



RECREATION GRANTS PROGRAMS

Rules and Administrative
Procedures Review

RECREATION GRANTS

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

To assist communities in providing recreation and conservation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations

Grant Programs

Texas Recreation and Parks Account

- 60% of Funding Available / Sporting Goods Tax
 - Community Outdoor Outreach Program Grants
 - Outdoor Recreation Grants
 - Small Community Grants
 - Indoor Recreation Grants

Grant Programs

Large County and Municipality Recreation and Parks Account (Urban Parks Account)

- 40% of Funding Available / Sporting Goods Tax
 - Outdoor Recreation Grants
 - Indoor Recreation Grants
 - Community Outdoor Outreach Program Grants

Legislative Actions

- 82nd Legislature suspended all funding for TRPA and Urban Accounts (2012-2013)
- Reduced administrative positions
- 83rd Legislature restored funding (50%) to Accounts
- Necessary to assess programs and adopt new administrative procedures

Recent Funding History

• 2015	\$ 8,473,022	Restored 50% funding for grants
• 2014	8,473,022	Restored 50% funding for grants
• 2013	735,522	Grants suspended- Operating budget only
• 2012	723,022	Grants suspended- Operating budget only
• 2011	15,526,009	The \$15,526,09 appropriation was reduced by \$5,750,000 during the biennium
• 2010	21,026,009	Included \$5,500,000 additional Rider earmarks
• 2009	15,500,000	“Full Funding”

Urban Parks Account

- Cities and Counties over 500,000 population
- 16 eligible entities
- 40% of available funds
- Not competing with TRPA

Texas Urban Parks Systems

City of Austin

City of Dallas

City of El Paso

City of Fort Worth

City of Houston

City of San Antonio

Travis County

Dallas County

El Paso County

Tarrant County

Harris County

Bexar County

Hidalgo County

Denton County

Collin County

Fort Bend County

Rules Review Timeline

August	Staff evaluation
October	Public Hearings/Participant Online Surveys: Austin, Deer Park, McAllen, Grand Prairie, Odessa
December	Draft rules prepared
January 2014	Commission permission to publish in <u>Texas Register</u>
March 27, 2014	TPW Commission adopts new rules
April/May 2014	Announce application deadlines

Indoor Recreation

- Sec. 24.006. FUNDS FOR GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. When state revenues to the Texas Recreation and Parks Account and Urban Account exceed \$14 million per year, an amount not less than 15 percent shall be made available for grants to local governments for up to 50 percent of the cost of acquisition or development of indoor public recreation facilities for indoor recreation programs, sports activities, nature programs, or exhibits.

Historical Funding Breakdowns

(Full funding)

Program	Total	TRPA	Urban
Outdoor	\$ 10,460,000	\$ 5,996,000	\$ 4,464,000
Indoor	\$ 2,190,000	\$ 1,314,000	\$ 876,000
Small Community	\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000	\$ -
COOP	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 500,000
Total Grants	\$ 14,600,000	\$ 8,760,000	\$ 5,840,000

Funding Scenario A

(Current Funding - Including Indoor Recreation)

Program	Total	TRPA	Urban
Outdoor	\$ 5,249,569	\$ 2,996,865	\$ 2,252,704
Indoor	\$ 1,098,453	\$ 659,072	\$ 439,381
Small Community	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ -
COOP	\$ 625,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 250,000
Total Grants	\$ 7,323,022	\$ 4,380,937	\$ 2,942,085

Funding Scenario B

(Current Funding - Without Indoor Recreation)

Program	Total	TRPA	Urban
Outdoor	\$ 5,873,022	\$ 3,230,937	\$ 2,642,085
Indoor	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Small Community	\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000	\$ -
COOP	\$ 750,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 300,000
Total Grants	\$ 7,323,022	\$ 4,380,937	\$ 2,942,085

Community Outdoor Outreach Program Grant

About the Community Outdoor Outreach Program Grant

- Established in 1996 to reach underserved constituents and introduce them to TPWD programs/resources.
- Eligible participants include females, low-income, rural and inner city, physically/mentally challenged and ethnic minorities.
- Eligible activities include fishing, hunting, birding, camping, hiking, kayaking and outdoor service projects.
- No construction projects, programs only. Inner city sports programs are not eligible for this funding.

