

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.



Over

1.65 Million

Acres conserved by Texas Land Trusts across our state



Yields

\$1 Billion

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.





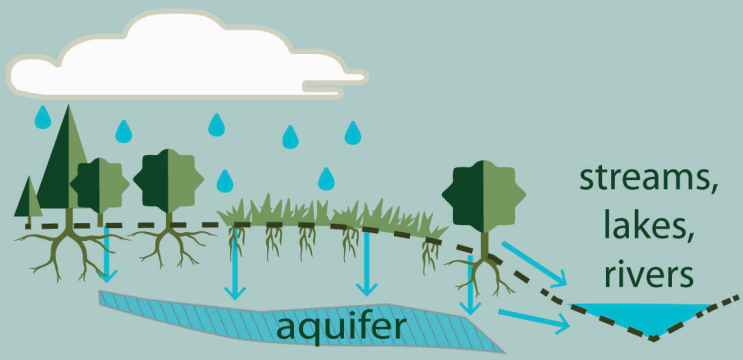
PROTECT WATER RESOURCES

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

As rain falls, natural lands absorb water, removing harmful materials.



THIS IMPROVES...



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



THIS ENHANCES...

WATER QUALITY

TLTC lands save taxpayers

\$69M PER YEAR

in projected water filtration and cleaning costs

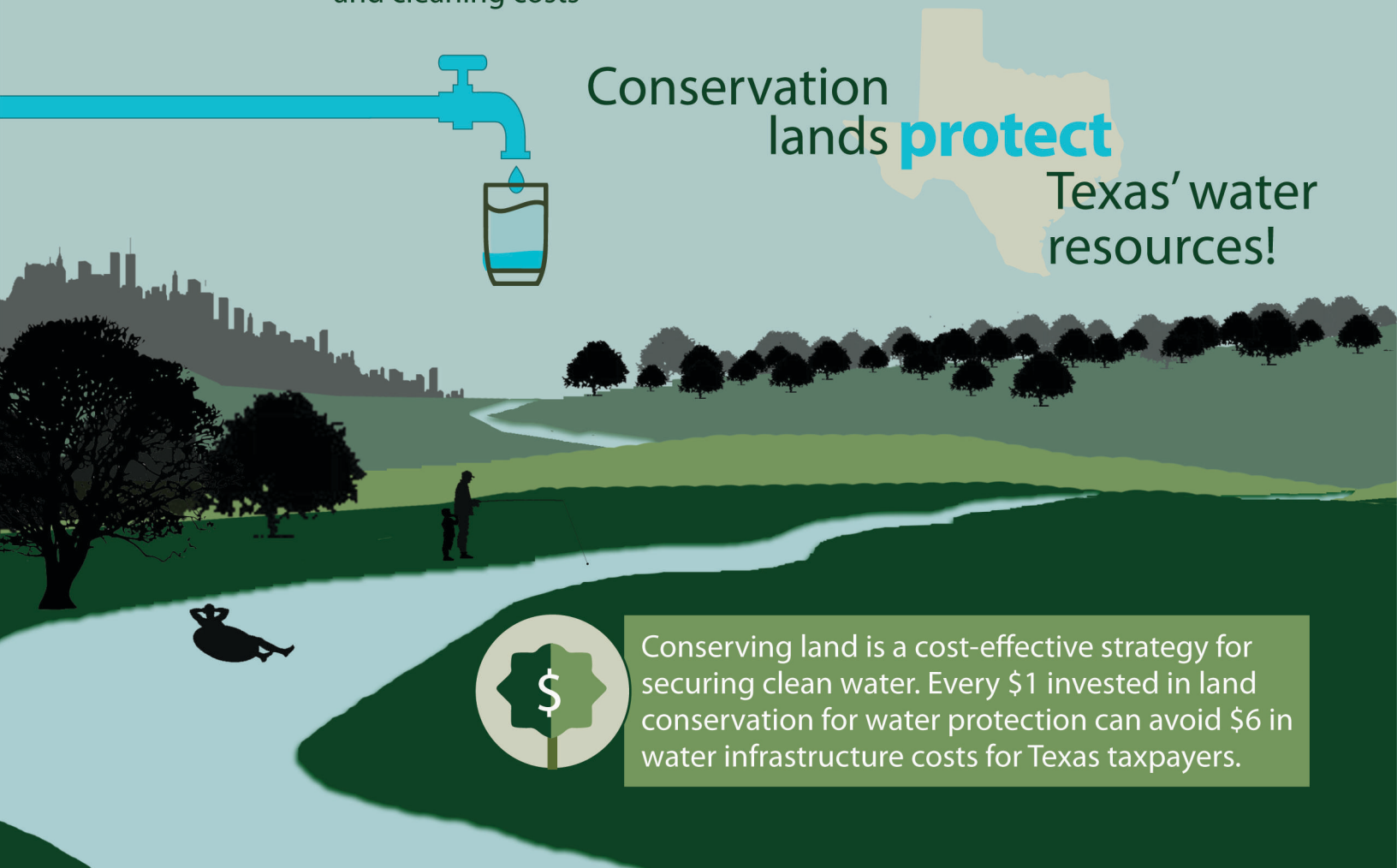
WATER QUANTITY

TLTC lands capture

\$316M PER YEAR

in usable water

&



Conservation lands **protect**



Texas' water resources!



Conserving land is a cost-effective strategy for securing clean water. Every \$1 invested in land conservation for water protection can avoid \$6 in water infrastructure costs for Texas taxpayers.



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:



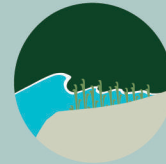
Capture rainfall



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.

\$172M PER YEAR

Along Rivers & Streams

\$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.

This generates an estimated **\$161M** PER YEAR for the Texas economy.



\$150M PER YEAR

in agricultural, timber, and ranching productivity



\$11M PER YEAR

in hunting and wildlife leases



Federal funds and tax incentives for ag land conservation have the potential to leverage \$9 in funds, on average, for every \$1 of invested.

EACH YEAR...

Lands conserved by Texas land trusts provide over

\$1 Billion

in natural resource and community benefits.



Over the next 30 years...

that's more than **\$30.9 Billion** in flood prevention, water supply, water filtration, and economic productivity.



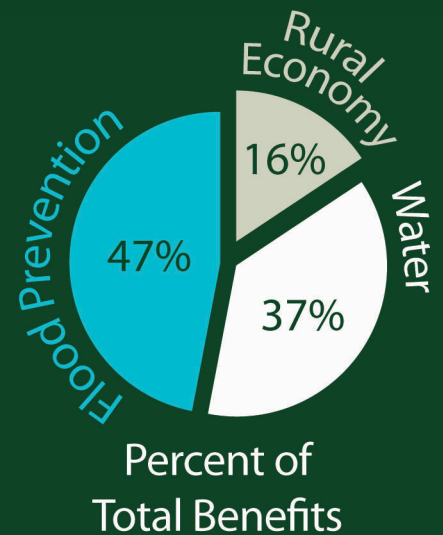
\$11.6 Billion



\$14.5 Billion



\$4.8 Billion



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 AND DATA PROVIDED BY:

