



# 2019 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 a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that builds and supports a strong, active coalition of more than thirty organizations working to conserve the lands and waters of Texas. Since the late 1990s, TLTC has served as a powerful voice for conservation to protect drinking water, Texas' iconic wildlife, and the rich natural and cultural heritage of the state. Together and in partnership with private landowners and citizens, it works to ensure that the Texas landscape – rich in history, natural resources, breathtaking views and recreational opportunities – can be left intact for all citizens today and in the future.

TLTC and its member organizations believe the conservation and preservation of Texas land is of critical importance to the strength and future of Texas. To date, TLTC and its members have helped to conserve more than 1.75 million acres statewide.

## 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. 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 trends nationally. The Texas Land Conservation Conference is the preeminent statewide meeting for anyone working in the field of land and water conservation, including non-profit organizations, private landowners, government staff, volunteers, businesses and agency partners interested in conservation issues. The annual three-day conference attracts around 300 attendees and brings in experts from around the state and nation to provide an exceptional opportunity for shared learning and engagement in order to advance land and water conservation in Texas.

**Outreach & Advocacy** – TLTC advocates for land trusts in Texas, promoting the many benefits of our collective conservation work. Land trusts conserve Texas' special lands and waters by permanently protecting them from development for the benefit of people, wildlife and our economy. 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.

# 2019 Program Highlights

## Texas Land Conservation Conference

Our premiere educational event, the Texas Land Conservation Conference, offers three days of training and workshops on topics related to all types of public and private land and water conservation efforts. With several hundred attendees each year, this event is critical to the continued strength and integrity of the land conservation movement in Texas. The 2019 Conference focused on topics ranging from water policy and carbon markets, to advocacy and conservation easements, from Farm Bill programs to the ecological impact of the proposed border wall in Texas. The conference is essential to strengthening the depth of knowledge of the conservation community and inspiring excellence in our work.



## 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 February, we held our 4<sup>th</sup> state land trust advocacy day, holding more than 60 legislative visits in one day, including meetings with the Speaker's office and committee members from House Natural Resources, Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Senate Finance, and House Appropriations, among many others. TLTC also held our first-ever legislative briefing to share information about our report on the [economic benefits of conserved lands in Texas](#).



In April, TLTC led our Texas delegation to Washington D.C. for the 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



# 2019 Program Highlights

## Transaction Matching Grants Program

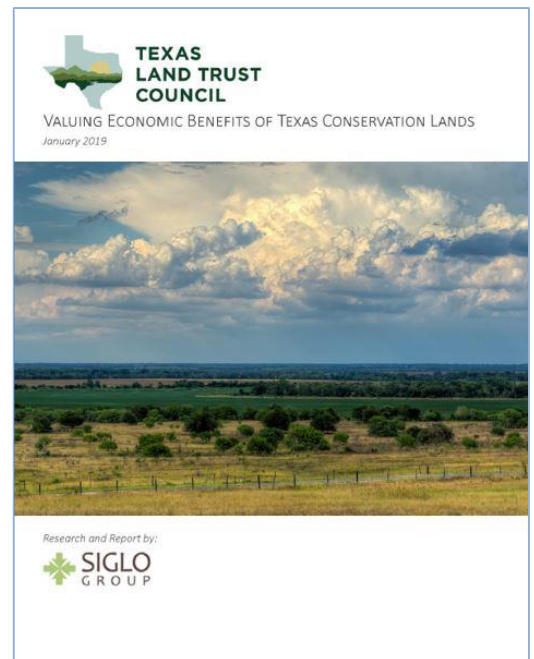
TLTC funded two conservation easement projects in 2019 through our matching grants program. This program helps to cover legal and due diligence costs associated with recording a conservation easement. This year we awarded \$18,720 in funding toward two conservation easement projects, one in the central Texas prairie and one in the Hill Country, that permanently conserve 2,000 acres. Working in partnership with 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.



The Inspiring Oaks Ranch in Hays County, preserved in partnership with the Hill Country Conservancy.

## Economic Benefits of Conservation

TLTC continues to provide results-oriented tools to educate the public and decision-makers on the importance of land conservation. In 2019, TLTC released a study of Texas land trust conservation lands to quantify some of the economic benefits of the lands protected to date by Texas land trusts. 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.



