



2022 Annual Report



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Who We Are

GOVERNOR OF TEXAS, GREG ABBOTT

“Great Springs Project is the perfect way to connect Texans both with nature, as well as with economic development. From Austin to San Marcos, to San Antonio, establishing this green protected corridor will preserve the greatness of Texans’ natural resources and expand the Texas spirit of freedom and opportunity across the heart of Texas.”

Cover – Blanco Bend Ranch, Hays County.

A conservation project initiated by Great Springs Project.



Photo by Jennifer Ramos – Comal County



OUR MISSION

To protect our precious Texas water resources and the land that watersheds them and provide greater access to outdoors and healthy activities for all people.



OUR VISION

To blaze the Great Springs Trail, a 100 + mile spring-to-spring network of trails from the Alamo to the Capitol, scheduled for completion by the Texas Bicentennial in 2036, and conserve an additional 50,000 acres of land for the protection of the springs along the trail.

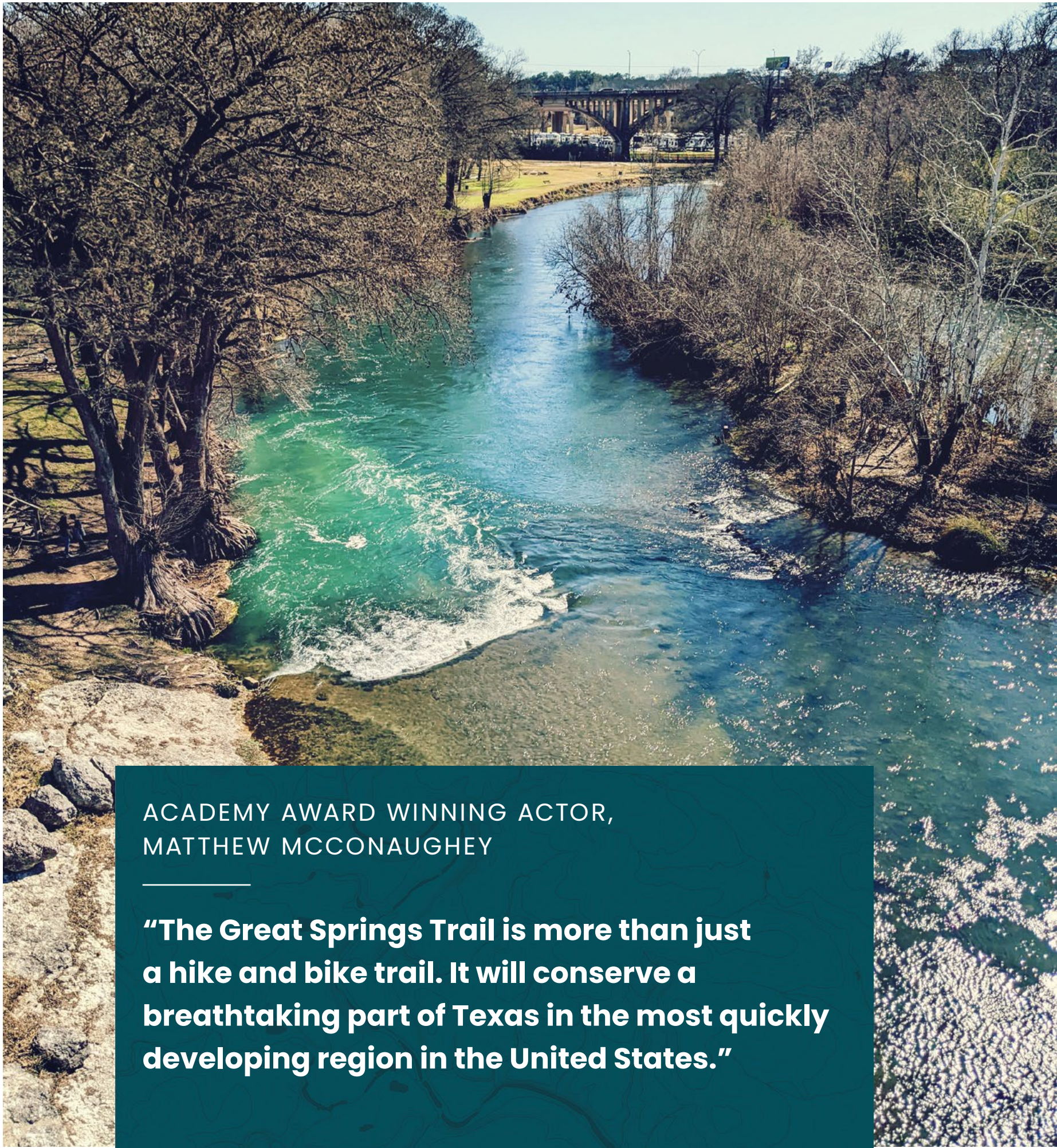
Creating a national park-sized corridor

of protected lands between San Antonio to Austin, from the Alamo to the Capitol, is a bold visionary project that will shape the identity and legacy of our region for generations to come. The task before us is as grand as any in our lifetime, and time is of the essence. We must work quickly to preserve the irreplaceable natural resources in our own backyard before our home is forever changed.

Texas is becoming hotter and drier. Limited groundwater is pumped faster than can be replaced by rainfall, causing some of our most cherished springs to run dry. Historic ranches and farms are fragmented by subdivisions. Rapidly growing urban areas along the I-35 corridor are exacerbating urban sprawl. Our region's natural landscape and its water resources are fragile and will be permanently lost to future generations if we don't act now.

GSP's land conservation work enhances sustainable development in our region while preserving our historic springs, and connecting our communities through the Great Springs Trail will be both an economic driver and a conservation tool. From our community-driven approach to equity and inclusion in public access to land and trails, to centering sacred histories and futures, **Great Springs Project is both a catalyst and a tool for greatly increasing the scope and scale of regional conservation and trail-building efforts.** We look forward to continuing our work as we pledge to conserve and build a permanent living monument to the Hill Country and the iconic springs of Central Texas.





ACADEMY AWARD WINNING ACTOR,
MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY

“The Great Springs Trail is more than just a hike and bike trail. It will conserve a breathtaking part of Texas in the most quickly developing region in the United States.”



