



A Master Plan for Parks, Open Space & Natural Areas for Comal County



Adopted April 2024
Comal County, Texas

From: [Yida Capriccioso](#)
To: [Boyd, Robert](#)
Cc: [James Hernanes](#)
Subject: Comal County Park Open Space Master Plan
Date: Friday, July 19, 2024 12:15:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Robert –

Wanted to make you aware that we received notice from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) this morning that the Parks Master Plan has been accepted.



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Hi Yida,

Regarding Comal County's Parks, Open Space Master Plan:

I have completed its review and it has been moved to an active status. It will remain active until 4/4/2029, after which it will need an update to remain active. An entirely new plan will be required after 4/4/2034 to remain active.

Please share this information with Comal County.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Matthew Mears
Local Park Grants Coordinator
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
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[Visit us Online](#)



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by turning ideas into reality.

RECORD OF COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION

TERM MINUTES

OF THE

COMAL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING

APRIL 4, 2024

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF COMAL §

ON THIS THE 4TH DAY OF APRIL 2024, THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS, MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT 8:30 A.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM LOCATED AT 100 MAIN PLAZA, NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS.

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE:

Sherman Krause,	County Judge
Donna M. Eccleston,	Commissioner, Precinct 1
Scott Haag,	Commissioner, Precinct 2
Kevin K. Webb,	Commissioner, Precinct 3
Jen Crownover,	Commissioner, Precinct 4
Bobbie Koepp,	County Clerk

THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE DISCUSSED, CONSIDERED AND ACTED UPON:

NOTE: Commissioners Court reserves the right to hearing any of the below described Agenda Items that qualify for an Executive Session in an Executive Session by publicly announcing the applicable section number of the Open Meetings Act (Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code) that justifies Executive Session treatment.

Please note: Due to technical issues with the Granicus Video Streaming, the video recording of the session ended after Action Agenda Item #7. Commissioners Court Part 2 was not accessible from the Granicus Server. Items 8 through 18 were recorded on a Sony digital MP3 player and used to complete the Minutes.

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF COMAL §

I Bobbie Koepp, attest that the foregoing is a true and accurate accounting of the Commissioners Court's authorized proceedings for the Term of April 4, 2024, Regular Meeting.

Date: April 18, 2024



Bobbie Koepp
Bobbie Koepp, County Clerk
Clerk of Commissioners Court
Comal County, Texas

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A Master Plan for Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas for Comal County was developed by Comal County with the technical assistance of Halff, Inc. A special thanks goes out to the many residents, landowners, community organizations, community leaders and others for their insight and support throughout the duration of this study. The following individuals are recognized for their significant contributions to the preparation of *A Master Plan for Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas for Comal County*:

Comal County Commissioners Court

Sherman Krause, County Judge

Donna Eccleston, Commissioner Precinct 1

Scott Haag, Commissioner Precinct 2

Kevin Webb, Commissioner Precinct 3

Jen Crownover, Commissioner Precinct 4

County Staff

Tom Hornseth, P.E., County Administrator

Robert Boyd, P.E., Assistant County Engineer

Halff

James Hemenes, PLA, ASLA, CPRE, Project Manager

Ylda Capriccioso, AICP

Aaron Tuley, AICP

Jackson Marvel



Executive Summary

What is the Master Plan?

Parks, open space, and natural areas, in conjunction with facilities and recreational programming, provide multiple benefits for a community and its residents. As places, parks and recreational facilities enhance the quality of life for people by providing access to green space where they can exercise and play, and even decompress from a stressful day. These opportunities can greatly contribute to the overall physical and mental wellbeing of a community's populus. The societal benefits can also be both economic and aesthetic. Parks and recreation facilities and attractions, like sports parks, Canyon Lake and the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers, are economic drivers that greatly contribute to the area's economy through millions of visits each year by those from somewhere else. Parks can contribute to the visual quality and attractiveness of a community by providing a needed departure from the hard, angular conditions which compose a community's built environment.

A master plan, for any entity engaged in contributing to the benefits listed above, is an effective and necessary tool to better ensure that these benefits are realized.

A Master Plan for Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas for Comal County represents a significant milestone in the exploration of the community's aspirations for park enhancement and the preservation of its treasured open spaces and natural areas. While the plan endeavors to strike a balance with the County's limited authority over land use, it represents its first significant step in understanding and responding to community aspirations for safeguarding land against excessive development while also considering the methods that align with the preferences of the voting community. This master planning initiative has provided a public platform for community engagement, the discernment of demands and necessities, and the formulation of overarching strategic focus and direction.

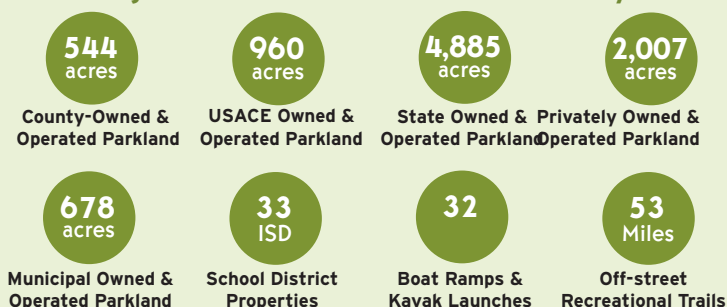
Project Purpose

The primary objective of the Master Plan for Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas for Comal County is to establish a unifying strategic vision and course of action. This Master Plan Report, which summarizes the essence of the overall comprehensive document, serves as an indispensable day-to-day reference for the dedicated staff, elected and appointed officials, and the engaged public, ensuring alignment with the shared vision.

Process

The approach to the creation of this master plan was based upon Halff's tried and true methods for park system planning. Any good planning effort will begin with an understanding of the existing conditions and the desires of the community through investigation and public engagement. From there a specific vision is created with specific goals identified. Lastly comes strategies for implementation.

Existing Parks & Facilities In Comal County 2023



Public Engagement

Robust public engagement is perhaps the most important component of a planning effort like this. The ability to demonstrate that ample opportunities were provided for Comal County residents to give their input on needs and priorities, and that the specific tools used to gather input were successful in gaining participation, serves to validate the goals presented in this report. Halff utilized both qualitative and quantitative methods to gather data on community needs to achieve a comprehensive view of what those needs are as they relate to parks, open space and natural areas. The Demand-Based Approach, which included the public community surveys (statistically-valid and general), stakeholder and group listening sessions, and public open houses resulted in both the ample provision of opportunities to "be heard" and a better than typical participation by the community members. Summary of participation:

- Community Surveys – Statistically-Valid: 518 qualified responses (400 required); General: 1,014 responses
- Stakeholder and Group Listening Sessions – Eight (8) total sessions/meetings with members of the Commissioners Court, County Staff and interested groups like Water Oriented Recreational District (WORD), Comal County Conservation Alliance (CCCA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Canyon Lake Resources & Recreation Center (CRRC) and Parks Maintenance and Improvement Committee (PMAIC).
- Community Open Houses – Total of four (4), with a total of 223 participants "signed-in" with greater than 200 of these being unique individuals only attending one open house.

Document Organization

This Master Plan Report presents the goals and implementation, which are the most important components of a plan like this. The associated appendices are the background and supporting information used to create the report.

Top 4 Insights Regarding Protected Resources:

- Edwards Aquifer and Conservation:** The Edwards Aquifer is closely linked to the location of conservation lands and local parks.
- Parkland Dispersion:** Parkland dispersion is not equal throughout the region.
- National and State Lands:** Over 5,000 acres of land are protected through conservation easements or State Park designations, such as Cibolo Bluffs Nature Preserve, Guadalupe River State Park, and Canyon Lake Gorge.
- Watershed Protection:** Most protected parklands are along the Edwards Aquifer, while surface waters (other than Canyon Lake) and watersheds remain largely unprotected.

Master Plan Vision

The Master Plan vision establishes a foundation to guide future decisions for existing and future parklands, identify needed improvements to deliver high quality amenities and facilities, focus on protecting unique environmental resources, and align with the preferences of residents through the efficient use of County resources and partnerships.



Goal One: BALANCING DEVELOPMENT & CONSERVATION THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT AND COLLABORATION

- 1.1 Maximize the Impacts of Open Spaces
- 1.2 Continue to Focus on Landowner Outreach
- 1.3 Integrate Preservation/Conservation Goals with Engineer's Office Responsibilities
- 1.4 Park Operations and Maintenance
- 1.5 Identify Finance Mechanisms to Support Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas
- 1.6 Support Conservation with Strategic Partners
- 1.7 Policy-Based Protections



Goal Two: ENHANCE RECREATIONAL CAPACITY

- 2.1 Support Park Improvements and Enhancements
- 2.2 Continue to Foster Water-based Recreational Activities



Goal Three: IMPROVE ACCESS TO PARKS & NATURAL AREAS

- 3.1 Add Park Amenities for All Users
- 3.2 Strengthen Communication with Local Governmental Entities Operating Parks

Importance of Parks Planning

The provision of parks, recreational spaces, natural areas, and open spaces, has a profound effect on local residents, the environment, and the economy. For a Comal resident, a park or recreational amenity may serve as the facilitator for their physical health improvement, a means to grow social skills, their economic livelihood in the recreational service sector, a place to rebuild family connections, or as a reason to stay in Comal County. Parkland and natural areas are not just "land." They are a means for the community to grow socially, environmentally, and economically.



Implementation

Comal County does not have endless resources and its authority over many of the prominent issues that its residents are concerned with is limited. Because of this, Comal County's role in the implementation of this Master Plan will primarily be to act as the "driver" for a few identified priorities and work as a "facilitator" for most. Both of these relationships will require an increase in its commitment of resources and effort to accomplish the recreational growth and development of the County and to effectively manage and maintain programs and amenities. The County has already found success in the role of "facilitator" and should continue to build connections between other entities and private landowners to conserve sensitive lands and develop projects and initiatives related to parks, open spaces and natural areas.

Much of this Master Plan's proposed actions, strategies, and projects will involve close coordination with federal and state entities such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, WORD, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Transportation and other entities such as the Hill Country Alliance, Comal County Conservation Alliance, Comal Trails Alliance, and The Great Springs Project.



Headwaters at the Comal giving a site tour of the Comal Springs restoration park site
Source: Headwaters at the Comal



Residential development in Comal County providing HOA private greenspace to residents
Source: Phyllis Browning Company



Comal River Tubing
Source: My San Antonio



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- A.1 Appendix A - Community Context
- B.1 Appendix B - Needs Assessment
- C.1 Appendix C - Organization Inventory
- D.1 Appendix D - Complete Parks Inventory
- E.1 Appendix E - Public Engagement

INTRODUCTION

In August 2022, Comal County engaged Halff, Inc. to prepare a countywide Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan (Master Plan). This Master Plan is one that identifies and summarizes existing conditions and the strategic needs of the County with regard to parkland and natural areas. Informed by a robust public engagement and planning process, the strategies and recommendations provided in the plan can be utilized at the discretion of the County and its partners to preserve and enhance the parkland, recreational facilities, and natural areas that serve the residents of Comal County.

BACKGROUND

Comal County is generally located along the Interstate 35 corridor, between San Antonio (Bexar County) and Austin (Travis County), which are two of the largest cities in Texas. As a result, the County is experiencing significant growth. As Comal County continues to grow in population and subsequent development, there is increasing interest in more strategic and concerted planning for parks, recreational facilities, and unprogrammed natural areas. Between 2000 and 2020, Comal County population grew by over 107 percent, and was the third fastest growing county in Texas (U.S. Census 2020). Over 55 percent of this new growth has occurred in the unincorporated (non-municipality) areas of the County. Residents of these unincorporated areas rely on neighboring municipalities and the County to meet their parks and recreational needs. Since the majority of the rural land in Comal County is either undeveloped and forested or former ranchland, new residential development poses a risk to the quality of existing natural landscapes and the environmental assets therein.

PURPOSE

Parks, open space areas, and trails, in conjunction with facilities and recreational programming, provide multiple benefits for a community and its residents. Parks and recreational facilities serve as places that enhance the quality of life for people by providing access to green space where they can exercise, play, and even decompress from a stressful day.

The benefits are not just societal and economic but can also be aesthetic. Parks can contribute to the visual quality and attractiveness of a community by providing a needed departure from the hard, angular conditions which compose a community's built environment.

APPROACH

The approach to the creation of this master plan was based upon Halff's tried and true methods for park planning. Any good planning effort will begin with an understanding of the existing conditions and the desires of the community through investigation and engagement. From there a specific vision is created with specific goals identified. Lastly comes strategies for implementation. This Master Plan report presents the goals and implementation, which are the most important components of a plan like this. The associated appendices are the background and supporting information used to create the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

At this point in time, Comal County stands at a crossroads, facing the pivotal task of charting the course that will guide the future of Comal County's parks and natural spaces. Past County park master plans focused on enhancing and improving specific elements within the parks, and this emphasis remains significant. As the 2024 Master Plan reaches its culmination, we find ourselves an era of rapid growth and look to build consensus on a sensible and prudent way forward.

The Master Plan not only acknowledges the constraints and fundamental objectives of the County, but also endeavors to align them with the community's aspirations. The intent of this Master Plan is to assist the community to move forward and confront these issues together.

What will this Master Plan Accomplish?

The purpose of this Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan is to begin to bring together public, quasi-public, and private sector interests so that they are all "on the same page" with regard to the programming and provision of parks, facilities, environmental preservation, and recreational programs for the citizens of Comal County. The Master Plan will provide information, goals, and recommendations regarding the following:

- 1 Identification of desired parks, open space, and natural area improvements based on the results of the Master Plan's public engagement program
- 2 Current and future demand for park system infrastructure, considering regional trends and changing demographics
- 3 Planning for the future, based on projected population growth, increased development, and new geographic areas where growth is taking place (predominantly surrounding Bulverde, New Braunfels, and Canyon Lake)
- 4 Enhanced connectivity with regard to opportunities to expand existing trail systems that link parks and natural areas with community destinations, such as schools, places of work, and neighborhoods
- 5 Current and future operations and maintenance of recreational assets (parklands, facilities, staffing, and equipment)
- 6 Enhanced resilience by preserving open space and natural areas which can mitigate flooding and reduce risk and damage to homes and property
- 7 Promoting partnerships between the County, municipalities, and local and regional organizations
- 8 Increase competitiveness of Comal County and possibly non-governmental organizations when requesting grants and other funding by providing targeted goals and projects.

VISION

The Master Plan vision establishes a foundation to guide future decisions for existing and future parklands, identify needed improvements to deliver high quality amenities and facilities, focus on protecting unique environmental resources, and align with the preferences of residents through the efficient use of County resources and partnerships.

MASTER PLAN GOALS

Goal ONE

Balancing Development and Conservation through Administrative Oversight and Collaboration

Goal TWO

Enhance Recreational Capacity

Goal THREE

Improve Amenities at Parks and Natural Areas

ISSUES

As Comal County continues to grow in population and experience increased development, calls for more strategic planning of parks, recreational, and natural areas have grown. Over 55 percent of the new residential growth has been in unincorporated (non-municipality) parts of the county. This means that these residents rely on neighboring municipalities and the county to meet their parks and recreational needs. Since a majority of undeveloped land in Comal County is rural, former ranchland, and/or hosts a heavy tree canopy, the new residential development poses a risk to maintaining the quality of existing natural landscapes and environmental assets. Below is a summary of five issues highlighted at the beginning of the Master Planning process by county staff and initial stakeholder meetings. These five issues were the focus of assessments and recommendation in this Master Plan.



New retail and commercial development near Bulverde at SH 281 and Singing Oaks
Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



Development and Growth

- Land within Comal County, including former farmland and ranchland, is being developed at an increasingly rapid rate for residential and commercial uses.
- Parkland in Comal County is mainly provided through municipal parks, school district facilities, and parkland surrounding Canyon Lake (owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers).
- Population growth in Comal County has increased the demand for parkland and recreational facilities.



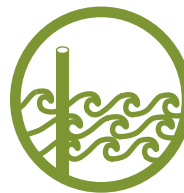
Administrative Oversight and Controls

- Due to limits placed on county governments by state statutes, there is generally a lack of administrative and/or procedural oversight and/or direction of development.
- As a result, many non-governmental organizations (non-profits) have assumed stewardship roles on behalf of the County with regard to open space preservation, conservation of critical habitats, etc.
- The lack of control could lead to diminished environmental quality, and may ultimately result in a reduction of revenue generated from natural areas and recreational facilities due to a depletion of the quality of resources such as Canyon Lake and the Guadalupe River.



Access to Parks and Natural Areas

- The limited developed recreational facilities in the County are not readily accessible to the majority of the County's population.
- A majority of residences are not within a relatively short drive, much less walking distance, to parkland. While several homeowners' associations (HOA) park facilities exist, these mainly serve the residents of those newer subdivision developments.



Recreational Capacity

- The existing and future demand for programmed and unprogrammed recreational facilities and areas exceeds the supply.
- A large portion of recreational demand is driven by visitors from outside the County who come to visit major regional parks such as Comal Park and Canyon Park.
- The availability of sports fields at County-owned or leased special use facilities is near capacity. Full build-out of these special use facilities will still not meet the increasing demand.
- Existing recreational facilities and boat ramps are experiencing deteriorating conditions due to the high number of users.
- Existing County-owned parkland does not provide recreational facilities beyond sports courts, sports fields, and walking trails.



Critical Resource Protection and Loss of Biodiversity

- As a result of increasing development, there is a net loss of high-quality aquatic and terrestrial habitat and available open space of sufficient quality to accommodate flora and fauna species diversity.
- The County's limited regulatory authority cannot prevent development which may impact the existing ecosystems.
- The largest swaths of protected parkland in Comal County are owned and operated through conservation easements or through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department state parks (Guadalupe State Park, Honey Creek Natural Area, Cibolo Bluffs Preserve, etc.).

WHAT IS A PARK VS. OPEN SPACE VS. NATURAL AREA

PARK

A park is a publicly available space with recreational and nature-based facilities, such as playgrounds, sports fields, ball courts, trails, fishing docks, amphitheaters, skateparks, splashpads, pool, etc.



Hidden Valley Sports Complex Source: Halfp

OPEN SPACE

Open spaces are areas that can host more passive activities such as picnicking, relaxation, farmer's markets, or can be land that is left undeveloped in order to serve other purposes like stormwater detention and treatment or compatibility buffers.



Comal Park Source: Comal Conservation Alliance

NATURAL AREA

Natural areas are based around vegetation and water with minimal to no focus placed on recreational facilities. Natural areas often include trails, bird watching zones, fishing piers, and mountain bike trails.



Honey Creek State Natural Area Source: Sean Poynter

CONSERVATION LANDS

Conservation lands, often labeled as preserves or reserves, are public or privately owned lands in which the native and natural habitat is the main land use and where almost no development can occur.



Cibolo Bluffs Nature Preserve Source: The Nature Conservancy



Goal One: BALANCING DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION THOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT AND COLLABORATION

Comal County's rural character and atmosphere has been a magnet in drawing more and more residents and visitors to the County. The beauty of the Hill Country landscape, aesthetics and ambiance all contribute to its allure. As a result of these natural blessings, the County will witness a continuing trend reflected in increased population, business and economic development, and the subsequent pressures that are being placed on infrastructure, schools, housing stock, police and fire protection, natural resources, and the environment.

Presently, the County manages the planning and construction of roads, bridges, and existing parks. The County manages parks and open spaces through the County Engineer's Office with maintenance and volunteer contracts, which has served the County well. However, as the County grows and demands increase, the use of volunteers becomes a more difficult mechanism for the management of parks. Any acquisition and/or development of land for open space, parks and natural areas will require a more complex and increased commitment on the part of the County to maintain, manage and operate the facilities and programs that may take place on these properties.

As a whole, the County shares the impacts of growth with other local government jurisdictions within its boundaries. County land use regulations are limited; however, throughout the public engagement process there was a clear desire from participants and residents to preserve some undeveloped spaces in Comal County.

It is reasonable to assume that the County is not yet ready to fund and manage new park and open space properties. In the meantime, there are some limited things that the County can do through policies and budgeting that can advance opportunities to preserve open space and natural areas.

1.1 Maximize the Impacts of Open Spaces

- Develop criteria to identify critical habitats, parcels of land, and other resources to be assessed regularly and compared with developed land. (See Page 1.15 Property Prioritization)
- Promote protection and conservation of environmentally constrained lands and important natural resources by identifying areas such as key scenic views as seen from roadsides, parks, waterfronts, and other areas frequented by the public.
- Develop a "Comal County Green Spaces Map" through Geographic Information Systems (GIS) assessment to show areas with high priority for preservation based on criteria developed by the County and partners.
- Continue to refine the County's Public Improvement District (PID) Policy to encourage the establishment of open spaces in subdivisions. Include specific criteria by which the benefits of the PID may be measured (i.e., quality of open space and per capita size).

1.2 Continue to Focus on Landowner Outreach

- Develop a comprehensive, landowner-centered outreach covering vital topics such as deed restrictions, water resources, endangered species, historical and cultural significance, proximity to existing parks and trails, and effective conservation-oriented sales strategies.
- Facilitate landowners' access to resources that empower them to effectively preserve their valuable land and support the process by incorporating strategies to maximize the potential for a successful land sale, ensuring that both preservation and financial objectives are met seamlessly.
- Recognize existing landowners' efforts (conservation easements, bird counts and reports, periodic public access) to preserve open spaces, protect critical habitat (i.e., proclamations during Great Outdoors Month (June) or Parks and Recreation month (July)).

Idea: Landowners Workshops

This workshop can be paired with mailing out postcards that share some of the available resources to landowners who desire to protect sensitive lands.

Collaborating with partners, the County can organize workshops for landowners that operate as on-site field trips connecting them with professionals, such as arborists, biologists, and watershed experts. These experts can assist in identifying key characteristics, resources, and potential threats, aiding landowners in recognizing preservation needs and establishing effective monitoring practices. These workshops, complemented by the distribution of informative postcards, serve as a holistic approach to empower

landowners who wish to safeguard sensitive land by offering valuable resources and insights to enhance their understanding of conservation-oriented land and easement transactions.



Land Stewardship Ranch Tour provided by the Hill Country Conservancy
Source: Hill Country Conservancy

1.3 Integrate Preservation/Conservation Goals with Engineer's Office Responsibilities

- Explore the possibility of joint management/operation of County parks with the Water-Oriented Recreational District (WORD).
- Incorporate "Natural Areas" into the name of the Parks Department to reflect and acknowledge the County's park administration efforts towards more than sports recreation facilities (Jumbo Evans and Hidden Valley Sports Parks).
- Explore the possibility of joint management/operation of County boat ramps with WORD.
- Continue to pursue regulations, monitoring, and education for park visitors to prevent environmental damage or mistreatment.
- Use the Natural Resources Map, presented on page B.38, to raise awareness for protection and conservation of environmentally sensitive lands and important natural resources for new development.
- Seek legislation that promotes conservation principles and land rights and allows for open space acquisition, preservation and development of natural areas that adjoin other like parcels to create larger areas of contiguous open space.
- Identify a County employee, or consider the option to contract with a local group, to serve as liaison to conservation groups and to monitor land conservation activities in the County.
- Incorporate nature-based engineering solutions, such as bioswales and drainage vegetation, into road and stormwater designs across County properties and projects to protect ground and surface water, reduce flooding, preserve tree canopies, riparian vegetation, soils, and waterways, thereby enhancing green spaces on County projects

1.4 Park Operations and Maintenance

- Continue to support the volunteers that manage the operations and maintenance of sports fields and other natural areas.
- Develop, in conjunction with volunteer groups, a system to document volunteer hours to promote their value and foster transparency.
- Develop an Operations and Maintenance Plan for County Parks and Open Spaces that includes best management practices that will maximize the effectiveness of the limited County resources.
- Continue to monitor effectiveness of volunteer based operations and maintenance and adjust as needed.

1.5 Identify Finance Mechanisms to Support Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas

- Continue to use Public Improvement Districts (PID's) as a mechanism for developers to protect and conserve open spaces, develop and improve parks, and improve other infrastructure that positively impacts the environment.
- Pursue grants to enhance and improve existing parks and boat ramps with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Pursue grants with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for open space land acquisition in conjunction with the Comal County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Collaborate with partners to actively seek philanthropic funding opportunities, enabling expedited acquisition of natural areas.
- Consider creating an ad hoc committee or working group comprised of both County officials and general residents to study the financing options available and gauge potential support.
- Consider leveraging financing options with philanthropic grants, state grants, and Texas Water Development Board's State-wide Revolving Fund Program.

1.6 Support Conservation with Strategic Partners

- Receive input from land conservation entities to provide assistance that will identify opportunities and facilitate conservation and preservation.
- Identify open space preservation strategies that can share benefits with other core county functions where applicable (i.e. roads, stormwater, etc.).
- Collaborate with the partners identified in Appendix C to identify opportunities to support conservation.

1.7 Policy-Based Protections

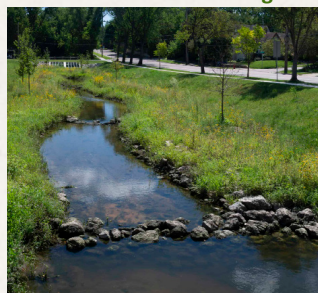
- Support State of Texas and municipal policies and plans that protect natural areas and open spaces while balancing the growth demands and private property rights.
- Support policies (local, state and federal) that encourage landowners to voluntarily enter into conservation easements in order to receive income/estate tax benefits or other incentives in exchange for preserving the land.
- Explore the creation of a land trust or bank using transfer of development rights, land acquisition and donations with land conservation groups.



Idea: Implement Nature-based Engineering Solutions on County Lands

Nature-based solutions or low-impact design (LID) are where natural environmental functions are incorporated into the infrastructure design of drainage systems, roadways, and structures. The goal of LID is to reduce polluted runoff and long-term maintenance for infrastructure and provide a more visually attractive alternative to traditional hardscape designs. To the right, are examples of LID solutions.

Bioswales & Natural Drainage



Source: HR Green

Permeable/Alternative Surfaces



Source: Skagit Conservation Dist.



Goal Two: ENHANCE RECREATIONAL CAPACITY

As a thriving hub for residence, employment, and recreation, Comal County has key elements for a high quality of life. Its picturesque landscape, rivers, and natural areas have created ideal Hill Country settings for Bulverde, Fair Oaks Ranch, Garden Ridge, New Braunfels, Spring Branch, and Schertz, along with special areas like Gruene, Canyon Lake, Sattler, and Fischer. Recognizing the pivotal role recreation plays in promoting physical and mental well-being, there is a pressing need to enhance recreational capacity to accommodate the County's growth. Accessible and convenient recreational facilities are essential for all groups of residents and visitors, including the youth, elderly and physically disabled. Moreover, in Comal County, the thriving ecotourism industry and associated recreational activities contribute significantly to economic prosperity. Prioritizing recreational infrastructure development will not only support the well-being of the community but also cater to the increased demands spurred by the County's growth.

2.1 Support Park Improvements and Enhancements

- Continue to serve the demand and future needs of local leagues and sports tourists through county-owned sports fields, recreational complexes, and special use facilities.
- Formulate a five-year capital improvement plan that prioritizes park accessibility and maintenance of existing facilities.
- Continue adaptive management of Curry Park, Kleck Park, and the Morton Tract, and others as needed.
- Explore opportunities for parkland expansion in areas lacking park access and experiencing faster growth or with regional trail opportunities.
- Continue the County's existing policy of the phased buildout of the Master Plans for Hidden Valley Sports Park and Jumbo Evans Sports Park (see page 1.12 for more information).



Marble Falls Lakeside Park beach, swimming zone, and trails
Source: The Highlander



Educational and interpretive signage examples along natural trails and waterways
Source: (left) The Colony Shoreline Trail, (right) Lomaki Trail- AllTrails



Lake Raven, near Huntsville Texas, kayak rental and boat house
Source: Headwaters at the Comal

2.2 Continue to Foster Water-based Recreational Activities

- Conduct a safety assessment of boat ramps and access to determine improvement needs.
- Communicate water-recreational activities on County website with links from USACE, WORD, and other water-recreation partners.
- Periodically meet with water-recreation stakeholders and providers to discuss needs, challenges, and ways to partner to meet existing and future demand.
- Support a Texas Paddling Trail designation in coordination with WORD and other recreational agencies.

Idea: Online Recreational Availability Portal

Comal County, in partnership with WORD, municipalities, and other entities, should consider a single web-based app or portal for visitors and residents to access real-time information about recreational facilities and parks. The portal can be used to showcase the variety of facilities, the availability of boat ramps, controlled access park capacity, notice of trail closures, maps, promotions from local business and tourism-based entities, and provide environmental information.

Using the County Engineer's website, the portal could provide quantitative user data allowing for more strategic planning for future facilities and investments. In addition, the portal can feature a comments and feedback feature for direct communications.

Examples of similar existing web-based portals include the National Park Service phone app, state parks reservation systems, Allegheny County Parks Trails app, WORD's Visitor Guide, and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority Trail Explorer app.



Goal Three: IMPROVE AMENITIES AT PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS

Currently, the primary mode of transportation to parks and trails in Comal County is by personal vehicle. As the County's population increases and additional development and roadway projects occur, sidewalk and trail access infrastructure could be added for residents and visitors. Existing trails could be considered for expansion, and parkland could connect to adjacent subdivisions by way of sidewalks and side-paths.

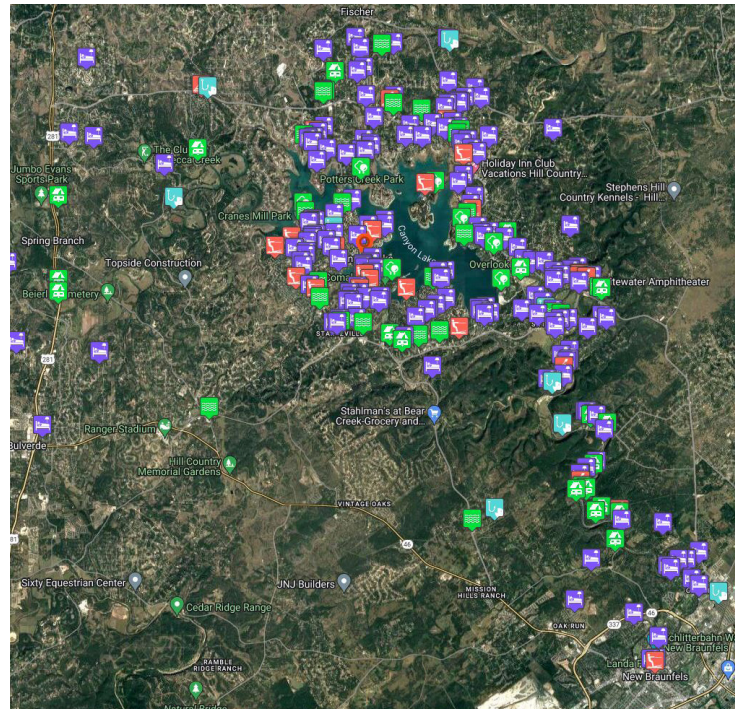
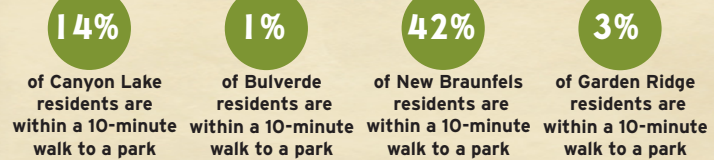
3.1 Add Park Amenities for All Users

- Reach out to local groups (Chambers of Commerce, civic clubs, school districts, eagle scouts) to add low-cost, low maintenance park amenities; for example picnic areas, nature watching stations and natural trails.
- Consider partnering with trail advocates and the local Chambers of Commerce to develop a Tourism and Trails master plan utilizing existing infrastructure.
- Study opportunities to connect residents to parkland by way of trails, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes with the development of residential and commercial property.

3.2 Strengthen Communication with Local Governmental Entities Operating Parks

- Conduct a survey of the local government entities to understand the challenges and opportunities to expanding access to limited-access parks, including Potters Creek, Overlook Park, Canyon Dam, Canyon Lake Gorge, and Cranes Mill Park.
- Support and monitor municipal initiatives aimed at enhancing accessibility to local parks, (i.e., partnerships, new programs and financing options).

