



Recreational Trails Application v. 2017

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The Recreational Trail Grant Program provides up to 80% matching funds for recreational trail projects throughout the state of Texas.

Prior to completion you must review the [Recreational Trails Grants Application Instructions](#) and [Recreational Trails Grant Application Checklist](#).

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions regarding any part the application documents or processes, please contact us:

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Recreational Trails Program Manager
512-389-8743
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APPLICATION DEADLINE

The application deadline is 11:59 PM on **February 1st**. You will be able to make changes to your application up to the application deadline. Technical support is available Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Once you have a complete application, you must choose the "SUBMIT" button for your application to be turned into Recreation Grants for review.

Paper applications will not be accepted.

SAVE YOUR PROGRESS

While working on your application, save your progress often by selecting "SAVE & CONTINUE EDITING".

Once saved, you can return to the main screen by selecting the "BACK TO SUBMISSION" button in the top right hand corner of the screen.

Application Checklist

Prior to beginning this application, you MUST review the [Recreational Trails Grants Application Instructions](#) and [Recreational Trails Grant Application Checklist](#) available in the "Resources" tab in RGO.

I certify that I have fully read YES
and understand the Recreational
Trail Grant Instructions.

Project Name: Plum Creek Wetland Preserve Community Trail

Sponsor Name: Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust

City: Lockhart

County: 028 Caldwell

Sponsoring Entity

Contact Person Tim Dusek

Title Grants Writer/Administrator

Mailing Address

Mailing Address	933 East Court Street
City	Seguin
State	TX
Zip	78155

Email Address tdusek@gbrtrust.org

Phone Number 830-660-9193

Intended Uses Non-Motorzied Use

Types of Use ☐ Bicycling

☐ Check all that apply ☐ Wheelchairs

☐ Jogging/Running

☐ Provisions for Disabilities

☐ Hiking/Walking

Project Length 5280

Please state the length of the Project Trail in feet

Project Length 1.0

Please state the length of the Project Trail in miles

Is the intended Project for new trail construction, renovation of an existing trail or for other amenities/infrastructure? New Trail

New Trail Construction 1 mile

Provide the length of the trail and designate whether the length given is in miles or feet

Renovation of Existing Trail

N/A

Provide the length of the trail and designate whether the length given is in miles or feet

Other Amenities / Infrastructure

Please identify the other amenities / infrastructure you wish to have considered

N/A

Grant Funds Requested:

200,000

In whole dollars rounded to the nearest \$100.00.

Summary of Project

Please provide a very short summary describing your project. e.g. "Renovation of 12 miles natural surface equestrian trail with bridge replacement and volunteer training." (or) "New .81 mile 10' wide multi-use concrete trail with retaining walls, benches, signs, bike racks and trailheads."

New 1.0 mile, 8' wide multi-use concrete trail with welcome sign/information kiosk, trail distance markers, benches, and pet waste stations/trash receptacles

Description of Project

Please provide a clear and concise description of the proposed Project (approximately 200 words). Include a description of the trail length, width, surfacing, and configuration (loop, linear, network); trailhead and trailside amenities. Detail all work to be performed; any right-of-way or easements to be acquired; the relationship between Project and any other work planned or existing; partnerships and/or community involvement; and educational/interpretive aspects of the Project.

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust (GBRT) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit land trust organization that was developed to conserve land in the Guadalupe River Watershed for its natural, recreational, scenic, historic and productive value. It was founded in 2001 by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, a conservation and reclamation district created in 1933 by the Texas Legislature. The voluntary board of directors consists of citizens who share a love of the Guadalupe River – one of the most pristine rivers in Texas.

The GBRT was given the opportunity to acquire a unique wetland mitigation bank through the donation of fee simple title from the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT). With the construction of State Highway 130, TXDOT was required to mitigate for the impact to wetlands along the entire highway

corridor due to the construction. The site that was chosen for this mitigation was a 265-acre tract located along Plum Creek, just north of Lockhart. The property is located west of the southbound lanes of State Highway 183 and the entire site is located within the 100-year floodplain of Plum Creek. GBRT refers to this mitigation wetland as the Plum Creek Wetland Preserve (PCWP). The purpose of the conservation easement for the PCWP is to:

1. Retain or protect natural, scenic, or open-space aspects of the wetland;
2. Ensure the availability of the wetland for recreational, educational, or open-space use;
3. Protect natural resources; and
4. Maintain or enhance air and water quality.

The mission of the Plum Creek Wetland Preserve is to conserve water quality with responsible management of wetlands, to protect wildlife habitat and to promote an appreciation of the natural world through meaningful educational, recreational, and research opportunities.