About CO-OP Programs

- Eligible programs must meet the mission of TPWD.
“To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.”
- Items eligible for purchase may include leased transportation, outdoor equipment/supplies, 40% for staff, camping fees and food.

Possible Funding Ceilings

- *Grant amounts range from \$5,000-\$50,000. With 50% funding reduction, the max asked to be considered is \$30,000*
- **\$20,000**
- **\$25,000**
- **\$30,000**
- **\$50,000**
- **Other _____**

If full funding is restored next session, return to \$50,000.

Community Outdoor Outreach Program Scoring Criteria

Existing Scoring Criteria

1. Description of proposed project-
Currently no points awarded
2. Ethnic Minority, females and low income (within served population greater than or equal to 50% of total served population)
Currently 2 points awarded
3. Physically/Mentally Challenged and Youth
Currently 2 points awarded'
4. Project specifically serves youth at risk.
Currently 0-3 points awarded
5. Project Action Plan – currently no points awarded for this section

Proposed Scoring Criteria

1. Description of proposed project - Award **0-5** points if clear and concise description if provided.
2. Ethnic Minority, females and low income – Award **3** points each for these categories.
3. Physically/Mentally Challenged and Youth – No change in these categories
4. Youth at risk – **Proposing to eliminate and replace with points for programs including natural resources career development (2 points) and mentoring. (2 points)**
5. Project Action Plan - **Add 0-3 points for a detailed action plan which includes dates, locations and activities.**

CO-OP Scoring Criteria Page 2

Existing Scoring Criteria

6. Budget Summary Plan – currently no points awarded for this section
7. Resolution – no points currently awarded for this section.
8. Pre-application form – A new item added to the application process. This will allow applicants to submit a request to determine if their application meets CO-OP eligibility requirements.
9. Project promotes outdoor educational activities – currently up to 4 points awarded for this category
10. Currently no points awarded if never awarded a CO-OP grant.

Proposed Scoring Criteria

6. Budget Summary Plan – **Add 0-3 points for a detailed budget summary which includes itemized costs, TPWD request and Sponsor support.**
7. Resolution – **Add 1 point if sponsorship contribution is included in the resolution.**
8. Pre-application form – **Add 1 point if application form was submitted.**
9. Project promotes outdoor educational activities – **Proposing to eliminate this category.**
10. **Award 3 points new applicants.**

Life's Better Outside

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Outdoor Recreation Grant

Outdoor Recreation Grant

Who is eligible?

- Local government entities
- Populations under 500,000

What is eligible?

- Acquisition and development of public parkland

Outdoor Recreation Grant Award Ceilings

Existing:

\$500,000 per grant

Proposed:

\$400,000 per grant

Existing:

MASTER PLAN

Total Range: 0-15 points

Applicant has locally adopted TPWD accepted, parks, recreation and open space master plan.

- Project meets 3 of 3 top priorities
- Project meets 2 of 3 top priorities
- Project meets 1 of 3 top priorities

Proposed:

- Project meets 3 of **5** top priorities
- Project meets 2 of **5** top priorities
- Project meets 1 of **5** top priorities

Existing:

RECREATION DIVERSITY

Total Range: 0-10 points

Project will provide a diversity of park and recreation opportunities and facilities.

One point awarded for each type of significant recreation category addressed. Need must be identified in master plan or public input process.

Recreation Diversity Categories:

Campground	Trails
Sports fields & courts	Passive Recreation
Playgrounds	Amphitheatre
Picnic Areas	Natural Area
Golf Courses	Fishing/Hunting
Swimming	

Proposed:

Propose to eliminate categories only.

Existing:

WATER-BASED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Total Range: 0-6 points

Project will provide improved water-based park and recreation opportunities.

Project provides for the development of recreation opportunities which do not degrade the resource along existing quality natural water bodies according to the following ranking.

- 6 Points = Gulf Coast or Lake
- 5 Points = Bay or Estuary
- 4 Points = River
- 3 Points = Continuous Flow Stream
- 2 Points = Pond
- 1-3 Points = Wetland

Proposed:

WATER - BASED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Total Range: 0-8 Points

Project will expand access to water-based recreation opportunities that do not degrade the resource along existing quality natural water bodies and provides desirable habitat conditions for fish and wildlife.

