



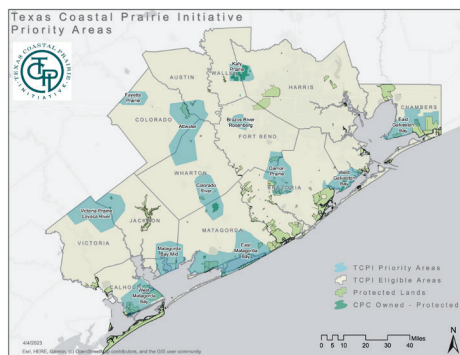
TCPI PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER
- AUDUBON TEXAS
- COASTAL PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY
- COLORADO RIVER LAND TRUST
- DUCKS UNLIMITED
- ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE OF HOUSTON
- GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION
- GUADALUPE BLANCO RIVER TRUST
- GULF COAST JOINT VENTURE
- HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 2
- HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL
- INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION
- MATAGORDA BAY FOUNDATION
- MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT TEAM
- NATIVE PRAIRIES ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
- THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN TEXAS
- QUAIL FOREVER
- TEXAS A&M NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE
- TEXAS AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST
- TEXAS CONSERVATION PARTNERS LLC
- TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
- TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
- TEXAS RICE INDUSTRY COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
- UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON COASTAL CENTER
- WILDLIFE HABITAT FEDERATION

ABOUT THE TEXAS COASTAL PRAIRIE INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

The Coastal Prairie Conservancy and its partner organizations have joined together to sustain the imperiled coastal prairie ecosystem through the **Texas Coastal Prairie Initiative (TCPI)**. The initiative, which will provide funding to private landowners to conserve prairies, wetlands, farms, and ranches, is funded through an award from the **National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** as part of its **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**. The Coastal Prairie Conservancy and its partners will work to increase landowner awareness and accessibility to NRCS funds to permanently protect working and natural lands through conservation easements. The initiative will also provide funding to help landowners manage and enhance habitat on privately owned lands for the benefit of the grassland and wetland-dependent species that reside on the coastal prairie, such as the whooping crane, mottled duck, and western chicken turtle.



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Conservation Easements. Landowners may enter voluntary conservation easements with a qualified land trust to permanently protect these vital conservation lands. TCPI funds will pay landowners 50% of the appraised value of a conservation easement.

Habitat Management. Landowners may receive financial assistance in planning and implementing management practices to enhance and improve wildlife habitat. TCPI funds are available to private landowners who share in the cost of eligible practices.

Strategic Focus Areas

The coastal prairie ecosystem requires large, contiguous protected areas to survive, as the foraging, mating, and brood-rearing requirements of many species require large, connected areas of land to maintain healthy populations. Protected landscapes are also vital as stopover habitat on the Central Flyway. In Texas, where approximately 95% of lands are privately owned, unprotected lands along the Texas Gulf Coast are under significant threat of development or fragmentation. TCPI partners have identified critical **coastal prairie habitat zones** for priority conservation in order to sustain the coastal prairie ecosystem on a landscape level. While any project within the 13-county area may be eligible if it meets the criteria for the TCPI, those within the strategic zones will be prioritized.



ABOUT

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WHAT IS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT?

A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a qualified land trust to protect the conservation values of a property. This may include the natural habitats of wildlife or plants, or the preservation of open space – including farms, ranches, pasture land, or forest. After an agreement is entered, the land trust will visit at least once a year to ensure that the terms of the agreement are being met. Landowners who place a conservation easement on their land continue to enjoy the ranch or farm for decades to come, knowing it will be protected even when passed down within the family or sold to a new owner.



What Habitat Management Practices Are Included?



The TCPI will expand access to NRCS funded practices that im-

prove native plant biodiversity and improve water quality. These practices may include brush and invasive species control, native prairie restoration, protection of riparian areas, wetlands enhancement, grazing management, and other practices that improve wildlife habitat on working lands. TCPI representatives may visit with producers to identify suitable practices for the property in alignment with program goals.

PHOTOGRAPHY: GREG LAVATY, KAREN SACHAR

Who Is Eligible?

Farmers, ranchers, and landowners who own agricultural or natural lands within the 13-county region are eligible. Within the 13-county area, projects that are located within the identified strategic focus areas will be prioritized. Project proposals are prepared and submitted in coordination with local TCPI partner staff that work with individual landowners. Approved projects will meet eligibility requirements established by TCPI partners.

HOW TO APPLY?

For application deadlines and more information on how to apply for TCPI funds, visit prairiepartner.org.



TEXAS COASTAL PRAIRIE
INITIATIVE