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

Our strategic plan at Great Springs Project is one sentence: to work at the local level with great project partners to put land into conservation and trail on the ground. That work has never been more important than it is today.

2022 was a year of heat and drought in Texas, with 100 degree days stretching from May to September and the lowest rainfall amount since 2011. Due to the extreme drought conditions, a state of disaster was issued for over half the counties in Texas, including Bexar, Comal, Hays, and Travis. At the same time, the Texas Hill Country and Central Texas continued to be among the fastest-growing regions in the nation as our state's population increased to over 30 million people.

In the face of those challenges, 2022 was also a year of substantial progress toward Great Springs Project's mission to conserve an additional 50,000 acres of land over the recharge zone of the Edwards Aquifer and connect a spring-to-spring trail stretching from San Antonio to Austin.

This year, we put land into conservation with purchases along the Blanco River in Hays County and Dry Comal Creek in Comal County and the securing of conservation easements on property near San Marcos.

We partnered with Compatible Lands Foundation to protect land and water resources by purchasing conservation easements on properties around Camp Bullis in northern Bexar County and

southern Comal County. We kicked off our ambitious project to meet with the owners of 1,400 parcels of land in Central Texas toward achieving conservation outcomes on their property—landowner engagement that will feed our conservation pipeline for the next 10 years.

We helped put trail on the ground by providing technical assistance and other support for trail projects along Beitel Creek in San Antonio, Alligator Creek in New Braunfels, Purgatory Creek and Sink Creek in San Marcos, and Garlic Creek in Buda, and saw expansions of the Evans Road trail in Selma, the Great Northern Trail in Schertz, the Vybe Trail in Kyle, and the Violet Crown Trail in Austin.

And we set the stage for continued success in 2023 and beyond through our engagement with political leaders, regional businesses and business organizations, and local communities. It will take all of us, working together, to protect the land that feeds our iconic springs and connect the 100+ mile trail. This is the work of our lifetimes. I am proud to be a part of this team and grateful that you are, too.

Onward!

Garry Merritt

CEO



Land Conservation & Water Preservation

DEEP IN THE HEART DOCUMENTARIAN, BEN MASTERS

“Great Springs Project is a leader in the efforts needed to conserve the beauty, water, and wildlife of Texas for future generations. Their project is ambitious, and urgently needed, to preserve and protect the magic of the Hill Country.”

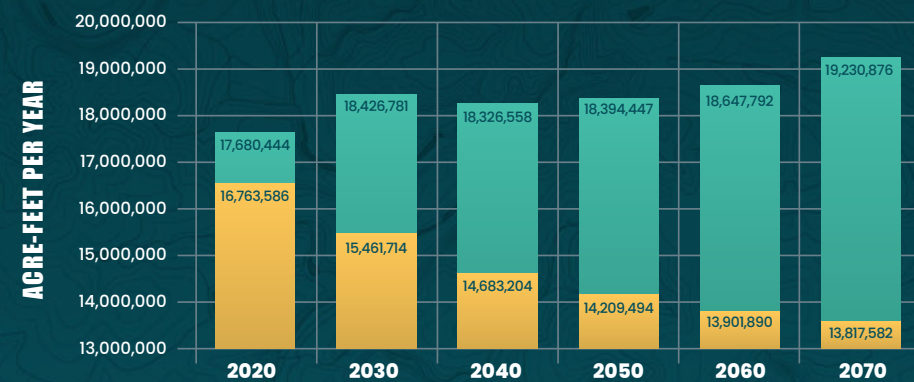


The geology and hydrology of the Hill Country are unique, abundant with karst features, sinkholes, and springs, including San Antonio, Comal, San Marcos, and Barton Springs, all supported by the Edwards Aquifer. **The health of the Edwards Aquifer and the springs is dependent upon the Aquifer's ability to recharge**, which can only be done if the land over the Aquifer can absorb water. When these systems function well, our region provides vital services to the communities that live here, including drinking water supply, flood protection, fertile agricultural soils, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.

However, as the population of Central Texas continues to grow, the demand on these natural resources continues to increase, and the supply is fragile and limited – increasingly exacerbated by the effects of climate change, excessive heat, and drought.

Conserving land in the Hill Country is vital to preserving the quality and quantity of water in the Edwards Aquifer. Great Springs Project and our partners have conserved nearly 5,000 acres to-date, with the goal of conserving 50,000 acres by 2036. We are proud to share that 2022 was a year of great progress in securing conservation easements, protecting endangered species, and collaborating with our valued partners in joint efforts to protect land and water resources and expand access to recreational opportunities for all Texans.

PROJECTED STATEWIDE WATER DEMAND VS PROJECTED WATER SUPPLY



Water Demand: Based on the Texas Water Development Board projections, water consumption will increase from 17.7 million acre-feet to 19.2 million acre-feet by the 2070's, while available water supplies in our rivers, reservoirs and aquifers will decrease from 16.8 million acre-feet to 13.8 million acre-feet in the 2070's. (An acre-foot is enough water to cover an acre of land with one foot of water.) Municipal water users face the largest water demand increase over the next 50 years.

Water Quantity: Existing water supply is not enough to meet future demand for water during times of drought. Texas needs 6.9 million acre-feet of additional water supplies, including in the form of water savings through conservation, to meet demand.

Data from the Texas Water Development Board



LAND CONSERVATION AND WATER PRESERVATION

BLANCO BEND RANCH

Great Springs Project has recently expanded our conservation footprint in the Blanco Bend Ranch by leading an acquisition of additional interest in a 268-acre parcel on the north side of the Blanco River. In addition to providing conservation protections on the parcel itself, **this acquisition reduces the risk of land fragmentation and enhances environmental integrity**, and will allow for future trail connectivity from downtown Kyle and the citywide Vybe trail to the low-water crossing of the Blanco River, continuing into the larger, 2,701-acre portion of Blanco Bend Ranch. Great Springs Project is exploring trail connections from the recently-completed Presa Grande project and trails in San Marcos northward to Blanco Bend Ranch, which will link Kyle and San Marcos with roughly 7 miles of new trail.