Project expands access to water-based recreation on an existing wetland, river, continuous flow stream, pond, lake, gulf, bay, or estuary . (0-2 Points)

And

Project preserves, restores, or improves habitat conditions for fish and wildlife. (0-2 Points)

Project is provided in an area that currently has limited public access to water-based recreation along existing natural water bodies. (0-2 Points)

Project provides a link to existing natural water bodies that support water-based recreation opportunities. (0-2 Points)

(TORP 6A)

Existing:

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION / INNOVATIVE USE

Total Range: 0-10 points

A. Project provides the first public park in the intended service area (10 points); **or**

B. Project provides significantly new and different recreation opportunities in the intended service area (0 - 10 points)

(Must be supported by Master Plan/
Public Input)

Proposed:

No change recommended.

Existing:

RECREATION vs. SUPPORT COSTS

Total Range: 0-20 points

Project maximizes the use of development funds for basic park and recreation opportunities.

(Direct recreational facilities costs / Total Construction Costs) X 20 =

Proposed:

RECREATION & CONSERVATION COSTS VS. TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS

Total Range: 0-20 points

Project maximizes the use of development funds for Recreation & Conservation opportunities.

Existing:

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Total Range: 0-15 points

Project improves park and recreation opportunities for low income, minority, and/or elderly citizens.

Proposed:

UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

Total Range: 0-10 points

Project improves park and recreation opportunities for low income, ~~and/ or ethnic~~ minority ~~and/or elderly~~ citizens.

Existing:

PARTNERSHIPS

Total Range: 0-20 points

Project involves matching funds from sources other than the applicant and/or additional outside cooperation not involving match.

- A. Project involves the contribution of resources from other public or private entities. (0 – 15 points)
- B. Resources are contributed to the overall project for non-grant assisted facilities. One point per documented activity. (0 - 5 points)

Proposed:

- B. Resources are contributed to the overall project for non-grant assisted facilities. One point per documented **partner**. (0 - 5 points)

(TORP 2D & 2E)

Existing:

LAND ACQUISITION

Total Range: 0-30 points

Project provides for the ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION/CONSERVATION of park and recreation lands.

- A. Project includes acquisition and conservation of a government identified area which is recognized in a published planning document for having valuable or vulnerable natural resources/wildlife. (0 - 30 points, based on quality and/or acreage); or
- B. Project includes acquisition and conservation of a wetland area (0 - 25 points, based on quality and/or acreage; or
- C. Project includes acquisition and conservation of natural open space land 2+ acres identified in an adopted local jurisdiction-wide open space plan (0 - 20 points, based on quality and/or acreage; or

Existing:

LAND ACQUISITION...

D. Project proposes the acquisition of land that provides needed public access to park and recreational waters. (0 - 5 points)

Gulf Coast or Lake (5 points)

Bay or Estuary (4 points)

River (3 points)

Stream – continuous flow (2 points)

Pond (1 point)

Or

E. Project provides for the acquisition of needed recreational land proposed for future development.
(0 - 10 points)

Proposed:

D. Propose change in scoring.

Points awarded based on the quality, size and how well the narrative justifies need. (0-5 points)

Or

E. Project provides for the acquisition of needed recreational land ~~proposed for future development.~~
(0 - 5 points)

(TORP 6A)

Existing:

RENOVATION OR ADAPTIVE REUSE

Total range: 0-25 points

Project provides for the renovation or adaptive reuse of an existing obsolete facility.

$(\text{Renovation Cost} / \text{Total Construction Cost}) \times 25$

Proposed:

No change recommended.

Existing:

ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE ACTIVITIES

Total Range: 0-10 points

Project promotes environmentally responsible activities and development. One point awarded per activity.

Proposed:

SUSTAINABLE PARK DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

Total Range: 0-10 points

Points for this category will be awarded based on how the overall project embraces sustainable techniques in the design and construction of the park.

(TORP 5D & 6B)

Existing:

LINKAGE

Total range: 0-3 points

Project provides a linkage to other parks and recreation areas, neighborhoods, or public facilities (through means other than streets and sidewalks), based on the number and significance of the linkage(s).

Proposed:

LINKAGE

Total range: 0-5 points

Project provides a linkage via trail or green corridor to other park and **conservation** areas, ~~neighborhoods, or public facilities~~-based on the **number** ~~and~~ significance of the linkage.

