



## Travis County, Texas – 2015 Conservation Easement Program Application

This application has two sections: The Applicant Information section, which asks for contact and property information, and the Project Selection Criteria section, which asks for specific details about the property and its benefits as a conservation easement. You may complete this application and submit it with attachments either as a hard copy or online. If submitting online, it may be helpful to review the application and prepare your answers in advance; the online application cannot be saved and must be completed and submitted at the same session.

### Applicant & Property Information

Property Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Land Trust/Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact's Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Contact's Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner(s): *(as shown on deed)* \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Other Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Percent of Ownership: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Property Owner(s): *(as shown on deed)* \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Percent of Ownership: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address or Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Parcel ID #(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Description:

Subdivision \_\_\_\_\_

Lot(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Block \_\_\_\_\_ Phase \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_

Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Out of \_\_\_\_\_

Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

Acquisition Costs:

What is the estimated value of the proposed conservation easement? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

How much is Travis County being requested to contribute? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

How much are other partners contributing? *(total)* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Contribution of Partner 1: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Contribution of Partner 2: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Contribution of Partner 3: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Contribution of Partner 4: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If your proposal includes other contributions to this project, describe their source and amount:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe any mortgages or liens on the property. (Lenders will need to subordinate the mortgage, making it subject to the conservation easement prior to closing).

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### Threshold Criteria

Briefly describe site characteristics and how the conservation easement will benefit the residents of Travis County.

Site characteristics (including existing land use and ecological and cultural features):

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Benefits to Travis County:

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### Threshold Criteria #2

Who will hold the conservation easement and what are the qualifications of the holder?

Describe the capabilities of each holder to hold, manage, and enforce conservation easements.

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Describe any proposed or anticipated easement partnerships for cost sharing and/or land management. Describe the capabilities of each partner to hold, manage, and enforce conservation easements. Describe any existing conservation easements with which each partner is involved. Discuss the general terms of any existing or proposed conservation easement documents. (attach additional pages if necessary).

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## Project Selection Criteria

Please attach responses.

### Purpose

Describe the conservation purposes that the proposed easement will serve: (0-10 points)

Projects that serve multiple conservation purposes will be prioritized over projects that do not. Conservation purposes include but are not limited to the following:

- Protection of water resources
- Protection of working farms and ranches
- Protection of prime agricultural lands
- Protection of natural areas and wildlife habitat
- Protection of cultural resources
- Protection of rural character and scenic landscapes (as viewed from public places)
- Protection of critical environmental features such as bluffs, canyon rim rock, sinkholes, and springs
- Protection of woodlands, native prairies, grasslands, wetlands, and riparian areas

### Consistency with Planning Policies

Describe how the proposed project supports the County's planning priorities: (0-15 points)

Projects that fulfill priorities set forth in the *Travis County Land, Water, and Transportation Plan* (LWTP) will be prioritized over projects that do not. View the plan online at [www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/lwtp](http://www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/lwtp)

### Access for Educational and Scientific Research Purposes

Provide information on whether the project allows for controlled access for educational and scientific research purposes: (0-15 points)

Describe how the project will provide opportunities for access to the land for educational, scientific research, or other purposes consistent with the conservation values of the easement and provide information on the relative value, desirability, practicability, and feasibility of providing access for these purposes.

Travis County prefers to invest County dollars in conservation easements that provide opportunities for access to the land for educational and/or scientific research purposes consistent with the conservation values of the easement. Projects that provide greater access for these purposes and are perpetual may be prioritized over projects that provide less access.

Target audience, frequency of scheduled events, number of people to be accommodated, and consistency with County investment will be considered. The County particularly values projects that provide access to youth, at-risk youth, and other populations that have limited opportunities to visit farms, ranches, and natural areas for educational and scientific research purposes.

## Cost Effectiveness

Describe how the proposal is cost effective for the County: (0-20 points)

Projects that are a more cost effective use of County dollars will be prioritized over projects that are less so. Cost effective strategies include but are not limited to the following:

- Bargain sales
- Donations
- Financial participation by others

Is the property owner or partnering entity willing to pay transactional costs?

- Appraisal (*To be done by an independent appraiser acceptable to Travis County using accepted appraisal standards to determine the value of the conservation easement.*)
- Baseline Document Report
- Other transaction costs such as Phase One Environmental Site Assessment, Survey, etc.

If you answered “No” to any of the items listed above, describe other contributions you are willing to make to offset the cost to Travis County for this project.

## Site Characteristics

Describe the desirable site characteristics of the property: (0-20 points)

Projects that have the following desirable site characteristics will be prioritized over projects that do not:

- Meets the minimum size requirement of partnering land trust or governmental agency
- Buffers park land
- Buffers endangered species habitat
- Extends boundary of conserved areas
- Buffers different land uses
- Is part of a clearly-defined, larger conservation project

## Uniqueness

Describe the unique natural or cultural values of the property: (0-10 points)

Projects that have unique natural or cultural value will be prioritized over those that do not.

## Development Threat

Describe how the property is threatened by development: (0-10 points)

Projects that are more threatened by development if not conserved will be prioritized over projects that are less threatened by development.

## Bonus Points

Commitment to carry out habitat enhancement projects: (0-5 points)

Describe any planned restoration projects such as planting/management of native tall grass prairie, vegetation restoration projects along creeks, erosion restoration projects, etc.

## Submitted Attachments: Additional Property Information

Attach to this application:

- A recent Travis Central Appraisal District Map with the subject parcels highlighted.
- Any aerial map showing location, boundaries, land uses, structures, and adjacent properties.
- Any diagram showing features of the property such as buildings, agricultural areas, creeks or rivers, springs, cultural sites, etc.
- Any photographs of unique natural, agricultural, or cultural features of the property.

I certify that all statements on this application and all information attached to it are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

*Please Note: If submitting your application online, please print and submit this signature page with and any supplementary documentation. Thank you.*

Please submit the completed application and any attachments by email to:  
[conservationeasements@traviscountytx.gov](mailto:conservationeasements@traviscountytx.gov)

Hand deliveries may be submitted or hard copies mailed to:  
Conservation Easement Program  
Travis County TNR  
700 Lavaca Street, 5th Floor  
Austin, Texas 78701