According to the Trust for Public Land's Park Serve 10-Minute Walk Program data:



The above map is the Water Oriented Recreation District's online Visitor's Guide web portal which depicts recreational locations, assets, and hotels.

Source: WORD



Source: SH 45SW



Source: Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority

While State Highway 45 Southwest, near Austin, was being constructed, a 10-foot wide permeable surface trail was included in the project cost to provide additional mobility alternatives in conjunction with roadway funding. As roadways are reconstructed or widened, Comal County should look to add shared-use paths along roadway projects.



IMPLEMENTATION

Comal County does not have endless resources and its authority over many of the important issues that its residents are concerned with is limited. Because of this, Comal County's role in the implementation of this Master Plan will primarily be to act as the "driver" for a few identified priorities and work as a "facilitator" for most. Both of these relationships will require an increase in its commitment of resources and effort to accomplish the recreational growth and development of the County and to effectively manage and maintain programs and amenities. The County has already found success in the role of "facilitator" and should continue to build connections between other entities and private landowners to conserve sensitive lands and develop projects and initiatives related to parks, open spaces and natural areas.

Much of this Master Plan's proposed actions, strategies, and projects will involve close coordination with federal and state entities such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, WORD, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Transportation and other entities such as the Hill Country Alliance, Comal County Conservation Alliance, Comal Trails Alliance, and The Great Springs Project (as detailed on page A.46).

Sports Parks Phased Build-out

The Comal County Parks Maintenance and Improvement Committee (PMAIC) prepared a Recreational Master Plan that was approved and adopted by the Commissioners Court in December of 2010. That plan included the following priorities for development:

- Construction of additional playing fields/courts for organized sports
- Construction of picnic areas
- Construction of hike/bike trails
- Construction of playscape areas
- Construction of an amphitheater stage

Based on input received during both the individual group meetings and the public meetings, there is still demand for the “build-out” of Hidden Valley and Jumbo Evans Sports Parks in accordance with the individual park master plans and approved Contributing Zone Plans.

We recommend a phased approach for sports park improvements and build out as funding becomes available.

Hidden Valley Sports Park Master Plan Build-out

The outstanding items listed in the 2010 Master Plan are several pavilions, the amphitheater stage with patio area, and two trailhead access points at the 1-mile loop trail near Field 1 and Field 6. The pavilions and amphitheater with patio area did not come up in any of the discussions with park users, at the public meetings nor with the PMAIC. The loop trail was again identified as a need during at least one of the public meetings and was described as an opportunity to provide a safe walking facility for area residents. Improved parking was also identified as a need and addressed in the Parks Conditions Assessments. Rough order of magnitude costs for those improvements can be seen below.

Hidden Valley Missing Facilities	Number of Facilities	Order of Magnitude Costs (Plus 20% Contingency)
Stage and Patio	N/A	\$720,000
Buildings 2 and 3	2	\$1,080,000
Building 8	1	\$600,000
Lighting	18	\$3,576,655*
Totals		\$5,976,655

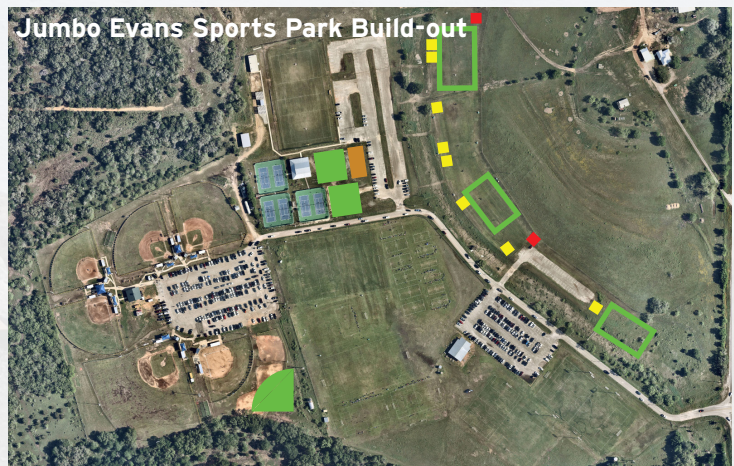
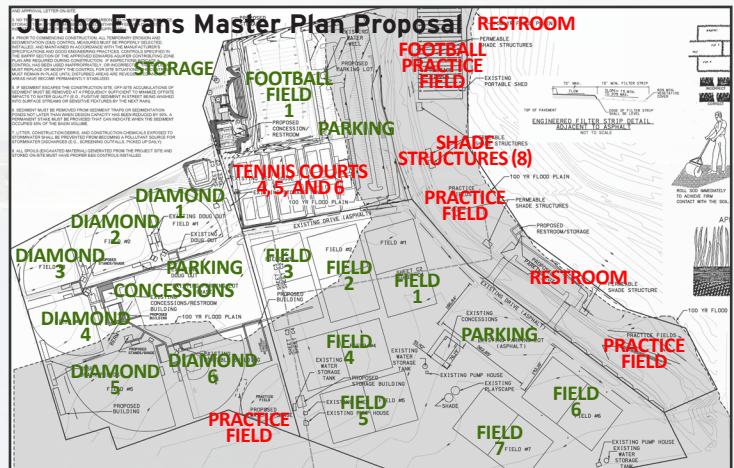
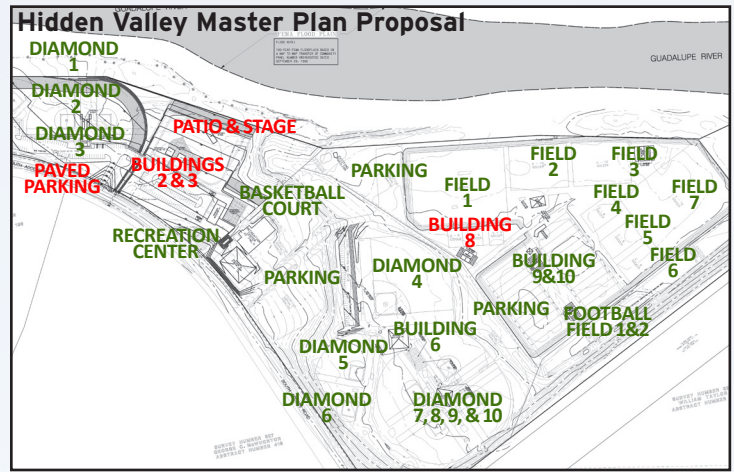
* Cost estimate received from Comal County and M&S Engineering

Jumbo Evans Sports Park Master Plan Build-out

The outstanding items listed in the 2010 Master Plan are more extensive than at Hidden Valley Sports Park and include additional tennis courts, numerous practice fields, a restroom facility and shade structures. While pickleball courts were one of the main topics of discussion at the public meetings, discussions with the PMAIC included both tennis and pickleball courts and the need for more sports fields to accommodate growing youth sports programs. Rough order of magnitude costs for those improvements can be seen below.

Jumbo Evans Missing Facilities	Number of Facilities	Order of Magnitude Costs (Plus 20% Contingency)
Diamond practice field	1	\$300,000
Tennis / Pickleball Courts	6	\$720,000
Turf practice field	3	\$720,000
Restroom / Storage	2	\$600,000
Shade Structure	8	\$720,000
Lighting	6	\$1,518,716*
Totals		\$4,578,716

* Cost estimate received from Comal County and M&S Engineering



Sports Parks Operations and Maintenance

A recreational athletic facility can be one of the most complex and expensive facilities when it comes to operations and maintenance. The use is typically exponentially higher than other types of parks and facilities, they contain amenities that demand specialized maintenance regimens and equipment, and the user usually has an expectation of quality that exceeds what many entities provide. Comal County has been quite successful in its operations of both Hidden Valley and Jumbo Evans Sports Parks with its fairly unique operations and maintenance model. The Parks Maintenance and Improvement Committee (PMAIC), a collection of representatives from park user groups formed in 2007, and the County have over time both improved and maintained both Hidden Valley and Jumbo Evans Sports Parks to the great benefit of the County residents that have used these parks.

While this operations and maintenance model has been very effective for the last 15+ years, population growth and associated increased demand for sports programming space and time will make this model much harder to sustain in the future. The biggest concern is that this model relies heavily on volunteer labor for large scale operations and maintenance. Despite this concern, we see that most are willing to contribute in other ways than time. Many see it better to financially support these activities than to dedicate the time.

Three Approaches to Operations and Maintenance

Comal County is approaching a crossroads of sorts where a decision will need to be made on how best to support these facilities. This decision is not one that must be made in the near term, but the pressures are only going to increase. Here are some things to consider:

There are two main models for these types of operations and maintenance (“public” and “private”). **Public** is best described as the governmental entity is responsible for the activities, while **private** is where a non-profit user group or collection of groups or even a private for-profit company is responsible. Deciding between public and private operations and maintenance for public parks depends on various factors, including budget constraints, efficiency goals, accountability, and the specific needs of the community. A third type is a **hybrid** approach which takes the most appropriate pieces of public and private and combines them into a unique solution for the County.

Each of the options have their advantages and disadvantages as outlined on the following page.



Hidden Valley Sports Park
Source: Halff

County Operations & Maintenance

Benefits:

County Control: Public maintenance operations are directly accountable to the local government and, by extension, the community. This can lead to a strong sense of ownership and alignment with community values.

Transparency: Public operations are subject to public scrutiny and transparency requirements, which can foster trust and accountability.

Stability: Public funding can provide a stable budget for park maintenance, reducing the risk of sudden cuts.

Public Interest Focus: Public agencies often prioritize public interest and long-term community well-being over profit.

Challenges:

Bureaucracy: Public operations can be subjected to bureaucratic processes that might slow decision-making and flexibility.

Budget Constraints: Public funding might be limited, leading to challenges in keeping up with maintenance needs, upgrades, and new developments.

Resource Allocation: Budgets might be allocated to parks based on political factors rather than actual needs.

Volunteer Operations & Maintenance

Benefits:

Efficiency: Private groups might be more efficient in some cases due to their singular focus or even profit-driven nature. They might have incentives to optimize resources and minimize costs.

Expertise: Private groups may be best suited to bring specialized expertise in park management, landscaping, and facility maintenance.

Flexibility: Private groups might have more flexibility to adapt quickly to changing needs and emerging trends.

Innovation: Private groups might bring innovative approaches to park management and programming.

Challenges:

Profit Motive: Private groups are driven by a singular focus or even profit, which could potentially lead to prioritizing cost-cutting over long-term quality and greater community needs.

Accountability: There might be concerns about private groups prioritizing profit over community needs and potentially cutting corners.

Loss of Community Control: Some communities might feel that privatization leads to a loss of local control and input over park operations.

Quality Concerns: Depending on contract terms and oversight, there might be concerns about maintaining the same level of quality and care as public operations.

The Hybrid Approach

In many cases, a hybrid approach that combines public oversight with volunteer expertise can be effective. For example, volunteers could perform certain services like landscaping and maintenance while the County retains control over strategic decisions and major park developments. Ultimately, the decision should be based on a thorough analysis of the specific needs, resources, and priorities of the community, along with careful consideration of the potential benefits and drawbacks of each approach.

Regardless of approach and even with the current model, there are some Best Management Practices (BMP's) that can reduce the cost of on-going operations and maintenance:

Regular Maintenance: Implement a regular maintenance schedule for landscaping, facilities, and equipment to ensure that the parks remain safe and attractive. This includes mowing, pruning, trash collection, and facility inspection.

Expand Volunteer Programs: Establish volunteer programs that allow community members to contribute to park maintenance, gardening, and event coordination. Volunteers can be a valuable resource to supplement staff efforts.

Ecological Preservation: Designate areas within the parks for wildlife habitat and native plant restoration. Implement sustainable landscaping practices that minimize the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Partnerships: Collaborate with volunteer organizations for maintenance support. Partnerships can help share resources and expertise.

Budgeting and Funding: Develop a sustainable funding strategy that includes a combination of government funding, grants, user fees, sponsorships, and donations.

Technology Integration: Implement technology solutions like online reservation systems for facilities, mobile apps for event notifications, and digital signage for wayfinding.

Adaptive Management: Regularly review and adjust park management strategies based on community feedback, changing needs, and emerging trends.



Community garden at Hidden Valley Sports Park operated by the Canyon Lake Resource and Recreation Center
Source: Halfp

Property Prioritization Criteria

The strategies and recommendations included in this report highlight multiple opportunities for the County to aid in the acquisition and establishment of parkland and conservation lands, either through outright fee simple acquisition, conservation easement acquisition or a combination of the two. The County should look to partnerships with individual landowners and other groups that are focused on the same goals like governmental, quasi-governmental and non-profit entities. Below is a list of assessment criteria and scoring to help County officials identify parcels and landowners best suited for parkland establishment and conservation efforts. The assessment criteria is based off the Parkland Service Area assessment, on page B.26, and the Resource-based Assessment on page B.37. Out of a total possible score of 100, each criteria has a set weighted score; the higher the score (the more criteria met), the higher the parcel or land priority should be. Note that scoring can and should be adjusted based on the needs of the assessment entity and project priorities.

45/100 SENSITIVITY

- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Is the parcel over the Edwards Aquifer and recharge zone?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Does the parcel have significant existing tree canopy?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Does the parcel house protected or listed species?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Is the parcel located along a waterway, at a river's headwaters, or confluence of waterways?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Is the parcel located within a floodplain?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Does the parcel have underground caves or karst topography?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Does the parcel hold significant cultural or historical value?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Does the parcel hold preexisting development restrictions or parameters limiting its potential for commercial or residential development?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Does the alternative development of the parcel have the potential to increase erosion, run off, wildfires, or flooding issues in the future?

##/45

25/100 PROXIMITY

- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Is the parcel adjacent or close to existing parkland, recreation, or conservation land?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Is the parcel highly visible from major roadways and provide opportunity for vistas and sightline observation areas?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Is the parcel part of a contiguous natural landscape or environmental corridor?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Is the parcel located in an area of low level-of-service, or where existing access to parkland and natural areas is limited for residents?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Is the parcel located adjacent to existing community centers such as libraries, schools, public governmental facilities, non-profit centers, or recreation centers?

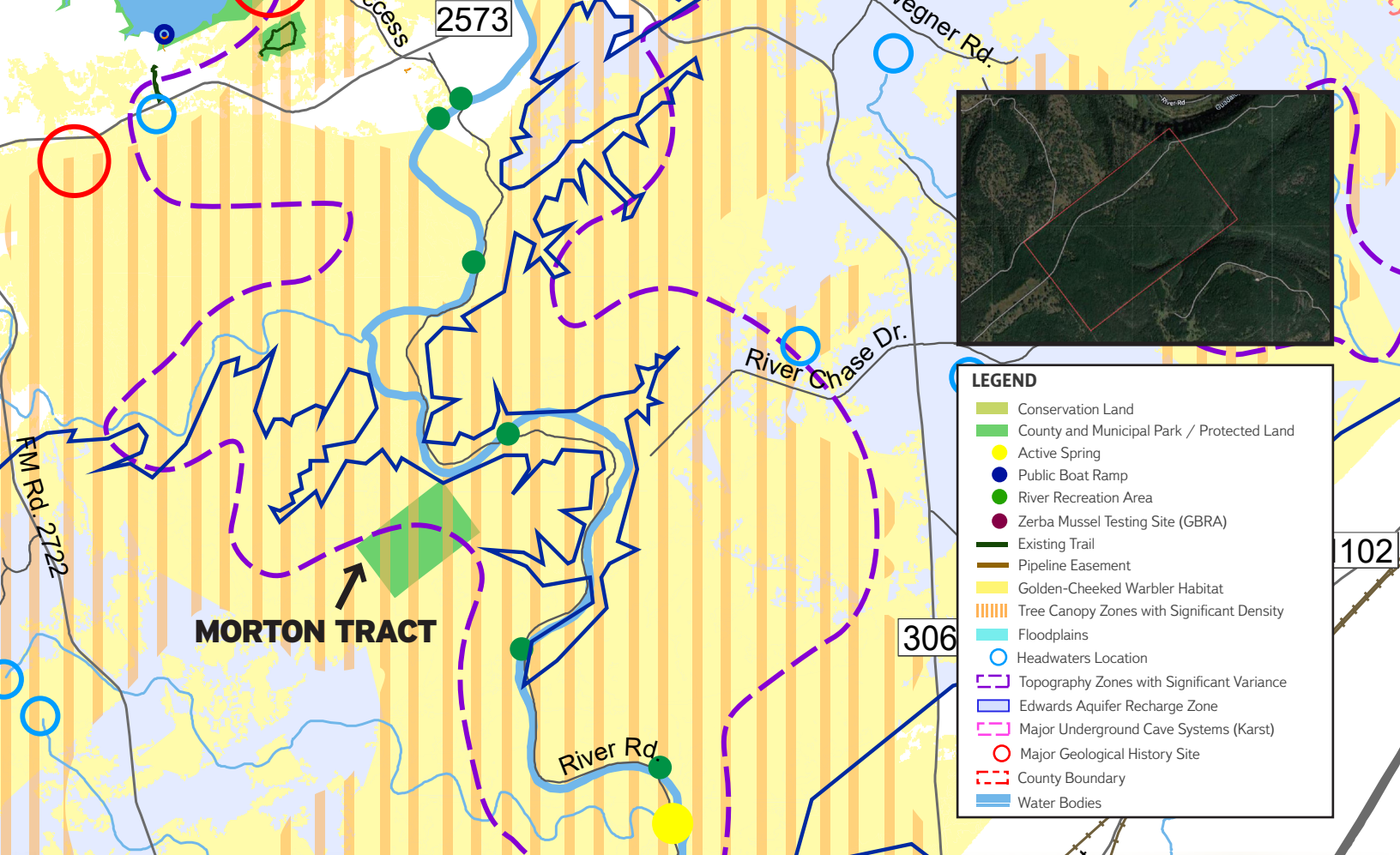
##/25

30/100 ACCESS & DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Is the parcel adjacent to existing residential concentrations?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Is the parcel connected by existing trails and sidewalks?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Is the parcel at least 50 acres or a size of significant value?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Can the parcel provide a water access point or programmed water-based recreational elements?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Is the parcel located within an area that opens opportunities to receive additional funding from state or federal agencies?
- ☐ 0 ☒ 5 Is the parcel located at a high or low elevation relative to its surrounding lands (which can impact drainage)?

##/30

Total Score: ##/100



Example Property Criteria Assessment for the County-owned Morton Tract

SENSITIVITY

- ☒ 5 Is the parcel over the Edwards Aquifer and recharge zone?
- ☒ 5 Does the parcel have significant existing tree canopy?
- ☒ 5 Does the parcel house protected or listed species?
- ☒ 5 Is the parcel located along a waterway, at a river's headwaters, or confluence of waterways?
- ☒ 5 Is the parcel located within a flood plain?
- ☒ 5 Does the parcel have underground caves or karst topography?
- ☒ 5 Does the parcel hold significant cultural or historical value?
- ☒ 5 Does the parcel hold preexisting development restrictions or parameters limited its potential for commercial or residential development?
- ☒ 5 Does the alternative development of the parcel have the potential to increase erosion, run off, wildfires, or flooding issues in the future?

30/45

PROXIMITY

- ☒ 5 Is the parcel adjacent or close to existing parkland, recreation, or conservation land?
- ☒ 5 Is the parcel highly visible from major roadways and provide opportunity for vistas and sightline observation areas?
- ☒ 5 Is the parcel part of a contiguous natural landscape or environmental corridor?
- ☒ 5 Is the parcel located in an area of low level-of-service, or where existing access to parkland and natural areas is limited for residents?
- ☒ 5 Is the parcel located adjacent to existing community centers such as libraries, schools, public governmental facilities, non-profit centers, or recreation centers?

20/25

ACCESS & DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

- ☒ 5 Is the parcel adjacent to existing residential concentrations?
- ☒ 5 Is the parcel connected by existing trails and sidewalks?
- ☒ 5 Is the parcel at least 50 acres or of a size of significant value?
- ☒ 5 Can the parcel provide a water access point or programmed water-based recreational elements?
- ☒ 5 Is the parcel located within a zone that opens opportunities to receive additional funding from TPWD, the Army Corps of Engineers, or Joint-base San Antonio?
- ☒ 5 Is the parcel located at a high or low elevation point relative to its surrounding lands?

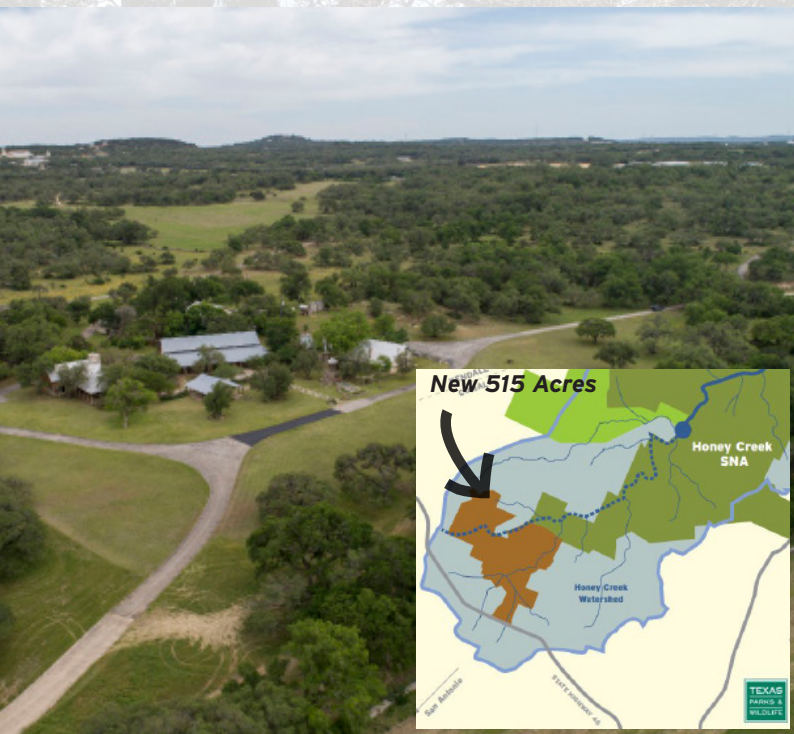
15/30

Total Score: 65/100

Most parts of Comal County will not reach a threshold of 50 points. With this criteria, a parcel with a score above 50 points is considered as potentially desirable and further research is warranted.

Funding Sources for Implementation

This section outlines funding strategies at the regional, state, and federal levels that can be utilized to implement potential projects and parkland improvements. This section includes an overview of potential partnerships and grants, including timeframe for applications, potential grant amounts, and level of effort required to apply. The following funding programs and funding methods/partnerships represent the most reliable resources for implementing potential active recreation, environmental conservation efforts, and partnerships.



The 515-Acre addition to Honey Creek State Natural Area through a partnership between The Nature Conservancy in Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, Land and Water Conservation Fund and landowners Ronnie and Terry Urbanczyk
Source: KSAT



The Sweaty Yeti trail run provided through partnership with Comal Trails Alliance and New Braunfels Parks Department at Panther Canyon Park
Source: Comal Trails Alliance

LOCAL FUNDING

Budgeting

Each year the County Commissioners adopt the County budget and outline expenditures for departments under the direct control of the court. This includes oversight and annual review of funding for County parks and recreation projects and improvements.

Bonds

Local bonds are a county method of funding specific projects through voter approved borrowing. This debt is most commonly repaid through property tax revenues to fund parkland acquisition, trails, parks improvements, roadway safety projects, and development.

Fees

Parking Fees and Boat Ramp Fees

Charging users for parking at and/or use of boat ramps will create additional revenue that can be used to offset costs associated with the operations and maintenance of the ramps. Data can also be easier collected regarding the usage of the ramps in order to understand user trends and the need for future expenditures at the ramps.

Non-Resident Fees

Another potential fee could be leveled towards out-of-county residents who visit any County operated or managed park facility that may have user fees.

Water-Oriented Recreation District of Comal County (WORD)

As mentioned in the Regional and Federal Agencies Review section on page A.34, WORD is a political subdivision which is in charge of administering specific regulations and specific tax funds related to specific aspects of local tourism and is partially under the purview of the Comal County Commissioners Court. WORD receives funds from the following taxes: a three percent tax on camping, lodging, fishing guides, whitewater guides, dry and wet slip boat storage, parking for purposes of water ingress/egress, and rentals. An additional one dollar (\$1.00) fee per person is charged for river equipment rentals, river ingress/egress, and shuttles without rental. Continued partnership between WORD and the County can help to maintain and increase the services and quality of parks and recreation in the County, without major increases to the County's overall operational costs.

PARTNERSHIPS

Public, Non-Profit, and Private Partnerships

As previously mentioned on page 1.13, Sports Parks Operations and Maintenance, a hybrid approach to parks maintenance is a common way public entities can leverage limited resources and funds to help maintain and provide adequate park services. A great example of this is at Hidden Valley Sports Park, where the Canyon Lake Resource and Recreation Center operates the indoor gymnasium facility and community garden which provides the public with additional outdoor and recreational opportunities with limited direct County involvement. Sports fields agreements are another common public-private partnership that can be used to maintain and operate sports fields and facilities. Comal County currently uses these types of agreements to a certain extent but they could be modified to better offset some costs.

By joining forces with organizations dedicated to environmental conservation, the County can harness collective expertise and resources to ensure the responsible stewardship and acquisition of natural areas, as well as collaborative land management and protection. Organizations such as the Great Springs Project, Hill Country Alliance and the Nature Conservancy offer these opportunities.

Donations

Donations serve as a potential funding strategy for maintaining and preserving open spaces. By contributing financially, individuals and organizations directly support the conservation efforts necessary to safeguard parks, open space and natural areas. These donations play a pivotal role in funding various initiatives, including habitat restoration, trail maintenance, and environmental education programs. Additionally, donations can help leverage additional funding sources and community support, ensuring the long-term sustainability of open spaces for generations to come.

School District Partnerships

School districts are often major operators of indoor and outdoor sports facilities. School properties often abut residential property and are often unused during weekends and when school is out of session. Either through shared-use agreements or partnerships for community events, school properties and facilities have the potential to be utilized to fulfill temporary capacity issues for municipal or county parkland, events, or sporting events.

Local Government Partnerships

Municipalities operate parkland and facilities similar to many counties, both with the goal of providing park space, programming, and recreation to residents. Parklands within the County and in municipal ETJs can operate under shared-use agreements for parks maintenance and operation or one-time use agreements to fulfill resident's needs.

Regional Government Partnerships

River authorities and groundwater districts also operate parks, natural areas, and facilities similar to many counties, with the goals of water resources protection, flood mitigation and endangered species protection. Counties can enhance capacity by supporting these entities through shared resources, funding (i.e., direct costs, in-kind), or land acquisitions.

STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING

State and Federal funds are often crucial funding sources counties utilize to fund park improvements and projects. Grants are offered through Texas entities such as Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), Texas Forest Service, and the General Land Office (GLO). Several federal grant programs are also available through the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Agriculture (DOA), Department of Commerce, and Department of Health and Urban Development (HUD).

Some of the major grants offered by these entities include the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (DOA), Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program (DOA), Conservation Innovation Grant (DOA), Raise Grants (DOT), Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant (DOT), Environmental Education Grant Program (EPA), Environmental Justice Grants (EPA), Boat Sewage Pump out Grants (TPWD), Boating Access Grant (TPWD), Recreational Trails Grant (TPWD), the Landowner Incentive Program (TPWD). Local Grants through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (TPWD) and Community Development Block Grants (HUD).





CONCLUSION

In summary, the *Master Plan for Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas for Comal County* represents not just a document outlining goals and strategies, but a testament to the community's commitment to preserving its natural beauty and enhancing its recreational opportunities. Through robust public engagement, including statistically-valid surveys, stakeholder meetings, and open houses, the voices of Comal County residents have been heard and incorporated into the plan. This approach ensured that the vision laid out in the Master Plan resonates with the diverse needs and desires of the community and fits with the purview of Comal County's authority setting a solid foundation for future park investments and conservation efforts. With three central goals guiding its strategic direction, the plan delineates a path forward for sustainable growth and stewardship.



Goal One: BALANCING DEVELOPMENT & CONSERVATION THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT AND COLLABORATION

- 1.1 Maximize the Impacts of Open Spaces
- 1.2 Continue to Focus on Landowner Outreach
- 1.3 Integrate Preservation/Conservation Goals with Engineer's Office Responsibilities
- 1.4 Park Operations and Maintenance
- 1.5 Identify Finance Mechanisms to Support Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas
- 1.6 Support Conservation with Strategic Partners
- 1.7 Policy-Based Protections



Goal Two: ENHANCE RECREATIONAL CAPACITY

- 2.1 Support Park Improvements and Enhancements
- 2.2 Continue to Foster Water-based Recreational Activities

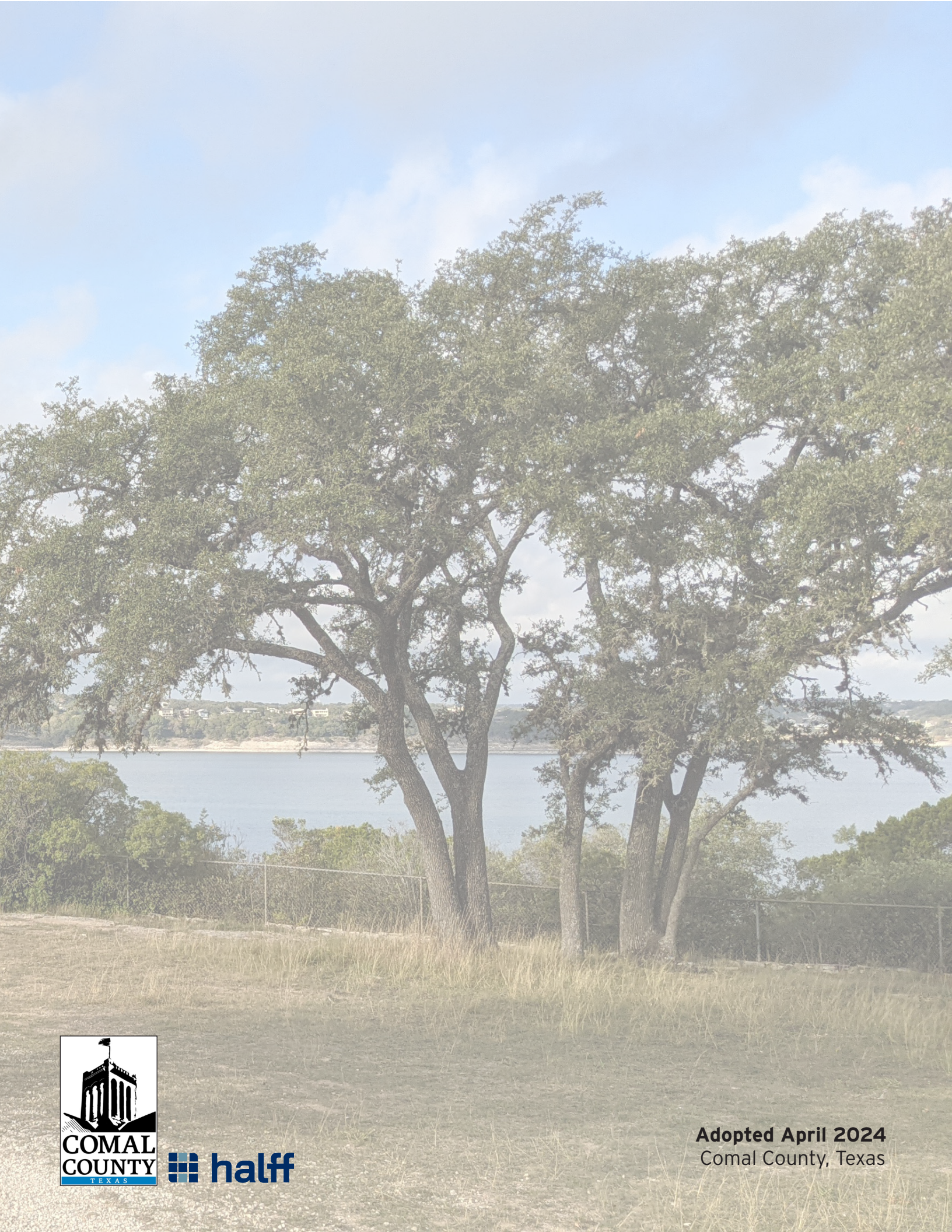


Goal Three: IMPROVE ACCESS TO PARKS & NATURAL AREAS

- 3.1 Add Park Amenities for All Users
- 3.2 Strengthen Communication with Local Governmental Entities Operating Parks

Finally, a comprehensive list in the report identifies a variety of potential funding sources at regional, state, and federal levels, as well as partnerships and grants. While Comal County is a very fiscally conservative county—as demonstrated by the survey results—there is widespread support for parks and open space initiatives and the use of donations, partnerships, and grants to see them realized. This Master Plan provides the first steps of a roadmap to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the natural wonders of Comal County for years to come.

