

City of Early – Town Center Park Prospective Pond Enhancement



Mike Homer Jr.
Inland Fisheries – Abilene District
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department



- TPWD is committed to its constituents to make fishing better and protect the state's fish and wildlife resources.

Why Fishing is Important

- Improves quality of life for communities
- Connects people to the outdoors = stewardship
- Gateway to other outdoor activities
- Economic benefit
- Sale of fishing licenses funds protection of fisheries resources



Habitat enhancement and access projects are ways we make fishing better!



Funding Fish Habitat Enhancement and Angler Access

- Fishing faces challenges to
 - Degrading and/or lack of quality habitat
 - Deficiencies in angling access to quality fishing opportunities
- Programs to support *Freshwater Fish Habitat Enhancement* and *Shoreline/Bank Angler Access* have been limited



Habitat and Angler Access Program (HAAP)

- New competitive grant program
- Launches 6/15/2021
- Supported by fishing license sales
- Supports projects up to \$50K
 - Shoreline/Bank Access
 - Fish Habitat Enhancement and Restoration
- 100% Reimbursable



City of Early, Texas – Town Center Pond

- Over 3 acres
- Historically has supported fishing and Kid Fish events
- One of few community fishing ponds in the Big Country
- Prospective master plan places great importance on outdoor recreation
- Pond needs multiple improvements for viability as a fishing resource
- Great candidate site for HAAP





Partnerships are crucial
for success!

City of Early – Town Center Pond

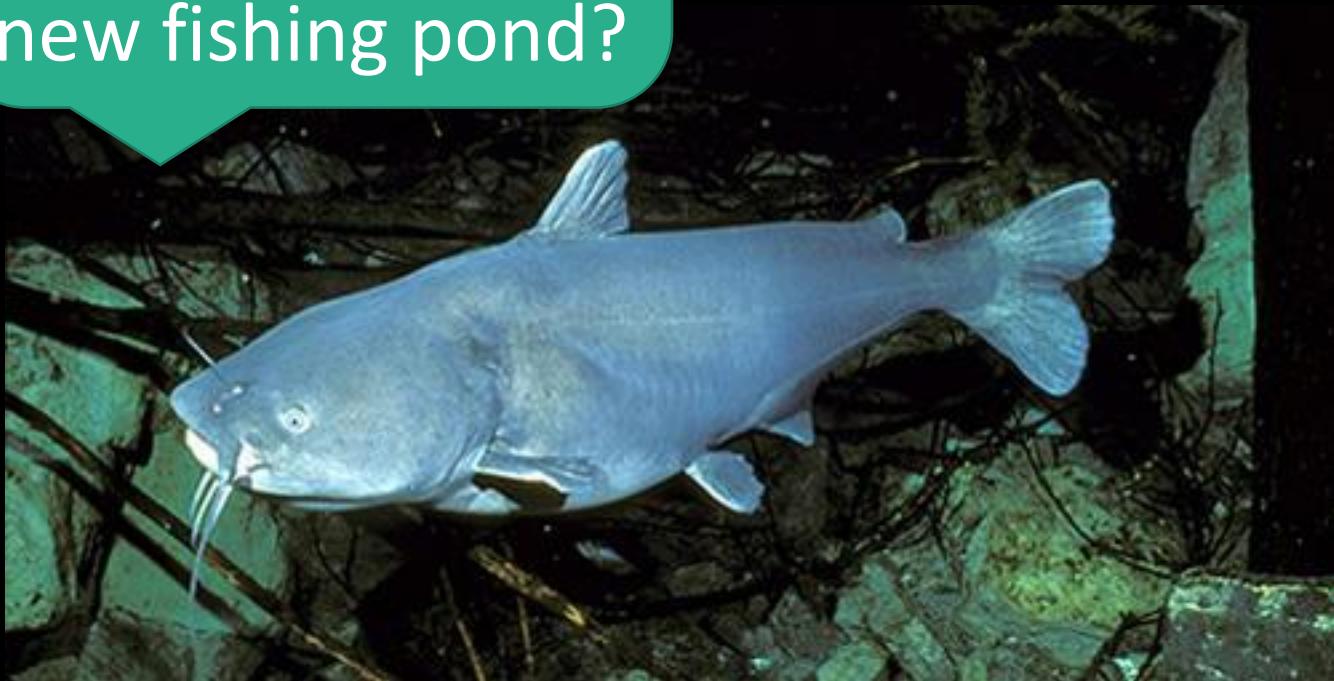


- TPWD has preliminarily approved \$45K internal funds for use of fish habitat improvements at Town Center pond site

City commitment is crucial

1. TPWD will need to draft a project proposal finalized by August 2021
2. City's completion of dredging and sealing of pond by early 2023
3. Habitat enhancement efforts must be completed by August 2023

How can we
improve habitat
and access at a
new fishing pond?

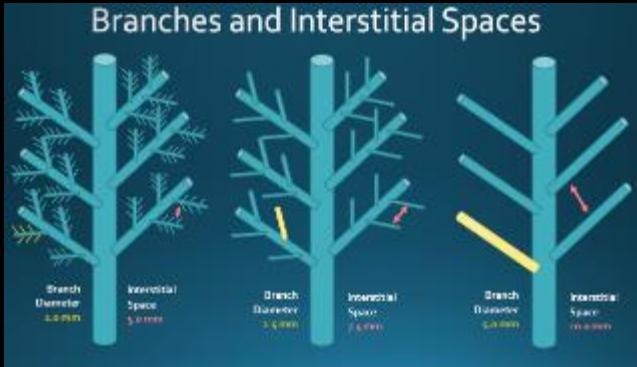




Vegetation, Shoreline Stabilization, and Erosion Control



Native Vegetation Restoration: Floating Islands



Brush Pile Creation



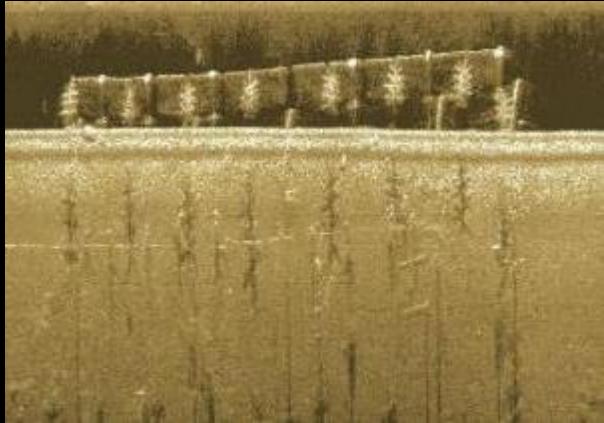
Gravel Beds and Rock Piles



Artificial Fish Habitat Structures



Water Quality Enhancement: Aerators



Potential HAAP Opportunities: Piers and Enhancements

City of Early – Town Center Pond



- HAAP Grant may offer additional opportunities for site improvements
 - Fishing piers w/ lighting
 - Fishing boardwalk
 - Additional habitat enhancements
- City would have to apply by August 20, 2021
- Awarded projects would also have a project completion deadline of August 31, 2023



Thank you!