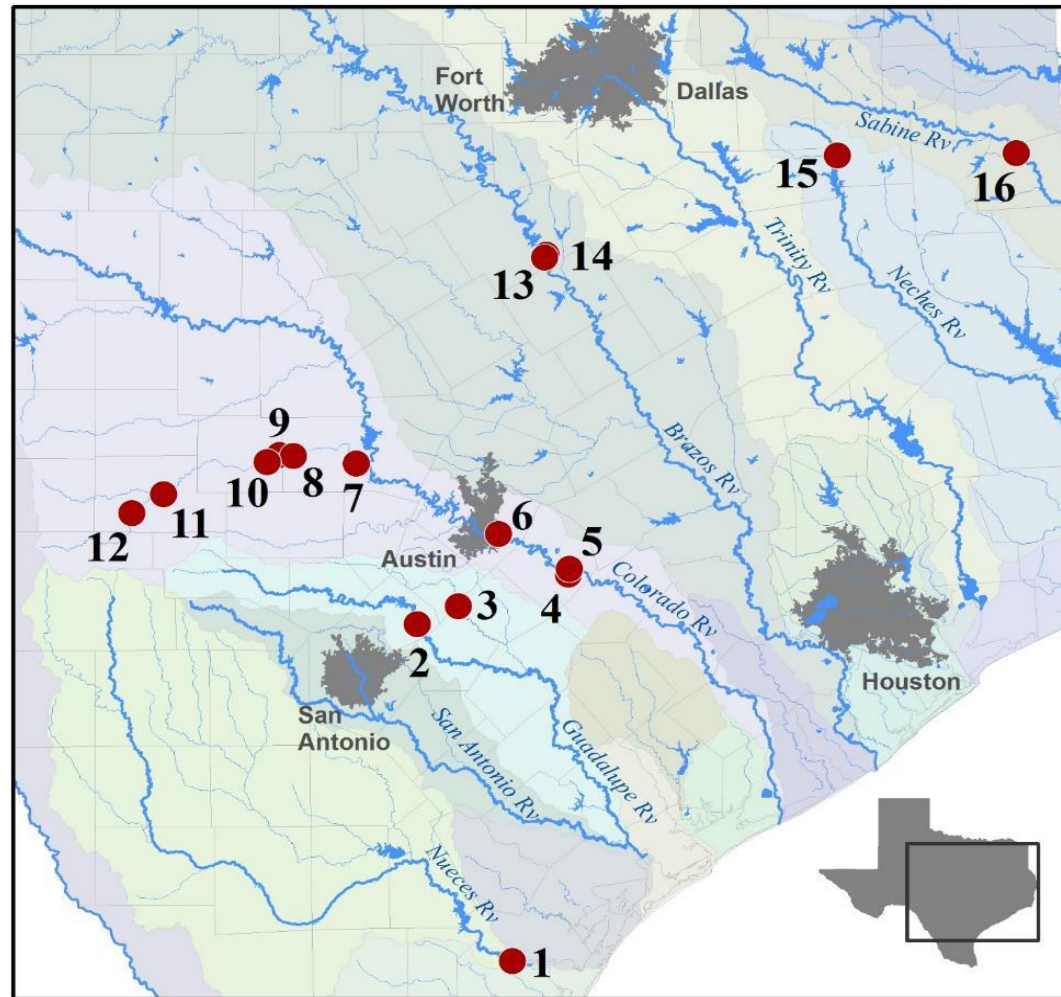
TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

River Access & Conservation Areas (RACA)

- 18 leased access fishing sites
- Access to ~200 river miles
- Improved access or habitat conservation project at 9 sites

PUBLIC LEASE ACCESS FISHING SITE

Supported by



Texas River Access Sites

Nueces River

1. Camp Pamoque

Guadalupe River

2. Camp Huaco Springs

San Marcos River

3. San Marcos River Retreat

Colorado River

4. WJF River Access
5. Hidden Shores
6. Texas River School

Llano River Basin

7. Kingsland Slab RV
8. HR Seventh Heaven
9. Castell Crossing
10. Maso Llan Rd Access
11. Pete's Pecan Patch
12. CR 150, Junction