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Adopted April 2024
Comal County, Texas



A Master Plan for Parks, Open Space & Natural Areas for Comal County

APPENDICES



Adopted April 2024
Comal County, Texas

COMMUNITY CONTEXT APPENDIX A





COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Introduction

Appendix A, Community Context, provides an overview of existing parks, recreation, natural areas, and sports facilities within Comal County, along with background on the growth and administration of Comal County. In summary, Appendix A includes:

- A Parkland and Facilities Inventory
- County Demographics and Growth Trends
- Hydrology and Topography Analysis
- Review of Existing County Administration
- Review of City and County Plans
- Regional County Comparison Analysis
- Summary of Partner Groups in Comal County

Regional Context

Comal County is a 575 square-mile county with 174,986 people between San Antonio and Austin, Texas. A clear strip of urban development and population can be seen connecting San Antonio to Austin, mostly comprising of single-family subdivision development, retail/commercial, and light industrial land uses.

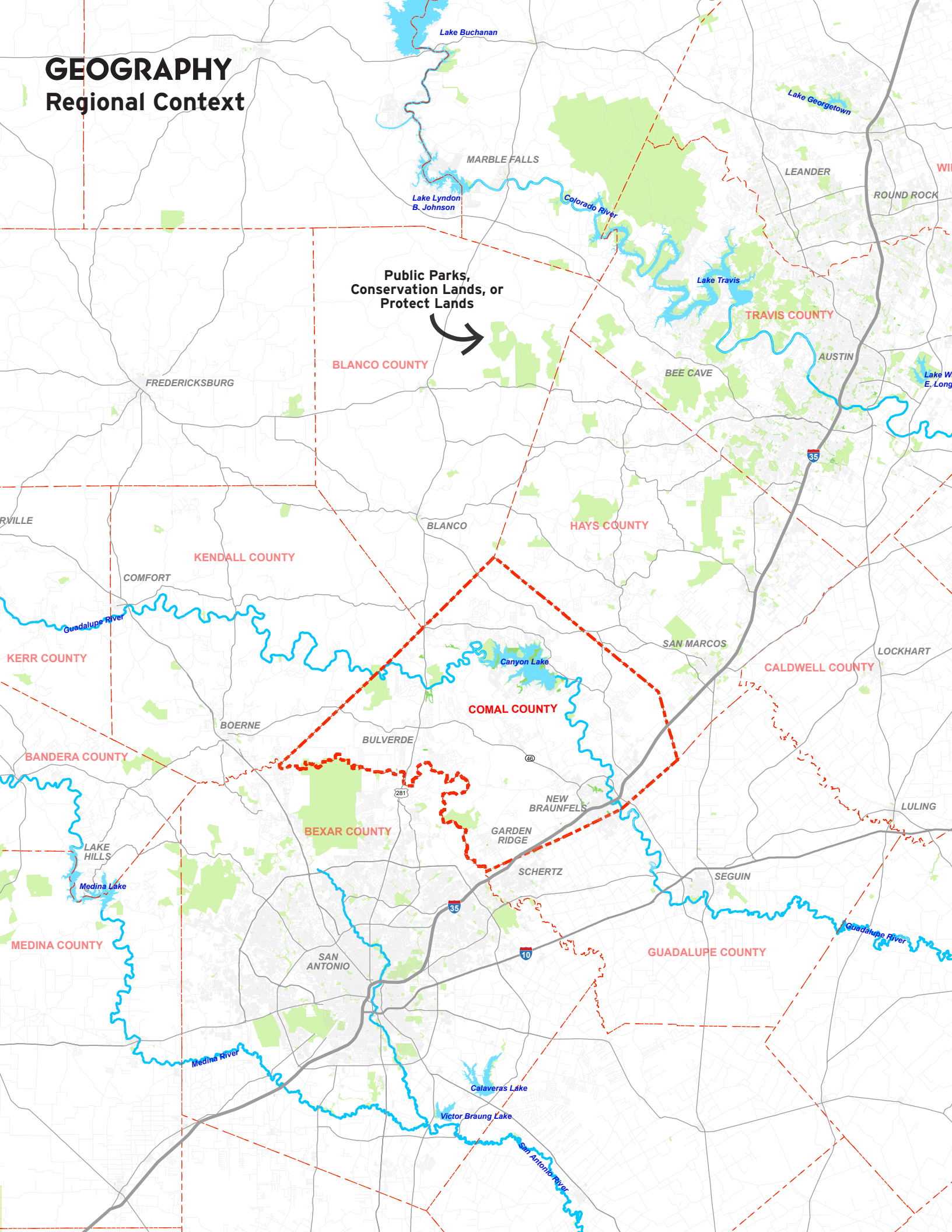
As depicted on Regional Context Map page A.5, counties within the Interstate-35 corridor have many acres of conservation lands, protected lands, and parkland scattered along the Edwards Aquifer. Counties such as Bandera, Bexar, Hays, and Travis have the largest amount of conserved lands in the region. Notably, counties outside of Bexar County such as Comal, Guadalupe, and Kendall Counties have limited to no conservation lands.

Rivers in the region run west to east ending at the Gulf of Mexico. Three distinct river basins are seen with the Colorado River (north), Guadalupe-Blanco River Basin (central), and the San Antonio River Basin (south).

Comal River near Prince Solms Park and Tube Chute
Image Source: New Braunfels Police Department

GEOGRAPHY

Regional Context



Comal County Communities

Communities

Comal County is comprised of six incorporated municipalities and a number of unincorporated areas. A majority of the population resides in three major population centers; 1, New Braunfels; 2, Canyon Lake; and 3, Bulverde. New Braunfels is the County seat of governance and the largest municipality by population and land area. These three parts of the County have seen the newest commercial and housing construction. Much of this growth is due to the proximity to I-35, US 281, and the northern expansion of the San Antonio suburbs. San Marcos, in neighboring Hays County, has a portion of their ETJ in Comal County and has begun to develop land closer to Comal County. In the far north and far west of the County, near Kendall and Blanco Counties, residential and commercial growth is slower or has not occurred yet. These portions of the county retain much of their original natural ranching heritage within the landscape.



Downtown New Braunfels
Source: City of New Braunfels

COMAL COUNTY	
Population: 174,986 (2021) Parks: 8,279 acres (approx.)	
Unincorporated Comal County	
Population: 63,850 (2021 approx.) Parks: 7,553 acres	
New Braunfels	Bulverde
Population: 98,857 (2021) Parks: 685.8 acres	Population: 6,010 (2021) Parks: 19.9 acres
Garden Ridge	Schertz
Population: 4,465 (2021) Parks: 19.9 acres	Population: 650 (2021 approx.) Parks: 0 acres
Fair Oaks Ranch	Spring Branch
Population: 1,000 (2021 approx.) Parks: 0 acres	Population: 154 (2021) Parks: 0 acres



Residential developments surrounding Canyon Lake
Source: San Antonio Board of Realtors

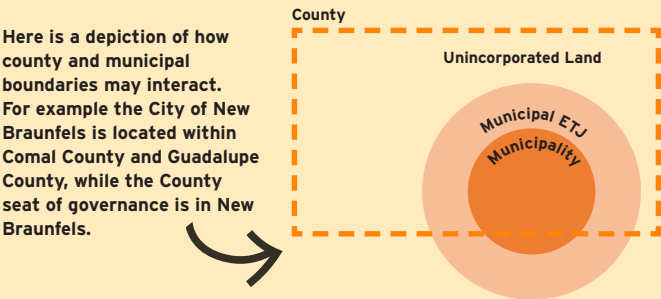
Texas' Extraterritorial Jurisdictions (ETJs)

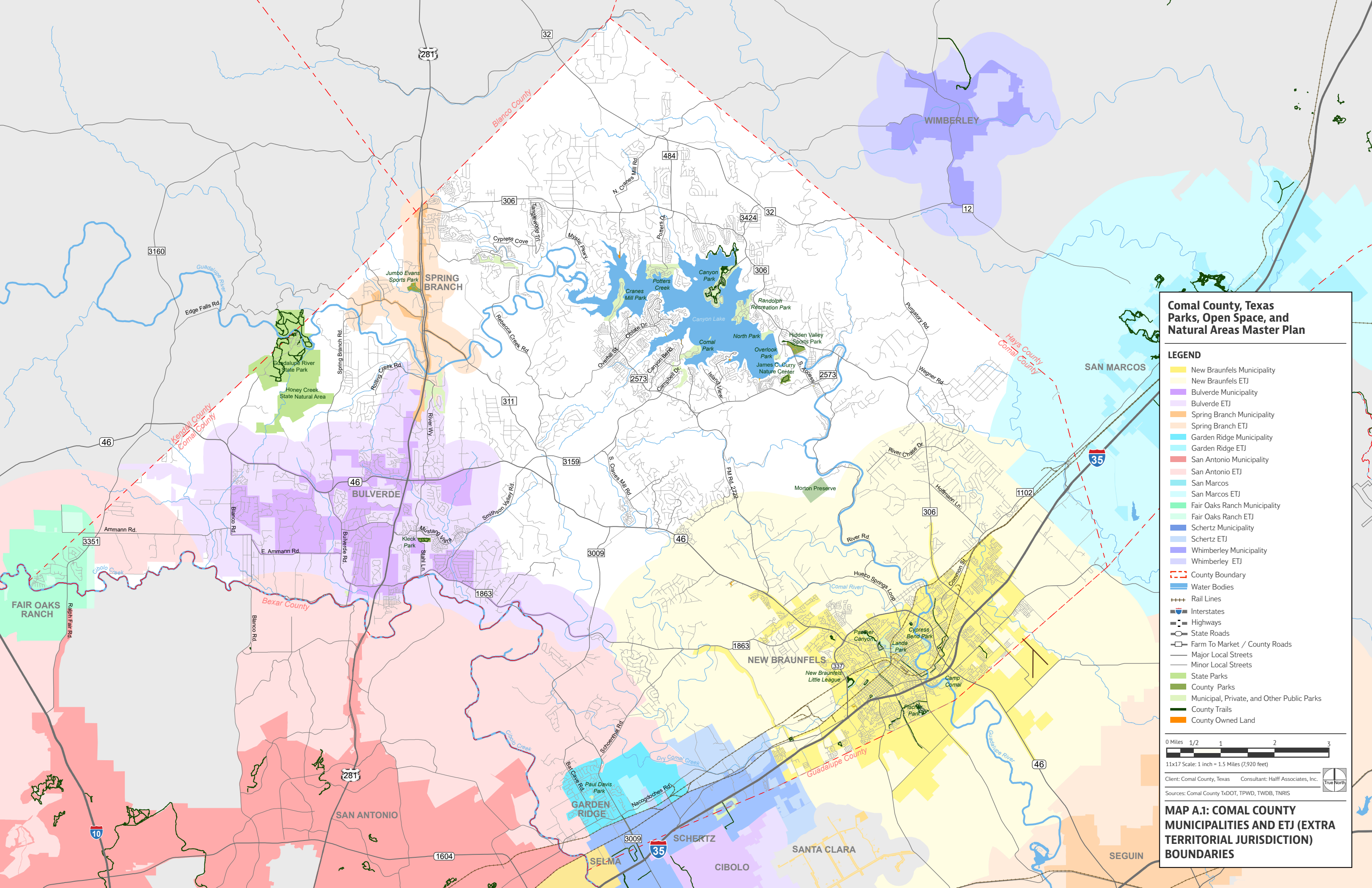
In Texas, most municipalities have an Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) zone beyond their formal municipal boundaries. As defined by the State of Texas Local Government Code (Title 2, Organization of Municipal Government (Subtitle C, Chapter 42)) an ETJ is defined as “the unincorporated area that is contiguous to the corporate boundaries of the municipality and that is located”... within a certain distance of those boundaries based on the municipality’s population size. For example, New Braunfels’ population, as of 2023 estimates, is over 100,000 people, meaning by State statute that their ETJ can extend within five miles of their municipal boundary.

A municipality has very limited authority to regulate development within its ETJ and this authority extends primarily to items like subdivisions, transportation and off-premise signs. ETJs are established with the intent that municipal expansion or incorporation of land will eventually occur within their established ETJ zone. This grants the municipality a way to regulate their future growth and plan around or mitigate major impactful developments such as industry and transportation.

In 2023, the Texas Legislature passed legislation providing property owners and residents an option to leave a city’s ETJ through letter, petition or election procedures. The legislation went into effect on September 1, 2023.

A county in Texas is typically comprised of three major jurisdictions; County level, Municipal level, and Municipal ETJ zones, each with their own set of regulatory laws and rights. The powers and authority of Comal County are further described in County Administration, on page A.31.





Comal County, Texas Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan

LEGEND

- New Braunfels Municipality
- New Braunfels ETJ
- Bulverde Municipality
- Bulverde ETJ
- Spring Branch Municipality
- Spring Branch ETJ
- Garden Ridge Municipality
- Garden Ridge ETJ
- San Antonio Municipality
- San Antonio ETJ
- San Marcos
- San Marcos ETJ
- Fair Oaks Ranch Municipality
- Fair Oaks Ranch ETJ
- Schertz Municipality
- Schertz ETJ
- Wimberley Municipality
- Wimberley ETJ
- County Boundary
- Water Bodies
- Rail Lines
- Interstates
- Highways
- State Roads
- Farm To Market / County Roads
- Major Local Streets
- Minor Local Streets
- State Parks
- County Parks
- Municipal, Private, and Other Public Parks
- County Trails
- County Owned Land

0 Miles 1/2 1 2 3
11x17 Scale: 1 inch = 1.5 Miles (7,920 feet)

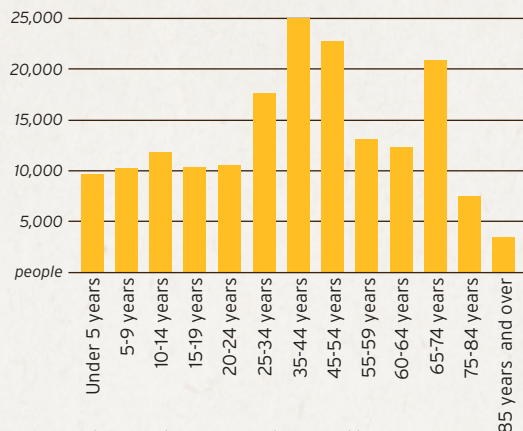
Client: Comal County, Texas Consultant: Halff Associates, Inc.
Sources: Comal County TxDOT, TPWD, TWDB, TNRIS

**MAP A.1: COMAL COUNTY
MUNICIPALITIES AND ETJ (EXTRA
TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION)
BOUNDARIES**

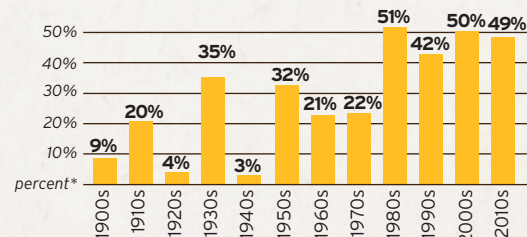
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Population Metrics

Comal County 2021 Population



Comal County Percent Growth



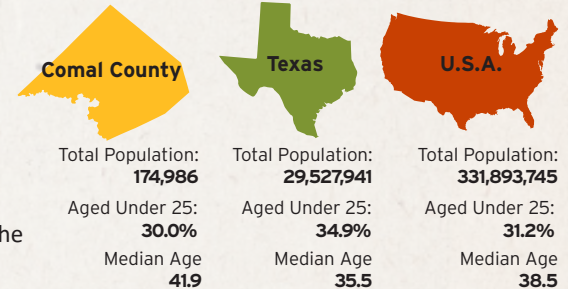
*percent growth from previous decade
Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) - U.S. Census Bureau

Population Age Comparison

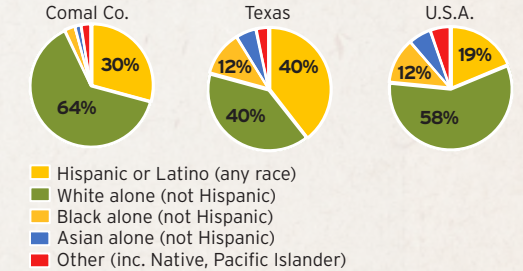
Comal Co.	5.5%	18%	6%	24%	27%	18%
Texas	6.4%	21%	7%	28%	24%	13%
U.S.A.	5.6%	19%	6.4%	26%	25%	17%

- Pre-K (under 5)
- K-12 (5-19)
- College-Young Adults (20-24)
- Young Adults (25-44)
- Adults (45-64)
- Senior (65+)

The population of Comal County, on average, is older than the State of Texas and the nation. A majority of Comal residents are between ages 25 and 54. On average, Comal County has less K-12 aged youth and young adults than the State of Texas. Comal County is less ethnically diverse than the State of Texas and nation with over 60 percent of the population identifying as 'white alone', compared to only 30 percent 'hispanic or latino' and only 3 percent 'black alone'.

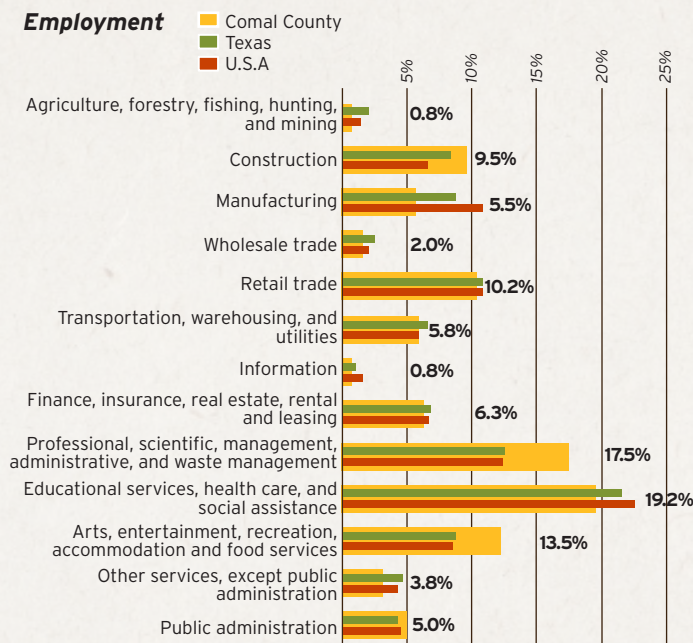


Ethnicity

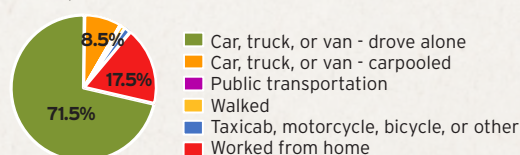


Economic Metrics

Employment

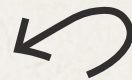


Transport To Work

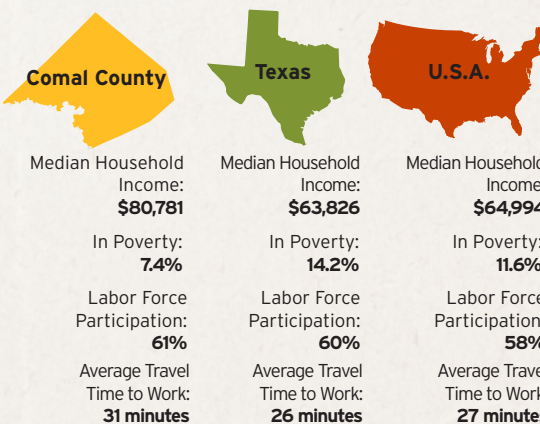
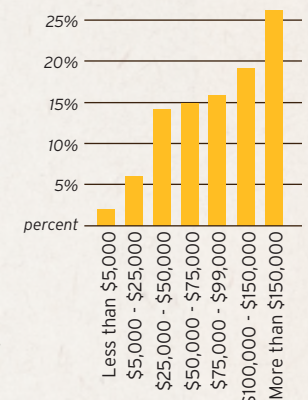


Data Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) - U.S. Census Bureau

The largest employment sectors include 'Professional etc.', Educational Services etc.', and 'Arts, Entertainment, etc.'. Comal County has higher rates of employment in the professional, scientific, arts, entertainment, and recreation sectors. A majority of Comal County households make more than \$75,000 annually. The County has higher rates of labor force participation and significantly lower poverty rates than Texas and the nation. A majority of employed people drive a personal vehicle to work, with a higher average travel time to work of 31 minutes.



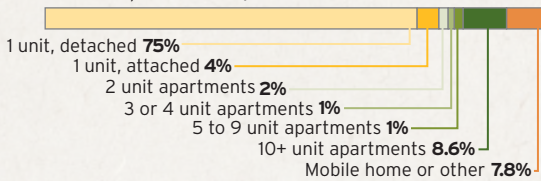
Household Income



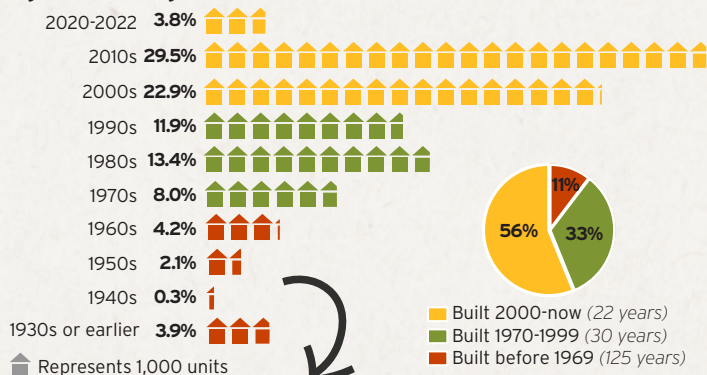
Housing Metrics

Number of Units in Housing Structures

Total Occupied Units: 74,278



Age of Housing Structures

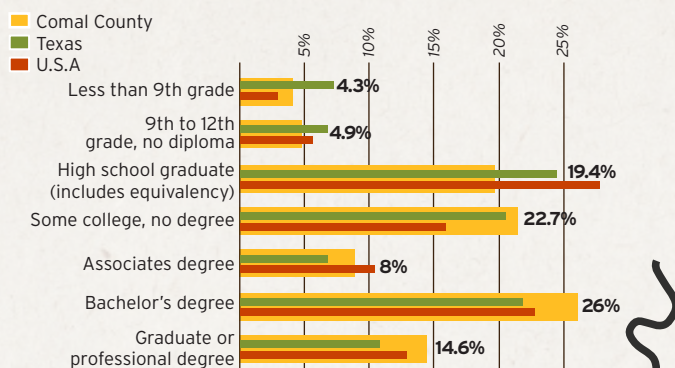


Approximately 80 percent, every 4 out of 5 residential units, in Comal County is a single family home. Approximately 13 percent of Comal residents live in multi-unit apartments. Around eight percent of Comal residents live in other types of housing such as prefabricated, manufactured homes, and boat houses. Over half of Comal County's current housing stock has been built within the last 20 years, representing only 12 percent of the time since New Braunfels establishment in 1845.

Data Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) - U.S. Census Bureau

Education Metrics

Educational Attainment



Comal County residents, on average, have higher education attainment rates than the State of Texas and the nation. Over a quarter of residents have a Bachelor's degree and over half of all residents have at least some college education.



High school graduate or higher
Comal: 90.8%
Texas: 84.4%
U.S.A.: 88.5%

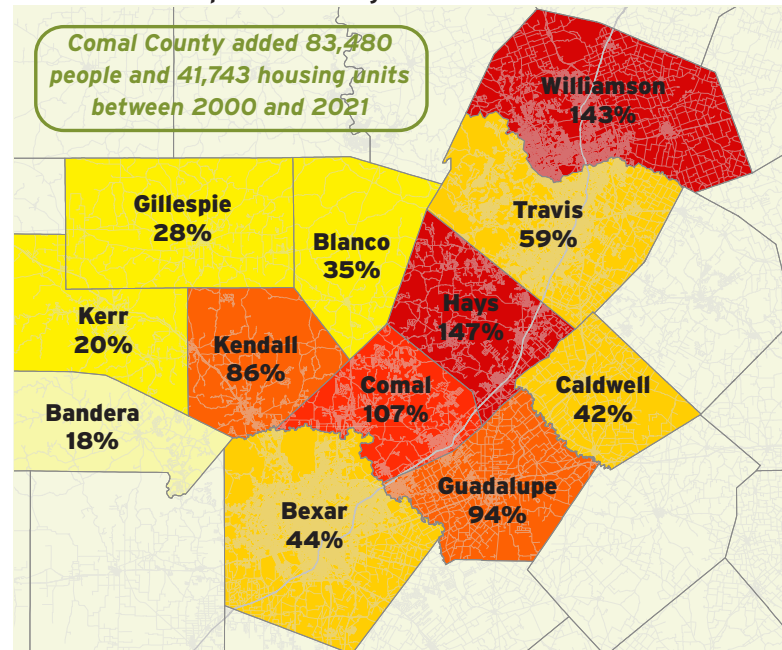


Bachelor's degree or higher
Comal: 40.6%
Texas: 30.7%
U.S.A.: 32.9%

Data Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) - U.S. Census Bureau

Growth and Population Projections

2000 to 2021 Population Change



Comal County added 83,480 people and 41,743 housing units between 2000 and 2021

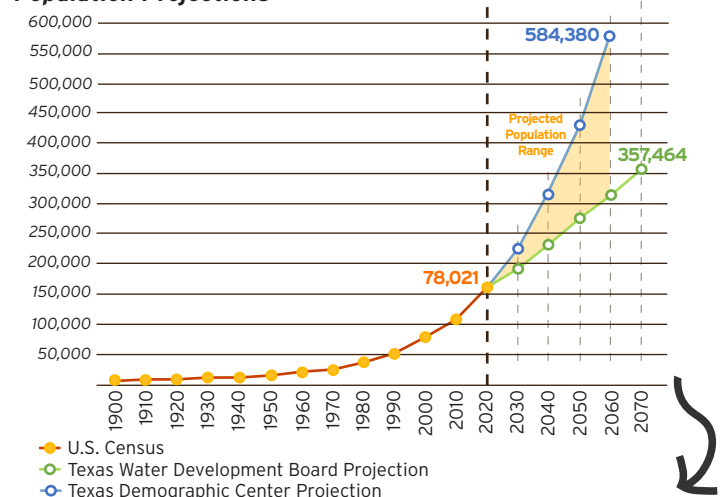
Comal County Growth (2000-2021)
Total County Growth: **+83,480**
Municipal Growth: **+37,540 (45%)**
Unincorporated Growth: **+45,940 (55%)**

New Braunfels: +33,258
Garden Ridge: +2,380
Fair Oaks Ranch: Approx. +750
Spring Branch: Approx. +61
Bulverde: +441
Schertz: Approx. +650

The central counties of Texas, between and around San Antonio (Bexar County) and Austin (Travis County), have been the fastest growing counties in Texas and the nation. Much of Comal County's 107 percent growth has been suburban development growth from San Antonio and New Braunfels.

Data Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) - U.S. Census Bureau

Population Projections



Comal County's population is expected to continue growing and will double by 2050. Comal County is expected to reach between 317,000 and 580,000 people by the year 2060.

Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) - U.S. Census Bureau, Texas Water Development Board 2022 Projections, Texas Demographic Center 2022 Population Projections for the State and Counties

Esri Tapestry Segmentation categorizes populations into 14 distinct ‘LifeMode Groups’ based on housing and demographic characteristics. The map to the right, *Tapestry LifeMode Groups*, shows the geographic distribution of the 14 LifeMode Groups, of which Comal County has nine Groups. A summary of each Group by population is below.

38.0% of Population

- Higher income earners
- Single-Family home owners
- Aged mid-40s
- Older children or recent empty-nesters
- Large disposable income
- Interest in passive outdoor activities

- Mid-level income earners
- Single-family homeowners
- Aged mid-40s to mid-60's
- Recent empty-nesters
- Minimal disposable income
- Interest in outdoor activities
- Rural lifestyle

- 11.4% of Population
- Mid to low-level income earners
- Mostly single-family home owners
- Aged mid-30s
- Family oriented activities
- 1 or more children
- Minimal disposable income
- Strip and retail shopping

- 8.2% of Population
- Mid to low-level income earners
- Home owners and renters
- Aged mid-30s to mid-60s
- Community driven
- Fickle spenders
- Small family households
- Interest in active outdoor activities

- 7.8% of Population
- Low-level income earners
- Home owners and renters
- Aged mid-30s to mid-60s
- lower-education rates
- Fickle spenders
- Small family households
- Interest in natural-landscapes and rural activities

- Low-level income earners
- Home owners and renters
- Aged mid-20s to mid-30s
- Multi-children households
- Interested in youth-based recreation
- Interest in active recreational trips and vacations

- 4.9% of Population
- Mid to low-level income earners
- Home owners and renters
- Aged mid-20s to mid-40s
- Smaller house sizes
- Young professionals and newcomers
- Interest in casual recreation and the environment

- Low-level income earners
- Home owners and renters
- Aged mid-50s to mid-80s
- Retired or empty-nester households
- Interested in arts, passive recreation, and community activities
- Enjoys traveling and attending cultural facilities

- Low-level income earners
- Mostly renters
- Aged 20 to mid-30s
- Interested in outdoor activities and social events
- Mostly single or couple householders with one to no children

Residents of Comal County are mostly middle-aged between 40 and 60 years old. The north part of the County has an older population with lower incomes who are more interested in passive-rural recreation. The central and west parts of the County has mostly a middle-aged population with children who are interested in outdoor family-oriented activities. Southeast Comal County, along I-35, is mostly young families interested in youth-based recreation and adventure-activities. Central New Braunfels has an older and younger population interested in community-based programs, smaller housing types, and live with usually one to no children.

Esri ArcGIS Business Analyst (Esri) is a geographic information database and analysis organization which compiles census data, economic data, national public surveys, and other mapping tools. Esri details information beyond census or demographic data to provide a more holistic detailed view at a community's economy, spending habits, development, growth, housing, and lifestyles.



New residential development in New Braunfels
Source: City of New Braunfels

Esri Sports and Leisure Market Potential Report 2022

Esri's 2022 Sports and Leisure Market Potential Report (SLMPR) assesses the amount of interest and time Comal County residents spend on specific sports and recreational activities. The SLMPR also provides a Market Potential Index score at base 100, demonstrating expected 2027 growth (100+) or an 2027 expected decline (100-), based on past surveying trends. The table below, *Top Sports and Leisure Behaviors* and *Behavior Findings*, lists the most participated in activities and their future potential market growth.

Top Sports and Leisure Behaviors

Product / Consumer Behavior	Numerical Participation in 2022 (people)	Percent Participation in 2022	Expected 2027 Growth
Watch sports on TV	86,197	61.3%	105
Participated in walking for exercise in last 12 months	48,868	34.7%	111
Watch on TV: football (NFL playoffs/Super Bowl)	48,341	34.4%	108
Attended movie in last 90 days: < once a month	48,159	34.2%	104
Barbecued in last 12 months	46,986	33.4%	110
Went to beach in last 12 months	44,768	31.8%	107
Did baking in last 12 months	43,881	31.2%	107
Played cards in last 12 months	28,535	20.3%	109
Participated in hiking in last 12 months	25,292	18.0%	112
Went to bar/night club in last 12 months	24,344	17.3%	102
Participated in swimming in last 12 months	24,399	17.3%	111
Bought for child last 12 months: board game	21,027	15.0%	103
Played computer game (online w/o software)/12 months	20,327	14.5%	97
Participate in indoor gardening/plant care	20,169	14.3%	107
Watch on TV: basketball (college)	19,931	14.2%	111
Attend sports events	19,650	14.0%	110
Went on overnight camping trip in last 12 months	19,591	13.9%	107
Participated in weight lifting in last 12 months	19,306	13.7%	109
Went to museum in last 12 months	18,839	13.4%	106
Visited a theme park in last 12 months	18,869	13.4%	93
Watch on TV: basketball (NBA playoffs/finals)	18,698	13.3%	94
Participated in bicycling (road) in last 12 months	17,585	12.5%	105
Participated in fishing (fresh water) in last 12 months	17,200	12.2%	115
Participated in bicycling (road) in last 12 months	17,585	12.5%	111
Gambled at casino in last 12 months	16,650	11.8%	104
Participated in jogging/running in last 12 months	16,454	11.7%	105
Went to zoo in last 12 months	16,424	11.7%	103
Did photography in last 12 months	15,825	11.3%	107
Went to live theater in last 12 months	15,763	11.2%	111
Participated in yoga in last 12 months	15,100	10.7%	104
Attended state/county fair in last 12 months	14,371	10.2%	100
Attended adult education course in last 12 months	14,174	10.1%	102
Participated in golf in last 12 months	14,008	10.0%	126

Complete data sets for the Esri Sports and Leisure Market Potential Report 2022 and the Esri Recreational Spending Index 2022 can be found in Appendix X, Appendix.