# 2019 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  
Audubon Texas  
Bayou Land Conservancy  
Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust  
Cibolo Conservancy  
Coastal Bend Land Trust  
Colorado River Land Trust  
Connemara Conservancy  
Conservation Force  
The Conservation Fund  
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  
The Nature Conservancy- Texas  
Pines and Prairies Land Trust  
San Marcos River Foundation  
Scenic Galveston  
Texas Agricultural Land Trust  
Texas Cave Management Assn.  
Texas Land Conservancy  
Travis Audubon  
Upper Trinity Conservation Trust  
Valley Land Fund  
Wilbarger Creek Conservation Alliance  
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

## Partners & Sponsors

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James D. Bradbury, PLLC  
Jeffries Appraisal Services  
King Land & Water  
Land Trust Alliance  
Law Office of Burgess Jackson  
Lower Colorado River Authority  
M. Gale & Associates  
Medina Valley Surveys  
Resource & Land Management, Inc.  
San Antonio River Authority  
Shield Ranch  
Siglo Group  
SK Foundation  
Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Resources  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation  
The Trust for Public Land  
Thomas Kelsey, Attorney at Law  
Uhl, Fitzsimons, Jewett, Burton & Wolff  
USDA- NRCS  
Valbridge Property Advisors

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Thomas Kartrude  
Todd & Sharmon Votteler  
Tom & Ann Kelsey  
Travis & Ashley Phillips

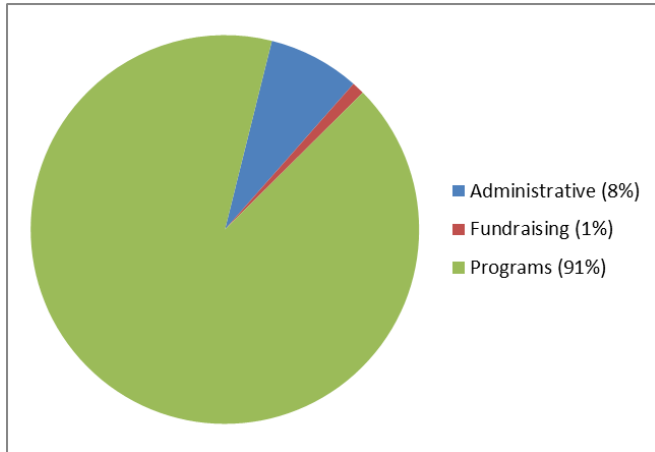
~ Thank You ~

# 2019 Financials

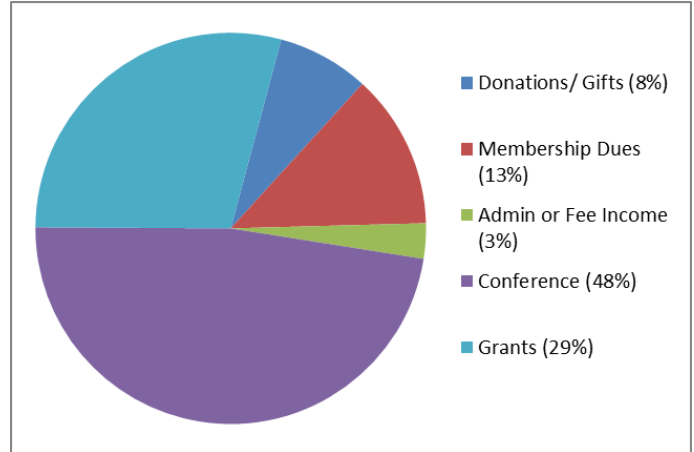


**TEXAS  
LAND TRUST  
COUNCIL**

## Expenses



## Income



<b>INCOME</b>	
Donations/ Gifts	\$ 18,380
Membership Dues	\$ 30,975
Program/Fee Income	\$ 7,050
Conference	\$ 115,107
Grants	\$ 70,300
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 241,812</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration and Audit	\$ 15,848
Fundraising	\$ 2,169
Programs (Including Conference)	\$ 189,701
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 207,718</b>
<b>Special Funds/ Projects:</b>	
YTD Expenditures on Transaction Grants (Restricted)	\$ 18,720
Grant Income Payable in 2020 (Restricted)	\$ 30,000
Transferred to Operating Reserve Dec 31, 2019	\$ 7,218

Texas Land Trust Council  
P.O. Box 2677  
Wimberley, TX 78676  
512-994-8582  
[info@texaslandtrustcouncil.org](mailto:info@texaslandtrustcouncil.org)  
[www.texaslandtrustcouncil.org](http://www.texaslandtrustcouncil.org)