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 **For Immediate Release:**

**July 4th Fireworks Retired at Washington on the Brazos.**

Fireworks on the Brazos has been a long-standing tradition for the Washington on the Brazos State Park. However, this year the event has been permanently retired and will not occur. For years the Park has celebrated America’s Independence and, going forward it will focus on celebrating Texas Independence.

“The decision to discontinue the July 4 celebrationcame with a lot of discussion but ultimately it was determined to retire it on a high note. Our Fireworks on the Brazos event originated more than 20 years ago when there weren’t many displays in our area. There are now plenty of opportunities to celebrate the nation’s independence in the Brazos Valley. The extravagant cost of the fireworks and the dwindling numbers of visitors on that day forced us to rethink our plans.  HEB, the event’s signature sponsor, agreed with us and is now sponsoring our Texas Independence Day Celebration and our new Juneteenth Heritage Celebration,” said Cyndee Smith, Washington on the Brazos State Park Association President. “There will not be fireworks at either of these events, but by not spending money on those displays, we are able to afford more historic performers, musicians, and craftsmen and better tell the story of Where Texas Became Texas.”

We have many events throughout the year at the Park including our annual event, the Juneteenth Heritage Celebration, which this year will take place on June 23rd. This family friendly event will include a full day of food, art displays, musical performances, food trucks, a Kids Zone with 1836 games, and craft-making. We will have monthly Farmer’s Market through July and have also created a new event, Bark in the Park, which will be held September 29 and will feature vendors, demonstrations, a dog walk, adoptable animals and more.

If you are looking for other 4th of July events, many sites and communities have started offering similar events in the area including Brenham, Navasota and more.

The Park is most appreciative of our visitors who support our mission of saving and preserving Texas’ historic treasures.  Anytime we retire an event we know there will be those who will miss it, but we hope you will continue to enjoy the Park and take advantage of the many other events happening throughout the year at Washington-on-the-Brazos. Visit [www.wheretexasbecametexas.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCyndee%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5C6SLUXOB1%5Cwww.wheretexasbecametexas.org) for more information.

**Washington** **on the Brazos State Historic Site**

There are many reasons to join the [Washington on the Brazos State Park Association](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/about/park-association/) as a member and explore this Texas treasure. Besides the irreplaceable satisfaction of helping to uphold Texas history through the Association’s preservation projects, celebrations and programming, spending time at the park is an easy, inexpensive, educational and fun way to entertain families and visitors. Park Association membership levels are available for individuals, families and businesses and include free admission to the Site’s attractions for a year, and—for some levels—private parties during the park’s special celebrations.

The Park: The expansive park grounds of this state park along the Brazos River also provide a beautiful setting for picnicking, sightseeing and bird watching, as well as four geocaching sites—two each from TPWD and the Brenham/Washington County Chamber and CVB. It also features a Conference and Education Center, which is available for rent for meetings, weddings and reunions. An outdoor amphitheater and two pavilions are also available to rent.

Leashed pets are allowed in the park, but not allowed onto farm site or in the buildings. All attractions are accessible for the mobility impaired. For lodging information, please contact the Brenham Visitor Center at [www.visitbrenhamtexas.com/](http://www.visitbrenhamtexas.com/) or 1-888-BRENHAM, or the city of Navasota at [www.navasotagrimeschamber.com](http://www.navasotagrimeschamber.com).

Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site is found on the Brazos River at the original townsite of Washington, Texas, a major political and commercial center in early Texas. It is located at 23400 Park Road 12, Washington, TX, 77880—approximately halfway between Brenham and Navasota, off of State Hwy. 105. From Hwy. 105, follow either FM 912 or FM 1155 to Park Road 12. For additional information, call (936) 878-2214 or visit the site’s website at [www.wheretexasbecametexas.org](http://www.wheretexasbecametexas.org).

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