GBRT proposes the utilization of Recreational Trails Grant funding for the design and construction of the first phase of walking trails at the Plum Creek Wetland Preserve. All contracts for professional services (trail design and engineering, environmental site assessment, and trail construction) will be procured in accordance with State of Texas procurement guidelines for grants and contracts. The trail will be one mile in length, with a loop configuration. It will be 8 feet wide, and will be constructed of concrete with a granular subbase to ensure longevity and prevent the washing out of trail material in heavy rain and flooding events. The primary uses of the trail will be for low-impact recreational activities, including walking, running, hiking, biking, and birding; and the entire length of the trail will meet current barrier-free accessibility standards. The trail will also provide an additional venue for the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's (GBRA) environmental educational programming for area schools.

The conservation easement for the wetlands property has been completed and recorded; therefore, design and construction could begin unimpeded and in an expeditious manner. It should be noted that an environmental site assessment will not be needed. TxDOT was required to complete an environmental site assessment as a component of the mitigation bank. Additionally, the proposed trail will not significantly impact any wetland area and is well within the conservation agreement for percentage of impervious surfaces.

The Plum Creek Wetland Planning Committee, comprised of representatives from GBRT, GBRA, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), TxDOT, Ducks Unlimited, and Bunker Sands Wetlands Center, enthusiastically supports this project and the opportunity it presents to an area lacking in parks and recreation amenities. A demographic analysis of Caldwell County showed that 36.8% of the population is under the age of 25, and 29.80% is between the ages of 25 and 44. Therefore, two-thirds of the population is in the prime age groups for outdoor and recreational activities, which when coupled with Lockhart being underserved in terms of available parkland, highlights this project as a prime opportunity

to meet the recreation needs of the community for years to come. As mentioned in the conservation easement agreement the “property possesses natural, scenic, open space, ecological, and educational values and provides a significant habitat for wildlife and plants of great importance to GBRT, the people of the region and the people of the State of Texas.” The Plum Creek Wetland Preserve (PCWP) has the great potential to fulfill and further outline the mission of the GBRT to preserve the unique natural heritage of the Guadalupe River watershed for future generations, by protecting open landscapes, working farms and ranches, and wildlife habitat through conservation easements, education, and outreach that connects people to the water and the land.

Itemized Budget

Provide an itemized list of all activities to be undertaken and the cost of each activity. Provide as much detail as possible (consider materials: surfacing, lumber, stones, etc; volunteer or paid labor, services contracts, land acquisition, equipment/tool rental and value of in-house equipment or labor) Professional Services Costs (e.g. design, engineering, or architectural services) are limited to 12% of the total grant construction estimate amount. Environmental survey costs (e.g. natural or cultural resource site assessments) are also limited to 12% of the total grant construction estimate amount. Environmental surveys costs may be considered above the 12% professional services limit on a case-by-case basis. **Sponsor's administrative costs cannot be included. Clearly identify those items that you are requesting federal funds to pay for and items that you are paying for with matching funds.** **Round all budget items to the nearest \$100.00.** For clarification, please contact us with any questions.

In addition to the budget information below, a detailed itemized budget is enclosed as an attachment to this application in the "Supporting Documentation" section.

ITEM TOTAL COST SPONSOR CONTRIBUTION TRTF REQUEST

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Civil Engineering	\$15,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$7,000.00
Structural Engineering	\$15,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$7,000.00
Geotechnical Engineering	\$8,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Survey	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Landscape Architect	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
Environmental Survey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

Clearing/Excavating/Haul-Off	\$22,700.00	\$4,600.00	\$18,100.00
Granular Subbase	\$44,500.00	\$9,000.00	\$35,500.00
Concrete	\$158,400.00	\$32,000.00	\$126,400.00

SUPPLIES/MATERIALS

Information Kiosk/Welcome Sign	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Trail Distance Markers	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Benches	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Pet Waste Stations/Trash Bins	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Pet Waste Bags	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Trash Can Liners	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00

CONTRACTUAL/CONSTRUCTION

Trail/Grounds Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
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TOTAL ACTIVITY COSTS	\$288,800.00	\$88,800.00	\$200,000.00
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Project Costs and Requested Funds

Total Itemized Project Costs	288,800
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Total project cost (both federal and matching funds) from itemized budget

Federal Funds Requested	200,000
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80% or less (should match total Grant Funds Requested listed above)

Local Match Required	88,800
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20% or more (of total Project Cost)

Proposed Method of Financing Sponsor's Share

Please describe the source of funds, donations, or in-kind contributions that will make up the Sponsor's match (at least 20%) You may include government appropriations; private donations of land, easement, cash, labor, materials and equipment; or in-house labor, equipment and materials:

GBRT has committed a cash match totaling \$88,800. The source of these funds are GBRT's cash reserves.