*Golden Cheeked Warblers
Illustration by John Gerrard
Keulemans, 1980
Public Domain*



GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER

Ecological studies completed by Blair Wildlife Consulting showed that the newly conserved Blanco Bend Ranch property has approximately 1,870 acres of potential suitable habitat for the endangered Golden-cheeked warbler.



Blanco Bend Ranch, Hays County



Presa Grande, Hays County

PRESA GRANDE CONSERVATION EASEMENT

In November of 2022, Hays County and the Edwards Aquifer Authority formally closed on a conservation easement over more than 380 acres of Presa Grande, utilizing funding approved by Hays County voters in the 2020 Hays County Parks and Open Space bond election. Great Springs Project is continuing to work with our project partners to secure additional funding for a conservation easement on an additional 240 acres of the property in 2023. **This project is foundational in expanding the footprint of protected lands in Hays County and will serve as a key connector for the Great Springs Trail.**

30 years ago, this land was identified as critically important for water quality and quantity inflow to San Marcos Springs. More recently, it was offered for sale as a developable property with up to 500 homesites. Thanks to the multi-year effort of our project and funding partners, including The Meadows Foundation, Great Springs Project has assured Presa Grande's permanent protection due to relationships based on trust, commitment, and shared conservation and trail connectivity goals among landowners, governmental entities, and the local community.

LAND CONSERVATION AND WATER PRESERVATION

COMAL CREEK NATURE PARK

Acquired by Great Springs Project in 2022, the 10.5-acre Comal Creek Nature Park on Dry Comal Creek is at the center of a multi-city trail vision and park expansion in Comal County. As a future trail is constructed on the Comal Creek Nature Park, Great Springs Project joins the work of the cities of Schertz and New Braunfels to develop more publicly accessible park space and intercity trail connectivity.


Not only does the Comal Creek Nature Park advance the Great Springs Trail in the Dry Comal Creek watershed, it speaks to thousands of years of Texas history, being situated along the route of the El Camino Real de los Tejas Trail (1691), and within walking distance of the historic Comal township (1846), and the nearby historic cemetery. **Altogether, the Comal Creek Nature Park advances all of Great Springs Project's goals by conserving land, creating new public spaces, protecting watersheds, and advancing active transportation connections.**

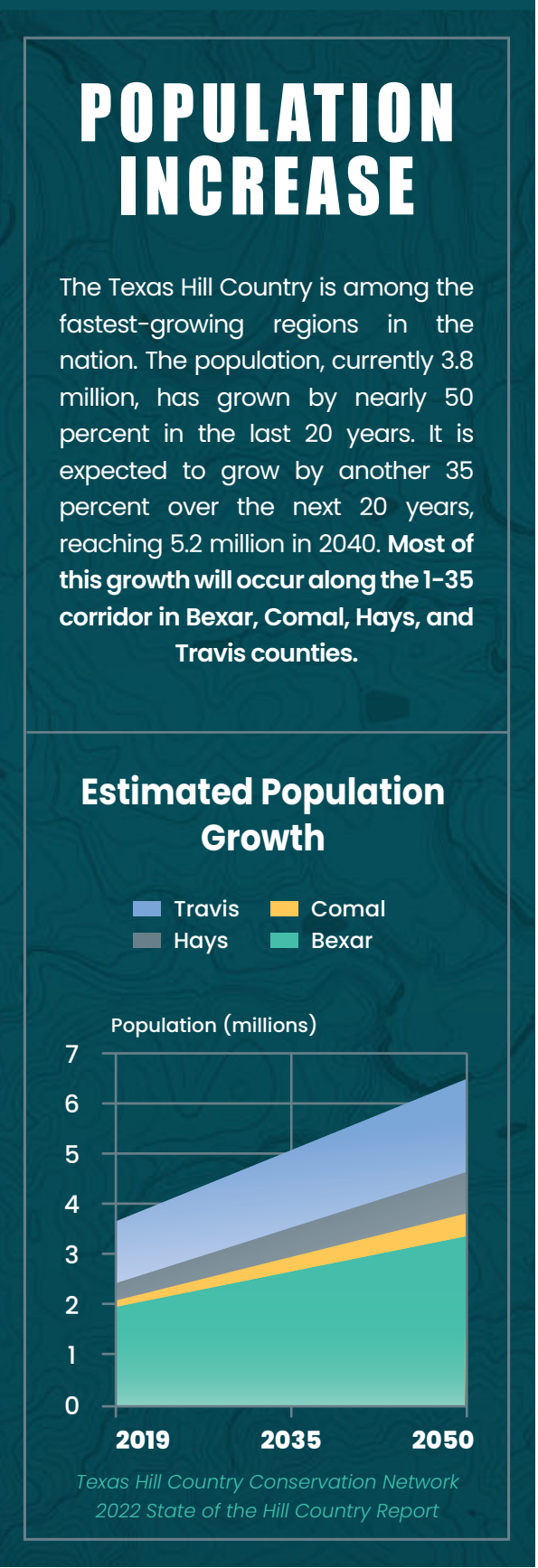
EXCESSIVE HEAT

100°

In 2022, Texas experienced its warmest July on record with the average maximum temperature exceeding 100 degrees, fueling drought conditions.

Texas Water Development Board





MORTON PRESERVE

Working in collaboration with Comal County, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Great Springs Project took a leadership position in the development of a management plan for the 288-acre Morton Preserve, located to the northwest of New Braunfels in Comal County. The property was previously acquired by Comal County through a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service non-traditional Section 6 Recovery Land Acquisition Grant as part of the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Over the course of 2022, Great Springs Project led a site visit and hosted monthly coordination meetings between the three agencies, ultimately leading to an approved management plan guiding the **future use, public enjoyment, and protection of this critical habitat preserve.** A feature of the management plan is a half-mile, soft surface nature trail with informative and educational signage, and spectacular views of the Guadalupe River.