Sports, Leisure, and Spending Summary

Residents of Comal County mostly participate in passive recreational sports and leisure such as watching sporting events, walking, hiking, and swimming. Less participated in activities include cycling, fishing, yoga, and golf. These less participated-in leisure activities are popular nationally; however, the limited amount of participation could be due to a lack of regional interest, but also could be due to a lack of facilities or access. The sports and leisure activities expected to grow the most within Comal County includes more passive recreation such as golf and walking and also water-based recreation such as fishing and swimming. Comal residents spent the most per resident on sports participation fees (health clubs, sports leagues, recreational lessons, and equipment). The largest expected spending growth from 2022 on is in mostly water-based sports, particularly water sports equipment, boating fees and rentals, and camping fees.

Esri Recreational Spending Index 2022

Similar to the Esri's 2022 Sports and Leisure Market Potential Report, the Esri Recreational Spending Index 2022 (ERSI) assesses the amount of spending interest, and time Comal County residents spend on specific sports and recreational activities. The ERSI also provides a Spending Potential Index score at base 100, demonstrating expected 2027 growth (100+) or an 2027 expected decline (100-), based on past surveying trends. Listed below, *Spending Findings* notes the recreational activities residents spent the most on and the activities with the largest potential spending growth.

Behaviors Findings

Most Participated in Behaviors

61% Watch sports on TV
 35% Participated in walking for exercise in last 12 months
 34% Watch on TV: football (NFL playoffs/Super Bowl)
 34% Attended movie in last 90 days: < once a month
 33% Barbecued in last 12 months
 32% Went to beach in last 12 months
 20% Did baking in last 12 months
 20% Played cards in last 12 months
 18% Participated in hiking in last 12 months
 17% Participated in swimming in last 12 months

Behaviors with the Highest Expected Growth (+ from 100)

+26 Participated in golf in last 12 months
 +15 Participated in fishing (fresh water) in last 12 months
 +12 Participated in hiking in last 12 months
 +11 Participated in walking for exercise in last 12 months
 +11 Participated in swimming in last 12 months
 +11 Watch on TV: basketball (college)
 +11 Participated in bicycling (road) in last 12 months
 +11 Went to live theater in last 12 months
 +10 Barbecued in last 12 months
 +10 Attend sports events

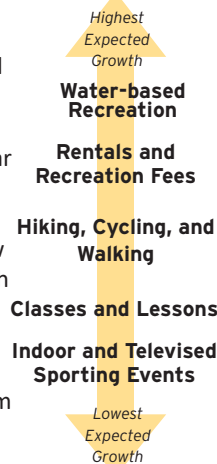
Spending Findings

Activities with the Highest Spending (per person average)

\$350.57 Fees for Social/Recreation/Health Clubs
 \$200.27 Fees for Recreational Lessons
 \$165.87 Fees for Participant Sports, excl.Trips
 \$133.74 Toys/Games/Arts/Crafts/Tricycles
 \$113.41 Tickets to Theatre/Operas/Concerts
 \$93.61 Admission to Sporting Events, excl.Trips
 \$78.78 Exercise Equipment and Gear, Game Tables
 \$77.10 Payments on Boats/Trailers/Campers/RVs
 \$75.01 Tickets to Movies
 \$63.31 Hunting and Fishing Equipment
 \$46.69 Tickets to Parks or Museums
 \$43.97 Camp Fees
 \$41.52 Bicycles
 \$31.99 Rental of Boats/Trailers/Campers/RVs
 \$29.54 Camping Equipment
 \$13.91 Docking and Landing Fees for Boats and Planes
 \$13.76 Water Sports Equipment

Highest Expected Spending Growth (+ from 100)

+46 Water Sports Equipment
 +34 Payments on Boats/Trailers/Campers/RVs
 +31 Docking and Landing Fees for Boats and Planes
 +29 Rental of Boats/Trailers/Campers/RVs
 +28 Admission to Sporting Events, excl.Trips
 +27 Fees for Participant Sports, excl.Trips
 +26 Exercise Equipment and Gear, Game Tables
 +25 Fees for Recreational Lessons
 +25 Camp Fees
 +25 Camping Equipment
 +24 Fees for Social/Recreation/Health Clubs
 +23 Bicycles



RECREATION IN COMAL COUNTY

Parkland Inventory

Comal County has over 8,330 acres (12.9 square miles) of public parkland and natural areas owned and operated by private, public, state, and national entities. Comal County has 33 K-12 schools with recreational facilities, 42 municipal parks, four State operated lands, eight federally-operated parks by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), and four privately-owned parks.

Parkland and natural areas in Comal County (575 square miles) accounts for only 0.22 percent of the County’s total land area. Of these 8,330 acres, only six parks (543.65 acres) are owned and/or operated by Comal County.

The following sections will highlight all of Comal County’s sports fields, parks, trails, open spaces, and water-recreational facilities. Although the focus of this Master Plan is on County-operated parkland, an awareness of the full scale of park facilities available to the public in Comal County can assist in the understanding of existing park service and needs.

Existing Parkland In Comal County 2023

543
acres

County-Owned and
Operated Parkland

960
acres

USACE Owned and
Operated Parkland

4,885
acres

State Owned and
Operated Parkland

2,007
acres

Privately Owned and
Operated Parkland

673
acres

Municipal Owned and
Operated Parkland

33
ISD

School District Park
Properties

32
public

Boat Ramps and
Kayak Launches

53
Miles

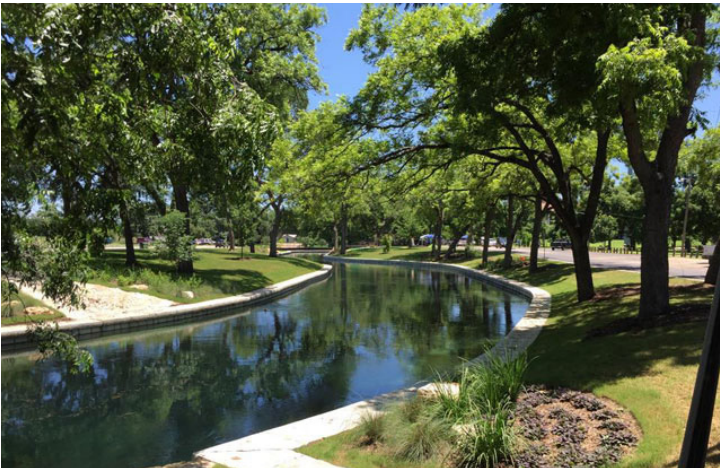
Off-street
Recreational Trails

Park Facilities

As shown in Table A.1, Park Facilities, a majority of parkland in Comal County is operated by the City of New Braunfels. Only six parks are owned and/or operated by Comal County. Other major park providers include the Water Oriented Recreation District (WORD) and the USACE, mainly at parks surrounding Canyon Lake. The City’s of Garden Ridge and Bulverde have limited city parkland mainly providing smaller neighborhood-scale park spaces.



Bulverde Community Park
Source: Halff



Landa Park in New Braunfels
Source: TourTexas



Garden Ridge Parks Committee next to a new playground at Paul Davis Park
Source: City of Garden Ridge

Table A.1: Park Facilities

Parks	Acres	Ownership	Operator	Access
Jumbo Evans Sports Park	64.3	Comal County	Comal County	Public
Kleck Park	43.5	Comal County	Comal County	Public
James C. Curry Nature Center	53.9	Comal County	Comal County	Public
Nichol's Landing	11.0	Comal County	Water Oriented Recreation District (WORD)	Public
Hidden Valley Sports Park	93.7	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Comal County	Public
Morton Tract	288.25	Comal County	Comal County	Public-Restricted
Guadalupe Trail Trailheads (north and south)	12.9	USACE	USACE	Public
Overlook Park	30.4	USACE	USACE	Restricted
North Park	53.2	USACE	USACE	Restricted
Canyon Lake Gorge	82.0	USACE	Canyon Lake Gorge Preservation Society	Restricted
Comal Park	116	USCAE	WORD	Restricted
Cranes Mill Park	80.0	USACE	USACE	Restricted
Canyon Park	550.0	USACE	WORD	Restricted
Randolph Recreation Park	36.0	USACE	Joint Base San Antonio	Private
Solms Park	7.8	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Mission Hill Park	10.0	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Puppy Playland Dog Park	13.1	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Dry Comal Nature Trail	20.2	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Jesse Garcia Park	1.0	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
HEB Soccer Fields	14.4	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
New Braunfels Cemetery	4.86	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Ernest Eikel Field	4.1	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Walnut Avenue Pocket Park	2.51	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Neighborhood Park	0.43	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Main Plaza	0.4	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Market Plaza	0.77	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Das Rec (Recreation Center)	6.54	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Tube Chute	1.91	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Garden Street Tubers Exit	0.04	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Lindheimer Plaza	0.25	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Haymarket Plaza	3.47	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Faust Street Bridge	1.14	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Union Street Tuber Exit	0.3	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Panther Canyon	44.85	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Fredericksburg Fields	5.87	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Landa Park	56.92	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Landa Golf Course	114.58	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Prince Solms Park	15.52	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Cypress Bend	18.1	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Comal Cemetery	33.22	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Torrey Park	4.93	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Crest Lane Greenbelt	4.44	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Alligator Creek Greenbelt	46.0	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Timmerman Park	2.18	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Alves Lane	3.27	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Camp Comal	42.78	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Fischer Park	62.53	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
County Line Memorial Trail	53.92	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Morningside Park	17.02	City of New Braunfels	City of New Braunfels	Public
Paul Davis Park	14.59	City of Garden Ridge	City of Garden Ridge	Public
Harvey B. Bell Park (20503 Cedar Cavern)	1.07	City of Garden Ridge	City of Garden Ridge	Public
Paul Davis Park	14.59	City of Garden Ridge	City of Garden Ridge	Public
Eagle Scout Park	0.77	City of Garden Ridge	City of Garden Ridge	Public
Regency Oaks Park	1.57	City of Garden Ridge	City of Garden Ridge	Public
Garden Ridge Communtiy Center	1.4	City of Garden Ridge	City of Garden Ridge	Public
Bulverde Community Park	13.5	City of Bulverde	City of Bulverde	Public
Bulverde Community Center	6.4	City of Bulverde	City of Bulverde	Public
Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch	450.0	NBWR Properties LTD	NBWR Properties LTD	Private
Natural Bridge Caverns	N/A	Wuest Legacy Partners LTD	Wuest Legacy Partners LTD	Private
Bracken Cave Preserve	1,521	Bat Conservancy International	Bat Conservancy International	Restricted
Cibolo Bluffs Nature Preserve	653.0	Cibolo Preserve	Cibolo Preserve/TNC/TPWD	Public-Restricted
Guadalupe State Park	1,938.70	TPWD	TPWD	Public
Honey Creek State Natural Area	2,293.70	TPWD	TPWD	Public

Public = open access; Public Restricted = by agreement of special permit only; Restricted = fee or ownership based, etc.

Trail Facilities

As shown in Table A.2, Trails, 16 hike and bike trails and one paddling (kayak and canoe) trail currently exist in Comal County. Most trails in the County are owned and operated by local, state, or federal entities. Comal County owns and operates, with assistance from the Comal Trails Alliance, six trails in the county. Public access trails operated by Comal County include the trails at Kleck Park and the Curry Nature Center. The Guadalupe River North and South Trails found at Hidden

Valley Sports Park are owned by the USACE. County trail facilities are unpaved and utilized as hike and bike trails with some mountain biking opportunities at Kleck Park and the Curry Nature Center. The largest trail systems in the County are located on restricted access State and privately-owned parkland. The largest public access trail is located at Guadalupe State Park.

Table A.2: Trails*

Trails	Length (Miles)	Ownership	Operator	Purpose
James C. Curry Nature Center Trail	0.9	Comal County	Comal County	Hiking and Mountain Biking
Kleck Park Trails	1.28	Comal County	Comal County	Hiking
Tye Preston Library Trail	1.1	Comal County	Comal County	Hiking
Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce Trail	0.75	Comal County	Comal County	Hiking and Mountain Biking
Morton Preserve Paths	0.3	Comal County	Comal County	Hiking (Private)
Nichol's Landing Paddling Trail	9.9	Comal County/WORD	Comal County/WORD	Paddling
County Line Memorial Trail	2.18	City of New Braunfels (New Braunfels)	New Braunfels	Hike and Bike Trail
Dry Comal Nature Trail	2.25	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	Hiking and Mountain Biking
Panther Canyon	1.85	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	Hiking
Guadalupe State Park	15.4	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)	TPWD	Hiking
Guadalupe River South Trail	1.8	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	USACE	Hiking and Mountain Biking
Old Hancock Trail	3.5	USACE	USACE	Hiking and Horseback Riding
Madrone Trails at Canyon Park	7.6	USACE	WORD	Hiking and Mountain Biking
Canyon Lake Gorge Overlook Trail	1.3	USACE	USACE	Hiking
Canyon Lake Dam Walkway	1.7	USACE	USACE	Walking Trail
Totals	51.81	-	-	-

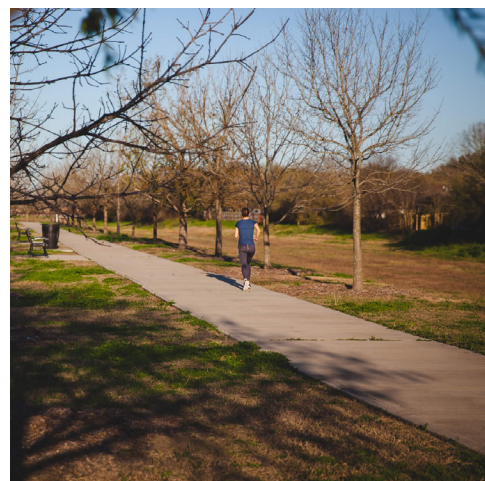
*Note that internal park pathways and trail loops in municipal parks are not included in Table 2.2, *Trails*.



Guadalupe River South Trail
Source: Halff



Madrone Trails at Canyon Park
Source: Comal Trails Alliance



County Line Memorial Trail
Source: Comal Trails Alliance

Boat Ramps and Kayak Launches

As shown in Table A.3, Boat Ramps and Kayak Launches, 32 public access boat ramps, kayak launches, and tubing locations currently exist in Comal County. A majority of boat ramps are along Canyon Lake serving mainly tourists and homeowners near Canyon Lake. Three additional boat ramps are located along the Guadalupe River at Nichols Landing, Comal Park, and near River Ranch. Additional kayak and tubing locations are found along the Guadalupe River in New Braunfels and Guadalupe River State Park. Currently there are no public access kayak launches along Cibolo Creek or any other waterway in Comal County not already listed.

Lastly, many of the County's waterways are shallow or run dry for much of the year restricting the opportunities for feasible kayak and boat launch sites.



Private Kayak and Tubing launch point along the Guadalupe River
Source: Shanty river Center

Table A.3: Boat Ramps and Kayak Launches

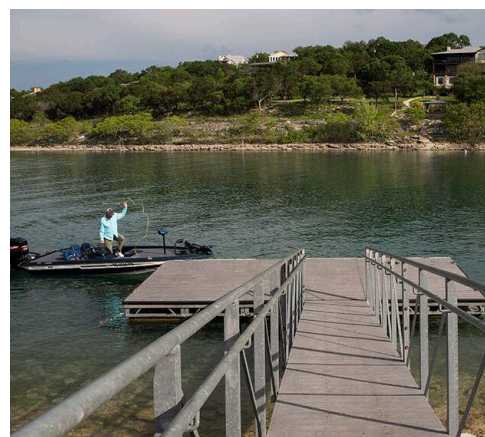
Ramp or Launch	Name	Owner/Operator
Canyon Lake Ramp 1	Skyline Park or Canyon Dam	USACE/Comal County
Canyon Lake Ramp 2	Turkey Cove	USACE/Comal County
Canyon Lake Ramp 3	Comal Park 1	USACE/WORD
Canyon Lake Ramp 4	Comal Park 2	USACE/WORD
Canyon Lake Ramp 5	Tom Creek 1	USACE/Comal County
Canyon Lake Ramp 6	Tom Creek 2	USACE/Comal County
Canyon Lake Ramp 7	Lakeview Drive	USACE/Comal County
Canyon Lake Ramp 8	Lakeview Drive	USACE/Comal County
Canyon Lake Ramp 9	Crane's Mill Marina	USACE/Crane's Mill Marina
Canyon Lake Ramp 10	Crane's Mill	USACE
Canyon Lake Ramp 11	Rebecca Creek	USACE/Comal County
Canyon Lake Ramp 12	Lake Canyon Yacht Club	USACE/Lake Canyon Yacht Club
Canyon Lake Ramp 13	Sunny Side	USACE/Joint Base San Antonio
Canyon Lake Ramp 14	Jacob's Creek 1	USACE/Joint Base San Antonio
Canyon Lake Ramp 15	Jacob's Creek 2	USACE/Joint Base San Antonio
Canyon Lake Ramp 16	Hancock Cove	USACE/Joint Base San Antonio
Canyon Lake Ramp 17	Hancock Cove	USACE
Canyon Lake Ramp 18	Canyon Park	USACE/WORD
Canyon Lake Ramp 19	Canyon Lake Marina	USACE/Canyon Marina
Canyon Lake Ramp 20	Potter's Creek Park	USACE
Canyon Lake Ramp 21	Potter's Creek West	USACE
Canyon Lake Ramp 22	Lakeshore Drive	USACE/Comal County
Canyon Lake Ramp 23	North Crane's Mill Road	USACE/Comal County
Nichol's Landing Boat Ramp	Nichol's Landing Park	WORD
TPWD Boat Ramp	Guadalupe at I-35 (near River Ranch)	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Cypress Bend Park Kayak Ramp	Cypress Bend Park	City of New Braunfels
Nichol's Paddle Trail Kayak Launch 1	Guadalupe at FM 311	WORD
Nichol's Paddle Trail Kayak Launch 2	Guadalupe at Rebecca Creek	WORD
Horseshoe Kayak Launch 1	Horseshoe Bend	N/A
Horseshoe Kayak Launch 2	Horseshoe Bend	N/A
Guadalupe State Park Kayak Launch	Guadalupe State Park	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Comal River Tube Chute	Prince Solms Park	City of New Braunfels



Nichol's Landing
Source: WORD CC



Full boat ramp facility along Canyon Lake
Source: My Canyon Lake



Canyon Lake Boat Ramp 2 floating dock
Source: Herald-Zeitung, Mikala Compton

Existing and Proposed Parks, Trails, and Protected Land

Parkland

The largest land areas of parkland and natural areas in Comal County are owned or operated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and The Nature Conservancy, including Guadalupe River State Park, Cibolo Bluffs Nature Preserve, Bracken Cave Preserve, and Honey Creek State Natural Area.

Parkland is concentrated in four major geographical regions of Comal County: 1, surrounding Canyon Lake; 2, the City of New Braunfels; 3, Cibolo Creek north of Garden Ridge; and 4, Guadalupe River near Spring Branch Road. Residents near Bulverde, in the central-south, far north, and far east sides of Comal County do not have any major parkland or natural areas in their region.

Conservation Land

Currently only three properties are designated as conservation lands by the National Conservation Easement Database. The property includes Goodbull Ranch (at FM 311 and US 281), Natural Bridge Caverns, and the Cibolo Bluffs Preserve and the Cibolo Canyon Conservation Easement Area (adjacent to the Bracken Cave Preserve at Natural Bridge Cavern Road). In total, Comal County has approximately 9,100 acres of The Nature Conservancy designated conservation lands.

Habitat Preservation

The Golden-cheeked Warbler (Warbler) is a federally endangered species native to Comal County. The species is closely monitored to assess habitat loss, migration patterns, and mating patterns. The Warbler can thrive in landscapes with a dense tree canopy and scattered savannas, featuring Live Oak, Ashe Juniper, and Honey Mesquite. The Comal County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan highlights critical zones of habitation for the Warbler including the endangered Black-capped Vireo. A majority of the Warbler habitat surrounds undeveloped areas, partially around Camp Bullis (near Bulverde), central Comal County (near the Morton Preserve), areas between Garden Ridge and New Braunfels and northeast of Canyon Lake near Purgatory Creek.

New Braunfels Hike and Bike Trail Plan (2020)

The City of New Braunfels has developed plans to construct a number of bicycle lanes, shared-use paths, and trails. Many of the trails extend into New Braunfels's ETJ zone, connecting rural areas to the Downtown. The Plan highlights eight opportunity areas for future trail development along Dry Comal Creek, Alligator Creek, Downtown, and Countyline Memorial Trail Extension. The West Alligator Creek Trail and Dry Comal Creek Greenway Trail will be under construction in 2024. Additionally a number of trails are proposed in New Braunfels ETJ along waterways and major thoroughfares, including East Fork of the Dry Comal Creek, Guadalupe River, FM 306, and TX 46. Facilities are planned to be constructed as roadway expansion and reconstruction occurs. The Plan notes that trail facilities along major thoroughfares connecting green spaces and subdivisions could reduce vehicle miles traveled for short distance trips.

Additional proposed trails and bicycle facilities are depicted on Map 2.2 within the City of Schertz and City of San Marcos, each with their own associated Master Plan document. If the trail systems are developed by each municipality, a contiguous connection from south to northeast Comal County will be possible by way of bicycle or walking parallel to the Interstate 35 corridor.

Boat Ramps

As previously described on page A.15, boat ramps are concentrated around Canyon Lake. There are a small number of boat ramps along Dry Cibolo Creek near Bulverde, and the Guadalupe River in New Braunfels, such as at the Rebecca Creek Road Bridge. There is currently one dedicated kayak/canoe only launch point in Comal County at Nichol's Landing, and an additional one is planned for by New Braunfels at River Acres Park.

Water Access Points

There are a number of locations along the Guadalupe River and Comal River that are designated as water-recreation or swimming zones. There are four designated swimming zones along Canyon Lake operated by WORD. Additional swimming zones in New Braunfels are located in Landa Park, Hinman Island, Prince Solms Park, River Acres Park, and Cypress Bend Park. Additional water access points are found throughout Comal County where canoes and tubing can occur. For example, the "Horseshoe" along FM 306 is a popular tubing location, although it does not have formal public parking there are future plans for sidewalks and a pedestrian bridge.

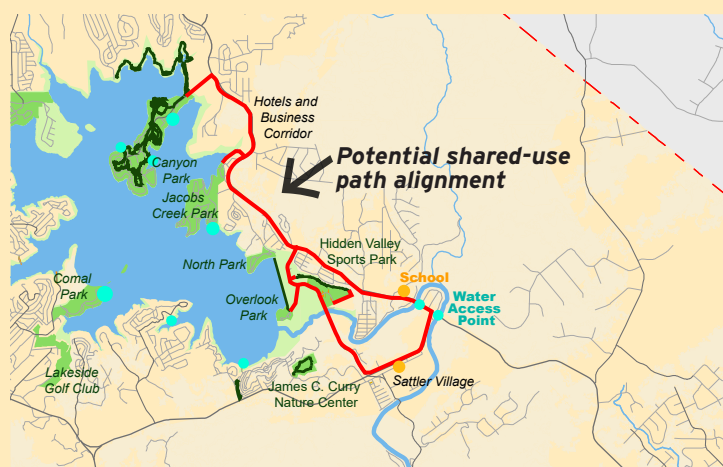
Trails

As previously described on page 2.14, there are over 53 miles of existing trails in Comal County maintained by the USACE, City of New Braunfels, Comal County, and the State. Existing trails in the County are typically about one-mile unpaved hiking trails with a small trailhead with parking. The existing trails do not connect to other trail systems, bicycle facilities, or sidewalks, meaning residents have to drive to use a trail.

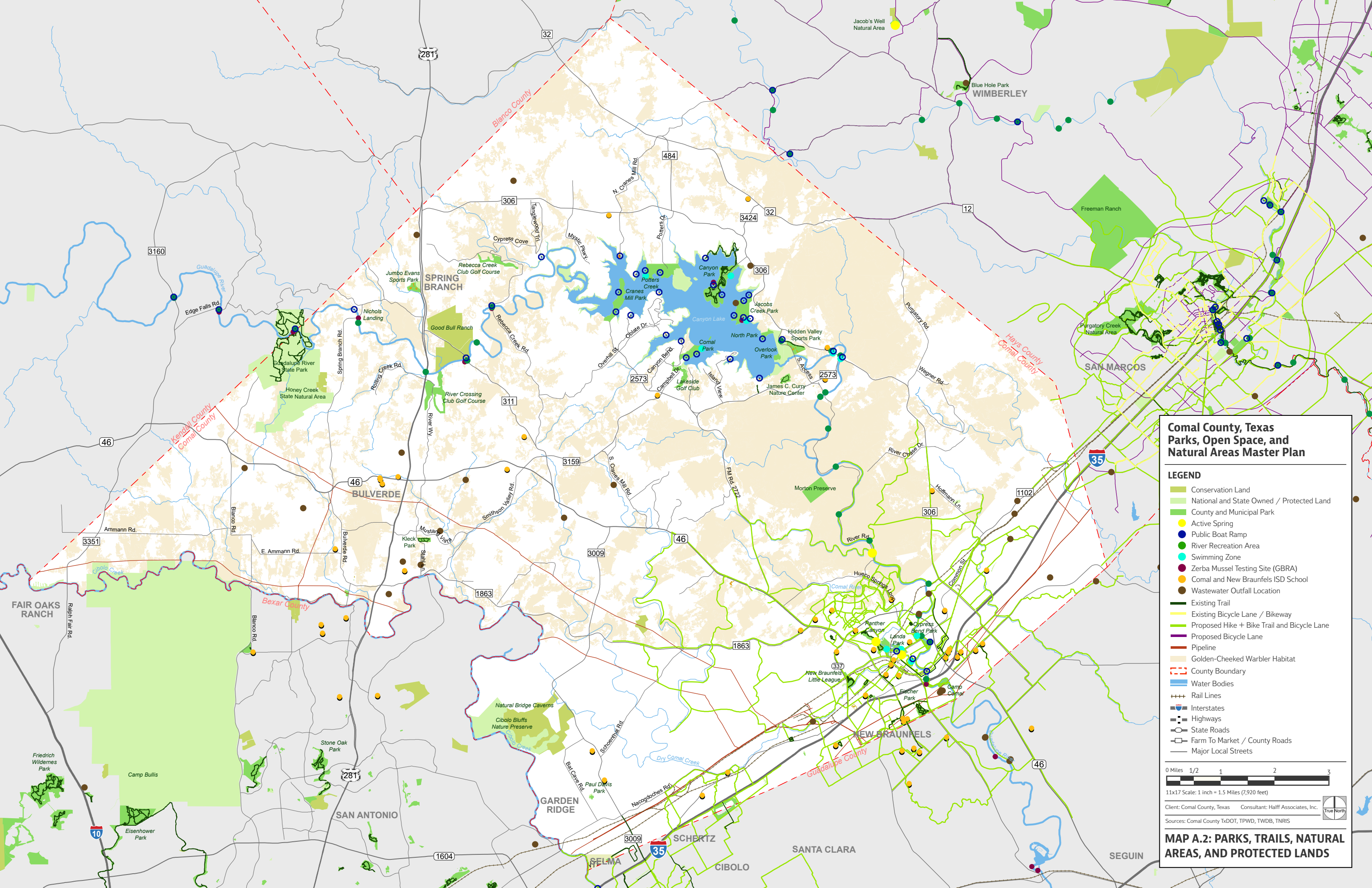
Wastewater Outfalls

Wastewater outfall locations are areas where treated water is discharged from treatment plants or facilities. Contaminant levels are closely monitored to ensure the safety and health of the environment and water-recreation users. People who live on the lower part of a river system, away from the headwaters, may have more concern over wastewater outfalls due to the increased concentration of outfall downstream after each outfall location. Within the mapped area, there are nine outfalls that lead into Cibolo Creek, three outfalls that lead into Dry Comal Creek, and 12 that lead into the Guadalupe River.

Canyon Lake North Shore Trail Opportunities Concept



The above conceptual trail alignments (shown in red) connects the existing concentration of trails, parkland, schools, water access points, hotels, and businesses within the Sattler and FM 306 corridor.



Existing Park Facilities and Amenities

Park facilities in Comal County are concentrated in New Braunfels and parks surrounding Canyon Lake. Facilities in New Braunfels are owned and operated by the New Braunfels Parks and Recreation Department and open to the public.

Comal County owns and manages two sports parks with park facilities, but the sports fields are limited to the public as each field is under a maintenance and leasing contract with local sports associations. Facilities at the sports parks are mostly limited to ball fields and sports courts. The cities of Bulverde and Garden Ridge both have limited park facilities located at community parks and community centers. These facilities include at least two playgrounds, one baseball field, and a few sports courts.

Canyon Lake Facilities

Parkland surrounding Canyon Lake is open to the public, but with most all access requiring a fee. Parks such as Cranes Mill Park, Comal Park, Canyon Park, and Overlook Park feature park trails, pavilions, swimming zones, frisbee golf and boat ramps. As heard in initial stakeholder meetings and public engagement (see pages B.5 to B.23) regional demand for access to parks surrounding Canyon Lake has increased placing greater strain on access to the park facilities for locals.

HOA Facilities

Residents in most newer subdivision developments have Home Owners Association (HOA) parks for subdivision resident use only. These parks often feature a sports court, open field space, a playground, and a swimming pool. For these residents the HOA facilities may meet the need for active recreation, but may not meet the need of passive recreation such as walking trails, nature watching, and cycling.

Community Resource and Recreation Center of Canyon Lake

The Community Resource and Recreation Center of Canyon Lake (CRRC) is a non-profit organization which provides Comal County with two indoor recreation centers, a community garden, disaster relief, a thrift store, food bank, community health information, and community/senior programming. One public indoor recreation center is located at 1909 FM 2673 in Sattler, with a thrift store and offices. The second public indoor space is at Hidden Valley Sports Park (leased from the USACE), along with a community garden. The CRRC also hosts a Christmas market, a 5K Thanksgiving run, and pickle ball tournaments. For more information about the CRRC, see Appendix C, Organizational Directory, Page C.17.



Hidden Valley Community Garden and indoor recreation space
Source: Halfp

Indoor Recreation

Currently there are two major indoor sports and recreation facilities in Comal County. The first is Das Rec in New Braunfels, which is a membership-based facility. Das Rec has indoor fitness rooms, kinder care facilities, an indoor pool, running track, and sports courts. The second indoor space is the Community and Recreation Center of Canyon Lake (CRRC), located in Sattler (see the CRRC sidebar below). There is an additional proposed sports park which will feature outdoor and indoor sports facilities in New Braunfels. The proposed Zipp Family Sports Park would be located in south New Braunfels next to Long Creek High School in Guadalupe County.

Limited Facilities

Regions of the County which do not have access to any park facilities are typically on the far edges of the county, such as near Fair Oaks Ranch, River Chase, and Fischer. These regions mostly consist of unincorporated lands of older subdivisions, with larger lots, or undeveloped farm/ranch land. Residents of these neighborhoods may have to drive 15 minutes to access a park facility or natural area for recreation. In addition, the County currently lacks public open spaces or trail systems (with the exception of New Braunfels) for residents not interested in sports fields.

