

THE POWER OF PARKS



Do you know the power of your local parks and recreation? Yes, they provide beautiful green spaces and fun programs, but they do so much more and the benefits are immense. Learn more at www.nrpa.org/power-of-parks and watch the video.

PARKS HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL POWER



1 ACRE OF TREES
absorbs the carbon dioxide produced by
DRIVING A CAR 11,000 MILES.

PARKS HAVE HEALTH POWER

Increased access to places
for physical activity leads to a
25% increase
in people exercising
3 or more days a week.

PARKS HAVE SAFETY POWER

In Macon, GA, a revitalized park
that included new programming
and beautification efforts

reduced incidents of
crime and violence by

50%.

Sources:
Centers for Disease Control, Environmental Protection Agency,
American Planning Association



PARKS HAVE COMMUNITY POWER

Parks strengthen community ties and
bring diverse populations together.

Parks have the power to strengthen
communities, transform lives, and
protect the future.

**Parks are the most powerful
aspect of every community.**

Grant Programs



<https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/grants-programs>

Boating Access Grants

Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Grants

CO-OP Grants



Local Parks Grants

Recreational Trails Grants

Grant Deadlines



Grant Program	Grant Ceiling	Annual Deadline
Boating Access	\$500,000	TBD
Boating Infrastructure	Competitive	TBD
Boat Sewage Pump-out	Competitive	December 31
Community Outdoor Outreach Program	\$60,000	November 1
Local Parks Urban Outdoor Recreation	\$1.5 million	August 1
Local Parks Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation	\$750,000	August 1
Local Parks Small Community Recreation	\$150,000	August 1
Local Parks Urban Indoor Recreation	\$1.5 million	TBD
Local Parks Non-Urban Indoor Recreation	\$1 million	TBD
Recreational Trails	\$300,000	February 1
Target Range Program	Competitive	TBD

https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/copy_of_grant-deadlines

About

The Local Park Grant Program consists of 5 individual programs that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. The Program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants. All grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.

Who We Fund

Eligible applicants include political subdivisions of the State of Texas legally responsible for providing public recreation services to their citizens. This includes cities, counties, river authorities, municipal utility districts, and other special districts. If you have questions regarding eligibility please contact the [Local Park Grants Staff](#)

Texas Parks and Wildlife Local Grants

When We Fund

Local Parks Grants are funded each year following an annual Fall application deadline. Current deadlines can be found [here](#). Applications will only be accepted through the [Recreation Grants Online Grant Management System](#). Paper applications will not be accepted. Complete applications are evaluated using the Priority Scoring System. Funding recommendations are presented to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission makes all final decisions regarding awards of program funds.

How We Are Funded

Funding for the Local Park Grant Program comes from a portion of the state sales tax on sporting goods through the Texas Recreation and Parks Account and the Texas Large County & Municipality Recreation & Parks Account. Additional funds come from off-shore gas royalties through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Local Parks Grants Scoring Criteria

Local Parks Grants Scoring Criteria

Grant Program	Population	Grant Ceiling
Local Parks Urban Outdoor Recreation	500,000 +	\$1.5 million
Local Parks Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation	500,000 or less	\$750,000
Local Parks Small Community Recreation	20,000 or less	\$150,000
Local Parks Urban Indoor Recreation	500,000 +	\$1.5 million
Local Parks Non-Urban Indoor Recreation	500,000 or less	\$1 million

Texas Parks and Wildlife Recreation Grants Access

Accessing the Recreation Grants Online Grant Management System - RGO 2020

If you wish to apply for one of our currently available grant opportunities, or manage your awarded Recreation Grants project(s), you will need to use **RGO 2020**, our online Grant Management System.

Click [HERE](#) to access RGO 2020

tpwd-recgrants.intelligrants.com/login2.aspx

Local Parks Program Manager

Dan Reece

Phone (512) 389-4656

Email: dan.reece@tpwd.texas.gov

Project Coordinators

Matthew Mears

Phone: (512) 389-8040

Email: matthew.mears@tpwd.texas.gov

Megan Nelson

Phone: (512) 389-8109

Email: megan.nelson@tpwd.texas.gov

Sheila Hancock

Phone: (737) 977-4308

Email: sheila.hancock@tpwd.texas.gov

Compliance Coordinator

Amy Grossman

Phone: (512) 389-4406

Email: amy.grossman@tpwd.texas.gov

NATURE CAN IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Spending time in nature provides children with a wide range of health benefits.

