Conserving Texas Land Saves Taxpayers Money.

Land trusts in Texas protect our water, reduce flooding impacts, and provide economic benefits and recreation opportunities for all Texans.













1.65 Million

Acres conserved by Texas Land
Trusts across our state

\$710 Million

Estimated annual economic benefit to Texas taxpayers

Every \$1 invested in conservation yields up to \$9 return on investment.



The Texas Land Trust Council (TLTC) is a coalition of non-profit organizations called "land trusts" whose mission is land and water conservation.



Land trusts conserve vital natural areas, often by negotiating voluntary private agreements with landowners to leave their land undeveloped.



There are over 30 land trusts across Texas that have helped to conserve over 1.65 million acres of farms, ranches, waterways, and wildlife habitat.







Texas land trusts conserve open space, wildlife habitat, waterways, and agricultural lands – working in partnership with private landowners—to preserve Texas for future generations. Those conserved lands provide many economic and natural resource benefits for all Texans.



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PROTECT WATER RESOURCES

By conserving open lands in perpetuity, land trusts reduce costs associated with capturing, cleaning, and storing water resources.







Natural habitats also help store and slowly release water over time.

THIS ENHANCES

THIS IMPROVES...

WATER QUALITY

TLTC lands save taxpayers

\$11.5M PER YEAR

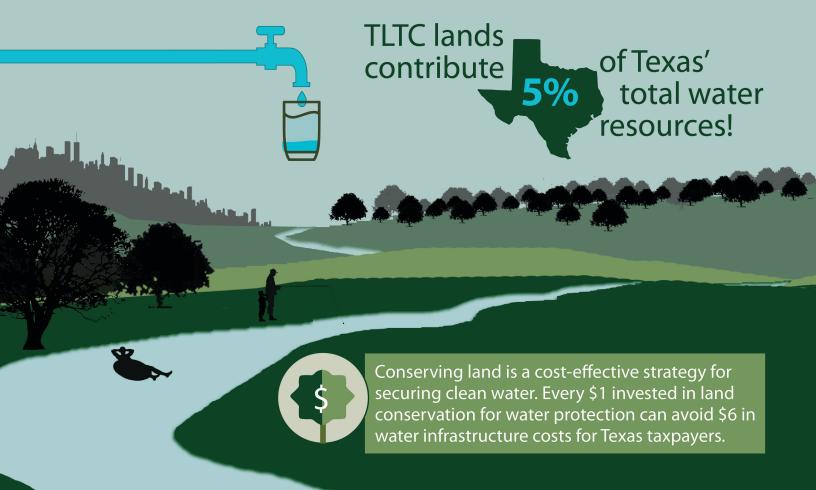
in projected water filtration and cleaning costs

WATER QUANTITY

TLTC lands capture

\$52.6M PER YEAR

in usable water





PREVENT FLOOD DAMAGE

Land conservation in floodways and floodplains has been shown to be a cost-effective solution for flood damage reduction.

By soaking up flood waters, conserved areas help to:



Capture rainfall



Slow water movement



Reduce erosion



Reduce surge levels



Decrease flood damage

FLOOD PROTECTION

Land trust conserved lands save \$484M PER YEAR

in construction replacement costs



Studies show that every \$1 spent on flood risk reduction can decrease disaster costs by \$4, achieving significant long-term savings for taxpayers.

potential to leverage \$9

in funds, on average, for

every \$1 of invested.

Along Rivers & Streams

and ranching

productivity

\$172M PER YEAR \$312M PER YEAR

In Coastal Areas



STRENGTHEN RURAL ECONOMIES

Land trusts use conservation tools that allow landowners to continue productively working the land, while also preserving it.



wildlife leases

EACH YEAR.

Lands conserved by Texas and land trusts provide over \$710 in natural resource and community benefits.

Million





Over the next 30 years...

that's more than \$21 Billion in flood prevention, water supply, water

economic productivity.

filtration, and



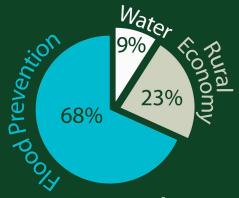
\$1.9 Billion



\$14.3 Billion



\$4.8 Billion



Percent of **Total Benefits**

TREMENDOUS LEVERAGE OPPORTUNITIES

- Investing in land conservation for water protection is 6x more cost-effective than traditional public infrastructure, saving taxpayers millions.
- Land conservation is essential to community flood resilience. Investments in natural flood mitigation can be leveraged 3:1 with federal funds.



 State funds are often matched by federal and local funds. In 2016, Texas leveraged \$7.50 from other sources for every \$1 of state-invested program funds to purchase conservation easements on private lands.

Land trusts work with landowners and community partners to protect land in perpetuity, ensuring all Texans have access to clean water, fresh food, recreation, and a high quality of life, now and into the future.



www.texaslandtrustcouncil.org

RESEARCH PROVIDED BY:







