



# 2018 Annual Report

*Working together to conserve the lands we love and the water we depend on.*

## Our Mission

Support and strengthen the land trust community to serve as a powerful voice for land and water conservation in Texas.

## Our Vision

A strong land trust community conserving essential land and water across Texas.



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# Program Overview



## Introduction

The Texas Land Trust Council (TLTC) is building a strong, active coalition to serve as a powerful voice for conservation in Texas. By seeking to advance land and water conservation, TLTC offers programs and initiatives geared to ensure the continued strength and success of the land trust movement. Currently, there are more than 30 land trusts working throughout Texas. To date, land trusts have helped to conserve more than 1.65 million acres of farms, ranches, wildlife habitat, water resources, and natural areas. We are proud to support this effort.

## Texas Land Trust Council Program Areas

Land and water conservation are essential to a healthy Texas. Our lands protect our water supply, provide habitat for our fish and wildlife, preserve our agricultural heritage, and improve our quality of life. Without those wide open spaces to experience and enjoy, Texas just wouldn't be Texas. To support and advance land conservation across our state, TLTC focuses on several program areas:

**Education** – TLTC maintains a strong focus on education and training, to ensure that Texas land trusts are keeping pace with land conservation efforts nationally. Our premiere educational event, the Texas Land Conservation Conference, offers three days of training and workshops on topics geared for all types of public and private land and water conservation-related professionals and interested landowners. With several hundred attendees each year, this event is critical to the continued strength and integrity of the land conservation movement in Texas.

**Outreach & Advocacy** – TLTC serves as an advocate for land trusts in Texas, to promote the many benefits of land conservation in our great state. Land trusts work to conserve Texas' special lands and waters by permanently protecting them from development for the benefit of people, wildlife and our economy. By protecting these lands, land trusts help ensure that every Texan has access to clean water, natural areas, and wide open spaces that will ensure our quality of life.

TLTC works to coordinate land trust advocacy at the federal and state level, developing a robust coalition with a unified voice to build strong, sustained support for land conservation in Texas. To this end, each year we also host an annual land trust leaders retreat, the Texas Land Trust Assembly, where our members gather to strengthen relationships and engage with each other on issues that impact our collective work.

**Technical & Financial Assistance** – TLTC seeks to provide pertinent conservation related tools and information to land trusts, landowners, and the general public. These include our Conservation Lands Inventory database and maps of land trust conserved lands, our Conservation Easement Guidebook for landowners, as well as a wealth of information on our website, including our Land Trust Directory. In addition, our Transaction Matching Grants Program awards small grants to cover costs associated with granting a perpetual conservation easement, offering a meaningful incentive to landowners who wish to conserve their private land for the public good.

# 2018 Program Highlights

## Texas Land Conservation Conference

The Texas Land Conservation Conference is the preeminent statewide meeting for anyone working in the field of land and water conservation, including private landowners interested in conserving their land, government staff, NGOs, agency partners, and any person interested in these important issues. The annual three-day event brings in experts from around the state and nation to provide exceptional networking and education opportunities.



The 2018 Conference focused on topics ranging from energy sprawl and land use change, water policy, conservation easements, private land stewardship and landowner engagement, conservation funding opportunities, and climate issues. The conference is essential to strengthening the depth of knowledge of the conservation community and inspiring excellence among Texas land trusts.

## Conservation Advocacy

TLTC leads the coordination of land trust advocacy at the state and federal levels to enhance funding tools and policies that support land and water conservation. In April, TLTC led our Texas delegation to Washington D.C. for the 7th-annual Land Trust Advocacy Days. Together, with more than 100 land trust advocates from across the country, we met with our Texas congressional delegation and their staff, as well as Senator Cornyn's office, to advocate for conservation programs and funding. Advocacy is essential to building support for the programs and funding that help us to undertake this important work.



# 2018 Program Highlights

## Transaction Matching Grants Program

TLTC funded two conservation easement projects in 2018 through our matching grants program. This program helps to cover legal and due diligence costs associated with recording a conservation easement. This year we awarded \$19,360 in funding to two conservation easement projects, one in the coastal plain and one in the hill country, that permanently conserved over 6,979 acres, valued at more than \$9.8 Million.

Working in partnership with our member land trusts and landowners across the state, these lands are now forever preserved to enhance water resources and wildlife habitat, provide places for outdoor recreation, and preserve our agricultural heritage.

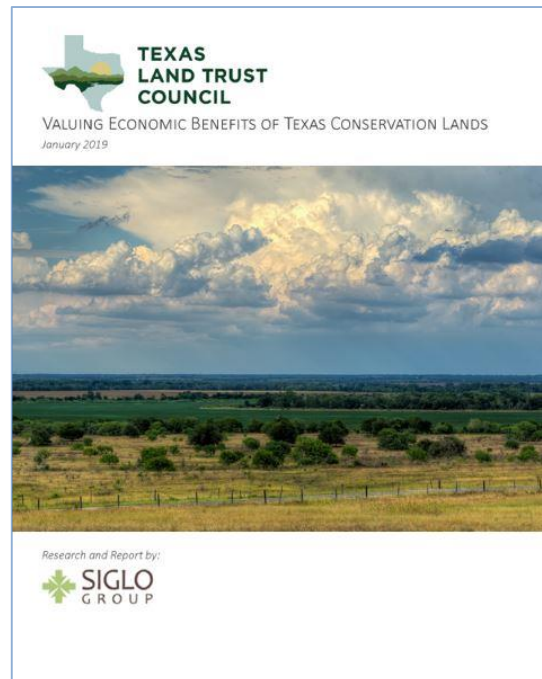


Griffith Ranch in Mason County, preserved in partnership with Texas Land Conservancy.

