



# 2020 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 Texas' water resources, iconic wildlife, and our rich natural and cultural heritage. To date, TLTC members have helped to conserve more than 1.75 million acres of Texas.

## Texas Land Trust Council Program Areas

Land and water conservation are essential for a healthy Texas and to ensuring a prosperous economic and environmental future for our state. 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 strengthen Texas land trusts and the entire land conservation community. The Texas Land Conservation Conference is the preeminent statewide meeting for anyone working or interested in the field of land and water conservation, including nonprofit organizations, private landowners, government staff, volunteers, businesses, and agency partners. The annual three-day conference attracts 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 to promote the many public 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, discuss legislative priorities, and engage with each other on issues that impact our collective work.

**Technical & Financial Assistance** – TLTC seeks to provide relevant 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 provides funds 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.



To support land and water conservation in Texas, please visit [www.texaslandtrustcouncil.org](http://www.texaslandtrustcouncil.org)

# 2020 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. The 2020 conference was a great success, with our largest attendance on record. It was a fantastic three days of networking and learning to advance Texas land and water conservation. The event featured Texas Representative, now House Speaker, Dade Phelan, as well as Land Trust Alliance President Andrew Bowman, as our keynote speakers. The conference remains essential to strengthening the depth of knowledge of the conservation community and inspiring excellence in our work.

Learn more: [www.texaslandconservationconference.org](http://www.texaslandconservationconference.org)



## 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, the pandemic transitioned the 9<sup>th</sup> annual, federal Land Trust Advocacy Days into a virtual event. Amidst our changing world, TLTC and several of our member land trusts were still able to engage our House and Senate leaders from Texas on important federal legislation, like the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). In August, legislation authorizing permanent, annual funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund was passed by the US Congress and signed into law by the President. This bill represents an important step toward enhancing conservation across Texas for wildlife habitat, for climate mitigation, for outdoor recreation, and for the preservation of our water resources.

Sustained advocacy is essential to building support for the programs and funding that help us to undertake this important work. TLTC will continue to advocate at the state and federal level, alongside our members, to further important land conservation policy.



# 2020 Program Highlights

## Transaction Matching Grants Program

TLTC funded three conservation easement projects in 2020 through our Transaction Matching Grants Program. This program helps to cover legal and due diligence costs associated with recording a permanent conservation easement. This year we awarded \$18,571 in funding toward conservation easement projects from the north Texas prairie to the Hill Country, that permanently conserve 2,804 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.



## Enhancing Conservation in Texas

Despite ongoing challenges, 2020 saw an expansion of conservation capacity for Texas. In partnership with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), TLTC hired a new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Coordinator for the state. This new position will work to advance and expand opportunities for land trusts to place conservation easements on important agricultural and natural resource lands in Texas. The position will provide technical expertise, as well as application and implementation support for approved projects, working in partnership with Texas land trusts. The ACEP Coordinator will work closely with our colleagues at the NRCS office in Texas, to advance our shared conservation goals through cooperation and a strong partnership.



TLTC also contributed to a report ([Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program: 2020 Evaluation Report](#)) analyzing the many benefits of the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program, produced under the leadership of the Texas A&M University Natural Resource Institute. The report highlights the economic and ecological benefits of this important program that funds conservation easements on working lands across Texas.



# 2020 Partners & Donors

The Texas Land Trust Council wishes to acknowledge and thank all of our 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  
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  
Unique Places to Save  
Upper Trinity Conservation Trust  
Valley Land Fund  
Wilbarger Creek Conservation Alliance  
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

Braun & Gresham  
Caddo Lake Institute  
City of San Antonio-Office of Sustainability  
Conservation Equity Partners  
Conserve East Texas  
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Great Springs Project  
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The Houston Endowment  
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Law Office of Burgess Jackson  
Medina Valley Surveys  
Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation  
Resource & Land Management, Inc.  
San Antonio River Authority  
Shield-Ayres Foundation  
Shield Ranch  
Siglo Group  
SK Foundation  
Texas A&M Natural Resource Institute  
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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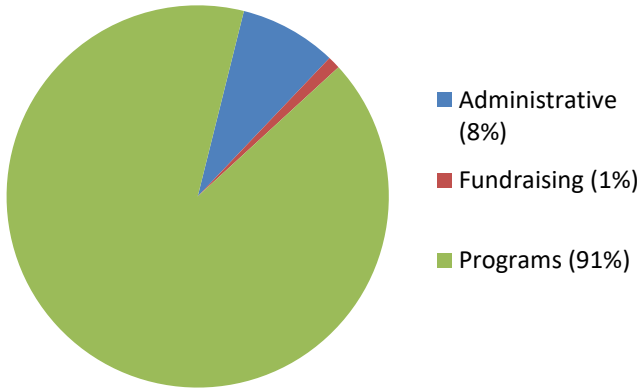
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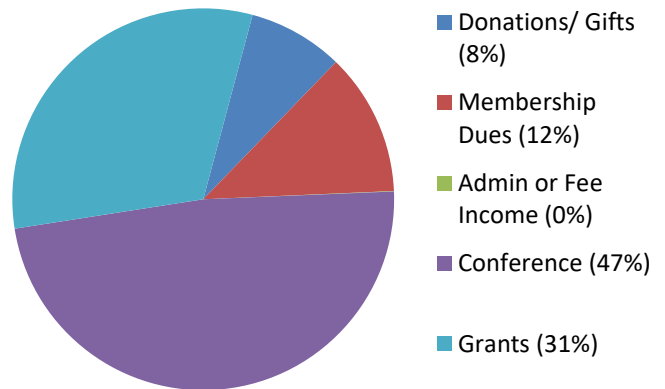
~ Thank You ~

# 2020 Financials

## Expenses



## Income



<b>INCOME</b>	
Donations/ Gifts	\$ 22,942
Membership Dues	\$ 34,300
Program/Fee Income	\$ 100
Conference	\$ 136,908
Grants	\$ 89,867
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 284,117</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration and Audit	\$ 17,513
Fundraising	\$ 2,284
Programs (Including Conference)	\$ 193,240
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 213,037</b>
Interest Income	\$ 6,157
2020 Expenditures on Transaction Grants (Restricted)	\$ 18,571



**TEXAS  
LAND TRUST  
COUNCIL**

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