HEALTHY BABIES
Nature exposure for mothers can promote:

- BETTER FETAL GROWTH¹
- HEALTHIER BIRTH WEIGHTS^{1,2,3}

HEALTHY EYES AND VITAMIN D LEVELS
Time spent in bright sunlight can:

- REDUCE NEARSIGHTEDNESS^{5,6,7}
- INCREASE VITAMIN D LEVELS⁸

NATURE CONTACT IS
especially beneficial for mothers of lower education and socio-economic levels^{2,3,4}

INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
Access to parks and greenspace can foster:

- INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY^{11,12}
- REDUCED RISK OF OBESITY¹³

OUTDOOR PLAY
increases the likelihood that girls will remain active into adolescence⁹

Children are better able to cope with stress when they live near trees and other greenery.^{15,16}

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLBEING
Learning in nature can support:

- IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP SKILLS^{17,20}
- REDUCED STRESS¹⁷, ANGER^{18,19} AND AGGRESSION^{18,19}

children & nature NETWORK | NLC NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES | THE JIB FOUNDATION | ADDITIONAL RESEARCH ON THE BENEFITS OF NATURE AVAILABLE AT childrenandnature.org/research

SUPPORTING RESEARCH

Dharmav et al. (2014). Association between residential greenness and birth weight: Systematic review and meta-analysis. *Urban For Urban Green*, 13(4), 461-469. * Markkarych et al. (2014). Surrounding greenness and birth weight: Results from the GINplus and LISplus birth cohorts in Munich. *Health Place*, 26, 39-46. * Davrand et al. (2014). Inequality, green spaces, and pregnant women: Roles of ethnicity and individual and neighbourhood socioeconomic status. *Environ Inter*, 71, 101-108. * Agay-Shay et al. (2014). Green spaces and adverse pregnancy outcomes. *Occup Environ Med*, 71(8), 563-9. * French et al. (2013). Time outdoors and the prevention of myopia. *Exp Eye Res*, 114, 58-68. * He et al. (2013). Effect of time spent outdoors at school on the development of myopia among children in China. *JAMA*, 314(11), 1142-1148. * Dolgin (2015). The myopia boom: Short-sightedness is reaching epidemic proportions. Some scientists think they have found a reason why. *Nature*, 519, 276 - 278. * McCurdy et al. (2010). Using nature and outdoor activity to improve children's health. *Curr Probl Pediatr Adolesc Health Care*, 40(5), 102-117. * Pagalis et al. (2014). A repeated measurement study investigating the impact of school outdoor environment upon physical activity across ages and seasons in Swedish second, fifth and eighth graders. *BMC Public Health*, 14(1), 803. * Almanza et al. (2012). A study of community design, greenness, and physical activity in children using satellite, GPS and accelerometer data. *Health Place*, 18(1), 46-54. * Hartig et al. (2014). Nature and health. *Annu Rev Publ Health*, 35, 207-28. * Christian et al. (2015). The influence of the neighborhood physical environment on early child health and development: A review and call for research. *Health Place*, 33, 25-36. * Welch et al. (2010). Childhood obesity and proximity to urban parks and recreational resources: A longitudinal cohort study. *Health Place*, 17(1), 207-214. * Duncan et al. (2014). The effect of green exercise on blood pressure, heart rate and mood state in primary school children. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*, 11(4), 3578-3588. * Walls & Evans (2003). Nearby nature: A buffer of life stress among rural children. *Environ Behav*, 35(3), 370-379. * Corniliza et al. (2012). Nature as a moderator of stress in urban children. *Proceed - Soc Behav Sci*, 38, 253-263. * Chawla et al. (2014). Green schoolyards as havens from stress and resources for resilience in childhood and adolescence. *Health Place*, 28, 1-11. * Roe & Aspinall (2011). The restorative outcomes of forest school and conventional school in young people with good and poor behavior. *Urban For Urban Green*, 10, 205-232. * Younan et al. (2016). Environmental determinants of aggression in adolescents: Role of neighborhood green space. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry*, 55(7), 591-601. * Chawla (2015). Benefits of nature contact for children. *J Plan Lit*, 30(4), 433-452.

C&NN recognizes that not all studies support causal statements.

©2016 CHILDREN & NATURE NETWORK