Grant Management

Please describe the grant management experience of your staff and your plan to manage the programmatic and fiscal aspects of this federal trail grant. Include key staff names and past or current experience with TPWD grants or other grants

Carrie Kasnicka, GBRT Executive Director, will serve as the project administrator for the Recreational Trails Grant. She possesses 20 years of experience in environmental education and wildlife management and 10 years of experience in grant administration, including the following currently active grants awarded to GBRT for projects throughout the Guadalupe River Basin:

Land Trust Alliance \$6,000 Strategic planning activities

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation \$25,000 Landowner outreach

National Resource Conservation Service \$2,467,500 Agricultural land easements

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department \$378,089 Agricultural land easements

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \$316,000 Wetland easement acquisition

Maintenance

Briefly describe the identified commitment to continued operation and maintenance of the Project. The Project will be required to be maintained and open to the public for at least twenty (20) years. Please indicate who will be responsible for which tasks and who will finance them:

GBRT and the Plum Creek Wetland Planning Committee are committed to the continued operation and maintenance of the project long after TPWD funding has ceased. Maintenance will be accomplished through GBRT cash reserves, partner contributions, volunteer time, grant awards and other means of fundraising. Trail maintenance will be handled by GBRT, GBRA, and volunteer services. GBRT will contract with the GBRA grounds department for year-round mowing of the wetlands property, and restroom and parking lot maintenance will be procured and contracted with a local service vendor on an as-needed basis. GBRT will coordinate with area universities to provide two interns for eight weeks every summer to assist with trail maintenance and operation. Texas Master Naturalists have committed 10 volunteers for 2 hours per week for trail maintenance, removal of invasive species, and pollinator plantings for butterfly gardens. The Audubon Society has committed to conducting backyard and Christmas bird counts at the wetlands. The project will remain open to the public for at least 20 years.

Project Use and Benefits

Provide a brief description of the benefits of the proposed project in terms of the project's quality, geographic scope, recreational needs that are to be met and expected amount of trail use or population to be served:

Only 4% of the land area in the State of Texas is accessible to the public, with the remaining 96% being privately-owned. Therefore, the foresight in creating this park presents an opportunity for residents and visitors to enjoy a recreational area that would otherwise be privately-owned and outside of the public's

access. As previously mentioned, Caldwell County and Lockhart are underserved in terms of parks and recreation amenities, ensuring that the recreational trails at the Plum Creek Wetland Preserve will be utilized and enjoyed by the community. Two-thirds of the population of Caldwell County is under the age of 45, making this a prime opportunity to address the county's recreational needs. In 2010, Caldwell County had a population of 38,066. However, the county is projected to experience a 142.16% increase in population through 2050, to 92,180. This expected population increase only further highlights the necessity of addressing the need for expanded recreational amenities in the area. Additionally, the preserve's proximity to the high-growth Austin and San Antonio metropolitan areas will provide yet another opportunity for residents and visitors to enjoy an outstanding regional park with public access in a unique aquatic and rural setting.

Although the wetlands are not yet open to the public, an access road to the property, along with a parking lot and ADA-compliant restroom, has already been constructed. Completion of the trail loop will enable the Plum Creek Wetland Preserve to provide residents and visitors with a safe and accessible paved trail. An existing pedestrian bridge crossing Plum Creek will be incorporated into the trail loop. The initial one-mile trail is the first phase of what is expected to be a three-mile trail system through the entire property. The PCWP Master Plan for future development also includes a nature center, scenic overlook, and fishing pier. The master plan also envisions a full volunteer program and two employees (one full-time and one part-time).

Support from the community indicates that this project is needed – and wanted. During the development of a strategic plan for the Plum Creek Wetland Preserve, the Planning Committee conducted interviews with local officials and residents to gauge their interest and level of support. Comments were overwhelmingly positive, including the following:

“38,000 people live in Caldwell County, 14,000 people live in Lockhart and we would like to see people hike and bike. Would like to see inner city schools from Austin come down for education and a need for outdoor education from the towns of Luling, and Lockhart, and Prairie Lea.”

“I would love to see it develop slowly into something like McKinney Roughs; the county would be interested in that.”

“Would like to show best practice. I want to see this as a diamond in the rough.”

“Lockhart has to be known as something other than four BBQ joints.”

“I want it to be a property that enhances the community; to be a centerpiece of the Plum Creek Watershed.”

“Come to Lockhart, eat barbecue, and do the fun run.”

“I think the waterfowl is the key attractor.....The opportunity to make this a major wildlife–waterfowl site is pretty significant.”

“We have a lot of people interested in hiking....birdwatching. Might be a good place for Scout jamborees. A place for city people to get out into nature. Science groups in the schools would utilize it. Four-five teachers have expressed interest.”

“I have probably received 150 calls from people wanting to walk on the property. Quite a few elderly people, many who grew up along the creek.”

