



# 2021 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



### Officers

Travis Phillips, Chair, Armbrust & Brown, PLLC , Austin  
Robert E. Mace, Chair-Elect, The Meadows Center for Water & the Environment, San Marcos  
Jordan Gossett, Treasurer, Horizon Bank, Austin  
Julie Shackelford, Secretary, The Conservation Fund, Nacogdoches

### Directors

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Allison Elder, San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio  
James King, King Land & Water, Fort Davis  
Roel Lopez, TAMU Natural Resources Institute, College Station  
Julia Murphy, City of San Antonio, Boerne  
Bob Stokes, Galveston Bay Foundation, Houston  
Todd Votteler, Texas Water Journal, Austin  
Jeff Weigel, The Nature Conservancy, San Antonio  
Clayton Wolf, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Paige

### Staff

Lori Olson, Executive Director, Wimberley

# 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-five 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 1.84 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 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 hundreds of 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, economic, and environmental benefits of conservation. TLTC works to coordinate land trust advocacy at the federal and state level, developing a robust coalition with a unified voice to build support for land and water conservation in Texas. Each year we also host a land trust leader summit, 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 develops conservation related tools and information for 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 conservation easement, providing financial assistance to landowners who wish to conserve their private lands for the public good.



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

# 2021 Program Highlights

## Texas Land Conservation Conference

2021 was a year like no other that brought many changes to our programs. Our premiere educational event, the Texas Land Conservation Conference, moved online for the first time ever, but still delivered three days of quality training and workshops on topics related to all types of public and private land and water conservation efforts. The 2021 virtual conference was a great

success, with strong attendance and excellent educational opportunities. The event featured José G. González, the Founder and former Executive Director for Latino Outdoors, who offered lessons and commentary on the importance of building a diverse constituency and focusing on inclusion in the conservation field. Other topics included carbon offsets and conservation, Texas farmland threats, county conservation funding initiatives, legal issues, and maintaining healthy wildlife populations. Even virtually, 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 late September, TLTC was able to once again host our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Texas land trust leaders summit, to discuss advocacy priorities for the coming year, as well as current issues such as climate resiliency and diversifying the conservation community of practitioners and supporters.

In spring, our federal Land Trust Advocacy Days was once again held as a virtual event. TLTC and several of our member land trusts were able to engage our U.S. House and Senate leaders from Texas on important federal issues to enhance and protect conservation programs.

This year, we worked to push federal legislation to Safeguard our conservation easement tax incentive, an essential tool for doing conservation easements in Texas. This spring we also were able to engage (outdoors) with a couple of our state Representatives to educate them about the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program and the great conservation projects that the program has accomplished.

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.



Land trust representatives meet with House Rep Erin Zwiener and her staff at a local conserved ranch.



# 2021 Program Highlights

## Transaction Matching Grants Program

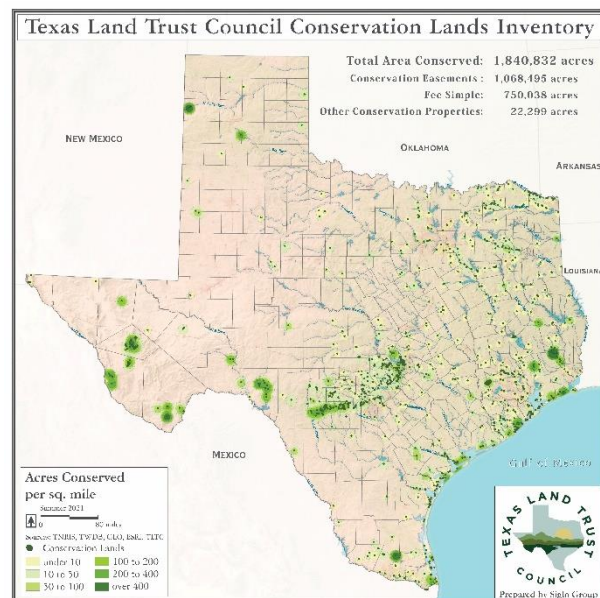
TLTC funded six conservation easement projects in 2021 through our Transaction Matching Grants Program. This program helps to cover legal and due diligence costs associated with recording a permanent conservation easement. This year we awarded \$40,328 in funding toward conservation easement projects to six land trust organizations, from the West Texas mountains to the rolling Hill Country, that permanently conserve over 2,460 acres valued at more than \$20 million. 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 with the pandemic, 2021 was a successful first-year of collaboration with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide an Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Coordinator for the state. This new position works to advance and expand opportunities for land trusts to place conservation easements on important agricultural and natural resource lands in Texas. The position provides technical expertise, as well as application and implementation support for approved projects, working with land conservation organizations across the state. The ACEP Coordinator works closely with our colleagues at NRCS-Texas, to advance our shared conservation goals through cooperation and a strong partnership.