Brazos River

13. Spivey Crossing RV Park
14. Dick's Canoes

Neches River

15. Chandler River Park

Sabine River

16. Grand Bluff Boat Ramp

Devils River *Not pictured

- Mile 12 Paddler Camp
- Mile 20 Paddler Camp

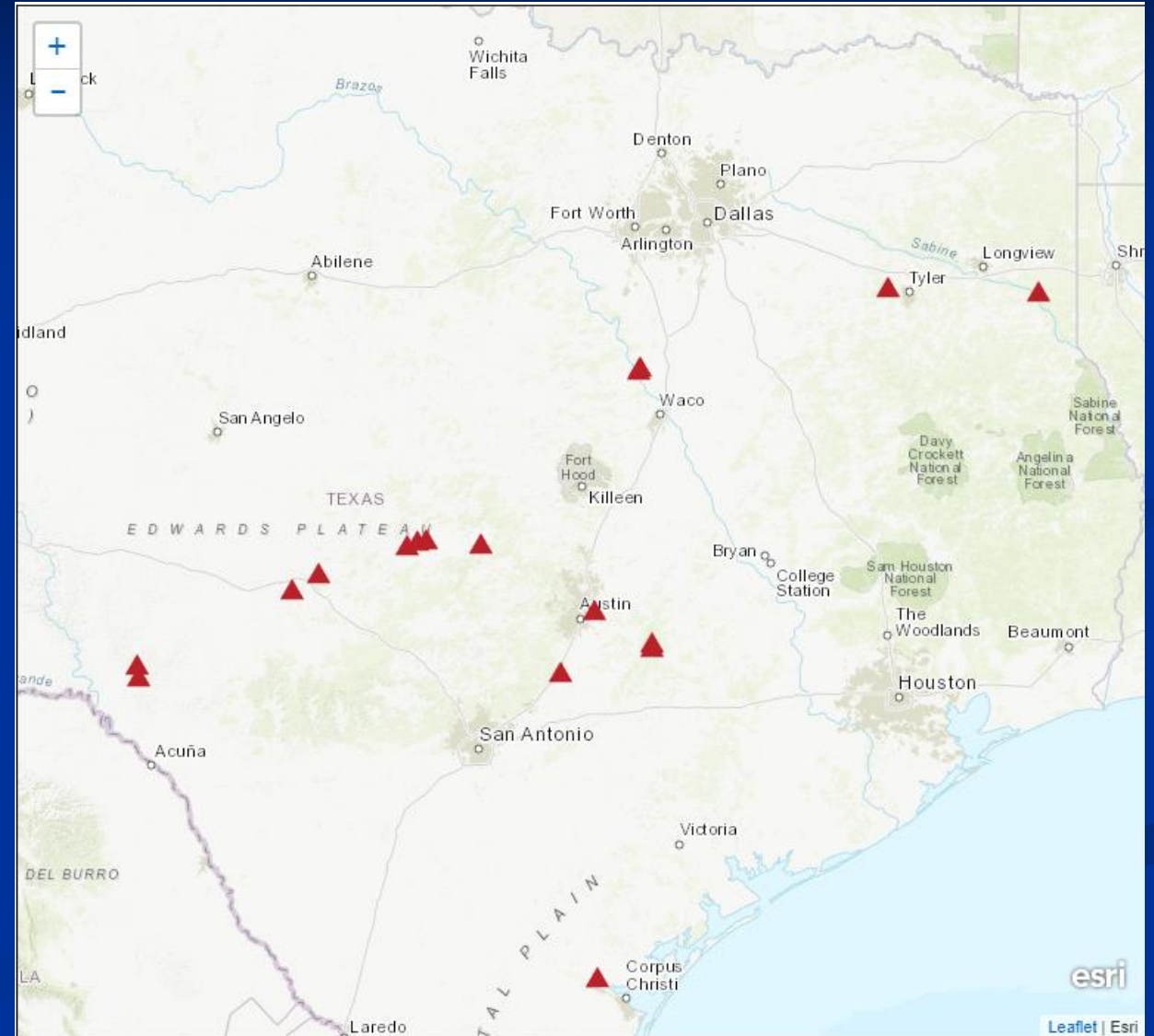
RACA Funding

- **Sport Fish Restoration Act – Boating Access Grant**
 - Grant award of \$270,000 for 2021 - 2023
- **Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP)**
 - Combined grant award of \$1,830,995 with Public Hunting Access
 - RACA portion of \$824,600 for 2021 - 2024
- **Texas River Conservation License Plate sales**
 - Typically ~\$20,000 for river access or habitat improvement projects
- **Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation**



RACA Expansion

- Anticipate adding 20-25 new RACA sites over the next 3-4 years
- Considering properties statewide
- Lacking sites in East and North Texas
- Recent Request for Applications (RFA)



Request for Applications (RFA)

- **Establishing Lease Agreements with Private Landowners to Expand Public Access to Fishing and Paddling on Texas Rivers**
- **Open through Sept. 30, 2020 for FY21 funding**
 - **However, RFA is open-ended. We will accept applications year-round**
- **Offering lease rates between \$6,000 - \$15,000 per year**
- **Describes what we are looking for and who to contact**

Site Selection

- **Locations that offer a unique wilderness setting with intact instream and riparian habitats,**
- **Offer high-quality paddling and river fishing experiences, and access to other nature-oriented uses such as wildlife viewing,**
- **Currently limited public river access,**
- **Strategically positioned to connect with other upstream or downstream river access areas, and**
- **Located near an urban population center.**

Conservation Delivery

- Native riparian vegetation plantings
- Seed dispersal
- Access improvement
- Kiosk install







Game Camera Surveys

Future Collaboration Opportunities

- Cooperation on initial site visits
- Identify additional potential RACA sites
- Help identify priority river reaches to improve access
- Improved user surveys
- Coordination of conservation projects / volunteers
- Other?

Questions?