(TORP 3A)

Existing:

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Total range: 0-3 points

Project provides park and recreation opportunities which enhance and encourage an appreciation and preservation of site-based cultural resources through interpretation facilities or preservation strategies.

Proposed:

Propose to eliminate criteria.

Existing:

**TPWD Land and Water
Resources Conservation and
Recreation Plan Total Range:
0-5 points**

The project supports the TPWD
2005 *Land and Water
Resources Conservation and
Recreation Plan*

Proposed:

Propose to eliminate criteria.

Existing:

Post Completion Compliance

Applicant has not sufficiently addressed issues related to post completion inspections of previously funded projects.
(-5 points)

Proposed:

No change recommended.

Existing:

Application materials

Total Range: 0-5 points

A complete application was received by the application deadline (5 points)

Proposed:

No change recommended.

New Criteria Proposed:

Funding History

Total Range 0-5 points

Applicant has never been funded through the Local Park Grants Program. (5 points)

Small Community Grant

Small Community Grant

Who is eligible?

- Local government entities
- Populations under 20,000

What is eligible?

- Acquisition and development of public parkland

Small Community Grant Award Ceilings

Existing:

\$75,000 per grant

Proposed:

No change recommended.

Existing:

Applicant population is under 2,500 (3 points)

Proposed:

No change recommended.

Existing:

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Total Range: 0-10 points

A. Project provides the first public park in applicant's jurisdiction (10 points); or

B. Project provides significantly new and different public recreation opportunities in the applicant's jurisdiction. One point per opportunity. (0-3 points)

Elements must be identified as a need through a documented public input process.

Proposed:

No change recommended.

(TORP 3E)

Existing:

RECREATION vs. SUPPORT COSTS

Total Range: 0-10 points

Project maximizes the use of development funds for basic park and recreation opportunities.

(Direct Recreational Facilities Costs / Total Construction) X 10 =

Proposed:

RECREATION & CONSERVATION COSTS VS. TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS

Total Range: 0-10 points

Project maximizes the use of development funds for Recreation & **Conservation** opportunities.

Existing:

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Total Range: 0-15 points

Project improves park and recreation opportunities for low income, minority, and/or elderly citizens.

Proposed:

UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

Total Range: 0-10 points

Project improves park and recreation opportunities for low income, ~~and/ or~~ ethnic minority, ~~and/or elderly~~ citizens.

(TORP 3E)

Existing:

PARTNERSHIPS

Total range: 0-10

Project involves matching funds from sources other than the applicant and/or additional outside cooperation not involving match.

A. Project involves the contribution of matching funds from other public or private entities. (0-5 points)

B. Resources are contributed to the overall project for non-grant assisted facilities.

Maximum of 5 points awarded based on the type and number of documented significant contributions.

Proposed:

B. Resources are contributed to the overall project for non-grant assisted facilities.

One point awarded per documented partnership up to 5 points.

Existing:

RENOVATION OR ADAPTIVE REUSE

Total range: 0-10 points

Project proposes the renovation or adaptive reuse of existing obsolete facilities.

$(\text{Renovation Cost} / \text{Total Construction Cost}) \times 10$

Proposed:

No change
recommended.

(TORP 6B)

Existing:

ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE ACTIVITIES

Total Range: 0-5 points

Project promotes environmentally responsible activities and development. One point awarded per activity.

Proposed:

SUSTAINABLE PARK DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

Total Range: 0-10 points

Points for this category will be awarded based on how the overall project embraces sustainable techniques in the design and construction of the park.

(TORP 5D & 6B)

Existing:

**TPWD Land and Water
Resources Conservation and
Recreation Plan**

Total Range: 0-2 points

The project supports the TPWD
2005 *Land and Water Resources
Conservation and Recreation
Plan*.

Proposed:

Propose to eliminate criteria.

Existing:

Post Completion Compliance

Applicant has not sufficiently addressed issues related to post completion inspections of previously funded projects.

(-5 points)

Proposed:

No change recommended.

Existing:

Application Materials
Total Range 0-5 points

A complete application was received by the application deadline. (5 points)

Proposed:

No change recommended.

New Criteria Proposed:

Funding History

Total Range 0-5 points

Applicant has never been funded through the Local Park Grants Program. (5 points)