



2024 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 two 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 natural, open lands protect our water supply, provide habitat for our fish and wildlife, preserve our agricultural heritage, and increase our quality of life. To advance land conservation across our state, TLTC focuses on several program areas:

Education – TLTC focuses on quality education and training events that serve 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 nonprofits, private landowners, government employees, 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 advocates to promote the many economic and environmental benefits of land conservation for all Texans. TLTC works to coordinate land trust advocacy at the federal and state levels, developing a robust coalition with a unified voice to build support for conservation efforts across the state. Each year we also host a land trust leader summit, the Texas Land Trust Assembly, where our land trust 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 many publications and other information on our website, including our Texas 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 land for the public good.

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

2024 Program Highlights

Texas Land Conservation Conference

2024 was a record-breaking year for attendance at our premiere educational event. The Texas Land Conservation Conference brings together hundreds of practitioners and volunteers working across the Lone Star State to advance and support land conservation efforts. This year's event featured a field trip to a hill country ranch, opening remarks by David Yoskowitz, Executive Director of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and by national leader Andrew Bowman, President & CEO of the Land Trust Alliance. Session topics included conservation easement drafting, managing groundwater resources, conservation planning, Texas' environmental history, fundraising, real estate and legal issues, as well as federal and state conservation policy. This was our largest gathering to date, and each year it remains essential to strengthening the depth of knowledge of the conservation community and inspiring excellence in our work.

Learn more:

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 the spring, our federal Land Trust Advocacy Days was held in our nation's capital in partnership with the Land Trust Alliance. TLTC and several of our member land trusts were able to attend to engage our U.S. House and Senate leaders from Texas on important federal issues to enhance and protect conservation programs.

In late October, TLTC was able to once again host our 13th annual Texas land trust leader's summit, the Texas Land Trust Assembly, to discuss advocacy priorities for the coming year, as well as current issues around securing additional state investments for land conservation, risk management, exploring public perceptions around conservation easements, and discussing ways to enhance land trust capacity.



Attendees enjoying our Networking Dinner at the annual Texas Land Conservation Conference.



Land trust executive directors at our annual Texas Land Trust Assembly leadership summit.



Land trust representatives in Washington, D.C. last spring for our annual Land Trust Alliance Advocacy Days.

2024 Program Highlights, cont.

TLTC works to engage our state legislators about the tools used to accomplish conservation and the success of the state's Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program. In January, we hosted a Lunch & Learn for capitol staff to educate them about this important program that has helped to conserve over 47,000 acres across Texas, in partnership with land trusts and private landowners. The TFRLCP has leveraged each state dollar spent 9:1 and provided \$23 worth of land value conserved for every \$1 invested in the program. But with over 60% of applications to this program going unfunded, additional state appropriations are needed to better meet landowner demand.



Legislative staffers enjoying enchiladas and learning about conservation programs at our Lunch & Learn event at the Texas Capitol.

This year, we also worked to secure changes to the new federal Farm Bill, as well as to build relationships and funding opportunities with our partners at the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Texas. Texas has successfully secured over \$125 Million dollars in federal Regional Conservation Partnership Program grants, providing essential funds for conservation 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 all levels, alongside our members, to advance important land conservation policy.



Transaction Matching Grants Program

TLTC funded six conservation easement projects in 2024 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 \$30,000 in funding toward conservation easement projects to several land trust organizations- preserving beautiful grassland ranches, wetlands, rivers, and forests- that permanently conserved 1,850 acres, valued at more than \$9.5 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.



Scenes from three of the permanently preserved conservation projects funded with our Transaction Matching Grant Program.

Partners & Donors

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



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
Houston Audubon
Native Prairies Assn. of Texas
The Nature Conservancy- Texas
Pines and Prairies Land Trust
Scenic Galveston
Texas Agricultural Land Trust
Texas Cave Management Assn.
Texas Land Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
Unique Places to Save
Upper Trinity Conservation Trust
Valley Land Fund
Wilbarger Creek Conservation Alliance
The Watershed Association

Environmental Defense Fund
HEB Our Texas, Our Future
Hill Country Alliance
Horizon Bank
Ironwood Resource Advisors
Jackson Real Estate Appraisers
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TREAD Coalition
Twistleaf Land Design
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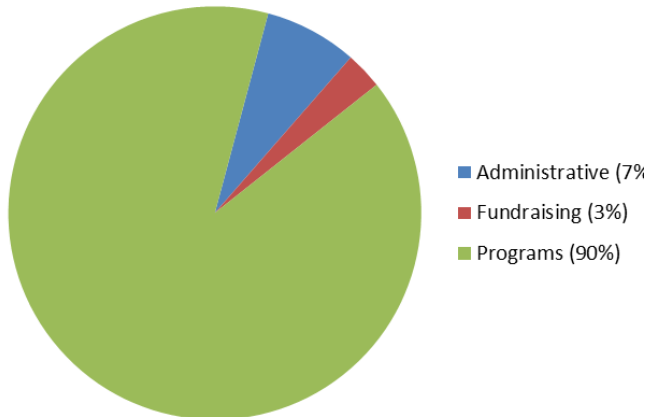
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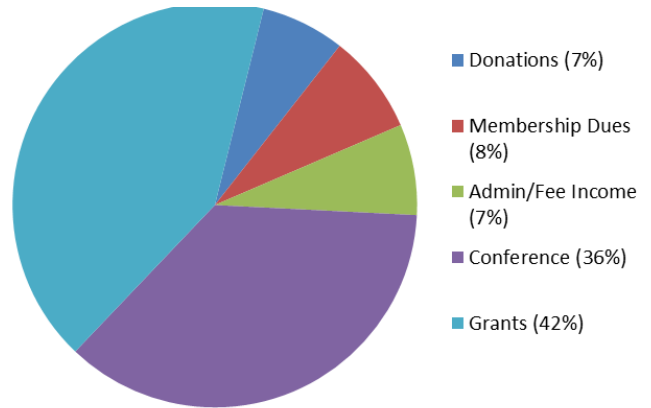
~ Thank You ~

Financials

Expenses



Income



INCOME	
Donations/ Gifts	\$ 32,889
Membership Dues	\$ 38,975
Program/Fee Income	\$ 35,635
Conference	\$ 178,174
Grants	\$ 204,953
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 490,626
EXPENSES	
Administration and Audit	\$ 29,734
Fundraising	\$ 11,870
Programs (Including Conference)	\$ 367,221
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 408,824
Increase in Net Assets	\$ 81,802
2024 Expenditures on Transaction Matching Grants	\$ 30,000



**TEXAS
LAND TRUST
COUNCIL**

Texas Land Trust Council
P.O. Box 2677
Wimberley, TX 78676
512-994-8582
info@texaslandtrustcouncil.org
www.texaslandtrustcouncil.org