## Economic Benefits of Conservation Report

TLTC continues to provide results-oriented tools to educate the public and decision-makers on the importance of land conservation. In 2018, TLTC engaged Siglo Group to undertake a study of Texas land trust conservation lands to quantify some of the economic benefits of those lands for Texas. The more than 1.65 million acres protected to date by the state's land trusts were analyzed in terms of the dollar values they provide for water quality, water quantity, flood prevention and rural economies, including agricultural production and wildlife leases.

Our results estimate that these lands are providing more than **\$1 billion** in benefits to Texas taxpayers **each year**. Of this amount, 47% is linked to flood prevention and damage reduction, 16% can be attributed to supporting rural economies, and 37% represents benefits for water quality and quantity. By putting a dollar value on the benefits of conserved lands, we can better articulate the significance of these lands and the substantial value that conservation brings to the economy.



# 2018 Partners & Donors

The Texas Land Trust Council wishes to acknowledge and thank all of our 2018 financial supporters including our land trust and professional members, foundation grantors, conference sponsors, and individual donors. We could not carry out our work without their generous support. Thank you.



## Land Trust Members

Aransas First  
Bayou Land Conservancy  
Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust  
Cibolo Conservancy  
Coastal Bend Land Trust  
Colorado River Land Trust  
Connemara Conservancy  
Conservation Force  
Cradle of Texas Conservancy  
Ducks Unlimited  
Frontera Land Alliance  
Galveston Bay Foundation  
Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas  
Guadalupe Blanco River Trust  
Hill Country Conservancy  
Hill Country Land Trust  
Houston Audubon  
Katy Prairie Conservancy  
Native Prairies Assn. of Texas  
Pines and Prairies Land Trust  
Scenic Galveston  
Texas Agricultural Land Trust  
Texas Cave Management Assn.  
Texas Land Conservancy  
The Cibolo Conservancy  
The Conservation Fund  
The Nature Conservancy- Texas  
The Valley Land Fund  
Travis Audubon  
Upper Trinity Conservation Trust  
Valley Land Fund  
Wilbarger Creek Conservation Alliance  
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

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King Land & Water  
Land Trust Alliance  
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The Meadows Foundation  
Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation  
Resource & Land Management, Inc.  
San Antonio River Authority  
Shield Ranch  
Siglo Group  
SK Foundation  
Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Resources  
Texas Conservation Connection  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation  
The Trust for Public Land  
USDA- Natural Resource Conservation Service

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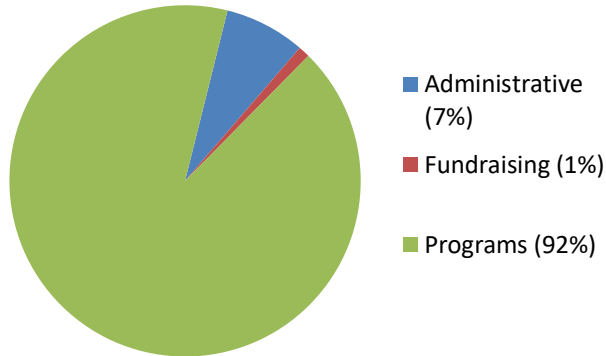
~ Thank You ~

# 2018 Financials

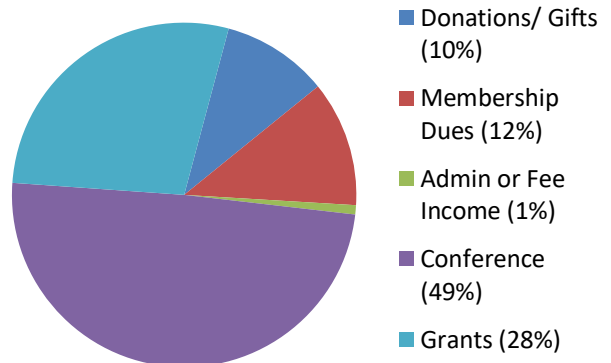


**TEXAS  
LAND TRUST  
COUNCIL**

## Expenses



## Income



<b>INCOME</b>	
Donations/ Gifts	\$ 23,265
Membership Dues	\$ 27,450
Program/Fee Income	\$ 2,026
Conference	\$ 114,740
Grants	\$ 65,300
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 232,781</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration and Audit	\$ 16,638
Fundraising	\$ 2,387
Programs (Including Conference)	\$ 204,708
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 223,733</b>
<b>Special Projects:</b>	
YTD Expenditures on Transaction Grants (Restricted)	\$ 19,360
YTD Revenue for Transaction Grants (Restricted)	\$ 100,000
Transferred to Operating Reserve	\$ 9,048

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