In addition to the valuable contributions of partners involved in the Plum Creek Wetland Planning Committee, other key partnerships exist that will ensure the successful completion of this project, as well as to sustain and expand the offerings of the Plum Creek Wetland Preserve. These partnerships include: Texas State University, the University of Texas at San Antonio, TPWD, and the local chapters of the Texas Master Naturalists Program.

A strong environmental stewardship and education component exists in this project. GBRA provides an environmental education program throughout the Guadalupe River drainage basin. GBRA has implemented a water-based curriculum in conjunction with area school districts that is TEKS Science-aligned, and includes offerings such as water quality monitoring, ecological concepts, and the study of local fauna and flora. As a part of its partnership with GBRT, this curriculum will be replicated in local schools surrounding the wetlands preserve.

Additional components of environmental stewardship are watershed protection activities that have been occurring in the Plum Creek Watershed for over ten years. The Plum Creek Watershed Partnership was created in 2007 after a review of historical data from GBRA’s water quality monitoring at the Plum Creek showed trends of diminishing water quality. The most prominent water quality concerns were nutrient and bacteria concentration. The partnership secured grants to develop a watershed protection plan and hire a watershed coordinator; and what was once an impaired body of water is now improving. Students and citizens will have the opportunity to learn about stewardship, best practices and impacting the environment.

Finally, environmental stewardship at the wetlands will focus on aquatic species residing in the Plum Creek Watershed, which is part of the larger Guadalupe River drainage basin. The Guadalupe River watershed is home to a number of federally endangered or threatened aquatic species including the fountain darter (*E. fonticola*), the Texas blind salamander (*Eurycea rathbuni*), San Marcos salamander (*E. nana*), Comal Springs riffle beetle (*H. comalensis*), and Texas wild-rice (*Zizania texana*). Twenty-one

freshwater mussel species have historically been reported from the Guadalupe River. Currently, four species are listed as state threatened, Texas pimpleback (*Quadrula petrina*), Texas fatmucket (*Lampsilis bracteata*), golden orb (*Q. aurea*), and false spike (*Fusconaia mitchelli*), which are also either candidates for federal listing or proposed for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Trail Corridor Information

Describe the ownership of the trail corridor. If the land is currently in public hands, identify the name of the public land. If the land is not in the sponsor's ownership, include a statement of permission to construct trail project and keep it open to the public for 20 years from the landowner. If land, easement, or other property interest will be acquired, describe how this will be accomplished. If acquisition in fee simple, include a statement of why easement was not possible.

The land on which the trail corridor will be located is owned by the GBRT and administered by the Plum Creek Wetland Planning Committee. Following the construction of the Plum Creek Wetland Preserve Trail, other small trails that existed throughout the property will be reviewed and could be potentially revitalized and added to future phases of the trails system. The Plum Creek Wetland Trail will facilitate recreation and outdoor experiences, yet focus impact and preserve the values cited in the conservation easement agreement.

Project Location

City

Lockhart

County

028 Caldwell

Physical Address of the Project Site

Or nearest intersection to the trail site.

Address 1	3105 N. Highway 183
Address 2	(No response)
City	Lockhart
State	Texas
Zip	78644

Texas Senate District Number for the project location. 21

Not sure? Click [Here](#)

Texas House of Representatives 17

District Number for the project location.

Not sure? Click [Here](#)

US Congressional District Number 35

Not sure? Click [Here](#)

Site Map

Upload a Site Map locating the trail for orientation purposes. The trail drawn on a park map or city map will suffice.. Please make sure the trail corridor is clearly marked and label any identifying landmarks like the nearest road. **If you have multiple documents, please combine and upload as a single PDF file.**

<https://tpwd-recgrants.fluidreview.com/resp/12777389/7XHif92fcF/>

USGS Topographic Map

Upload a U.S.G.S. topographic map (7.5 minute series) **with the trail location noted clearly on the map.** An 8.5 x 11 inch copy of the portion of the map on which the project is located will suffice, but write the name of the quadrangle on the copy. For assistance with Topographic Maps, please click [here](#) **If you have multiple documents, please combine and upload as a single PDF file.**

<https://tpwd-recgrants.fluidreview.com/resp/12777389/iOgbCvQZiE/>

Photographs of Project Site

Upload well-labelled, representative photographs of the Project Site. **If you have multiple documents, please combine and upload as a single PDF file.**

<https://tpwd-recgrants.fluidreview.com/resp/12777389/lmv079lxP8/>

Supporting Documentation

Upload any other relevant supporting documentation in PDF format. **If you have multiple documents, please combine and upload as a single PDF file.**

<https://tpwd-recgrants.fluidreview.com/resp/12777389/mrzSG4geTG/>

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

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