Lighter shaded dots on Map A.3 indicate a park facility that is not public. These facilities are owned by a HOAs, churches, school districts, or private recreation providers.

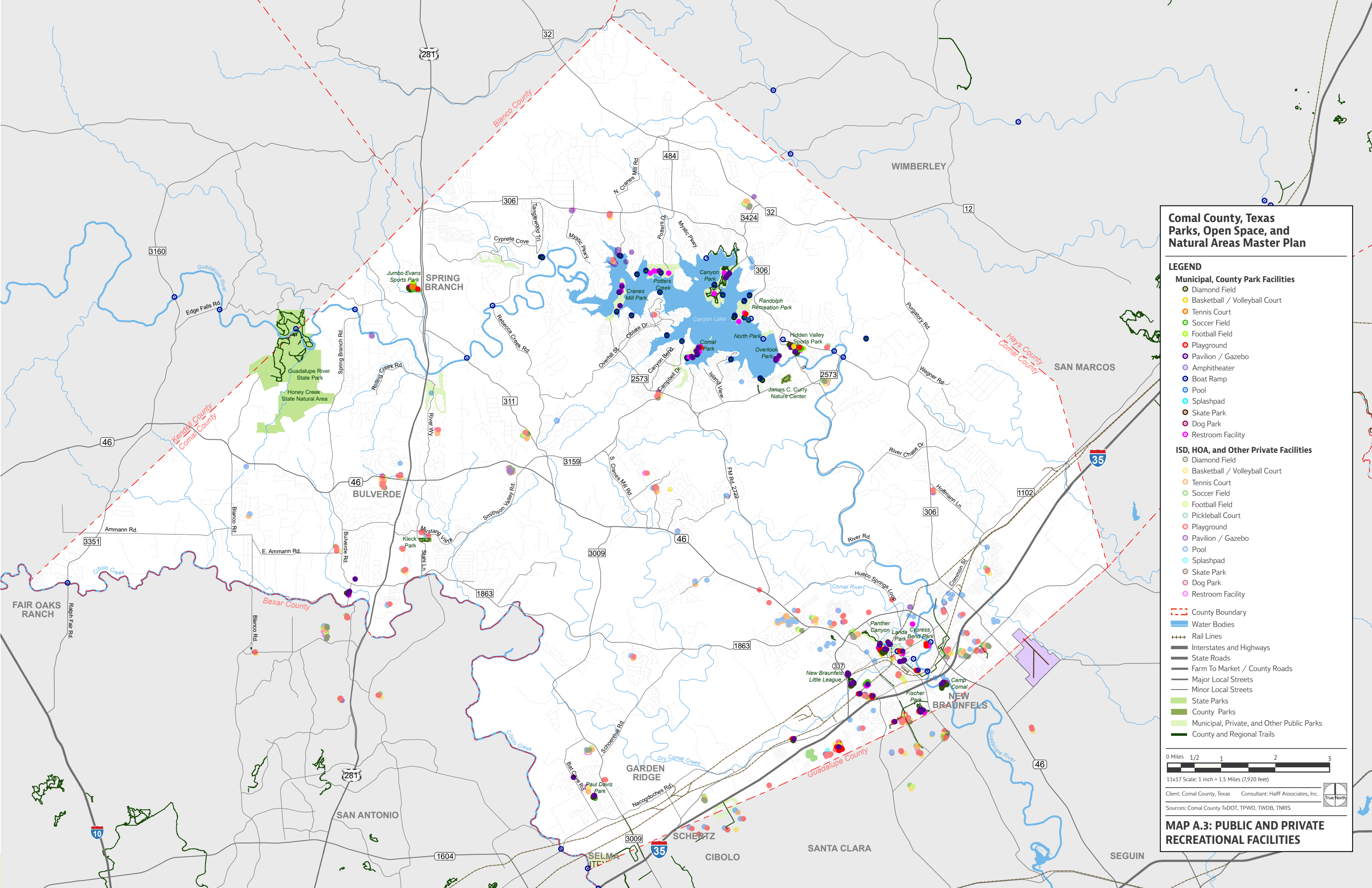


Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country

The Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country is an almost 25-acres indoor and outdoor natural history museum showcasing prehistoric dinosaur footprints and track ways and Native American exhibits. The museum offers paid guided boardwalk tours, three outdoor gardens and trails, and admissions to indoor exhibits. Indoor exhibits include antique and vintage tools and farming accessories from the 1800s, Native pre-American exhibits about migration and lifestyles, and fossil displays. The Museum also hosts week-long youth summer camps and hosts school field trips. The mission of the Museum is to showcase the rich history and importance of the natural landscape/heritage within the Texas Hill Country.



Showcase of fossils and footprint tracks at a Heritage Museum pavilion
Source: Enchanting Texas



Comal County, Texas Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan

LEGEND

Municipal, County Park Facilities

- Diamond Field
- Basketball / Volleyball Court
- Tennis Court
- Soccer Field
- Football Field
- Playground
- Pavilion / Gazebo
- Amphitheater
- Boat Ramp
- Pool
- Splashpad
- Skate Park
- Dog Park
- Restroom Facility

ISD, HOA, and Other Private Facilities

- Diamond Field
- Basketball / Volleyball Court
- Tennis Court
- Soccer Field
- Football Field
- Pickleball Court
- Playground
- Pavilion / Gazebo
- Pool
- Splashpad
- Skate Park
- Dog Park
- Restroom Facility

Map Symbols

- County Boundary
- Water Bodies
- Rail Lines
- Interstates and Highways
- State Roads
- Farm To Market / County Roads
- Major Local Streets
- Minor Local Streets
- State Parks
- County Parks
- Municipal, Private, and Other Public Parks
- County and Regional Trails

0 Miles 1/2 1 2 3

11x17 Scale: 1 inch = 1.5 Miles (7,920 feet)

Client: Comal County, Texas Consultant: Half Associates, Inc.

Sources: Comal County TxDOT, TPWD, TWDB, TNRIS

**MAP A.3: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The following pages provide an overview of Comal County's historical and current natural landscape, including topography, hydrology, tree canopy cover, and flora/fauna. Understanding the existing regional make-up of natural resources is critical to plan for future develop, growth, programming, and investment for a community.

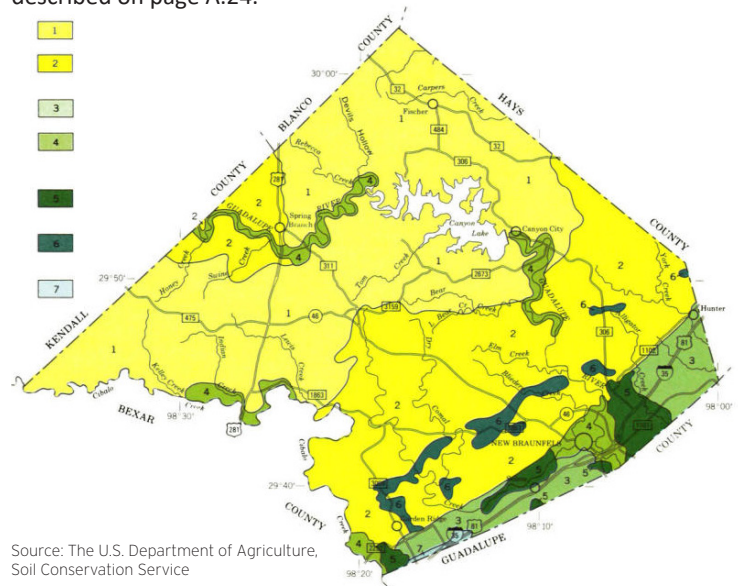
Topography

As shown in Map A.4, Comal County Elevations and Peaks, on the facing page, Comal County has a wide variation of topography and elevations throughout the County. Generally, as one heads further west the elevations increase. Lands along Interstate 35 are generally flat with visible valleys surrounding Dry Comal Creek and York Creek. The valley which contains Canyon Lake is clearly visible with higher elevations surrounding the lake. A noticeable ridge and fall line of topography can be seen along SH 46 and FM 3159 leading to Startz Hill. Land surrounding Cibolo Creek gently slopes towards the creek with no significant peaks and drop offs, while lands surrounding the Guadalupe River have large drop offs and cliffs.

The region of the County with the most peaks and topographic variation can be clearly seen along the Guadalupe River between New Braunfels and Canyon Lake. This region also contains the most tree canopy in the County, as further described on page A.25. Peaks and hillsides in this region have some of the greatest ground visibility in the County and significantly contribute to the ecological and visitor experience of the County as they travel between New Braunfels and Canyon Lake.

Soils

The County consists of seven soil types which influence the amount of water recharge and vegetative growth. A majority of the County is in Zone 1 and 2, characterized by shallow soil over limestone or cemented chalk. These zones are where the Edwards Aquifer is located. Zone 4, surrounding sections of the Guadalupe River, is characterized by shallow gently sloping loamy and clay soils. Zones 5 and 6, found along the I-35 corridor, are characterized by steep hills and valleys formed by stream terraces with a mix of clay and limestone sediments. The shallow soils and large amount of limestone in the County influence the diversity of flora and fauna described on page A.24.



Source: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service

Canyon Lake Gorge Preservation Society

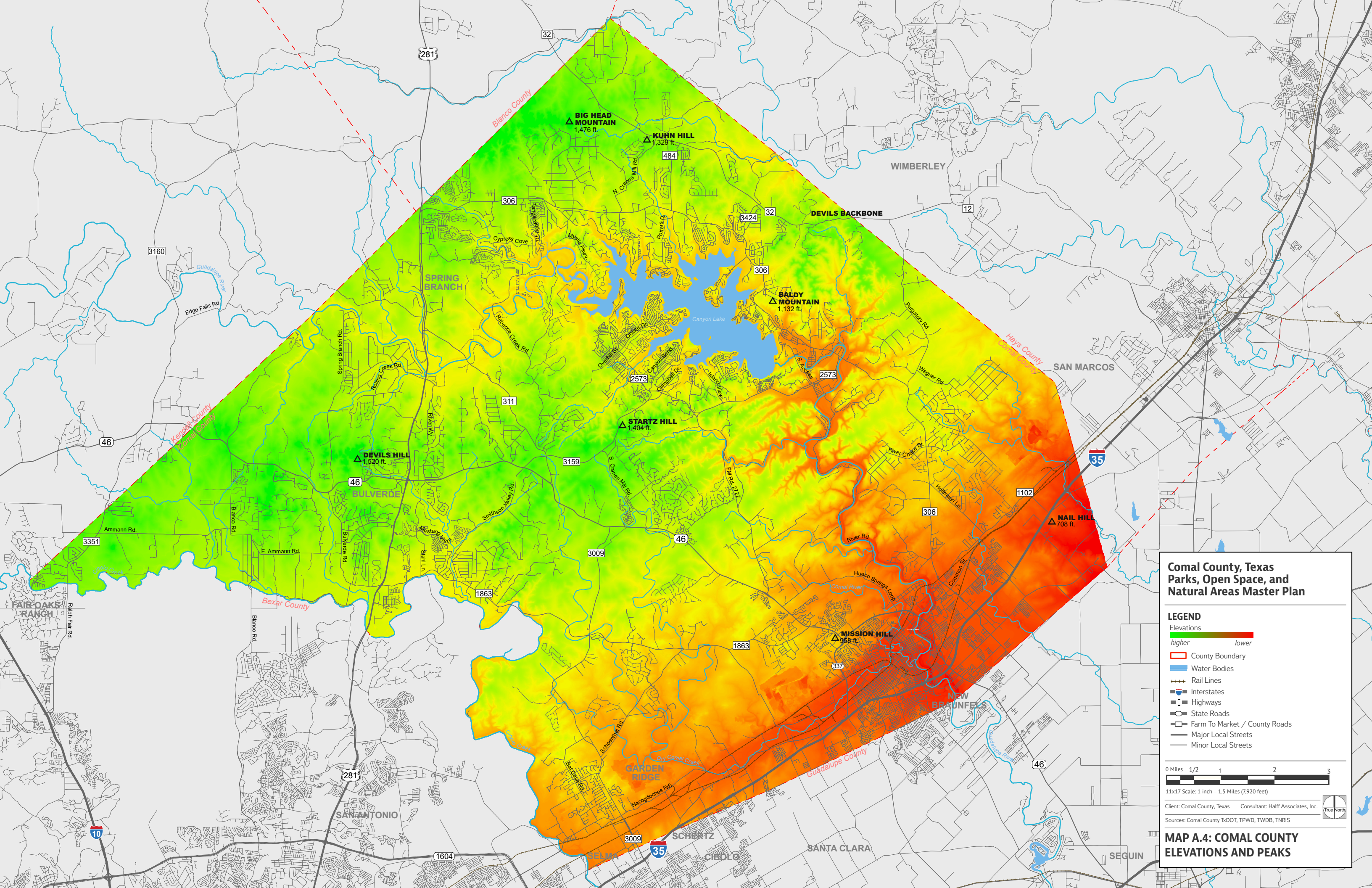
The Canyon Lake Gorge Preservation Society (GPS) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the enjoyment and conservation of the Canyon Lake Gorge. The GPS provides education for youth, self-guided walking trails, and guided tours of dinosaur tracks and rock formations along the Canyon Lake Spillway and Dam. After a 2002 flood event, the spillway was eroded to uncover new dinosaur tracks and rock formations. Similar to landscapes found along the Guadalupe River near Guadalupe River State Park, the gorge region has steep cliffs and limestone outcrops which attract nature-tourists. For more about the Gorge Preservation Society see Appendix A, Organization Directory, Page A.18.



Canyon Lake Gorge rock formations
Source: Texas Hill Country, Canyon Lake Gorge



Canyon Lake Gorge guided walking tour
Source: Gorge Preservation Society



Comal County, Texas Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan

LEGEND

Elevations
higher lower

County Boundary

Water Bodies

Rail Lines

Interstates

Highways

State Roads

Farm To Market / County Roads

Major Local Streets

Minor Local Streets

0 Miles 1/2 1 2 3

11x17 Scale: 1 inch = 1.5 Miles (7,920 feet)

Client: Comal County, Texas Consultant: Halff Associates, Inc.

Sources: Comal County TxDOT, TPWD, TWDB, TNRIS

**MAP A.4: COMAL COUNTY
ELEVATIONS AND PEAKS**

Hydrology

Balcones Escarpment-Fault

Comal County is located within the Balcones Escarpment or Fault which runs along the length of the Hill Country from Killeen to Del Rio. The Balcones Fault formed 20-25 million years ago with approximately 700 to 1,000 feet of uplift. The fault is considered inactive with only minor earthquakes in 1893 and 1902. The Escarpment has created a landscape with sharp topographic slopes and valleys which can make flooding worse for development along rivers and stream banks in the Hill Country. The Escarpment has also created scattered cliffs and exposed rock edges throughout Comal County adding to the natural beauty of the region.

Edwards Aquifer and Recharge Zones

As detailed on Map A.5, Water Resources, a majority of Comal County lies on top of the Edwards Aquifer and Recharge Zones. The Artesian Zone, in north and west Comal County, is where water-pressure brings water to the surface naturally. The Recharge Zone, in southeast Comal County is where water enters the Edwards Aquifer through ground fissures and sinkholes. The Drainage Zone, along the southern county line, is where water drains into streams or is quickly absorbed into the Edwards Aquifer. Protecting the Drainage and Recharge zones is of major concern to environmental and government entities such as the Edwards Aquifer Authority, in ensuring that enough clean drinking water is available to the population. Development and paved surfaces over these Zones can increase chemical run-off into the aquifer and decrease overall recharge rates.

Floodplains

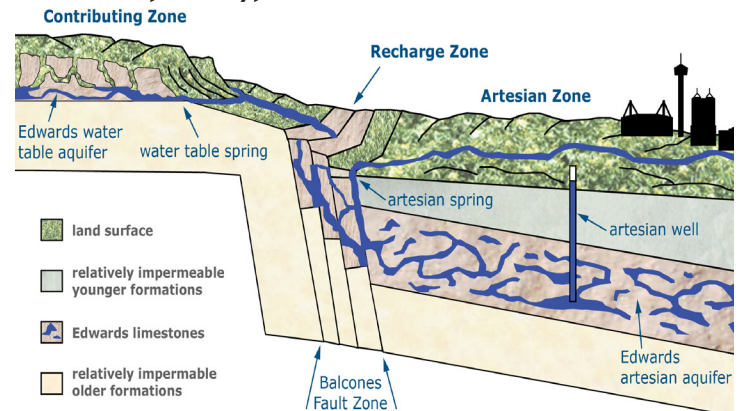
A majority of residents in Comal County are not located within a regulatory floodplain. Major floodplain areas include areas surrounding Canyon Lake, upstream of Canyon Lake along the Guadalupe River, along Cibolo Creek, and especially along Dry Comal Creek and the Comal River. Large portions of New Braunfels are located within the 100-year floodplain (a 0.2% annual chance of flooding), while major residential developments in Bulverde abut floodplains along Cibolo Creek tributaries. Development within floodplains is limited due to regulatory reasons, and can be set aside for public parkland and preservation zones.

Texas Ecological Regions



Source: City of Austin Wildland Conservation Division, Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, *Historical Ecology of the Texas Hill Country*, 29th January 2019

Edwards Aquifer Typical Cross-Section



Source: Joint Base San Antonio, Courtesy graphics

Springs and Wells

A series of springs are located along the Edwards Aquifer and Balcones Escarpment. The Comal Spring is the major Edwards Aquifer surface outfall in Comal County at the head of the Comal River and was the main water source for New Braunfels during its early years. Additional groundwater wells/pumps located throughout Comal County are mostly privately owned and operated.

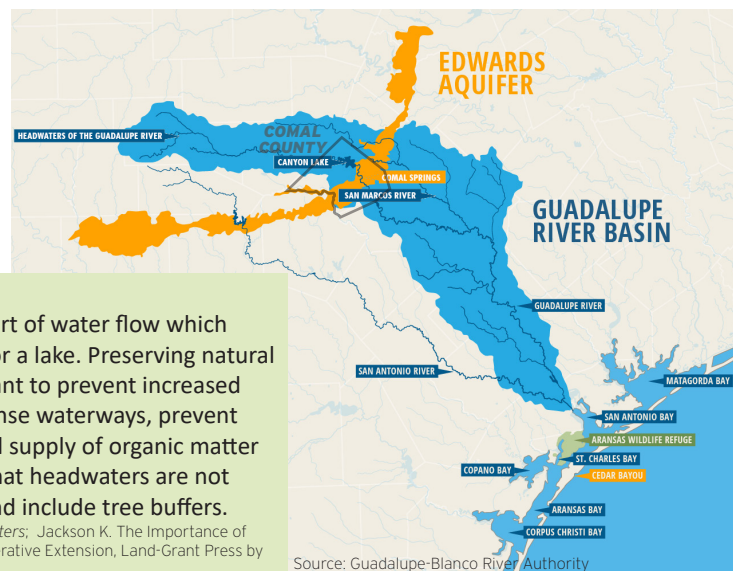
Guadalupe-Blanco Watershed

Comal County is mostly within the Guadalupe-Blanco River Basin, with headwaters at Johnson Ranch, west of Kerrville, and the mouth of the Guadalupe at Seadrift, south of Victoria. Portions of southern Comal County are part of the San Antonio River Basin flowing from Cibolo Creek. Due to the water flow direction west to east, upstream land uses and developments that may pose adverse harm to downstream communities. The Counties along the Guadalupe should collaborate to ensure a healthy ecosystem and drinking water for its residents.

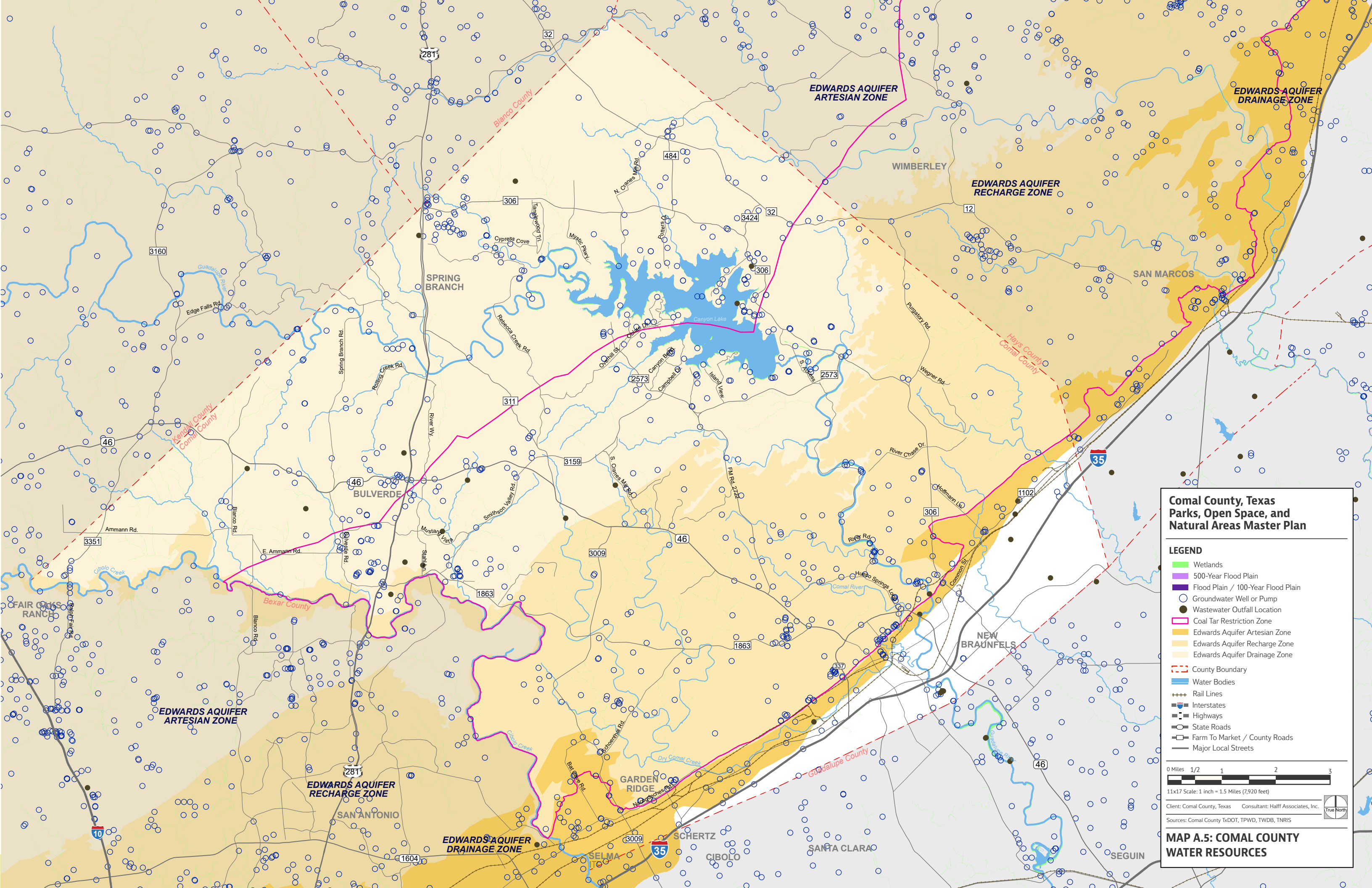
Headwaters

The headwaters of a river is the start of water flow which may be a small stream, wetlands, or a lake. Preserving natural headwater ecosystems are important to prevent increased flooding events, retain nutrient-dense waterways, prevent algal-blooms, and retain the critical supply of organic matter downstream. It is recommended that headwaters are not dammed, dredged, channelized, and include tree buffers.

(Stroud Water Research Center, *Protecting Headwaters*; Jackson K. The Importance of Headwater Streams. Clemson (SC): Clemson Cooperative Extension, Land-Grant Press by Clemson Extension; 2019 Nov. LGP 1021.)



Source: Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority



**Comal County, Texas
Parks, Open Space, and
Natural Areas Master Plan**

LEGEND

- Wetlands
- 500-Year Flood Plain
- Flood Plain / 100-Year Flood Plain
- Groundwater Well or Pump
- Wastewater Outfall Location
- Coal Tar Restriction Zone
- Edwards Aquifer Artesian Zone
- Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone
- Edwards Aquifer Drainage Zone
- County Boundary
- Water Bodies
- Rail Lines
- Interstates
- Highways
- State Roads
- Farm To Market / County Roads
- Major Local Streets

0 Miles 1/2 1 2 3

11x17 Scale: 1 inch = 1.5 Miles (7,920 feet)

Client: Comal County, Texas Consultant: Half Associates, Inc.

Sources: Comal County TxDOT, TPWD, TWDB, TNRISS

True North

**MAP A.5: COMAL COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES**

Flora and Fauna

Ecosystems

According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the LBJ School of Public Affairs, Comal County is located within two major ecological regions. The first is the Edwards Plateau region, which consists of Live Oak-Mesquite Savanna, Balcones Canyonlands, and Lampasas Cut Plains. The second is the Blackland Prairies zone. These ecosystems see an average of 34-38 inches of rainfall annually, similar to Fort Worth, Waco, and Corpus Christi. Winter temperatures are on average around 55 degrees Fahrenheit, and on average around 82 degrees Fahrenheit in the summers. These ecosystem conditions support a unique mixture of semi-arid flora and fauna found in both central, north, and west Texas. Due to the increasing interest in nature-based tourism, birding, wetlands, and other educational facilities, a brief overview of Comal County's ecological regions, flora, and fauna are described on the following pages.

Vertebrate Species

According to TPWD, many of the native vertebrates in Comal County are also found throughout the Hill Country including the fox squirrel, white-tailed deer, Rio Grande leopard frog, gray fox, Virginia opossum, black-footed ferret, long-eared owl, Texas alligator lizard, lined snake, North American beaver, and the Mesoamerican slider (turtle).

Comal County is also known for its abundance of bird and bat species. Common native birds include the cattle egret, great-tailed grackle, purple martin, cardinals, buntings, sparrows, the Lesser Goldfinch, and wild turkey. The Mexican free-tailed bat, Brazilian free-tailed bat, and the Tricolored bat are found throughout the Hill County and Comal's rocky ledges, valleys, and caves, including at the Bracken Cave Preserve.

Aquatic Species

Aquatic birds include a number of egrets, ducks, and sandpipers, which feed on small fish and insects. A large number of amphibians are found in Comal County including the Cascade caverns salamander (threatened), Strecker's chorus frog (threatened), Mexican Smilisca (threatened), and western narrow-mouthed toad.

Fish in Canyon Lake and the Guadalupe River include the European Carp (threatened), Guadalupe bass (threatened), largemouth bass, bluegill, and a number of catfish and sunfish.

Fungi and Lichen Species

Native fungi (mushroom) species include the Flowerpot Parasol, splitgill mushroom, the rare Texas star, Chicken of the woods, Stinkhorn, Fragile dapperling, Leucocoprinus, and Blackberry orange rust. Common lichens include the Leather lichen, Cartilage lichen, and the Bushy beard lichen.

Listed Species in Comal County

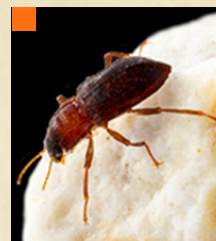
According to the Comal County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (2013) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department there are seven listed endangered species in Comal County. Below is an overview of the seven species:

Comal Springs Dryopid Beetle



Source: Abbott Nature Photo.

Comal Springs Riffle Beetle



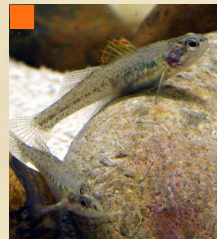
Source: Edwards Aquifer Auth.

Peck's Cave Amphipod



Source: Abbott Nature Photo.

Fountain Darter



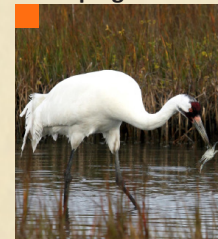
Source: USFWS

Black-capped Vireo



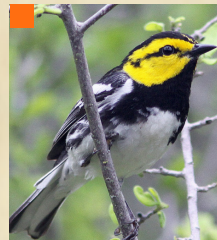
Source: Nat. Audubon Society

Whooping Crane



Source: USFWS

Golden-cheeked Warbler

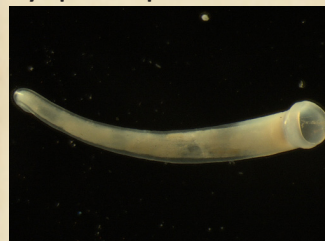


Source: Courthouse News Serv.

TPWD SPECIES CONCERN EVALUATION	EXTINCT
	EXTINCT IN THE WILD
	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED
	ENDANGERED
	VULNERABLE / THREATENED
	NEAR THREATENED
	LEAST CONCERN

Habitat loss is the number one contributor to the species loss in Comal County. In the case of aquatic species, the loss of riparian habitats, inconsistent springs flow, and bacterial blooms have led to decreasing population numbers. The population decline of endangered birds is mainly due to a loss of tree canopy and nesting habitats. These seven species populations and breeding seasons are closely monitored to understand current threats, effects, and population growth-declines. For example, the Golden-cheeked Warbler, although still endangered, has rebounded due to conservation efforts from around 1,000 birds in 1990 to 13,000 in 2020. An additional nine species are considered 'Evaluation Species' which are on a watch-list of concern. These species include eight cave obligates, which are small insect-, shrimp-, or snail-like animals which live in low-light caves, and Cagle's map turtle.

Nymph Trumpet



Source: USFWS

Cagle's Map Turtle



Source: Animal Diversity Web

Tree, Shrub, and Grass Species

A number of semi-arid tree species are found in the Edwards Plateau and Blackland Prairie ecosystems of Comal County. Oak and Ashe Juniper are common on steep limestone slopes. Live Oaks, Texas Oaks, Cedar elms, Sugar Hackberry, Bald-cypress, Osage-orange, and White shin oaks are common in gentle-sloping woodlands. Redberry Juniper, Money Mesquite, Prickly Pear, Texas Persimmon, Green poinsettia, Silverleaf nightshade, and Tasajillo are common shrubs found in native savanna grass zones. Grasses found in native wetlands and valleys include the Little Bluestem, Cedar Sedge, Texas Winter grass, Grama grasses, and Milkweeds.

White Shin Oak



Source: Starhill Forest Arbor.

Texas Persimmon and Prickly Pear



Source: Trees of Brenham

Little Bluestem



Source: Abbott Nature Photo.