ECONOMIC RISKS

\$153 BILLION

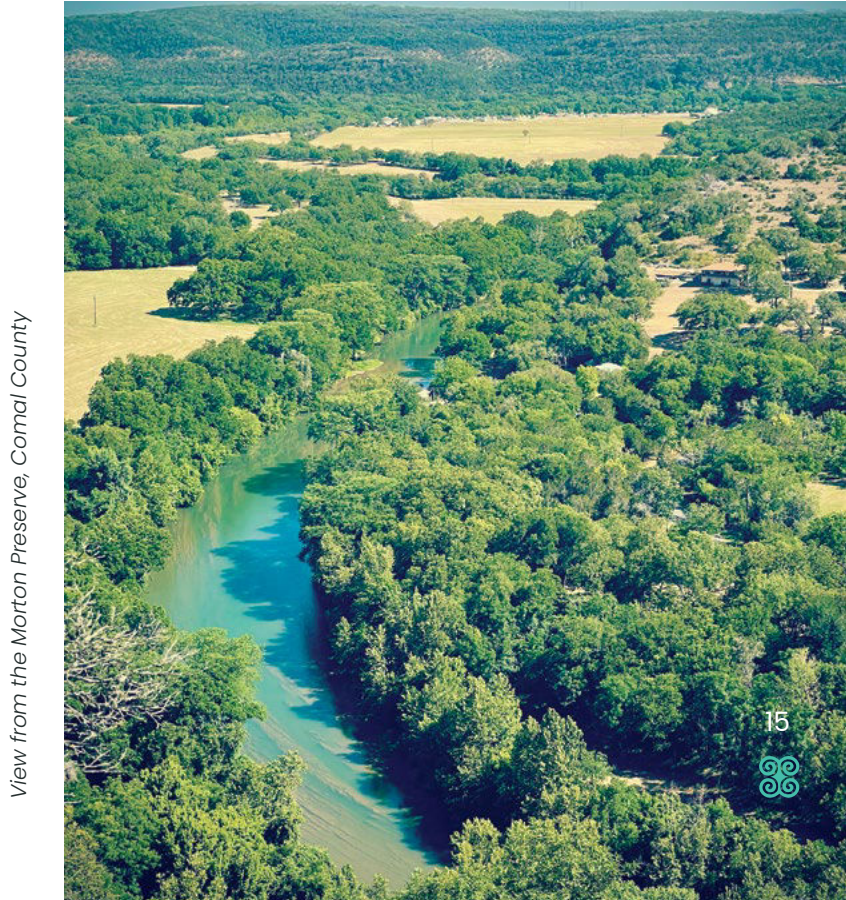
Economic modeling indicates that a severe drought could cause \$153 billion in economic damages to the state per year by 2070.

Texas Water Development Board

COMPATIBLE LANDS FOUNDATION

[Compatible Lands Foundation \(CLF\)](#) is a unique and specialized land trust with a mission to support military readiness through land conservation. As part of the Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape, GSP and CLF are two of approximately fifty partner organizations who came together to commit to **protecting the land and water resources that define the region as it grows.** This includes a specific focus on resilience to drought, flood, and wildfire, improving water quality and quantity, protecting endangered and at-risk species, and expanding access to recreational opportunities for the public.

The GSP and CLF partnership will leverage funding to protect and conserve land surrounding Camp Bullis in northern Bexar County.



View from the Morton Preserve, Comal County

LAND CONSERVATION & WATER PRESERVATION

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2023

LANDOWNER ENGAGEMENT

Great Springs Project will engage landowners of 1,400 key parcels in outcomes-based discussions regarding the environmental, ecological, economic, and health benefits of our land conservation and connectivity mission. Guided by a core value of respect for private land and landowners as willing partners, we will provide information about the many ways **landowners can benefit by working with Great Springs Project and our project partners**, and how landowner concerns can be addressed to create a healthier, more connected, and more sustainable environment. We look forward to these conversations which will prove critical in achieving our mission of conserving an additional 50,000 acres of land over the Edwards Aquifer recharge and contributing zones.

FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TEXAS
PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT,
CARTER SMITH

“Community, connectivity, and conservation are at the heart of Great Springs Project. Texas Parks & Wildlife is proud to support this regional vision that honors and protects the rich history, culture, and natural resources of Texas’ famed Hill Country.”



DIRECTOR OF LAND TRANSACTIONS,
GREAT SPRINGS PROJECT, SCOTT PARKER

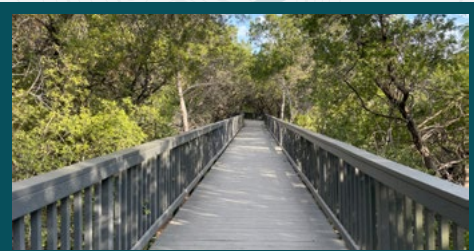
“Our work is about relationships, mutual trust, dedication, and commitment.

Our projects highlight the important ways in which landowners, conservationists, public agency partners, philanthropists, and community organizations must work together – and work quickly – to protect the iconic landscapes of the Texas Hill Country for future generations of Texans.”



