

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 7, 2023

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Lake Conroe Christmas Tree Drive A Partnership to Create Fish Habitat and Help the Ecosystem

Conroe, Texas—The San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) in partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife's (TPWD) Inland Fisheries are preparing for their annual Christmas Tree Drive to collect discarded Christmas trees for use as artificial fish habitat. During the month of January, SJRA and TPWD ask residents to donate their discarded live Christmas trees in an effort to enhance Lake Conroe fishery while simultaneously reducing landfill waste.

"Recycled Christmas trees make great fish habitat and Texans have shown strong support for this initiative" says Bret Raley, SJRA's Lake Conroe Division Manager. "Once sunken, Christmas trees become sanctuaries for a variety of aquatic wildlife."

SJRA attaches the trees to cement blocks and sinks them at a pre-determined locations throughout the lake. Once deployed, the locations are publicized on SJRA's social media so anglers can use them as fishing destinations. If trees are not properly weighted down, they could eventually float free or wind up on the shoreline instead of the bottom of the lake. For that reason, SJRA asks residents to donate their trees rather than attempting to anchor them in the lake.

Please donate your live Christmas tree at the drop-off location located at the west end of the Lake Conroe dam, near Highway 105 and Sandy Beach Drive. To see the specific location where you can drop off your Christmas tree, please refer to the map in the graphic. The last day to drop-off for this season's tree drive is Friday, January 27th. Please remember that trees need to be real (not artificial) and free of all decorations.



To view last year's Christmas tree drive deployment, watch SJRA's YouTube video titled <u>SJRA</u> and Texas Parks and Wildlife Christmas Tree Fish Habitat on Lake Conroe.

We look forward to working with the community to create fish habitat to preserve and protect the best water in Texas!

One of the major river authorities in Texas, SJRA's mission is to develop, conserve, and protect the water resources of the San Jacinto River basin. Covering all or part of seven counties, the organization's jurisdiction includes the entire San Jacinto River watershed, excluding Harris County. For additional information on SJRA visit our website at www.sjra.net, like SJRA on Facebook @SanJacintoRiverAuthority, or follow us on Twitter @SJRA_1937, or find us on Instagram <a href=@SanJacintoRiverAuthoritySJRA.

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