Canopy Density

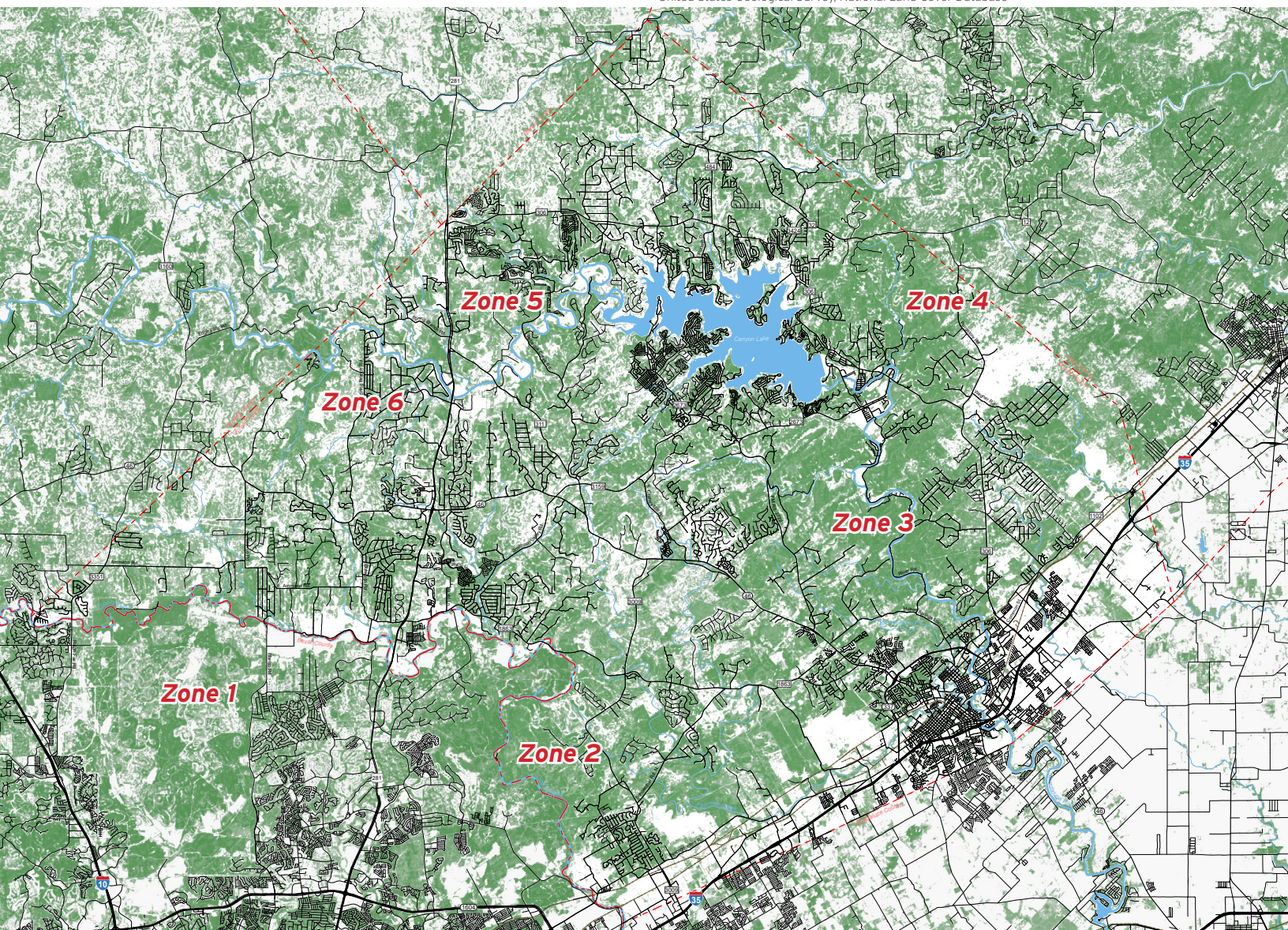
The map below, Tree Canopy Density, depicts tree canopy cover in the Comal County region. Assessing tree canopy density and locations can help in the identification of critical natural resource zones which may be sensitive to development. Tree density and preserving older-growth trees is important in providing habitat for fauna, mitigating flooding impacts, and maintaining the recreation and nature-based tourism industries in Comal County.

The largest portions of tree canopy in Comal County are in Zones 2, 3, and 4 (depicted in the map below). Zone 2 houses conservation lands and will see minimal to no canopy change in the future. Zones 3 and 4 are along waterways with large variations in topography. Zone 3, between Canyon Lake and New Braunfels may be the most at risk zone for tree canopy decline due to expanding suburban development. Zones 5 and 6 house scattered dense tree canopy largely due to the Guadalupe River State Park and conservation lands. Lastly, Zone One, is where Camp Bullis is located and will see minimal to no expected tree canopy change in the future.

See the Resource-based Assessment in Appendix B, on page B.36, for more information on tree canopy and natural resources in Comal County.

Tree Canopy Density (2023)

United States Geological Survey, National Land Cover Database



Flood and Drought History

Flooding at Establishment

As previously mentioned, Comal County has dealt with periods of flooding and drought due to the arid climate of the Edwards Plateau and the impact of many limestone valleys. Even when Comal County and the Hill Country was primarily inhabited by indigeneous peoples, flooding and droughts occurred regularly.

Flood and Drought Mitigation

As Comal County became more populated throughout the 20th century, the need for new forms of drought resistance and a more reliable source of drinking water, rather than Comal Spring, was becoming more important. In the 1930s, due to flood events, the USACE took an interest in the area, considering locations for dams and flood control.



Canyon Lake Dam
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Comal County Flood and Drought Timeline

Information attained from the Comal County Conservation Alliance (Joe Dunnington), and Comal County



Comal County 2002 Flood

On July 4th weekend over 20 years ago Comal County and surrounding communities, experienced one of the largest flood events in its history. The July 2002 rains brought maximum rainfall amounts of near 30" to near 34" total. It was the first time the Guadalupe River floodwaters flowed over the emergency spillway since it was built in 1964. The County spent over five million dollars in flood buyouts and cleanup efforts. Sadly, eight lives were lost during this tragic weather event. While flooding is not new to Comal County, this flood event prompted action by area engineers and flood planners. New

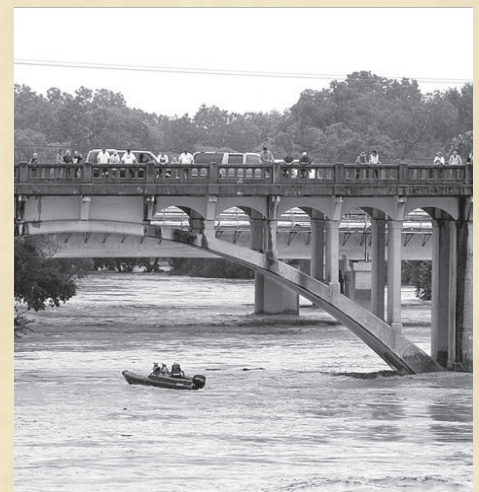
efforts were taken to expand floodplains as well as install smaller flood retarding structures in order to protect the community from future flooding. In the decade after the 2002 flood, the City of New Braunfels spent over \$30 million on drainage projects, bridges projects, the construction of the Krueger Canyon dam, studies and began updating its drainage master plan. What is also significant about the 2002 flood is that in a period of about three days the raging flood waters created a massive 64-acre gorge which exposed ancient cretaceous limestone fossils and dinosaur footprints over 110 million years old.



2002 Flood at South Access Road
Source: Comal County



2002 Flood at Hidden Valley Sports Park
Source: Comal County

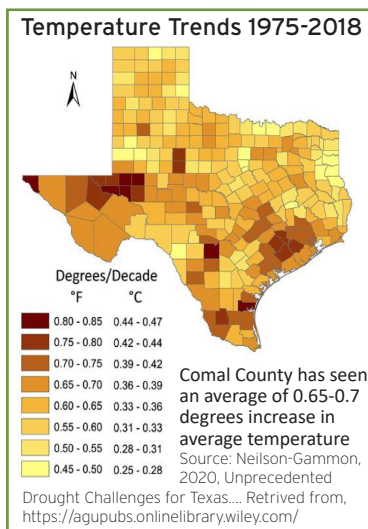
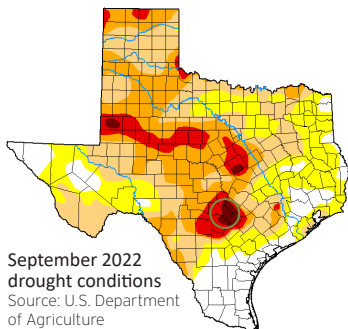
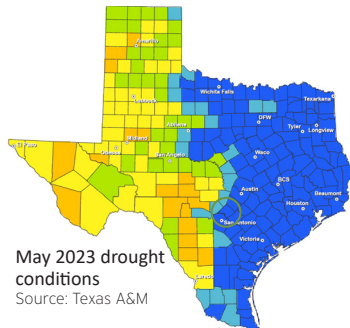
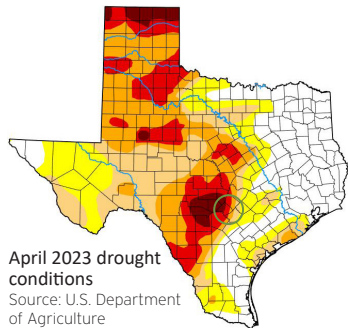


2002 Flood at Elliot Knox Blvd. in New Braunfels
Source: Herald-Zeitung, K. Jessie Slaten

Drought and Wildfire Risks

Comal County and much of central, north, and west Texas are prone to drought and wildfire conditions. The TAMU Spatial Sciences Laboratory, in partnership with Texas A&M Forest Service has produced a 2023 Keetch-Byram Drought Index map of Texas. These regularly released maps depict drought risks and conditions throughout Texas. In 2022 the rising risk of wildfires caused the County to ban controlled burns and reevaluate the continually rising risks of drought and wildfires in the region.

Below are a series of historical drought maps which, in aggregate, help to inform general trends of drought conditions in the state.



Below are a series of imagery showing historic wildfire damages and burns in and around Comal County.



Camp Bullis April 2022 wildfire
Source: KSAT



Runnels County 2022 wildfire
Source: My Canyon Lake



Canyon Lake near Ranch Road 3232 in 2020
Source: My Canyon Lake

Snapshots of the Past



Landa Park Bathhouse, circa 1930s
Source: City of New Braunfels



Comal Baths swim lessons at Camp Warnecke, circa 1920
Source: History in New Braunfels



Newspaper Advertisement 1960s
Source: Herald Canyon Newspaper



Boating at Jacob's Creek Park 1960s
Source: Herald Canyon Newspaper



A car being pulled from Canyon Lake in 1984
Source: My San Antonio



Canyon Lake Boat Ramp, 1960s
Source: My San Antonio



Gathering at Canyon Lake in 1985
Source: My San Antonio

Development Trends

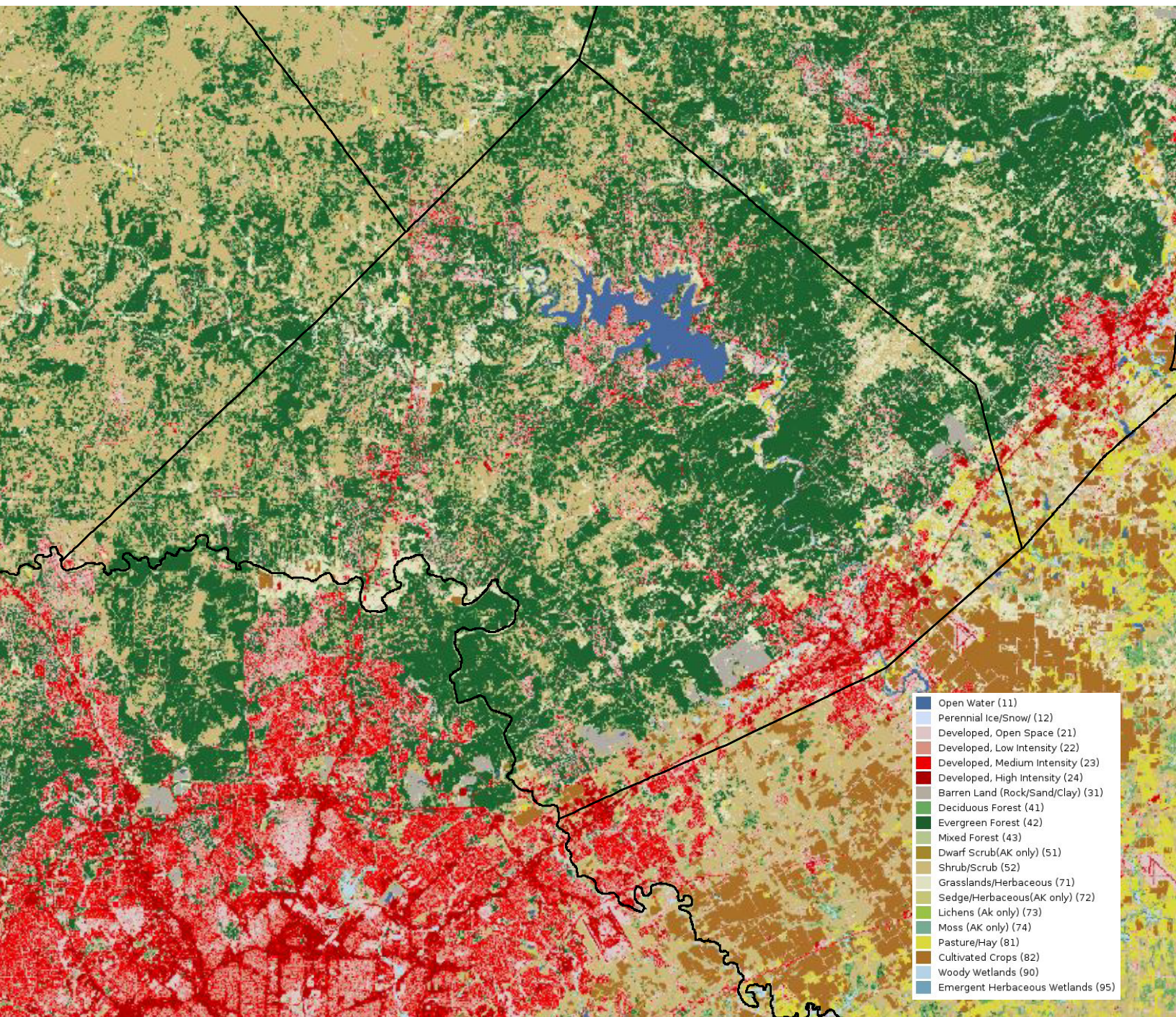
Counties with a growing population and large new development sites should continually assess the amount of impervious surfaces, tree canopy, and population densities. The intensity of development can indicate where environmental impacts are occurring the most and where flooding may have the greatest impact. Understanding which regions remain as undeveloped and contain the largest ecological benefit can help identify areas for future conservation efforts or inform development decisions. As farm and ranch land in Comal County continues to be developed into residential and commercial development, a consensus should be made as to whether or not the County government should work with property owners to attempt to preserve certain types of lands with certain characteristics deemed desirable.

County Land Cover

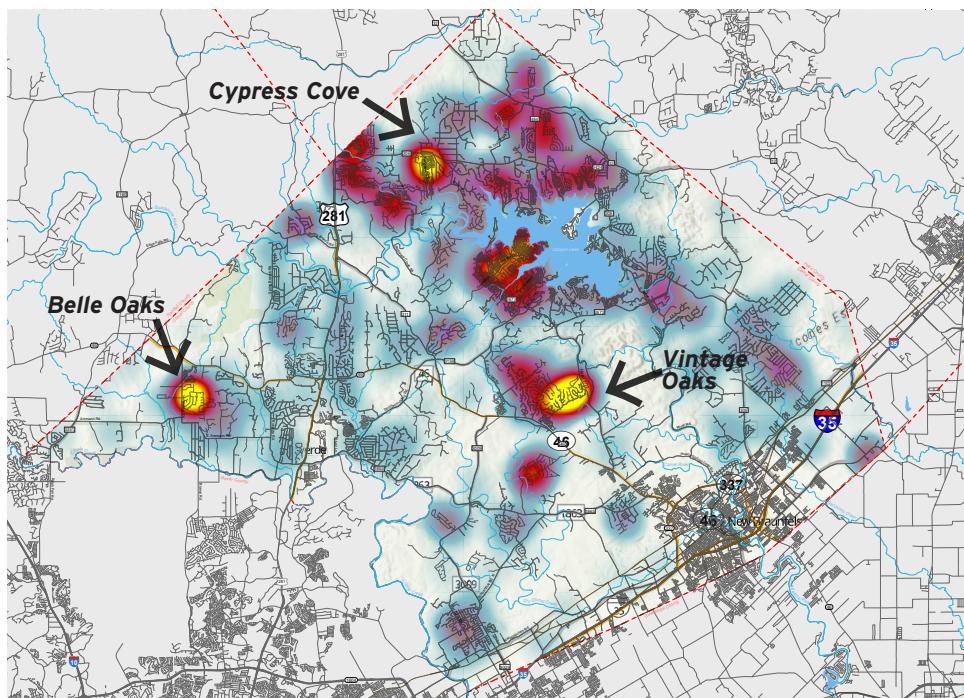
As detailed in the map figure below, Land Cover By Type (2023), Comal County is on the outskirts of San Antonio suburban expansion. A clear line of developed land is found along I-35 connecting San Antonio and San Marcos. A majority of Comal County is covered by grasslands, sedges, deciduous forests, and evergreen forests. Southeastern Comal County is unique from the rest of the County containing pastureland, shrubland, and cultivated cropland. The quarry operations in Comal County are clearly seen on the map along I-35 southwest of New Braunfels. Lastly, Comal County, Hays County, and northern Bexar County have the largest density of tree canopy when compared to surrounding counties. A clear delineation between the Edwards Aquifer/Balcones Fault can be seen separating West Texas grass-shrub lands (Edwards Plateau) and Central-East Texas farm and ranchland.

Land Cover by Type (2023)

United States Geological Survey, National Land Cover Database



5 Years of Permits (January 2018 to January 2023)



The map to the left depicts locations where permits have been issued by the Comal County Engineering Department from January 2018 to January 2023. Areas depicted in yellow on the heat map are higher concentrations of approved permits, while conversely purple and blue areas had lower numbers of approved permits.

Clearly seen by the yellow colored locations, three major single-family residential subdivisions were approved in this time. Additionally, minor pockets of permits have been granted in residential subdivisions in Garden Ridge and along FM 306. Overall, a majority of permits have been approved surrounding Canyon Lake and in more rural parts of the County at existing subdivisions.

Note that building permits granted by the City of New Braunfels are not depicted on the map.

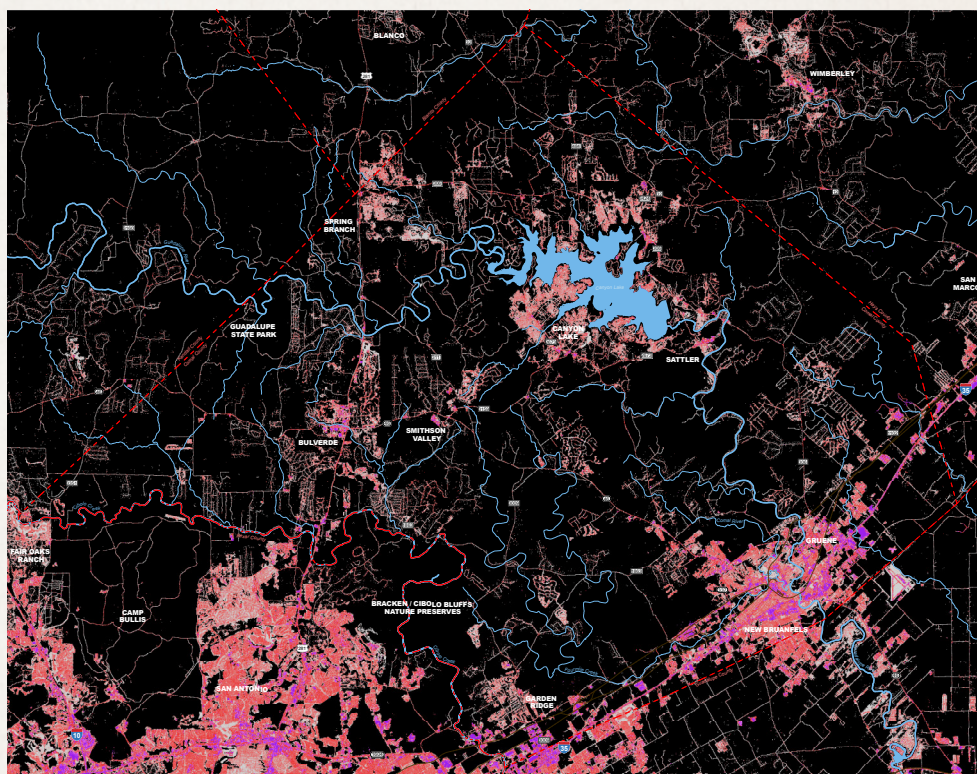
Comal Independant School District Forward 2022

The Comal Independant School District (Comal ISD) monitors population growth and projected student enrollment on an annual basis. In 2022-2023 a series of presentations were provided to the public and Comal ISD Board regarding land acquisitions, population growth, and expected future facilities. While Comal ISD does cover portions of Bexar County and other neighboring counties, the findings presented by the ISD demonstrate County and directly adjacent land trends. Comal ISD expects an overall attendance growth of three to five percent annually for elementary, middle, and high schools from 2023 to 2033. Comal ISD expects to accommodate 13,400 new students over the next 10 years with seven new elementary schools, three new middle schools, and two new high schools. Comal ISD also notes that as of 2023 there are 79 residential subdivisions under construction, 24 future planned subdivisions, 2,859 future residential lots, and 4,036 multi-family units in the planning stages. This places the current enrollment (2022-2023) at 28,524 students, and a future (2032-2033) enrollment of 41,986 students.

Impervious Surface Cover Density (2019)

United States Geological Survey, National Land Cover Database

Impervious surfaces are ones where rainfall simply cannot be absorbed. Examples of these are pavement of most types, rooftops, and even native soil that has been compacted through construction. Darker areas on the Impervious Surface Cover Density (2019) map are areas where there is the most natural ground cover, reducing the need for drainage and stormwater infrastructure. As detailed in the Land Cover by Type and Tree Canopy Density Maps, clear development trends can be seen with development spreading from Canyon Lake, New Braunfels, and Bulverde (along SH 281). Commercial development along major corridors contribute the most to the impervious surface in Comal County, with large parking lot and building footprints. Regions in pink are expected to continue developing resulting in more red and purple zones in Comal County. The Impervious Surface Cover map also demonstrates how many residential developments surround or directly abut waterways and headwater locations.



Residential Development

As previously mentioned, a majority of development in Comal County has been single-family residential subdivisions. Although subdivision development may be less harmful (on an acre-by-acre basis) to the environment when compared to quarry operations or shopping centers, the overall large subdivision sizes mean that large plots of land and needed infrastructure are being developed frequently.

Described in the Topography section, on page A.20, there are many hills and peaks in the County. In many cases, houses have been constructed at the crest or edge of hills. From a single homeowners perspective, it is desirable to own a property with sight lines and vistas of natural areas. However, this does potentially reduce the visitor and resident experience when buildings are placed in high visibility areas, causing the area to feel more urban than it may otherwise be.



County examples of residential development of hill sides or hill crests
Source: Halff

In some cases, with limitations due to floodplains, residential development is directly abutting waterways and streams. This in turn closes the waterway off from public use and can reduce the amount of water entering the stream and aquifers. In addition, harmful yard-treatment chemicals can run off into the stream causing algal blooms and additional run-off water will need to be treated by infrastructure.

Another residential development observation in the County is the occurrence of clear-cutting development sites. ‘Clear-cutting’ is the process of removing all original vegetation from a construction site. Clear-cutting often occurs because it is cheaper and easier for developers to construct homes without concern for existing trees. Much of the vegetation that is destroyed may be considered old-growth forest or dense trees over 50 years of age. Some of these trees are then replaced with new growth trees less than 10 years old, which do not provide the habitat or same ecological services than what was once there. The Hidden Trails subdivision, shown to the right, is a recent development which clear-cut its site to build houses.

While the County has no statutory authority to stop subdivision development, limited actions can be taken to reduce the adverse effects subdivision development can have on Comal County. Refer to Page 1.7 for descriptions of alternative ways the County could work with developers to reduce these existing practices in order to benefit the County, environment, developers, and future homeowners.

Residential Growth Patterns

Map A.6, Residential Developments, to the right, depicts all single-family and multi-family residential developments in Comal County as of 2023. The map depicts property lines, property sizes, and relative density of each subdivision.

Residential development is scattered throughout Comal County with the same aforementioned density nodes of Canyon Lake, Bulverde, and New Braunfels. A majority of large developable parcels along major thoroughfares, such as SH 281, FM 306, and FM 2673, are already developed. As New Braunfels continues to grow, expect that these major thoroughfares leading out of New Braunfels to be the first sites of development further into the County.

The Bulverde region is about 50 percent built-out and the Canyon Lake area is about 90 percent built-out. Large portions of south and central Comal County are still undeveloped. Notably, a substantial amount of land adjacent to TX 46 remains undeveloped. Very recently, larger planned unit subdivisions have begun to be constructed along the corridor, such as Copper Ridge, Meyer Ranch, and Vintage Oaks.

For a detailed review of County subdivision and construction regulations, see page A.34, *County Engineer’s Office of Subdivision Regulations [Adopted 2020]*.

Typical Housing and Commercial Developments in Comal County



Source: Halff



Hidden Trails April 2018



Source: NearMap Imagery

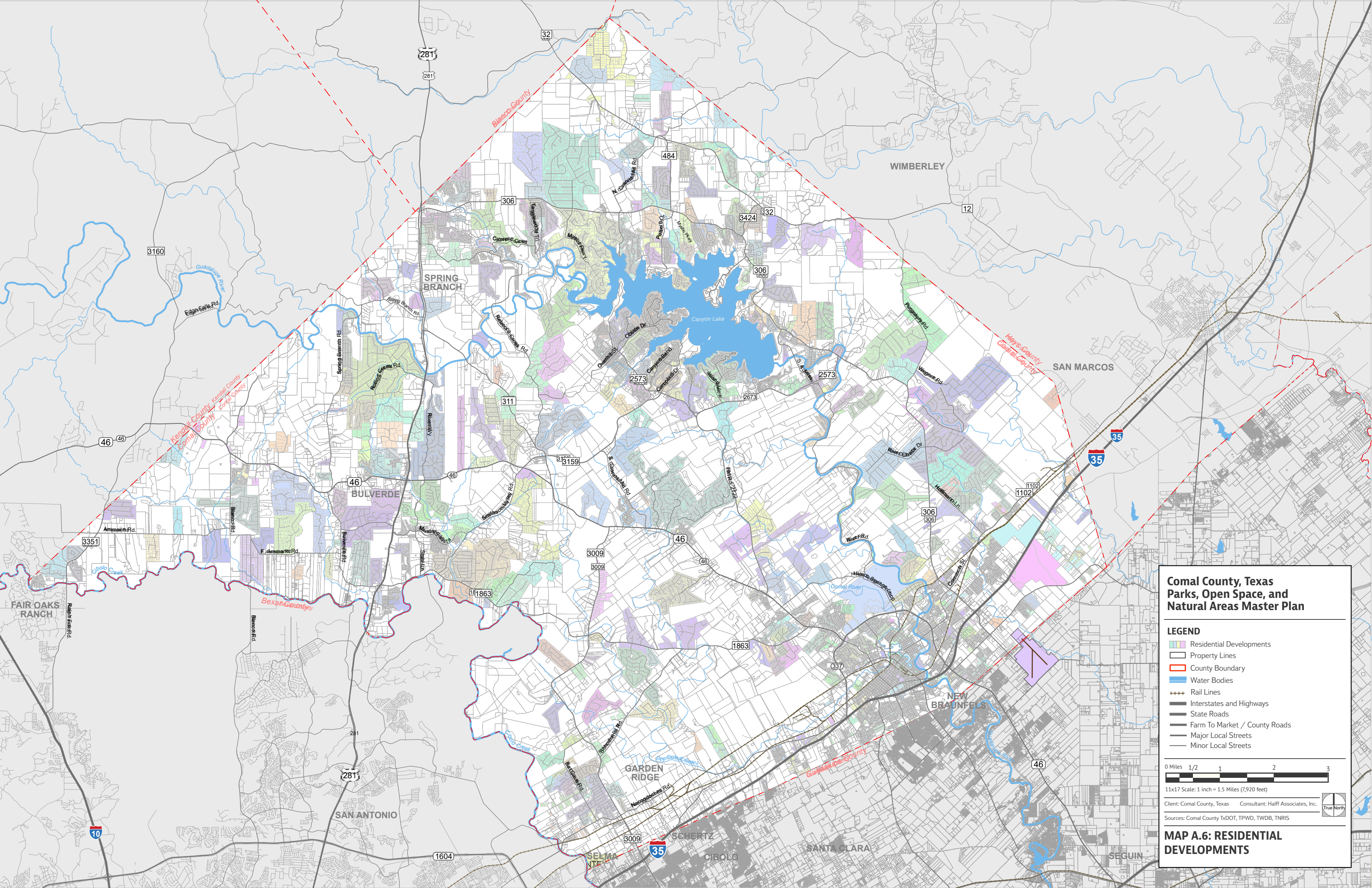
Hidden Trails May 2022



Meyer Ranch February 2023



Source: Halff



Comal County, Texas Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan

LEGEND

- Residential Developments
- Property Lines
- County Boundary
- Water Bodies
- Rail Lines
- Interstates and Highways
- State Roads
- Farm To Market / County Roads
- Major Local Streets
- Minor Local Streets

0 Miles 1/2 1 2 3

11x17 Scale: 1 inch = 1.5 Miles (7,920 feet)

Client: Comal County, Texas Consultant: Half Associates, Inc.

Sources: Comal County TxDOT, TPWD, TWDB, TNRIS



MAP A.6: RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Administration

The State of Texas operates under three major levels of government. The state level creates and enforces legislation for the entire state. The county level is the representative and legislative authority for a county under the powers provided by the state. The municipal level is a set of governing jurisdiction with powers and authorities mainly given by the people (residents) and the state.

The powers and authority of Comal County are explicitly laid out in the 1876 Texas Constitution. It is important to note the Texas Constitution provides more regulatory restrictions on counties than it does for municipalities. While all three governing bodies do have similar powers and governing structures, municipalities have the broadest range of authority, as much of the legislation is voted upon and approved by the residents. General-law cities only have powers that the state law authorizes and home-rule cities may have powers that are not prohibited by the state constitution. Most incorporated cities within Comal County are all home-rule cities, most recently the voters in Garden Ridge approved home-rule charter in May 2023.

Counties have less flexibility and are specifically restricted to the powers granted by the State and cannot exceed those authorities, rarely acting under 'implied' powers.

Every County in Texas is permitted to create an administrative body under Article VIII (Taxation and Revenue) and Article XVI (General Provisions). These bodies or offices are as follows:

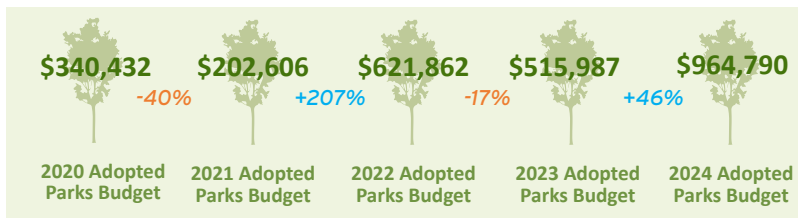
- County Commissioners Court
- County Clerk, County Attorney, District Attorney, and Sheriff
- County tax assessor and County tax collector
- County treasurer and county surveyor

The County's overall administration oversees a range of departments, each responsible for various public services. These include ensuring public safety and emergency response, managing county roads, public health, presiding over both criminal and civil courts, conducting elections, overseeing correctional facilities and assisting other entities with safeguarding natural resources.

Comal Commissioners Court

The Commissioners Court is responsible for budgetary decisions, tax and revenue decisions, and all personnel decisions except for certain positions which are either elected or appointed by the judiciary or other committees. The Court also appoints and monitors the actions of all county department heads other than those offices headed by other elected officials and also exercises varying degrees of oversight over county boards. This is similar to other counties which commonly include drainage districts, irrigation districts, housing authorities and the like. In some instances, the court may also serve as the board of directors for these special districts or authorities, as well as fulfill the role of county school board. Comal County appoints and has oversight authority for the Water Oriented Recreation District (WORD).

Each year, the court adopts the county tax rate and the county budget, setting the salary and budget for independent elected officials, and outlining expenditures for departments under the direct control of the court. The County's approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget is \$166,052,018. **The adopted parks budget for FY 2024 is \$964,790, only 0.58% of the total County budget.** This is a 46 percent increase from the previous year.



Parks Administration

Oversight of Comal County park operations and services falls under the Comal County Engineer's Office (CCEO). These responsibilities are assigned to a Parks Manager (Assistant County Engineer) who also administers the Comal County Habitat Conservation Plan and serves as the staff liaison for the Parks Maintenance and Improvement Committee (PMAIC).

The PMAIC is an official committee of Comal County and is made of an officer from various organizations that use Jumbo Evans Sports Park and Hidden Valley Sports Park. These organizations include:

- Bulverde Little League
- Bulverde Youth Soccer Association
- Canyon Lake Little League
- Canyon Lake Girls Softball
- Canyon Lake Youth Soccer
- Canyon Lake Youth Football League
- Community Resource & Recreation Center
- Spring Branch Youth Football Association
- Spring Branch Tennis Association

Committee representatives serve on the board as a liaison between the County and their respective Boards. They may also meet periodically to evaluate each of the County's sports park's master plan and the strategies needed to complete those plans. The Comal County Parks Manager also serves on the PMAIC.