Trail on the Ground

CLICK THE IMAGES
TO READ MORE



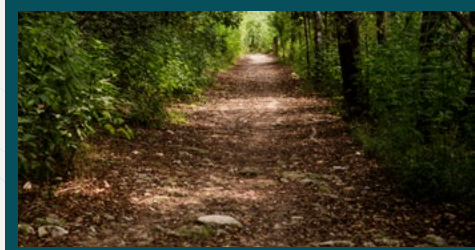
EVANS ROAD TRAIL



BEITEL CREEK GREENWAY



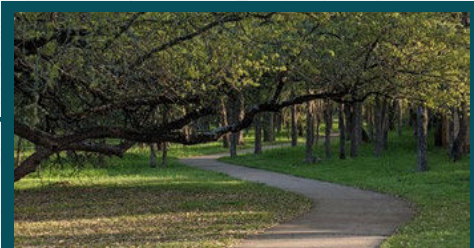
THE GREAT NORTHERN TRAIL



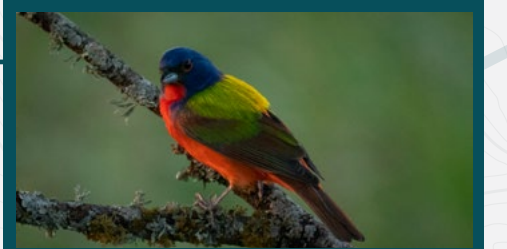
VIOLET CROWN TRAIL



THE VYBE



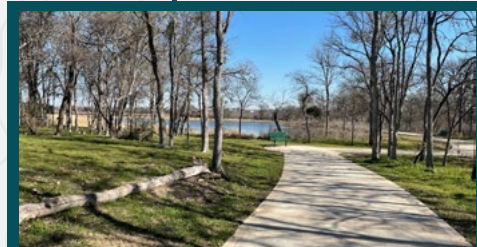
GARLIC CREEK TRAIL



PRESA GRANDE



RIVER RECHARGE NATURAL AREA



ALLIGATOR CREEK GREENWAY



BEXAR COUNTY

COMAL COUNTY

HAYS COUNTY

TRAVIS COUNTY



AUSTIN

BARTON SPRINGS



BUDA

KYLE

SAN MARCOS

SAN MARCOS
SPRINGS

NEW BRAUNFELS

COMAL SPRINGS

SELMA

SCHERTZ

SAN ANTONIO
SPRINGS



SAN ANTONIO

Image 2 of the Historic Evans Road Trail credited to David Bemporad

Images 6 & 8 credited to Kenny Skrobanek

Images 1, 5, 7 & 9 credited to Jennifer Ramos



NBA HALL OF FAMER, MANU GINÓBILI

“The Great Springs project provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect the Hill Country and the Edwards Aquifer while creating an amazing trail system connecting San Antonio and Austin. It’s vital that we work together to make this dream a reality as the impact of this Project will be felt for generations to come.”

1 BEITEL CREEK GREENWAY

As a part of San Antonio’s historic \$1.2 billion 2022 municipal bond, **the City of San Antonio has invested more than \$100 million into its greenway trails network.** This includes funding for sections of the Howard W. Peak Greenway trail along Beitel Creek. The Beitel Creek Greenway will be receiving over \$10 million in funding to connect the existing trail’s terminus at Thousand Oaks Road to the Perrin Homestead, where another section of trail is currently under construction. Additionally, miles of essential greenway connections are also funded through this bond across the city – including the East Side Trail, Leon Creek Greenway, Zarzamora Creek Greenway, and system-wide neighborhood connectivity improvements.

2 EVANS ROAD TRAIL

As part of the reconstruction of Evans Road, **the City of Selma has completed 1.25 miles of trail along the Great Springs Trail** alignment running from the Retama Park Equestrian Center to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church along the beautiful Cibolo Creek. This portion of Evans Road road now features buffered bike lanes, safe intersection designs, and parking areas where visitors can access the paved greenway trail between the roadway and the creek. This trail is not just a part of the Great Springs Project trail alignments, but expands upon the City of Selma’s work on Lookout Road and significantly moves forward the city’s goal of making every roadway accessible for cyclists and pedestrians.



Photo by Jennifer Ramos

3 THE GREAT NORTHERN TRAIL

The Great Northern Trail will be a multi-use trail that, once completed, will span 8 miles from Schertz Parkway to the Cypress Point neighborhood in northern Schertz. The City of Schertz and Schertz Parks and Recreation Department celebrated the opening of the Great Northern Trail after the initial section of the trail was completed in the spring of 2022. **Schertz’s trail plans for the Great Northern Trail, the Dry Comal Creek Trail, and the Cibolo Creek Trail are important connecting pieces to the Great Springs Trail network.**



Photo by Jennifer Ramos

4 ALLIGATOR CREEK GREENWAY

Great Springs Project was pleased to assist our partners at the City of New Braunfels in submitting their award-winning grant application to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department’s Recreational Trails Grants program. The City was awarded a \$298,200 grant for the West Alligator Creek Trail-Phase 2A, which includes the construction of a .55-mile multi-use concrete trail with low water crossings, benches, and signage. The West Alligator Creek Trail is a part of the planned 8-mile Alligator Creek Trail in north New Braunfels and will provide public access to trails and parkland for residents and tourists alike.

This segment of trail will connect to existing trails along Alligator Creek in New Braunfels and will be a part of the 100+ mile Great Springs Trail connecting Austin to San Antonio. Providing grant application assistance is one of the many ways Great Springs Project collaborates with partners to support their work, while ensuring continued progress towards our mission.

MAYOR OF SCHERTZ, RALPH GUTIERREZ

“Enjoying the great outdoors is one of the best ways to enjoy time with your family and community, and we are proud to support the work of Great Springs Project in bringing more recreational opportunities to the citizens of Central Texas.”



Photo by Jennifer Ramos

5 RIVER RECHARGE NATURAL AREA

San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance celebrated the creation of the River Recharge Natural Area in San Marcos, **furthering the vision of the San Marcos Loop and Check Trail system.** This conserved land and trail system in Hays County aligns with the Great Springs Trail and will connect with trails currently being planned on Presa Grande.

6 PRESA GRANDE

The Presa Grande conservation project not only preserves water quality and quantity of the Edwards Aquifer and San Marcos Springs, it will link to two proposed connector trails: one joining the City of San Marcos’ 18-mile Loop and Check Trail system and the new outer ring trail connecting to the Purgatory Creek Natural Area. **This trail connection work has been expertly performed by our dedicated staff** who have spent time on the ground establishing boundaries, flagging potential trail routes, and having crucial conversations with landowners, public partners, and engaged stakeholders.

7 THE VYBE

Following approval by the Kyle City Council in late 2021, 2022 saw the progress and expansion of multiple trail projects along the Vybe trail system, including the first mile of the Vybe being constructed in the Sage Hollow Subdivision of Kyle. **The Vybe, in partnership with Great Springs Project, will intersect with the Emerald Crown Trail and create an 80-mile network of trails connecting all neighborhoods in Kyle.**

PRESIDENT AND CEO OF TEXAS MUTUAL, RICHARD GERGASKO

“Texas Mutual Insurance Company believes in strengthening the communities where Texans live and work. The Great Springs Project will lead to better health and quality of life for residents of Central Texas. We’re proud to support this project alongside other strong corporate, nonprofit, and government partners and I personally look forward to being able to enjoy this trail project.”

8 GARLIC CREEK TRAIL

The Garlic Creek Trail is listed in Buda’s 2020 Buda Moves! Transportation Mobility Master Plan, is included in the 2021–2025 Capital Improvements Plan, and was funded by voters in the 2021 Buda Bond. **Once completed, Garlic Creek Trail will provide connectivity between several residential neighborhoods in Buda,** as well as to existing sidewalks along RM 967 closer to downtown Buda. Buda’s work on the Garlic Creek Trail is vital to providing connectivity within Buda and enhances regional trail connectivity, including along the Great Springs Trail network.