In 2021, TLTC also worked to complete a major update of our Conservation Lands Inventory database. The cumulative data collected and mapped shows that Texas land trusts have worked to conserve more than 1.84 million acres across the state, with over 1 million of that held in partnership with private landowners via conservation easements.



# 2021 Partners & Donors

The Texas Land Trust Council wishes to acknowledge and thank all 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  
Ducks Unlimited  
Frontera Land Alliance  
Galveston Bay Foundation  
Green Spaces Alliance of South TX  
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  
The Trust for Public Land  
Unique Places to Save  
Upper Trinity Conservation Trust  
Valley Land Fund  
Wilbarger Creek Conservation Alliance  
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

## Partners & Sponsors

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Bayou Preservation Association  
Bennett, LLP- Attorneys at Law  
Blair Wildlife Consulting  
Braun & Gresham  
Bob Sweeney, Attorney at Law  
Caddo Lake Institute

City of San Antonio-Office of Sustainability  
Conservation Equity Partners  
Conserve East Texas  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Gorondona & Associates  
Great Springs Project  
Hall & Hall  
Hill Country Alliance  
Horizon Bank  
Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation  
James D. Bradbury, PLLC  
Jeffries Appraisal Services  
King Land & Water  
Land Trust Alliance  
Law Office of Burgess Jackson  
Medina Valley Surveys  
North American Land Trust  
Resource & Land Management, Inc.  
San Antonio River Authority  
Shield-Ayres Foundation  
Shield Ranch  
Siglo Group  
SK Foundation  
Still Water Foundation  
Texas A&M Natural Resource Institute  
Texas Conservation Partners  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation  
Texas Water Trade  
Thomas Kelsey, Attorney at Law  
Uhl, Fitzsimons, Burton, Wolff & Rangel, PLLC  
USDA- NRCS

## Donors

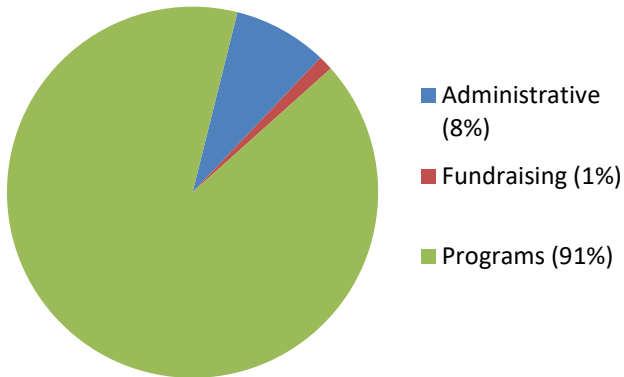
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Alden Harris  
Amy Monier  
Andy Carson  
Anne Fisher  
Anna Dabrowski  
Anne Brockenbrough  
Brannyn McDougal  
Lauren Fuller  
Carlotta & Bill McLean  
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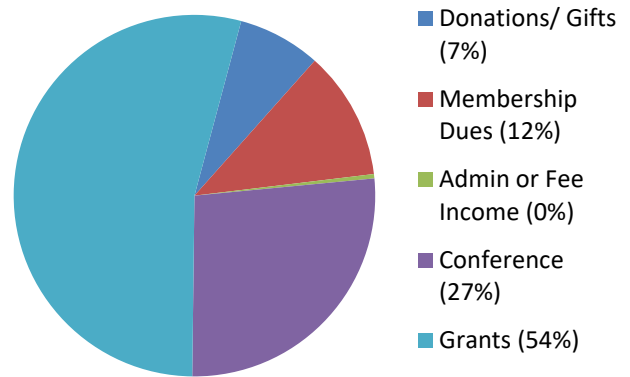
~ Thank You ~

# 2021 Financials

## Expenses



## Income



<b>INCOME</b>	
Donations/ Gifts	\$ 23,504
Membership Dues	\$ 36,425
Program/Fee Income	\$ 1,225
Conference	\$ 84,605
Grants	\$ 170,933
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 317,104</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration and Audit	\$ 20,966
Fundraising	\$ 3,271
Programs (Including Conference)	\$ 231,178
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 255,415</b>
Interest Income	\$ 412
2020 Expenditures on Transaction Grants (Restricted)	\$ 40,328



**TEXAS  
LAND TRUST  
COUNCIL**

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