



2023 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-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 1.94 million acres of Texas.

Texas Land Trust Council Program Areas

Land and water conservation are essential for a healthy Texas and to ensure 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 to advance land and water conservation in Texas.

Outreach & Advocacy – TLTC promotes the many public, economic, and environmental benefits of land conservation and works to coordinate land trust advocacy at the federal and state level. By developing a robust coalition with a unified voice, we build greater support for land and water conservation efforts 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 several research publications. 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 land for the public good.



To support land and water conservation in Texas, please visit texaslandtrustcouncil.org

2023 Program Highlights

Texas Land Conservation Conference

Our premiere educational event, the Texas Land Conservation Conference provides three days of quality training and workshops on topics related to all types of public and private land and water conservation efforts. It is the leading land conservation gathering in the state, with around 300 attendees representing a diversity of conservation organizations, professional firms, landowners, and government agencies.

This year, we presented sessions on topics ranging from land stewardship and conservation partnerships, to conservation education initiatives and outreach, and ended with a discussion on conservation easements from the landowner perspective. For the Council, the annual conference is an essential component of our ongoing efforts to promote and advance conservation across the great state of Texas. We strive to provide the best possible educational training and resources available to help our partners achieve quality, strategic, land and water conservation.



Learn more: 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 early November, TLTC was able to once again host our annual Texas land trust leader summit, to discuss advocacy priorities for the coming year, as well as enhancing staff capacity for land trusts, and continuing our work to educate policymakers about our work.

In spring, our federal Land Trust Advocacy Days was held in Washington, D.C. TLTC and a couple of our member land trusts were able to travel there to engage our U.S. House and Senate leaders from Texas on important federal issues to enhance and protect federal conservation programs.

This year, we worked with a larger Texas Land and Water Conservation Coalition to push for state legislation to expand funding for conservation in Texas. Our efforts were rewarded with the passage of the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund, which will provide \$1 Billion in new funding for the creation of new state parks across the state.

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 prepare for our advocacy day at the Texas Capitol.

2023 Program Highlights

Transaction Matching Grants Program

TLTC provides funds to assist with conservation easement projects 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 \$50,000 in funding toward ten conservation easement projects to seven land trust organizations, from the West Texas desert to the rolling Hill Country, to permanently conserve over 4,680 acres. Working in partnership with land trusts and landowners across the state, these lands will be forever preserved to enhance water resources and wildlife habitat, provide places for outdoor recreation, and preserve our agricultural heritage.



Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust protected the stunning Mc Allister Ranch in partnership with private landowners.

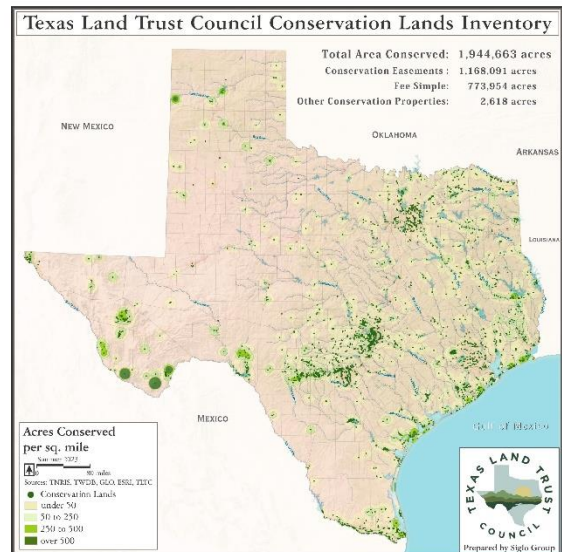
Advancing Conservation in Texas

The Texas Land Trust Council (TLTC) has been working closely with our land trust members to help guide our **Statewide Conservation Funding Initiative**. This collaborative effort has a primary goal of creating substantial and reliable state investments in the permanent conservation of Texas' lands and waters. Our coalition made great strides in 2023 and will be continuing this important work to educate and advocate for greater state financial investments in conservation easement programs.



2023 was also a successful year of partnership with the **Natural Resource Conservation Service**, with the agency awarding over \$75 Million towards conservation efforts across the state. These grants will dramatically expand opportunities for land trusts to place conservation easements on important agricultural and natural resource lands in Texas. TLTC works closely with our colleagues at NRCS-Texas, to advance our shared conservation goals through cooperation and a strong partnership.

In 2023, 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 1.94 million acres across the state, with over 1 million of that held in partnership with private landowners via conservation easements.



2023 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.



Land Trust Members

American Farmland Trust
Aransas First
Audubon Texas
Bayou Land Conservancy
Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust
Cibolo Conservancy
Coastal Bend Land Trust
Coastal Prairie Conservancy
Colorado River Land Trust
Connemara Conservancy
Conservation Force
The Conservation Fund
Cradle of Texas Conservancy
Devils River Conservancy
Ducks Unlimited
Frontera Land Alliance
Galveston Bay Foundation
Great Springs Project
Green Spaces Alliance of South TX
Guadalupe Blanco River Trust
Hill Country Conservancy
Hill Country Land Trust
Houston Audubon
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The Nature Conservancy- Texas
Pines and Prairies Land Trust
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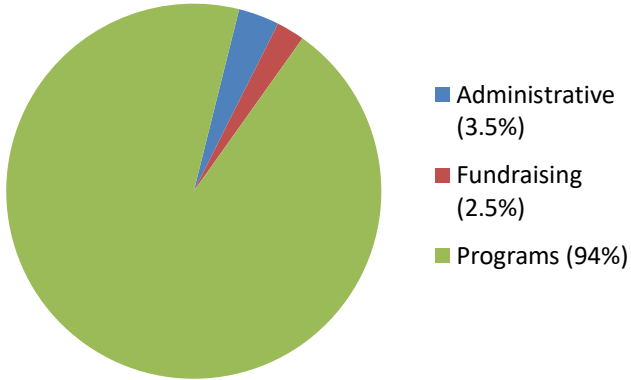
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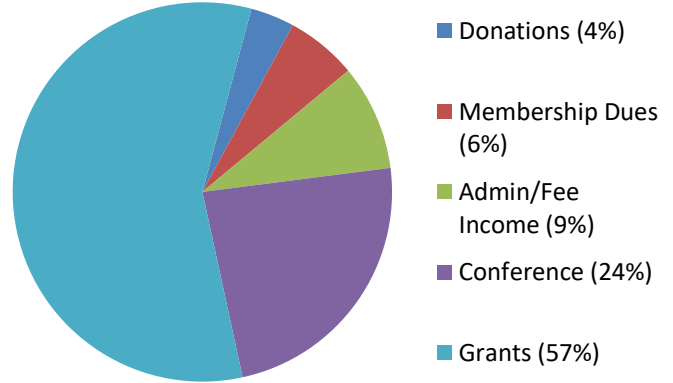
~ Thank You ~

2023 Financials

Expenses



Income



INCOME	
Donations	\$25,467
Membership Dues	\$41,125
Admin/Fee Income	\$61,299
Conference	\$160,615
Grants	\$391,460
TOTAL INCOME	\$679,967
EXPENSES	
Administrative	\$21,075
Fundraising	\$14,520
Programs	\$562,569
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$598,164



**TEXAS
LAND TRUST
COUNCIL**

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