9 VIOLET CROWN TRAIL

Led by Hill Country Conservancy, the Violet Crown Trail, or VCT, a strategic connector to the Great Spring Trail in Travis County, has made significant progress in 2022. The VCT north section, from Sunset Valley to William Cannon, is now under construction with a projected completion date of March, 2023. The VCT Slaughter Creek to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center section will begin construction this coming spring. **It is anticipated that most of the Violet Crown Trail will be substantially complete from Zilker Park to the Wildflower Center by the end of 2023,** and onward to SH45 by the end of 2024, expanding the reach of the Great Springs Trail southward to the Emerald Crown Trail in San Marcos.

Closing the Gaps

GREAT SPRINGS PROJECT BOARD
MEMBER, VICE PRESIDENT OF ANCIRA
AUTO GROUP, APRIL ANCIRA

“Great Springs Project is not only about conserving our stunning land, protecting our cherished springs, and creating more recreational opportunities for Texans. It’s also about economic growth and opportunity for businesses and people who want to invest in the future of Central Texas.”



Photo by Jennifer Ramos, Bexar County

CLOSING THE GAPS

TRAIL CONNECT III

In February of 2022, four Alamo-area cities gathered to coordinate their trail and roadway planning efforts. Facilitated by Great Springs Project in collaboration with the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT), and the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO), the cities of Cibolo, Selma, Schertz, and New Braunfels shared their ongoing transportation, trail, park, and roadway projects, and benefitted from a roundtable discussion regarding public outreach, planning, and funding opportunities for the region.

GSP proved itself to be an essential partner in facilitating these conversations, adding strategic value by working to get projects approved and funded, and serving as a catalyst for transportation alternatives in the corridor.

DROUGHT

On **JULY 8TH, 2022** Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of disaster for 164 counties due to the **“existence of serious drought conditions that pose an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property.”** These counties included Bexar, Comal, Hays, and Travis.

COLLABORATIONS WITH AAMPO

In 2022, Great Springs Project developed a collaborative relationship with the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO). While GSP’s mission of a connected regional active transportation network has long been incorporated in AAMPO plans and studies, such as their 2019 Capital-Alamo Connections Study and their 2022 Subregional Planning Study, **GSP had the honor of being included in AAMPO’s Mobility 2050 Long Range Plan:** “With new eligibility requirements, the IIJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) is providing a viable path to seeing the Great Springs Project become a reality.”

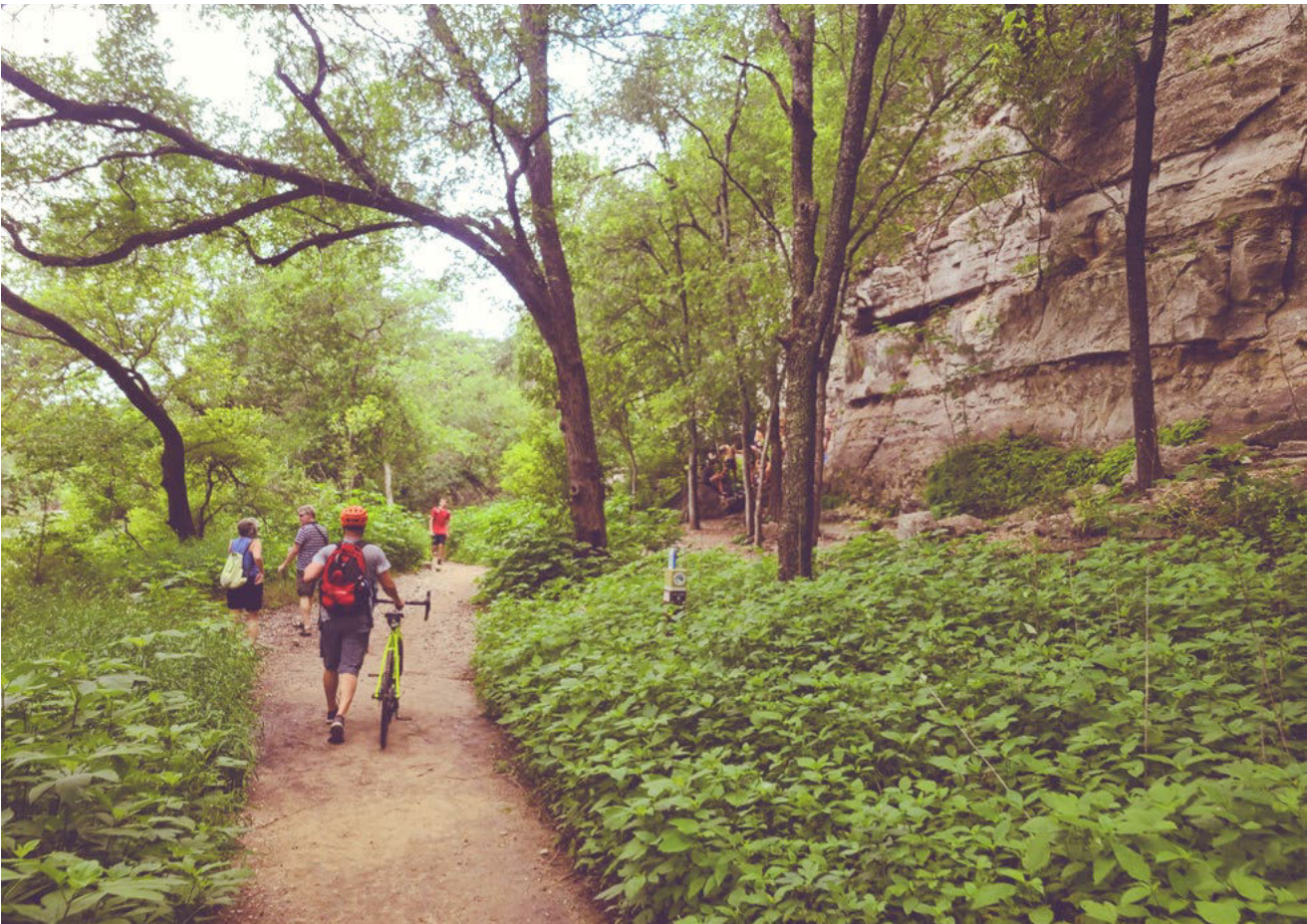
Furthermore, GSP partnered with AAMPO and the City of Schertz to host an in-person workshop preparing cities to take advantage of AAMPO’s upcoming Transportation Alternatives (TA) project call. This funding source has helped make dozens of trail projects a reality in previous years, and, thanks to increased funding for transportation alternative projects like trails and pedestrian and bike-safe intersections, AAMPO’s upcoming project call could fund more trails in the GSP corridor than ever before. This workshop brought together representatives from the cities of Schertz, New Braunfels, San Antonio, and Garden Ridge, and Comal County to learn about the TA funding process and discuss potential projects with AAMPO staff. As a result of the workshop, local governments have a deeper understanding of how to leverage this funding opportunity and how this funding source can bring new trail, bike, and pedestrian projects to life.

