



**Project Priority Scoring System  
Texas Recreation & Parks Account  
Non-Urban Indoor and Outdoor Grant Programs  
(Effective 9-1-2019)**

**Applicant Eligibility**

All previously completed Recreation Grant Projects must be compliant with all program guidelines and all terms of the Project Agreement under which they received assistance. For active grants, all required project documentation must be complete and have been received on schedule.

**1. Goals and Objectives**

Total Range: 0-10 points

The project proposal identifies specific, well-defined goals and objectives that both clearly explain the local priorities to be addressed by the proposed project and illustrate how the proposed project, if funded, will support the department's Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan, Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan, and Local Park Grant program objectives, as applicable. Project goals are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and timely (SMART).

**2. Project Timeline and Cost**

Total Range: 0-5 points

The project proposal includes a detailed timeline and budget that are both feasible and credible in terms of land acquisition and/or construction. Information provided should be consistent with the project scope, narrative and site plan.

**3. Site Design**

Total Range: 0-10 points

Proposed site plan and boundary map are clear, easy-to-read and contain all information requested in the application. Proposed development prioritizes direct recreational opportunities. Acquisition-only projects include conceptual plans and schedule for future development.

- Site design takes into consideration the character and special features of the site, includes street names, acreage, and true north arrow, identifies utilities, easements and special features, and

clearly defines boundaries of existing parkland and acquisition tracts. (0-5 points)

- Project maximizes the use of funds for acquisition, recreation and conservation opportunities determined by dividing the direct acquisition, recreational, and conservation costs by the total project costs and multiplying the result by 5. (0-5 points)

#### **4. Organizational Capacity**

Total Range: 0-5 points

The applicant has the capacity to manage and implement the grant project and operate and maintain all facilities once the project has been completed.

- The applying entity has qualified staff and resources in place to manage the grant from inception to completion. If the entity lacks these resources, the applicant has effectively described partnerships in place to secure these resources.
- The applying entity has the resources in place to properly operate and maintain grant supported facilities into the future. If resources are not currently in place, the applicant has demonstrated a detailed plan to secure the needed resources.

#### **5. Past Performance**

Total Range: 0-10 points

Applicant is in full compliance with previously-funded & active TPWD Recreation Grant projects.

- Applicant is a full-time applicant. (10 points); or
- Applicant is in full compliance with the conditions of previously-funded and active recreation grants awarded by the department. (10 points); or
- Applicant is not in compliance with the conditions of previously-funded and active TPWD Recreation Grants but provides credible and feasible action plan and timeline for achieving compliance. (0-10 points).

#### **6. Community Need**

Total Range: 0-10 points

Community need for the project has been clearly demonstrated.

- Applicant has a current Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan or other comparable plan on file with the department at the time of application. (5 points)
- Applicant has described the needs assessment process used for this project, explained the influence of community need on the site design, and provided details on the public input process including timing, methods, and results; or
- Identified other methods of needs assessment such as staff recommendations or threat of a lost opportunity. (0-5 points)

## 7. Geographic Distribution

Total Range: 0-5 points

The project will improve the geographic distribution of park and recreation lands and facilities in the project's service area or within the applicant's jurisdiction.

- Project provides the first public park in the applicant's jurisdiction or intended service area (5 points); **or**
- Project:
  - fills a critical parks and recreation gap as identified through research, public input, or other means. (0-3 points).
  - is safely accessible to the public via multiple methods of transportation (example: walking, biking, public transportation). (0-2 points)

## 8. Under-served Populations

Total Range: 0-10 points

The proposed project increases opportunity and improves access to parks and recreation facilities for under-served populations.

- Project improves opportunities for low-income citizens, defined as the percent of households making less than \$35,000 per year, based on economic and demographic data for the service area from the most recent federal census data; Determined by multiplying the percentage of population qualifying as low-income by 5. (0-5 points)
- Project improves opportunities for ethnic minority citizens, defined as the percent of a population that does not select "white alone" on the US Census, based on economic and demographic data for the service

area from the most recent census data; Determined by multiplying the percentage of population qualifying as minority by 5. (0-5 points).

## **9. Accessibility**

Total Range: 0-5 points

The proposed project provides park and recreation opportunities for physically/mentally challenged citizens, which exceed the federal and state required accessibility standards.

## **10. Conservation**

Total Range: 0-10 points

The proposed project actively protects or restores critical ecosystems and incorporates elements that cultivate support for and awareness of natural and cultural resources.

## **11. Sustainable Park Design**

Total Range: 0-10 points

The applicant has successfully demonstrated the integration of sustainable design features and practices.

## **12. Coordination with Subject Matter Experts (SME's)**

Total Range: 0-5 points

- The applicant demonstrates meaningful input to the proposed project by subject matter experts in natural and cultural resource protection, acquisition, planning, design, and construction.
- The proposed project reflects consideration and inclusion of best practices in all phases of project development.

## **13. Outside Partnerships**

Total Range: 0-5 points

Project involves the contribution of resources from sources other than the applicant which serves as all or part of the applicant's matching share of funds. Include current and signed letters of commitment that include detailed information regarding what is being contributed, the value of the contribution, and how this value was determined.

- Points shall be awarded on a percentage basis, determined by dividing the total outside contribution value by the total match and

multiplying the result by 3. (0-3 points); **and/or**

- Project demonstrates outside support above and beyond the required match; this can include overmatch and/or documented community mobilization. (0-2 points)