TRAIL CONNECT IV

In December, GSP held Trail Connect IV, which featured a roundtable with leaders from business communities in San Antonio, New Braunfels, San Marcos, and Austin. The business roundtable was moderated by Colin Pope, the editor of the Austin Business Journal. Participants engaged in a collaborative discussion regarding how the Great Springs Trail, as a regional infrastructure project, will provide opportunities for business development, workforce development, and increased quality of life along the I-35 corridor that will permanently transform the economic future of the region.



Photo by Jennifer Ramos



Community Highlights



DEEP IN THE HEART

Great Springs Project was thrilled to have the opportunity to support and amplify the Award-Winning nature-based “Deep in the Heart” documentary by hosting a screening of the film at the Austin Film Society Cinema. With over 100 in attendance and ending with a community-led Q&A with Director Ben Masters and GSP CEO Garry Merritt, **Deep in the Heart beautifully and powerfully shares what makes Texas so unique by emphasizing the connectivity of water and wildlife on a continental scale.**

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

With the help of our Equity Task Force and through a partnership with General Motors, GSP continues to fulfill its commitment to focusing and expanding our community outreach efforts. We work to identify and engage with underrepresented communities along our corridor and bring these communities into the conversation surrounding the Great Springs Trail and the value to those communities regarding the conservation of natural resources over the Edwards Aquifer. This initiative includes proactive Spanish translation of existing and future marketing and outreach content, including our newly released “Great Springs Project: A Short Film”, recorded in Spanish by GSP supporter, San Antonio Spurs legend, and recent NBA Hall of Fame inductee, Manu Ginóbili.

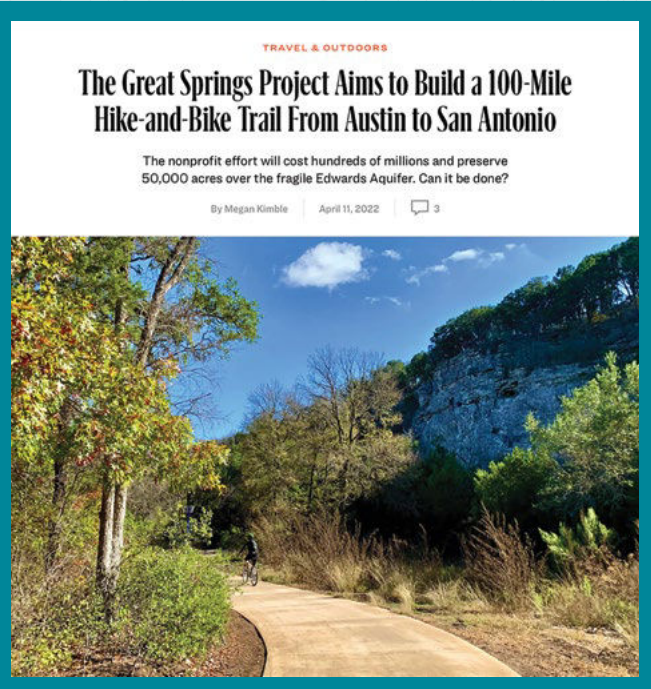


Photos by Rene Renteria



FORMER MAYOR OF SAN ANTONIO AND FORMER SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE HONORABLE HENRY CISNEROS

“One of the most high-profile green space projects is the connection of the entire region by one contiguous trail linking our creeks, waterways, and green spaces. What an amazingly good idea [Great Springs Project] is, and one that I think will mark this project in the national and even global consciousness as a responsible environmental action.”



The Great Springs Trails Plan in the Press

The Trails Plan is a living document that serves as a resource for the completion of the San Antonio to Austin trail network by the Texas Bicentennial in 2036. This plan represents a major step forward on the path to implementation of the 100+ mile trail and can be viewed on the Great Springs Project website at www.greatspringsproject.org. Great Springs Project CEO, Garry Merritt, calls the Trails Plan “the blueprint for building the trail from the Alamo to the Capitol.”

CLICK THE ARTICLES TO READ IN FULL



APRIL 11
Trails Plan Release & Texas Monthly Article

APRIL 12
Culture Map Austin

APRIL 12
SATX Today

APRIL 13
KSAT

APRIL 14
Texas Public Radio

APRIL 14
NPR KUT

APRIL 16
KVUE

APRIL 19
SM Corridor News

APRIL 26
The Paisano

MAY 14
Spectrum News 1

APRIL 11
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Fox 29 San Antonio

APRIL 13
KENS5

APRIL 14
FOX7 Austin

APRIL 15
Spectrum News

APRIL 18
San Antonio Report

APRIL 25
Click 2 Houston

MAY 11
Texas Public Radio The Source

MAY 19
KENS 5

GARRY MERRITT, CEO GREAT SPRINGS PROJECT

“Texas became a great state because we have great natural resources that our communities were built around. San Antonio, New Braunfels, San Marcos, and Austin were all built around springs. People have been traveling between these springs for over 10,000 years... Our work at Great Springs Project is about making sure that we protect those places that we love, that our children and grandchildren love, and that are vital to our state.”



SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

45.9% ↑

From 982 followers in Jan. 2022 to 1,544 in Dec. 2022

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

19.4% ↑

From 3,175 followers in Jan. 2022 to 3,794 in Dec. 2022

Most Popular Stories of 2022

[Trails Plan Rollout - Trail Segment Highlights](#)
Ongoing Series - Trail Tuesday
New Series - Fun Fact Friday, Trail Talk

OUR SUPPORTERS

2022 Donors

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Elizabeth and Eduardo Alocer
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Maverick Fisher
William Fitzpatrick
Blair Fitzsimons
Rowland Folensbee
Fonroche Lighting America
Michael Forman
Matthew Frankland
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Clint Garwood
General Motors
Robyn Giles
Manu Ginóbili
Katie Goetz
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
Halff Associates, Inc.
Bryan Hale
Brigid Hall
Linda & Phil Hardberger
Conner Haring
Isabel Haring
Gabriella Hernandez
David Hixon
Steve & Marty Hixon
Lynn Hogan
Mijntje Holsteijn & Aaron Webman
Peter M. Holt
Linda & John Honaker
Alyssa Huddle
Evin Hunt
Kelsey Huse
Beverly Irick
Shanna Jacks
Cara Jackson
Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation
John C. and Carolyn Noonan Parmer
Private Foundation
Hope & Adam Johnson
Anne Johnson
Ryan Johnson
William Johnston

Elaine Kearney
Lauri Che Kelly
Carla Knobloch
Stephen Kubenka
Brenda & Clifton Ladd
L’Aiglon Foundation
Ellen Lake
Sarah Lake
Mark Leach
Emma Lindrose-Siegel
Tayler & Joe Lonsdale
Bruce Lowe
Robert Lowe
Lower Colorado River Authority
Dorothy Lurie
Robert Lynch
Courtney Lyons-Garcia
Madolyn Marschall
David Martin
Ellen Maynard
Taddy McAllister
Ann & James McMullan
Garry Merritt
Michael & Susan Dell Foundation
Lyda Creus Molanphy
Deborah Morin & John Mackey
Kathleen Morin
Rae Ann Morris
Margaret Myrick
John Nanna
Nature Tats
Sanjay Nazir
New Braunfels Utilities
Nancy Norman
Nicole & Luke Nosek
Steven O’Malley
Donnie O’Neal
Michelle O’Neil
Scott Parker
Patagonia
Phil Pearce
Pamela Peck
Geoffrey Peitz
Ian Pierce
Pierce Runnells Foundation
Michelle Whitwell Pokorny
Carolyn Radabaugh
RAMBLER, Sparkling Water
Chaula & Usha Rana
Eric Reed
REI Co-op
James Reigle

Reusing and Cole Family Charitable
Fund
Norman Richards
Beth Robertson
Jennifer & Lonnie Samford
Indranil Sarkar
Hillary & Jim Saunders
Susan Scace
Sarah Schlessinger
Logan Schugart
Stefanie Scott & Richard Crumly
Carolyn Segal
Marc Segal
Shield-Ayres Foundation
Aleksandra Sivolob
Matthew Smith
Sarah Smith
Shannon Smith
Socius Foundation
Elias Soza
Amy & Michael Springer
Patricia Stein
Debbie Stevenson
Liz & Duff Stewart
Alice Ball Strunk
Susan Vaughan Foundation
Neal & Beth Sutton
SWCA Environmental Consultants, INC.
Catharine Tarver
Texas Mutual Insurance Company
The Meadows Foundation
Theresa Thompson
Total Quality Logistics
Trekker Joe’s
Mark Tschurr
Ann Van Pelt & John McCusker
Lisa Versaci
Anne Wallace
Dianne Wassenich
Charles Weir
Frances & Kurt Weiss
Scott Wells
Todd Werner
Karen Werth
Allison Wilcoxon
Joe Williams III
Colin Williams
YETI

ORGANIZATIONAL FINANCES

January 1 – December 31, 2022

Revenue	
Corporate Sponsorships	\$78,290.00
Grants	\$707,000.00
Individual Donations	\$1,445,748.37
Total Revenue & Support	\$2,231,038.37
Expenses	
Contract Services	\$67,749.84
Facilities & Equipment	\$28,800.00
Land & Trail Planning	\$118,532.20
Operations	\$109,305.48
Payroll	\$1,449,156.05
Travel & Meetings	\$22,359.37
Total Expenses	\$1,798,813.94



WHO WE ARE

Board of Directors

Deborah Morin, President of the Board
Dianne Wassenich, Secretary
Kyndel Bennett, Treasurer
Hope Andrade
April Ancira

Advisory Board

Anne Ashmun
Ray Brimble
Mike Burke
Ted Flato
Phil Hardberger
Bill Johnson

John Mackey
Cindy M. Matula
Les Shephard
Lee Walker
Bill West

Staff

Garry Merritt, Chief Executive Officer

Bill Barker, FAICP
David Bemporad
Jennifer Berrong
Jess Gadis
Emma Lindrose–Siegel, CFRE
Courtney Lyons–Garcia

Lyda Creus Molanphy
Scott Parker
Kristi Shepperson
Kenny Skrobanek
Devon Spencer

Trails Development Steering Committee

Jim Bailey, ActivateSA
Sherwood Bishop, San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance
Tony Canez, Bexar County
Jamie Lee Case, City of San Marcos
Ylda Capriccioso, New Braunfels Parks Dept.
George Cofer, Hill Country Conservancy
Janet Coles, Travis County
Mariana Espinoza, City of Kyle
Tyler Frost, City of Buda
Steven Gonzales, El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Assn.
Steve Graham, San Antonio River Authority
Jerry Hendrix, City of Kyle
Nancy Pappas, Comal Trails Alliance, Headwaters at the Comal

Nathan Pence, GBRA
Margo Richards, LCRA
Maria Rocha, Indigenous Cultures Institute
Brandon Ross, City of San Antonio
Lauren Shrum, City of Schertz
Robin Stallings, Bike Texas
Mark Taylor, Emerald Crown Regional Trail
Alexandra Thompson, Hays County
Joshua Tuck, National Park Service
Carole Wendler, National Park Service
Katie Wettick, City of Austin



Unsplash, Clark Van Der Beken



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