County Commissioners establish a Mental Health Court
Source: My Canyon Lake

Regulatory Environment

Land Use Controls Granted to All Texas Counties

Subdivision Regulations

Granted authority under Section 232 of the Texas Local Government Code allows for subdivision plat review and submittal with public transparency, and required compliance with existing county plans, including major thoroughfare and drainage plans.

Transportation

Granted authority under Section 232.03 and 232.025-35. Allows counties to develop required setbacks, rights-of-way requirements, and shoulder widths in alignment with transportation plans.

Housing

Granted authority under Section 232.007. Allows for counties to require certain housing quality standards, environmental protection requirements, flood plain requirements, and road / utilities infrastructure.

Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater

Granted authority under Sections 232.003 and 232.0032 allows counties to set regulations for the supply of water, treatment of wastewater, and handling of storm runoff.

Orderly, Healthful, and Moral Development

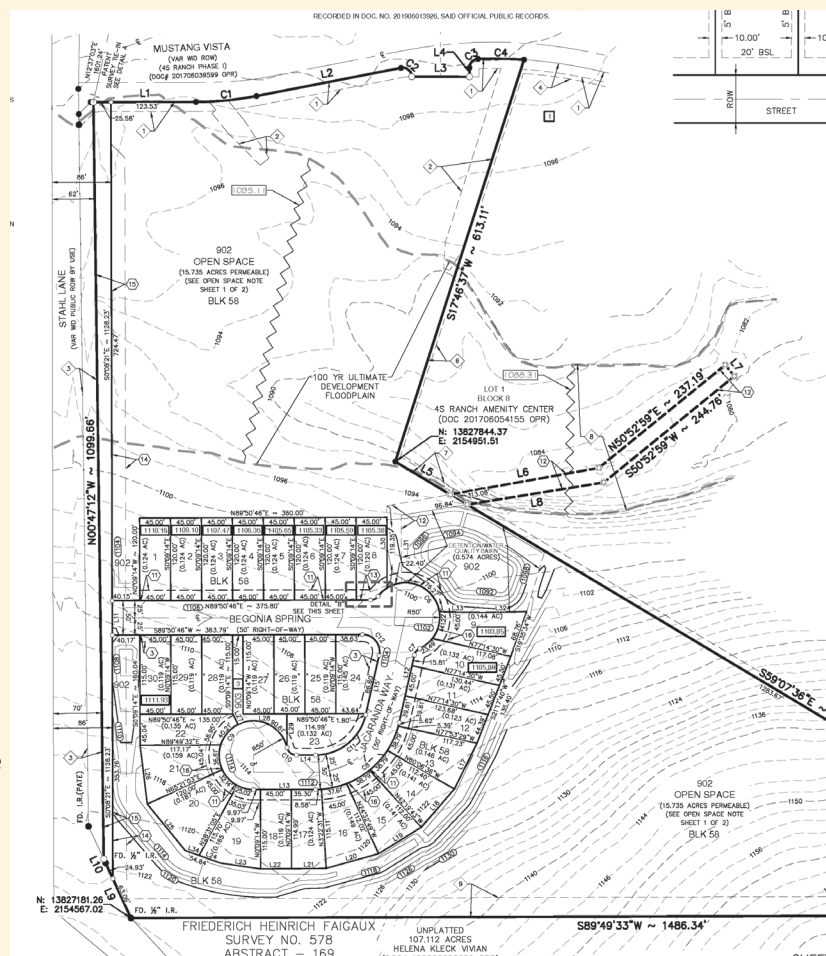
Counties are permitted to restrict the development and location of places of alcohol sales, sexually-oriented businesses, wreck and salvage yards, and the keeping of wild animals.

General Land Use

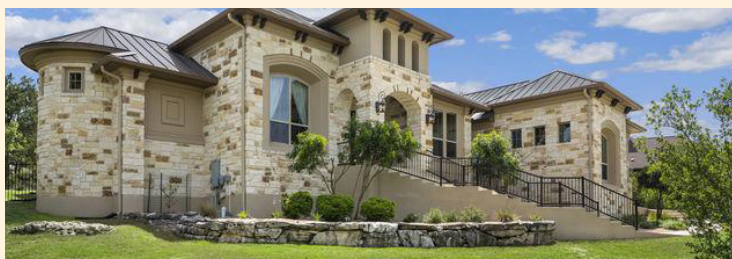
Comal County and other Texas counties are not permitted to regulate land use (developing a future land use plan), with the exceptions of regulating compliance with major transportation plans and regulations set forth in the Airport Zoning Act (Section 241).

Land Acquisitions

While counties can buy and own land, the land acquisitions intended use must be “devoted exclusively to the use and benefit of the public” (Article XI, Section 9), such as for schools, county administration, police and fire, wastewater facilities, and trash processing. Some counties have interpreted “Public use” and “Public benefit” to also include parkland acquisition and conservation easements.



Example of a Plat Submittal to Comal County and the City of Bulverde for subdivision development, including drainage and drive access details
Source: City of Bulverde



Examples of elevated housing above base flood level (100-year flood plain) in and around Comal County
Source: [left to right] San Antonio Board of Realtors, Texas Land Team, Rocket Homes, CTR MLS

County Engineer's Office of Subdivision Regulations [Adopted 2020]

Comal County regulates the division of land through the Comal County Subdivision Regulations. In general, all divisions of property are required to be approved by the County and have plats prepared and be approved by the County. However, certain divisions of property are exempt from these regulations. The Comal County Commissioners Court has placed the administration of the subdivision regulations under the Comal County Engineer's Office. The County Engineer is authorized to enforce rules, regulations, standards and specifications for the construction, installation, design, location and arrangement of streets, curbs, street signs, gates for utility easements, sidewalks, monuments, criteria for drainage easement requirements, drainage facilities, and crosswalk ways. The subdivision regulations cover a broad range of situations and conditions, but in general deal with the division of land, outside the limits of a municipality, including:

- Review of plats, replats, and amendments to plats
- Drainage improvements
- Water availability
- Wastewater treatment and disposal
- Road construction standard

The subdivision regulations apply to residential, commercial, and industrial subdivisions, outside the limits of a municipality, and have been created for the following purposes:

1. To furnish the developer with guidance and assistance in the expedient preparation and approval of a subdivision plat.
2. To protect the citizens of Comal County, the potential user, by ensuring minimum standards in a subdivision where they may want to live.
3. To provide for the general health, safety, and welfare of the public by controlling the location and design of intersections and other features which promote safety.
4. To prevent the citizens of Comal County from being burdened with substandard streets or roads.



Johnson Ranch housing and commercial construction
Source: Dream Design International

Plats and Planned Unit Subdivisions

Developer Plat Submittals:

- Required to submit statement to County and Texas Commission Of Environmental Quality on the relation of the development to the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone
- Required drainage study of properties within the 100-year floodplain
- Required watershed and downstream impact analysis
- If the subdivision is not connected to municipal water supply and will utilize ground water, the developer must submit a Certification of Groundwater Availability For Platting

High Density Development - Townhouse/Garden Home/Condominium Subdivision

Townhouse Design Requirement Standards:

- Minimum 20-foot setback for buildings
- Minimum 1,500 square feet lot areas
- Required 2 off-street parking spaces per 1,000 square feet of lot

Garden Home Design Requirement Standards:

- Minimum 10 feet between buildings (five-foot side-yard setback)
- Required 2 off-street parking spaces per garden home lot

Condominium Design Requirement Standards:

- Condominiums have additional regulations over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone

Stormwater Drainage Improvements

Developers are required to provide an engineering analysis determining the 10-year stormwater flow rate to ensure that roadways do not flood. For areas within a FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area 25-year storm water flow rate analysis is required. The developer needs to prove that the development will not increase the peak 100-year storm water discharge rate from the platted area to any contiguous property.

Floodplain Construction

Construction can occur within the 100-year and 500-year floodplains. Any construction in the floodplain must have the lowest habitable floor elevation at or above the 100-year floodplain elevation.

Dark Skies

According to Order Number 367 Regulation of Outdoor Lighting in Comal County, lighting is regulated within three miles of Camp Bullis or the Camp Bullis Dark Skies Zone. Lighting shall be installed in a manner which minimizes or eliminates glare and light trespass.

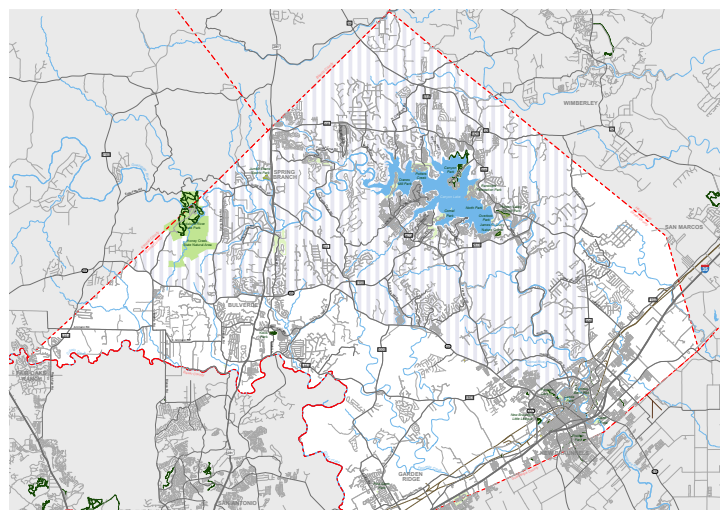
Regional and Federal Government Agencies

Water Oriented Recreation District of Comal County (WORD)

Water Oriented Recreation District of Comal County (WORD) is a park and recreation district created by the Texas Legislature in 1987 and approved by the voters of Comal County in 1988. The district includes Canyon Lake and spans more than 30 miles of navigable Guadalupe River, both up and down stream of Canyon Lake. The district is completely situated in Comal County and extends north of Highway 46 to the west, starting from Guadalupe River State Park and extends eastward to the city limits of New Braunfels. Within the WORD district, a three percent tax rate is established for all of the following: camping, lodging, fishing guides, whitewater guides, dry and wet slip boat storage, as well as parking designated for water ingress/egress and rentals. Additionally, a flat tax of \$1 per person is applied to river equipment rentals, river ingress/egress, and shuttles without accompanying rentals. This dual-tiered tax structure efficiently covers a range of services and recreational pursuits within the specified area.

WORD also operates and maintains a number of parks along Canyon Lake (see Page A.12, Parks Inventory), operates law enforcement, and regulates the capacity of park spaces. For more information on the WORD of Comal County see Appendix C, Organizational Inventory.

To the right, is a map depicting WORD's jurisdiction.



WORD boundary within Comal County

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

The USACE, as further described in Appendix A, Organizational Directory, is the main operator of the Canyon Lake Dam, lands surrounding Canyon Lake, and a number of park sites. The USACE's primary purpose is the structural integrity, safety, environmental conditions of the Canyon Lake and Dam.

Funding and Financing

There are several funding sources/methods that are typically used for operations, land acquisition, and park development. Typical funding streams include property taxes, user fees, and other sources of revenue used for the general operation of the local government. State and federal government grants are also common funding methods for land acquisition and capital improvements, and typically require a local match, often up to 50 percent. Local government funds frequently serve as a match for these grants.

Property Taxes: Property taxes are the main funding source for Comal County. Property taxes are currently the only source of funds for the limited operations and improvements to any of the County owned or managed park properties.

Reserve Funds: While still primarily property tax supported, the use of reserve funds is made possible by accumulating funds in advance for capital acquisition or development. The accumulation may result from surplus or earmarked operational revenues, funds in depreciation reserves, or the sale of capital assets.

Enterprise and Revenue Funds: Many local governmental entities establish accounts which are earmarked for parks and recreation programs. These accounts are typically funded by user and other service fees generated by the operations and management of parks and recreation facilities and programs. They can only then be used to fund programs as well as acquire, operate, and maintain facilities.

Tax Supported Bonds: This method involves the taxing power of the jurisdiction pledged to pay the interest and principal to retire the debt. General Obligation Bonds and Certificates of Obligation can be sold to finance permanent types of improvements, such as park and recreational areas and facilities. The classic public

policy argument for use of bonds to support park acquisition and development is that long-term borrowing or bonding is justified because the project often has a permanent or near permanent public benefit. In other words, the life of the project likely meets or exceeds the length of time it takes to pay off the bond obligation.

State and Government Grants: State and federal government programs continually have a bank of funds available for local governments to apply for in regard to parks and recreation. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is the largest grantee of funds in the state that is singularly focused on land acquisition and capital improvements to parks and recreation facilities. Other state and federal funds that sometimes benefit parks can include money for transportation safety, flood mitigation and safety, and public health

Private and Non-profit Grants: In many cases funding for parks, recreation, and natural areas is provided by non-profit entities and private institutions. Many Texas universities provide funding and research assistance to entities throughout Texas. Non-profits such as Keep Texas Beautiful, International Society of Arboriculture, Land Heritage Institute, and Texas Water Smart are just a few organizations which have provided parks grants in the past.

County-wide Plan Review

The following pages present summaries of past reports and planning documents pertaining to parks and recreation that have an impact on all of Comal County and the region.

Comal County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan (2018)

FEMA requires that communities create a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan to be eligible for FEMA project grants such as Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA), Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC). Additionally, plans should be developed in accordance with FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) Floodplain Management Plan standards and policies.

The purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to protect people and structures, and to minimize the costs of disaster response and recovery. The goal of the Plan is to minimize or eliminate long-term risks to human life and property from known hazards by identifying and implementing cost-effective hazard mitigation actions. As the coordinating lead, Comal County participants included cities within Comal County, stakeholders, and the general public. Together this group evaluated and developed successful hazard mitigation actions, reducing the future risk of fatalities and property damage resulting from a disaster in the Comal County planning area. A key focus of the Plan is to identify activities to mitigate hazards classified as "high" or "moderate" risk. The hazard classification enables the County and participating jurisdictions to prioritize mitigation actions based on hazards which can present the greatest risk to lives and property in the planning areas.

The Impact of Tourism in Comal County (2007) & Guadalupe Valley Economic Development

While the last time the impacts of tourism in Comal County were measured and compiled into a report was back in 2007, the document still highlights base trends of spending and income as they relate to tourism. As of 2007, direct tax revenue from tourism was calculated at around five million dollars annually for the County. At the time, Comal County employed more people in the arts/entertainment/recreation sector when compared to surrounding counties (3.1% to 1.3-1.7% respectively). In 2006, impact of \$224.9 million in direct travel and tourism spending translates into a total economic impact of \$273.1 million worth of output, \$160.6 million in value-added, \$64.1 million in earnings, and approximately 2,750 jobs. Of this amount, over \$34 million is attributed to river tourism. The largest segment of day-trip visitors were coming from Austin, San Antonio, and Dallas. The largest segment of overnight visitors were coming from Austin, Dallas, Houston, and Beaumont.

Comal County Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2010)

As previously mentioned, the Comal County Parks and Recreation Master Plan was developed in 2010 to establish the two existing county Sports Parks. The Master Plan includes engineering documents and funding methods for the parks, but does not include a comprehensive county-wide analysis, service assessment, or facilities needs assessment.



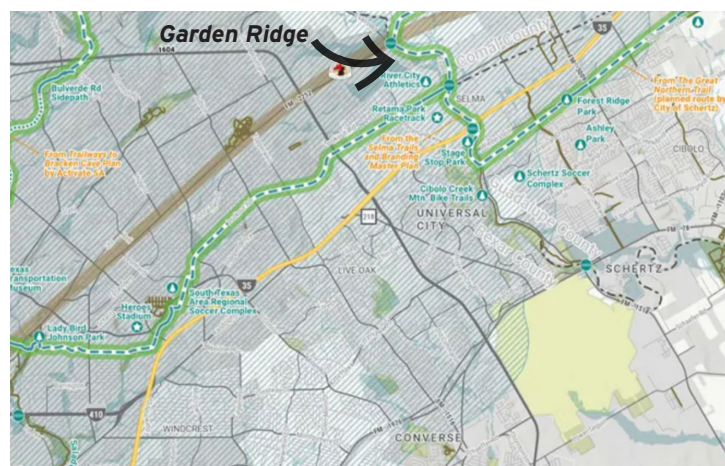
Canyon Lake Dam Flood Risk Areas
Source: Comal County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan - 2018

The Great Springs Project

The Great Spring Project is an initiative aimed at developing a connected system of recreational trails and parkland connecting the four major natural springs of the Hill Country. The non-profit Great Springs Project works with land owners, municipalities, counties, and other organizations to help fund and plan for the trail and park alignments. The goal is to showcase and preserve the Edwards Aquifer and the unique ecology of the Texas Hill Country.



Source: Great Springs Project



Proposed Potential Great Springs Trails
Source: Great Springs Project

● The Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan: Report 3 (2018)

The Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan is an annual report released to highlight habitat conservation around the Edwards Aquifer. The document states that the Plan “was approved by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a regional plan to protect eight federally listed and three non-listed species—termed Covered Species—associated with the Edwards Aquifer while helping to ensure its stability as a regional water supply.”

The document begins by describing the existing conditions of the Edwards Aquifer, its location in primarily six counties (Kendall, Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Comal, and Hays), and changes in groundwater withdrawal and flow rates. Covered species (listed endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) found through the region are described, particularly Texas Wild-Rice, San Marcos Salamander, Comal Springs Salamander, Fountain Darter, San Marcos Gambusia, and the Pecks Cave Amphipod.

Next, a series of conservation measures, enacted by regional authorities, municipalities, and counties, are benchmarked to assess achievements and outstanding actions. Regional actions include expanded water quality monitoring, biological monitoring, impervious cover and water quality protection, and refugia sites to house critical species.

City of New Braunfels conservation measures include Flow-Split Management in the Old and New Channels, Management of Public Recreational Use of Comal Springs and River Ecosystems, Decaying Vegetation Removal and Dissolved Oxygen Management, Control of Harmful Non-Native Animal Species, Prohibition of Hazardous Materials Transport across the Comal River and its Tributaries, Native Riparian Habitat Restoration, Management of Household Hazardous Wastes, and Impervious Cover and Water Quality Protection.

City of San Marcos conservation measures include Management of Aquatic Vegetation and Litter below Sewell Park, Sediment Management below Sewell Park, Designation of Permanent Access Points and Bank Stabilization, Septic System Registration and Permitting Program, and Minimizing Impacts of Contaminated Runoff.

Texas State University conservation measures include Reducing Diversion of Surface Water, Native Riparian Habitat Restoration, Research Programs in Spring Lake, Sessom Creek Sand Bar Removal, Management of Golf Course and Grounds, and Control of Harmful Non-Native and Predator Species.

Next, a series of Biological Goals and Management Objectives are presented. First, protecting the Fountain Darter, a small fish which feeds on small insects, endemic to only the Comal River and San Marcos River. Many freshwater fish need exceedingly clear and uncontaminated water, which can be difficult to retain as populations and wastewater outfall increase. Second, protecting the Comal Springs Riffle Beetle with new riparian habitat and spring filtration methods. Third, maintain water conditions for the Comal Springs Dryopid Beetle and Peck’s Cave Amphipod. Fourth, protect and expand Texas Wild-Rice coverage, a semi-submerged grass that is regionally endemic to the San Marcos River. Threats to the species mostly come from over-dredging waterways and damage recreational users cause from coastline trampling. Fifth and Sixth, increase habitat for the San Marcos Salamander and Texas Blind Salamander, especially in and around San Marcos’ Spring Lake.

Lastly, the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan highlights management techniques, duties, and methods for achieving and benchmarking the methods and goals proposed in the Report. The Edwards Aquifer Authority’s committees (Adaptive Management Stakeholder Committee, Adaptive Management Science Committee, EAHCP Budget Work Group, Springflow Habitat Protection Work Group, and the Implementing Committee) should benchmark with data and regularly schedule discussions to provide a forum of changes and immediate action throughout the year. Outreach and collaborations are suggested as the most efficient and well-rounded methods for implementation and information dispersion. The Outreach Section notes the Education Outreach Center (at the Headwaters) as a key contributor to educating the public and recreational users. A detailed breakdown of the Edwards Aquifer Authority’s budget and money allocation is provided; 61% of which goes to Springflow Protection, 7% for Comal Springs, and 13% for San Marcos Spring.

● Comal County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (2009)

The Comal County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan provides a method of complying with the requirements of the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). The main goal of the plan is to provide a method of permitting incidental take of endangered species through mitigation measures. Under the plan, the covered species are the Golden-cheeked Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo.

The ESA requires that when a developer is developing land found to contain endangered species and/or habitat, before any construction begins, the developer is required to obtain an incidental take permit with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Alternatively, the developer can meet the requirements of the ESA by utilizing the Comal County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan. The County calculates a mitigation ratio based on the amount of developed land and the assessed ecological value of the land. This ratio will decide the amount of mitigation fees the developer will provide to the County. The County is then required to utilize the collected fees to purchase land or protect land holding the same, if not more significant, ecological value. The idea is that the loss of endangered habitat can be mitigated through the permanent protection of other habitats.

Issues arise when assessing the existing land available for potential mitigation in the County. Due to the higher value of land in Comal County, increasingly smaller parcel sizes, and fast rate of development, finding proper mitigation land within the County is difficult. Since the program began in 2006, a majority of mitigation land has not been within Comal County but within Bandera County over the Edwards Aquifer. While this land is part of the Hill Country and of great ecological benefit, the direct impact on Comal County is minimal. There is a large distance between the lands and Comal County, a lack of shared waterways and a lack of ecological crossover. In addition, the land in Bandera County does not create conservation lands within Comal County itself.

Hill Country Alliance - State of the Hill Country (2022)

The State of the Hill Country 2022 (SHC) is a document that details eight 'metrics' for tracking and managing changes in the natural resources of the Hill Country due to population growth and development. Each 'metric' highlights a major topic that pertains to the Hill Country's environment and management. Each year the metrics are reassessed providing readers with an up-to-date document on the economic and ecological affairs of the Hill Country.

Metric 1: Population Growth in Unincorporated Areas

SHC recognizes that much of the Hill Country's growth has been in unincorporated and rural areas. It is recommended that County's increase their capacity to enact growth control measures, conduct impact evaluations, manage growth more responsibly, and fund additional staff/resources. The main goal is to decrease or eliminate environmental fragmentation and negative impacts of water quality.

Metric 2: Amount of Conserved Lands

SHC recommends that continued conservation efforts with landowners, ranchers, and farmers, should continue to grow and be funded. Published data from the Texas Land Trust Council and San Antonio Edwards Aquifer Protection Program should increasingly be taken into account when planning for residential and commercial developments.

Metric 3: Amount of Developed Lands

SHC describes that trends in the National Landcover Dataset should continue to be monitored by municipal leaders to assess the amount of growth and impact on lands. It is recommended that a long-term goal for Central Texas should be to conserve as much land as is also being developed.

Metric 4: Pristine Streams

SHC recommends that increased water quality assessment should occur with the increased chances of run-off and pollutants from developed areas. SHC acknowledges that aquifer health, wildlife retainment, and habitat quality are dependent on clean water in streams. Techniques mentioned to reduce stream pollution include reducing agricultural run-off, reducing impervious surface run-off, managing algae blooms, and encouraging low impact design strategies.

Metric 5: Residential Water Consumption

SHC recommends that municipalities and counties establish better controls and assessments to measure the amount of water usage (short-term and long-term) for residential developments along with the effects of season changes. The document also compares household water consumption levels between municipalities and explains that water-reducing utilities and structures should be implemented in buildings to reduce water waste.

Metric 6: Spring Flows

SHC recommends that increased monitoring of spring flow capacities should be undertaken in conjunction with climatic and weather changes to better understand the direct correlation between all environmental factors. This includes the effects of wastewater outfalls and recreational users. The document details that overall flow from the four main springs of the Hill Country have decreased or were stagnant between 2000 and 2020.

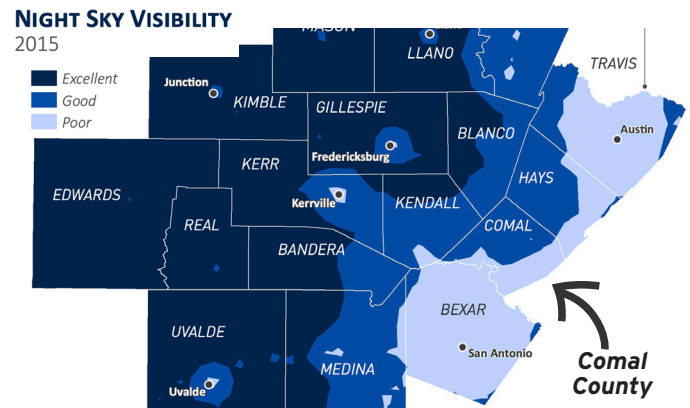
Continued: Hill County Alliance - State of the Hill Country (2022)

Metric 7: Night Sky Visibility

SHC recommends that light pollution changes over time should be assessed as a way of managing growth impacts and loss of environmental diversity. It is mentioned that a darker night sky with limited accessory lights is better for native habitat function and for tourists looking to have a natural experience at parks located in Comal County.

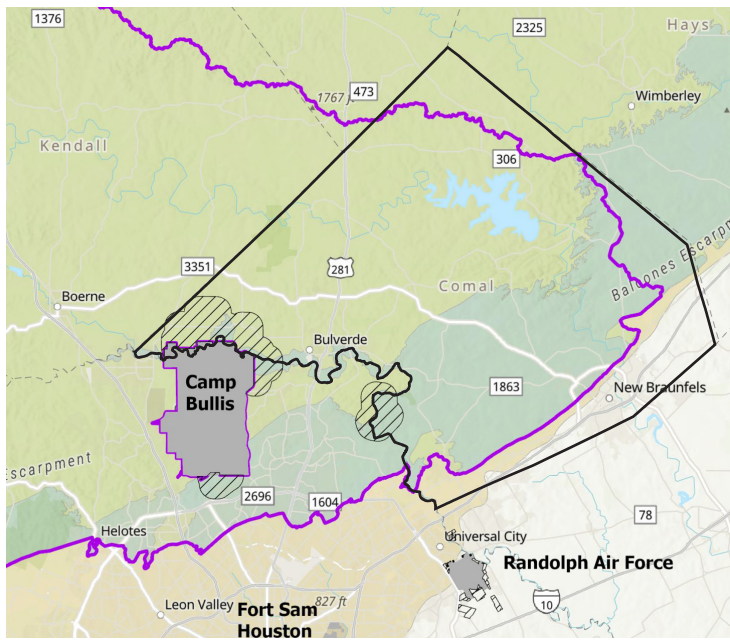
Metric 8: Conservation Investment

SHC recommends continued efforts to conserve lands in their natural state. The Report notes that from 2000 to 2020 the regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew to over \$160 Billion (from \$105 Billion), while investments in conservation have not kept pace. Between 1992 and 2020 over \$1.22 Billion in conservation bond funds has been passed by Hill Country counties; although average investments increased after 2005, since then the annual average investment through bonds has stagnated. The Report notes that rising land values, fast growth/development, and limited development restrictions are risks to continuing to conserve lands. The high investment in the area and rising advocacy and need for park space due to population growth are reasons noted for increasing investments in conservation.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District - Canyon Lake Master Plan (2017)

The Canyon Lake Master Plan (2017) was developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the purposes of appropriate stewardship, development, strategic planning, and environmental sustainability for the next 25 years. The Master Plan has established Recreational Objectives such as improving campground facilities and amenities, evaluating demand for facilities on a regular basis, increasing universally accessible facilities on Canyon Lake, and improving the Shoreline Management Program. Natural Resource Management Objectives include minimizing environmental disturbances, managing unauthorized use of public lands and trash dumping, addressing invasive species and prescribed treatments, and protecting/reconstructing wetlands and riparian zones. Cultural Resource and Visitor/Outreach Objectives include implementing more educational signage and programs, capturing trends in boat accident causes and locations, educating adjacent landowners along the shoreline, ensuring green infrastructure and Energy and Environmental Design criteria are met for government facilities, developing additional partnerships, and ensuring the cultural and historic protection of surrounding sites. Finally, the Master Plan includes a Resource Plan which guides the types of facilities, general density of facilities, land uses of parks, and specific water/land zones at parks along Canyon Lake.



Sentinel Landscape Boundary
Source: Hill Country Alliance

○ Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - Complying with the Edwards Aquifer Rules: Technical Guidance on BMP's

Complying with the Edwards Aquifer Rules: Technical Guidance on BMP's is a document which guides and demonstrates key land use practices which helps to protect hydrological flows and the Edwards Aquifer. The document was created by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for the use of developers, municipalities, residents, and contracted workers to ensure that construction is done in the safest and least environmentally impactful way possible. First, a series of Sediment Controls are described such as rock berms, fencing, dikes, temporary construction access, spill prevention controls, and utility crossings. Next, the Master Plan details the importance of comprehensive site planning noting, the preservation of surveyed wetlands and tree canopies. This also includes recommendations to reduce street widths, provide vegetation buffer strips, reduce building setbacks, using pervious pavements, and clustering development, to reduce full-site hydrological impacts of water-runoff and ground permeability. Next, a series of biological and chemical control methods are introduced, including alternatives to synthetic herbicides, proper storage and inspection, proper mechanics and back flow preventions, limiting pest control measures, and preventing application before rain events. Next, best landscaping and vegetative practices are introduced, such as tree protection (to reduce erosion, heat effects, and reduce flooding), trenching and tunneling damage prevention methods, encouraging storm water basin landscaping and Xeriscape programs, creating filter strips, preserving riparian vegetations, and minimizing turf/grass maintenance. Next, the Document addresses permanent structures such as buildings and walls and channels. Best permanent construction techniques highlighted include, sub-grade sediment criteria, bioretention techniques, permeable surface treatments, constructed wetlands, parking lot pavement treatments, sprinkler and valve practices, building grading techniques, berm and built wall grades and elevations, man-made outfalls, and drain/curb/gutter techniques. Lastly, the Document highlights the best practices for wastewater storage and removal, septic tank practices and safety, and other residential or municipal water retention/filtration systems.

○ Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape (CBSL) Program

The Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape (CBSL) Program is a document which guides land use, development, environmental protection, and water resources in and around Camp Bullis. The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is a national program which "is a coalition of federal agencies, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations that works with private landowners to advance sustainable land management practices around military installations and ranges." (<https://sentinel landscapes.org/>) The Sentinel Landscapes webpage further describes that "once a location becomes a sentinel landscape, USDA, DoD, and DOI work with local partners to equip private landowners with the resources necessary to carry out sustainable management practices on their properties." Major focuses of the CBSL include:

- Ensuring that water resources from surface water, springs, and rivers remains abundant for the Camp and residents as development increases
- Reducing the risk of night-time light pollution due to adjacent development to Camp Bullis
- Ensuring the protection of endemic species to the Hill County and the Camp Bullis area
- Reduce the risks of extreme weather fluctuations such as droughts and flooding
- Address and reduce development encroachment risks
- Support and expand access to public recreational opportunities (<http://aacog.net/742/Sentinel-Landscape-Initiative>)

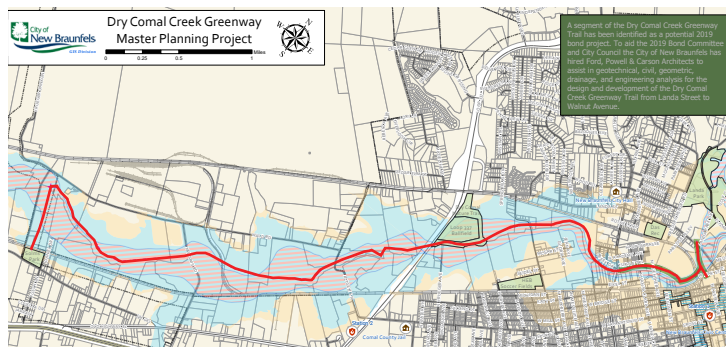
The Program currently has over 40 associated and collaborative local organizations which will help address impacts to the Camp Bullis region. With a Sentinel Program in place, stakeholders and landowners within the designated boundary can receive additional funding opportunities, benefits of collaborative efforts, new resources, and increased strategic planning. The Sentinel Program looks to develop a federally approved Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Plan which will open additional federal funding.

○ Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Guadalupe State Park and Honey Creek Natural Area plans

The Guadalupe State Park (GSP) and Honey Creek State Natural Area (Honey Creek) are Federal/State owned lands. GSP, established in 1983 from land acquired in 1974, is a 1,939 acre park open to the public. The park features active recreational options such as campgrounds, canoeing, fishing, horse-riding trails, geocaching, and swimming/tubing. The park also features picnic zones, birdwatching stations, and hiking trails. GSP protects many iconic Texas flora and fauna such as Bald Cypress trees, Live Oak trees, White-tailed deer, and the Golden-cheeked Warbler. The Guadalupe River State Park Paddling Trail is one of the main water-based recreation opportunities at the Park, providing over five miles of paddling through natural landscapes. Major natural points of interest include the Guadalupe River Rapids, Swallow Cliff, Scenic Overlook, and the Prairie Rust House. The Park also features a Discovery Center with hands-on exhibits and educational opportunities for youth. Honey Creek is a controlled-access park that is accessible through reservations only. The Park's main focus is the preservation of natural and native habitats. Only natural hiking trails are found at the Park to preserve the natural ecological functions of the park, which one can view in a guided two-mile nature tour along the trails. Honey Creek is the only water body in the state of Texas which has been completely untouched and unaltered. Honey Creek showcases what settlers to the Hill Country saw upon first settling to the area.

Local City Initiatives Review

The following pages present summaries of past reports and planning documents pertaining to parks and recreation developed by local municipalities and organizations within Comal County.



Proposed Dry Comal Creek Trail connecting Landa Park and Solms Park
Source: City of New Braunfels

○ Dry Comal Creek Greenway Master Plan (2019)

Developed with the National Park Service (NPS) through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, the City created a master plan for the Dry Comal Creek Nature Trail based on the Parks Strategic Master Plan Priorities. This plan envisions the Dry Comal Creek Nature Trail to extend north toward downtown and to the south toward Solms Park and neighboring communities. There are four key segments. Segment 1 has been funded and the Segment 2 and 3 feasibility study will begin in 2023. Segments 3 and 4 have portions that are not in the city limits and within Comal County.



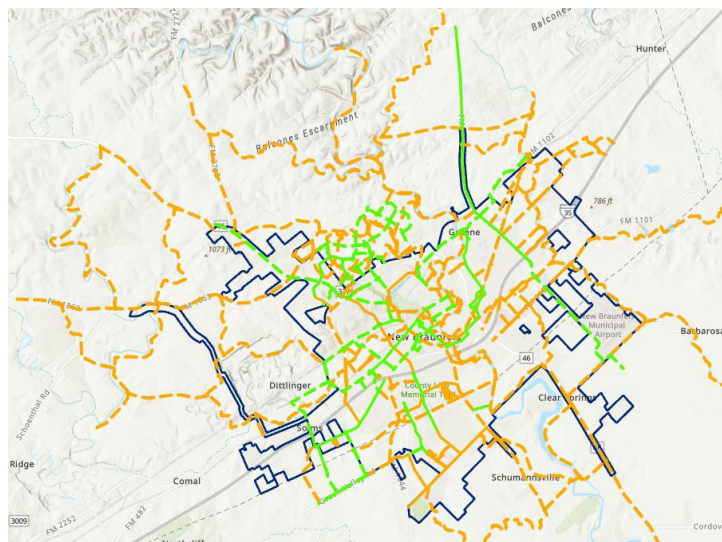
Proposed Mission Hill Park site plan
Source: City of New Braunfels

○ New Braunfels Parkland Dedication Manual (2018)

Approved with the update of the City parkland dedication ordinance, the manual provides an overview of parkland dedication policies, methodologies, and the implementation of the new ordinance for city leaders, staff, and developers. The required parkland dedication is calculated based on the proposed density and residents per unit of the housing development. The parkland is also required to be centrally located to residents, accessible by way of loop trails, usable for park amenities, and cannot include retention pond areas as part of the dedication requirement.

○ City of New Braunfels Hike and Bike Trail Update (2020)

This report provides an update to the 10-year-old plan. It includes updating the City's inventory of completed trail projects, codifies trail classification and types, as well as standards for trails, incorporates newly adopted planning studies, and revisits the trail opportunities highlighted in the 2010 HBT Plan. The 2020 Plan reflects proposed on- and off-street citywide non-vehicular bike/ped network. It highlights eight opportunity areas for future trail development. See Page A.16, for a detailed sidebar and graphic of the proposed hike and bike trail facilities within this plan.

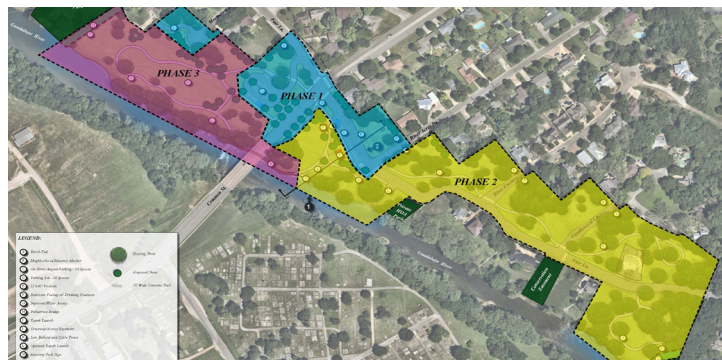


Proposed Hike and bike Trails within New Braunfels ETJ and Comal County
Source: City of New Braunfels

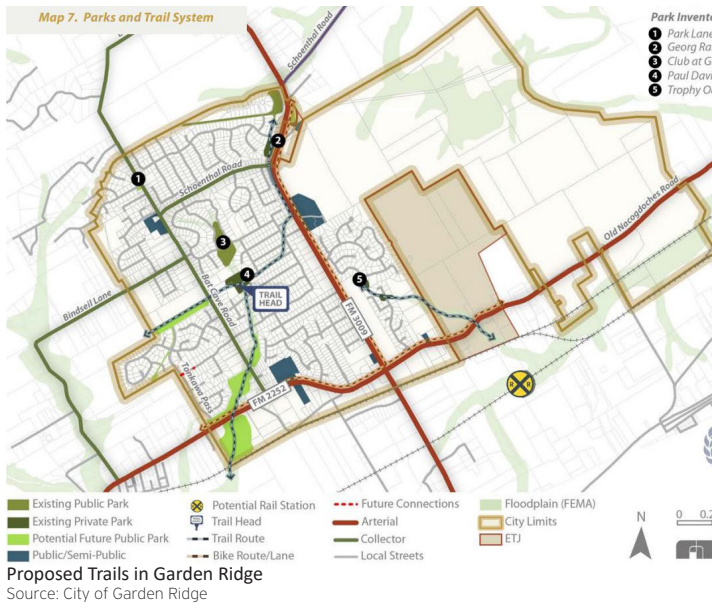
○ New Braunfels Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan (2018)

Approved in 2018, this document provides guidelines and strategies for future acquisition and development of recreational facilities and opportunities for New Braunfels. It is a culmination of an extensive planning process involving the elected officials, staff, Parks and Recreation Steering Committee, and most importantly the citizens of New Braunfels. The plan addresses present and future needs of the community, including community priorities for the park system and service, overarching vision for the department, level of services of the department, identified unmet needs and level of desire by the community for programs and parks/facilities, and future park opportunities. Recommendations and findings from the plan include:

- Major need for parkland along the Comal County and New Braunfels edge
- Major renovations needed to regional parks such as Camp Comal, Landa Park, Solms Park, and Market Plaza
- New Master Plans needed for Solms Park and Cypress Bend Park



Proposed Gaudalupe Park along the Guadalupe River in New Braunfels
Source: City of New Braunfels



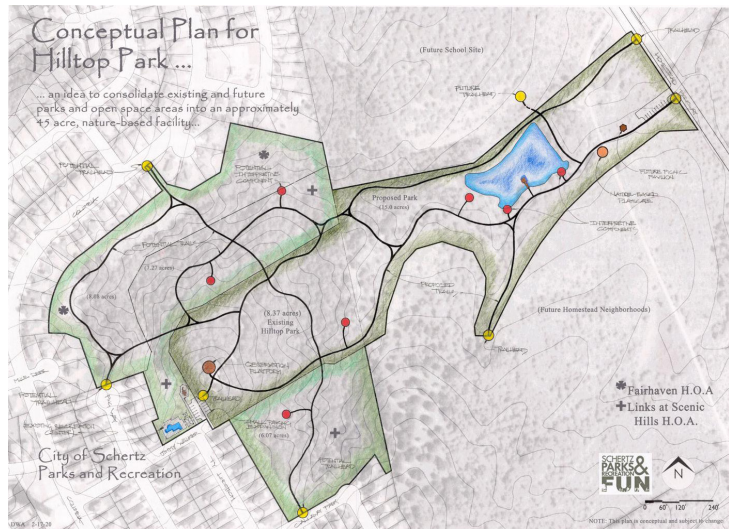
Garden Ridge Master Land Use Plan (2020), Chapter 3

The Garden Ridge Master Land Use Plan is a 20-year framework primarily to preserve the natural environment and unique community character as the City approaches buildout of its current city limits. The Plan and its vision were developed using input from residents, business professionals, community stakeholders, and City government officials, as well as analysis of economic trends, regional influences, and land use patterns. Chapter 3 of the plan details the land use vision for parks and trails. The plan focuses recommendations for trail connectivity to regional trails. Major recommendations from the plan include:

- Develop a mixed-use downtown with civic park spaces
- Construct four trail spines
 - 1: A trail from west of Paul Davis Park to FM 3009
 - 2: A trail from Paul Davis Park to Tonkawa Pass
 - 3: A trail along FM 3009 to Schoenthal Road
 - 4: A trail connecting Wahl Lane to FM 2252
- Develop bicycle routes along FM 3009 and FM 2252
- At the time of drafting it was found that no additional parkland was needed

Schertz Parks and Recreation Master Plan Live & Play! (2014)

The City's 2001 Comprehensive Land Plan and the 2007 Parks & Open Space Master Plan set the vision for the growth and expansion of city's parks and open spaces, as well as planned for the maintenance and improvement of existing parks and facilities. It was developed with input from city staff, boards and commissions and direct input from citizens. The long-range plan addresses all aspects of the park and recreation system and covers issues, including management, funding, maintenance and operations, parks standards and facility requirements, athletics and partnership with local youth organizations, athletic fields and aquatics program expansion, and lastly the addition of a new skate park and dog park.



Bulverde Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Master Plan (2020)

The plan includes a list of priorities that fit into the community's Park System Goals, which give guidance to the overall future direction of the City's park system. A park and facility inventory review provided data and public input informed the recommendations for local facility needs and future park and recreation action plans for the City of Bulverde. Recommendations from the plan include:

- Develop greenbelts using natural drainage ways when possible
- Adopt a Hike and Bike Trail Master Plan
- Evaluate what facilities the City can afford to provide and explore grant opportunities
- Implementation of Bike/Pedestrian pathways that would connect the various subdivisions
- Review subdivision standards and revise as necessary to encourage pedestrian/bicycle pathways/sidewalks
- Investigate the possibilities of utilizing VIA Park-and-Ride.



Bulverde Community Park
Source: Halff

REGIONAL COMPARISON

In The Region

Comparing metrics between counties in a similar region can aid in the understanding of where a county's strengths and needed improvements may be. It also helps understand what policies, capacity, and programs exist in other counties which may be considered for Comal County. The following pages present a regional map and a series of assessment tables comparing metrics such as amount of parkland, amount of preserved spaces, local committees, local legislation and ordinances, and local master plans and initiatives.

Regional Land and Protected Resources

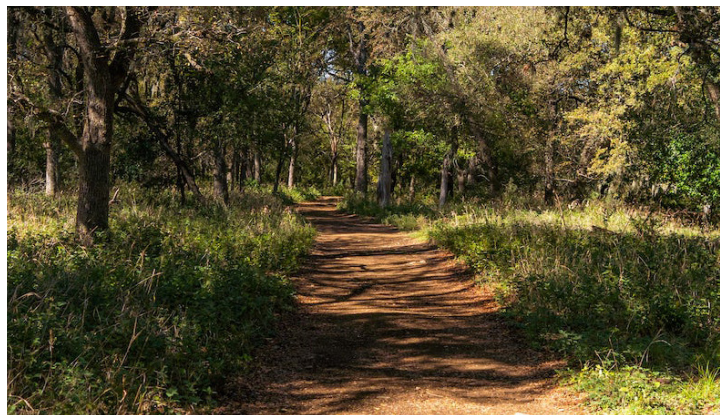
Map A.7, on the facing page, shows the regional natural resources and protected land throughout the Hill Country region.

First, there is an observed direct correlation between the Edwards Aquifer and the location of Conservation Lands and County-Municipal Parks. Parks such as the Hill Country State Natural Area, Government Canyon State Park, Natural Bridge Caverns, Freeman Ranch, Purgatory Creek Park, and Liberty Ranch are directly on top of the Edwards Aquifer. Concentrated efforts to preserve lands over the aquifer has been and still is a priority to protect the water quality and availability for the region. In many cases, State and Federal funding is more available for parkland and conservation establishment above the Edwards Aquifer zone than outside of the Aquifer zone.

Second, the overall dispersion of parkland is not equal throughout the region. Counties with a smaller population and more affordable real estate, such as Medina and Uvalde Counties, have large portions of the county protected. The exception to this is Travis County (Austin, Texas) where conservation efforts and enacted legislation have created conditions where large amounts of land can more easily be protected or remain undeveloped. Within the Hill Country region, Comal County specifically lacks major conservation lands, with the exceptions of Goodbull Ranch and Natural Bridge Caverns. A noticeable break in parkland between Bexar County and Hays County can be seen.

Third, a large portion of Hays and Comal County is under a coal tar ban. Coal tar is a black shiny sealant often sprayed on top of asphalt pavement to prevent cracking. Coal tar restrictions are in place across the U.S. due to the potent concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's) causing toxic, carcinogenic, and mutagenic chemical runoff into water systems. While not shown on the map Austin and San Antonio also have coal tar ban regions and were the first municipalities in the U.S. to develop a coal tar ban.

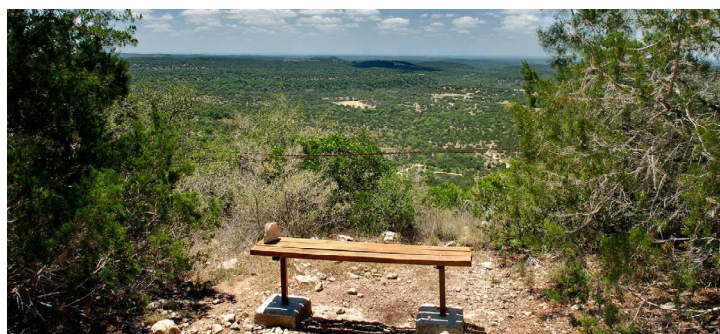
Fourth, it may be important to note that the Edwards Aquifer runs tangentially to the watersheds of the region. While the existing protected parklands run generally north to south, the waterways run east to west. A majority of land along the surface water/watersheds is not protected since the main focus has been on the Edwards Aquifer. As a result, a majority of lands upstream of Canyon Lake along the Guadalupe River are not protected or utilized as parkland. As development continues to occur and spread to Boerne, Comfort, and Kerrville, addressing the overall Guadalupe watersheds ecology and health will be more critical.



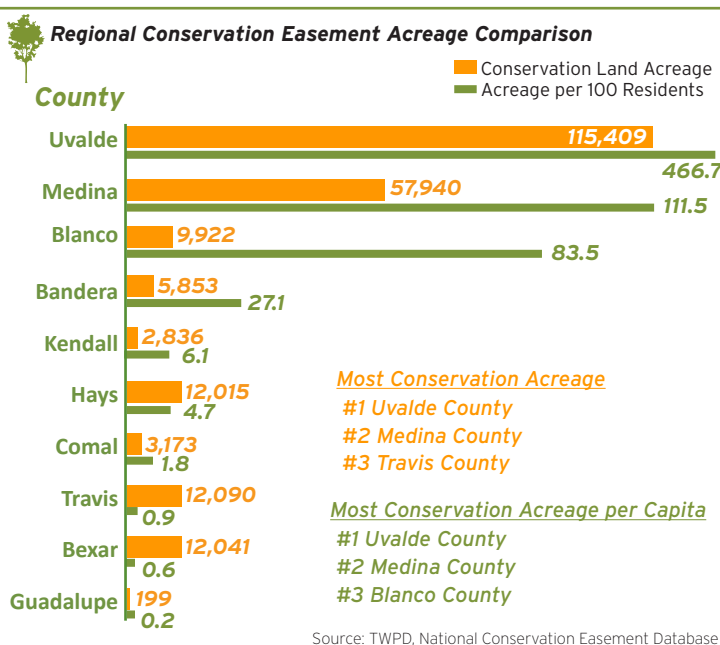
Purgatory Creek Park and Dante's Loop Trail conservation lands in San Marcos
Source: The Outbound

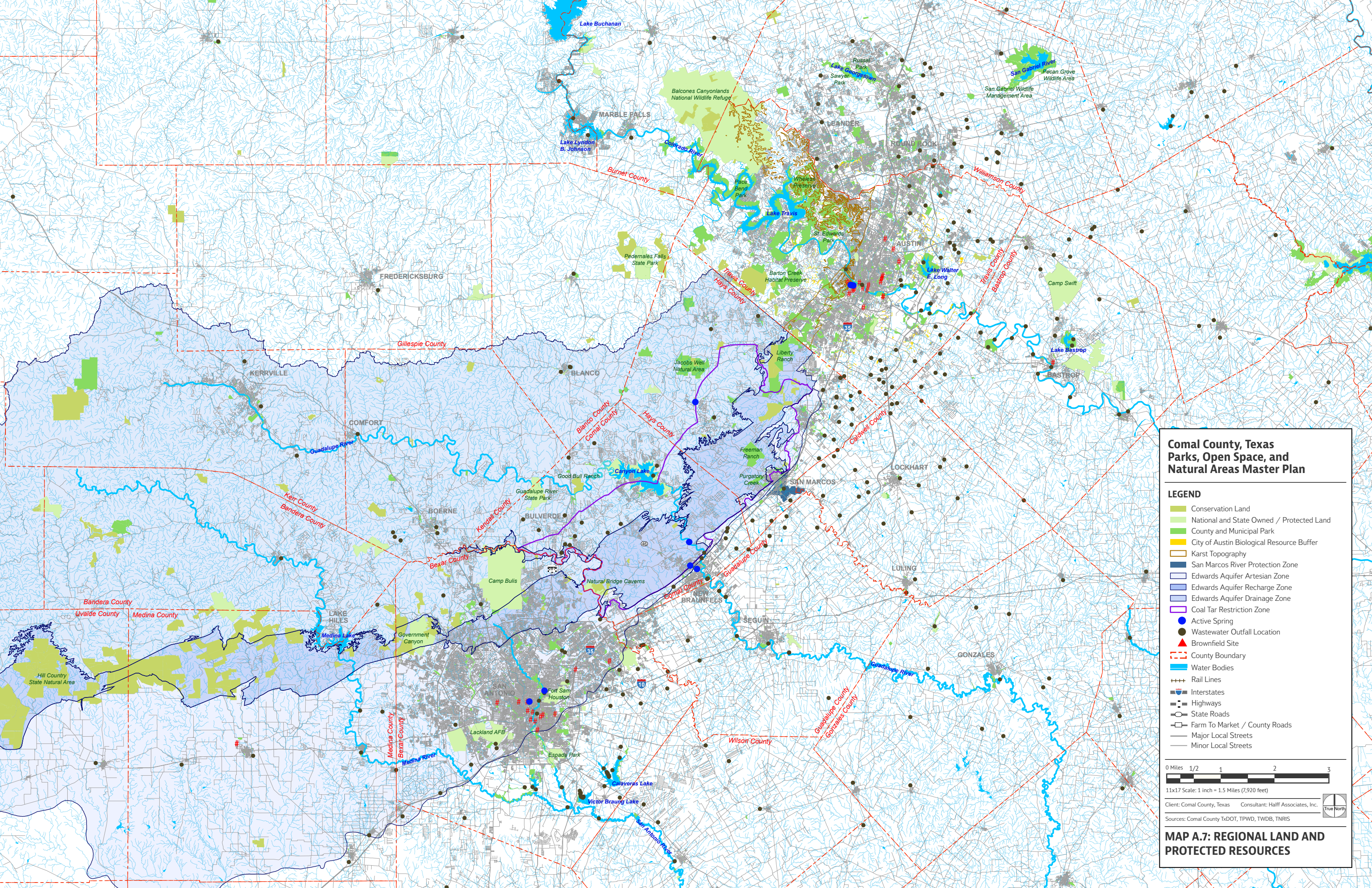


Good Bull Ranch conservation easement in Comal County, shooting target practice
Source: Good Bull Ranch



Hill Country State Natural Area lookout, in Uvalde County
Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department





Comal County, Texas Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan

LEGEND

- Conservation Land
- National and State Owned / Protected Land
- County and Municipal Park
- City of Austin Biological Resource Buffer
- Karst Topography
- San Marcos River Protection Zone
- Edwards Aquifer Artesian Zone
- Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone
- Edwards Aquifer Drainage Zone
- Coal Tar Restriction Zone
- Active Spring
- Wastewater Outfall Location
- Brownfield Site
- County Boundary
- Water Bodies
- Rail Lines
- Interstates
- Highways
- State Roads
- Farm To Market / County Roads
- Major Local Streets
- Minor Local Streets

0 Miles 1/2 1 2 3

11x17 Scale: 1 inch = 1.5 Miles (7,920 feet)

Client: Comal County, Texas Consultant: Hafl Associates, Inc.

Sources: Comal County TxDOT, TPWD, TWDB, TNRIS

**MAP A.7: REGIONAL LAND AND
PROTECTED RESOURCES**

County and Municipal Comparison: Regulatory Review

On the facing page, two tables are presented detailing characteristics of regional counties and municipalities in and around Comal County. The first table, Table A.4, County Comparison, compares regional county departments, approved bonds, annual budgets, enacted legislation, reports, and master plans. The second table, Table A.5, Municipal Comparison, compares cities within Comal County and comparable cities in the region, presenting local committees and groups, master plans, and departments relevant to parks and recreation. Note that information presented may not be comprehensive and include all committees, reports, budgets, and ordinances. Data not found through online sources may not be shown.



Youth help out at the Bulverde Community Garden
Source: Bulverde Community Parks and Garden



Music and Movies in the Park
Source: City of Schertz



Texas Tri-County Chamber of Commerce Mixer At Paul Davis Park
Source: City of Garden Ridge

County Comparison

Of the observed counties, the only counties with a Parks and Recreation Department have over 250,000 existing residents. The existence of parks and recreation boards or other parks related committees varies widely based on county population size. Generally, as the population increases the more boards and committees related to parks and natural areas exist. However, counties such as Bastrop and Kendall County, which have limited populations and parkland, have Parks Boards. Furthermore, counties such as Medina and Blanco do not have a Parks board, but have substantial public parkland and conservation easements. As observed, bond measures and parkland funding is relative to the County's population. Excluding counties over 250,000 residents, only Medina and Kendall county have passed bond measures for parkland and natural areas. This may be due to a variety of reasons including the large amount of natural resources in their counties, such as the Edwards Aquifer and Guadalupe River, and the expansion of residential and commercial development into the counties as a result of their proximity to Bexar County.

Annual budgets for parks and recreation in regional counties ranges from 6.6 percent of the budget in Guadalupe County to only 0.03 percent of the budget in Blanco County. Typically regional counties spend 0.05 percent to 0.35 percent of their annual budget on parks and recreation related activities. Comal County is on the slightly higher end of the scale, spending 0.38 percent of their annual budget on parkland in FY 2023, although Guadalupe County spends 6.6 percent of their budget on parkland.

Municipal Comparison

Of the observed municipalities, cities over 1,000 residents typically have a Parks and Recreation Department along with an advisory board/committee. The only incorporated municipality in Comal County without a parks department or board is Spring Branch. The cities of Schertz, New Braunfels, and Garden Ridge have additional City boards and commissions that are somewhat related to parks and the environment including a wildlife management advisory board, river advisory committee, traffic and transportation advisory board, and a quarry commission. As observed, around **three to six percent** of municipal annual budgets is dedicated towards parks and recreation related spending. As a proportion of total annual budgets, New Braunfels and San Marcos spend the most with 7.3 and 5.6 percent spending, respectively. Smaller municipalities in Comal County such as Schertz, Bulverde, and Garden Ridge spend quite a bit less on parks and recreation at around two percent of their budget.

Every municipality with the exception of Spring Branch has developed a city-wide parks and recreation plan or a parks and recreation strategic chapter (as part of a larger plan) which includes the provision of parkland, park facilities, trails, and bicycle lanes.

Lastly, as municipalities have more land use and legislative authorities (when compared to counties) municipalities in Comal County have passed a number of restrictive ordinances and protective measures related to parks and environmental planning. Garden Ridge has passed a tree protection ordinance and a flood damage prevention ordinance. Selma has light intrusion regulations. Bulverde has a parkland dedication ordinance. New Braunfels has a parkland dedication ordinance, developer trail connection requirements, and historic preservation ordinances. Additional regional cities have passed developer regulations, parkland requirements, and easement ordinances.

Table A.4: County Comparison

County	Parks Depart-	Parks Committee / Advisory Boards / Groups	Bonds and Funding	Budget (2023) [Total Annual Budget] [Parks and Recreation Budget]	Enacted Legislation and Programs	Reports / Plan / Studies	Population (2020)
Comal	No	Parks Maintenance and Improvement Committee (PMAIC)	None	\$134,903,050 (0.38%) \$515,897	• Subdivision Regulations within ETJ's • No current City-County interlocal agreements • WORD related fee's	Parks Master Plans (CZP's)	174,000
Bexar	Yes	• Historical Commission • Technical Advisory Committee	2003 Parks and Equipment Bond #3 -\$5.9M (Part of a \$99M Package)	\$1,302,152,396 (0.1%) \$37,965,541	• 1.75% hotel occupancy tax • 5% short-term motor vehicle rental tax	• 2008-2020 Parks Master Plan • 2021 Parks Master Plan	2,009,000
Travis	Yes	• Citizens Bond Advisory Committee • The Park Forestry Program	• 2011 Land Conservation Bond -\$8.3M • 2018 Bond -\$149M for Parks, \$184 for Flood Mitigation • 2023 Pending renewal Road and Park Bond -\$149M for Parks, \$184 for Flood Mitigation	\$1,557,426,250 (0.04%) \$7,205,832 [Including County Parks CIP Fund]	• Travis County Conservation Easement Program • The Park Forestry Program • Trash Free Texas programs	• 1996 Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan • 2016 Parks Master Plan	1,305,000
Hays	Yes	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee	2020 Parks & Open Spaces Bond -\$75M	\$354,051,343 (0.27%) \$794,740	• Subdivision incentives for Bicycle Paths and Lanes, reduction of estimated ADT • Unrestricted uses of the flood hazard area	2012 Parks Master Plan	255,400
Guadalupe	No	None	None	\$140,421,786 (6.6%) \$851,028 [Environmental Health Dept.]	None	None	117,036
Bastrop	No	• Bastrop County Parks Advisory Committee • (City) Public Tree Advisory board	None	\$58,465,275 (0.06%) \$367,967	7% (county) and 0.75% (city) hotel occupancy tax	• 2021 Parks and Open Space Master Plan • 2004 Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership - Colorado River Plan	102,000
Medina	No	None	• 2021 \$11.3M for the Woodland Public Improvement Area	\$66,297,319 (0.01%) \$100,000 [Environmental Health Dept.]	Farms Service Agency	• 2022 Seco Creek Flood Mitigation Project	51,981
Wilson	No	Wilson County Wildlife Management Association	None	\$32,927,584 N/A	None	• (City) Floresville Master Plan, Parks Chapter	51,257
Caldwell	No	None	None	\$31,049,514 N/A	• Central Texas Feral Hog Task Force • Interlocal protection agreement of Plum Creek Watershed (Hays, Caldwell, GBRA, more)	• (City) 2018 Lockhart Parks Master Plan • Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan	46,791
Kendall	Yes	Parks Advisory Board	• 2021 -\$25,000 for parks acquisition feasibility study	\$28,300,000 (0.34%) \$977,611	None	2022 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan	46,788
Gillespie	No	Flood Plain and Sanitation Office	None	\$26,120,690 N/A	None	Land Owners Guide - Stewarding the Pedernales River Basin (HCA)	27,297
Bandera	No	Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District	None	\$76,599,482 (0.05%) \$441,855	• Bandera Corridor Conservation Bank • Rainspotters Program	• FY 2022 Annual Report Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District • (City) 2014 Bandera City Parks Report	21,565
Gonzalez	No	None	None	\$21,741,045 N/A	None	None	19,641
Blanco	No	None	None	\$10,923,065 (0.03%) \$38,000	Trash Free Texas programs	None	11,886

Table 2.5: Municipal Comparison

City	Parks Department	Parks Committee / Advisory Boards / Groups	Budget (2023) [Total Annual Budget] [Parks and Recreation Budget]	Enacted Legislation and Programs	Reports / Plans / Studies	Population (most recent estimate)
New Braunfels	Yes	• Parks Advisory Board • River Advisory Committee • Community Development Advisory Committee • Landa Park Golf Course Advisory Board • Traffic & Transportation Advisory Board	\$134,903,050 (7.3%) \$7,331,743	• Subdivision Regulations within ETJ's • No current City-County interlocal Parks/Environmental agreements • Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ) establishment • Historic Preservation Tax Relief • Parkland Dedication Ordinance (No. 2018-33)	• City Development Guide • Envision New Braunfels 2018 Comprehensive Plan and Annual Reports • City Future Land Use Plan 2018 • Dry Comal Creek Greenway Plan • 2020 Hike and Bike Trail Plan • 2018 Parks Strategic Master Plan	174,000
Bulverde	Yes	• Parks Advisory Board • Bulverde Area Library Rural District	\$6,542,581 (2.1%) \$135,411	Parkland Dedication Ordinance	• 2020-2030 Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan • 2015 Lewis Creek Drainage Study	5,996
Garden Ridge	Yes	• Parks Committee • Capital Improvement Advisory Committee • Quarry Commission • Wildlife Management Advisory Commission • Garden Ridge Lions Club (civic)	\$2,356,795 (1.8%) \$44,160	• Oak Wilt (tree protection) Ordinance (No. 71) • Stormwater Pollution control MS4 Ordinance (No. 191) • Flood Damage Prevention Plan Ordinance (No. 36) • Lot Size Ordinance (No. 176)	2018 Master Land Use Plan	4,200
Spring Branch	No	None	None	• 2021 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance • 2016 Flood Damage Prevention	None	154
Schertz	Yes	• Parks and Recreation Board • Capital Improvements Advisory Committee • Building and Standards Commission • Historic Preservation Committee • Library Advisory Committee	\$105,316,557 (2.5%) \$2,698,891	• Main Street Incentives Program • Neighborhood Empowerment Zones • Community Tool shed Program • Graffiti Abatement Program • Roadway Impact Fee Program	• 2021 Comprehensive Land Plan • 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan	42,622
Selma	No	Planning and Zoning Commission	\$14,836,914 (0.5%) \$75,000	• Noise reduction (Code, Chapter 38, Article VI) • Light Intrusion (Code, Chapter 38, Article IV)	2018 Trails and Branding Master Plan	12,032
Wimberley	Yes	• Parks and Recreation Board • Transportation Advisory Board • Planning and Zoning Commission	\$1,860,500 (3.4%) \$637,320	• Hotel Occupancy Tax (7%) • Developer requirement for public parkland dedication (Sec. 9.02.271)	• 2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan • Blue Hole Regional Park Master Plan • Cypress Creek Nature Trail and Preserve Master Plan	2,879
San Marcos	Yes	• Parks and Recreation Advisory Board • Art Commission • Housing Authority board • Parking Advisory Board	\$106,678,790 (5.6%) \$6,029,611	• Public parkland dedication requirements - requirement for a park within a 1/4th mile of every resident (Sec. 3.10.1.2) • Requires centrally located parkland in master planned communities	• 2019 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan • Purgatory Creek Improvement Plan	67,290
Cibolo	Yes	Parks and Recreation Commission	\$34,685,253 (3.5%) \$1,225,441	• Requires public access to any development adjacent to trail easements (Section 18.19) • Cibolo Seniors Program	• Cibolo Nature Center Master Plan • Cibolo Creek Master Plan	33,475
Lockhart	Yes	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee	\$17,071,700 (1.1%) \$1,846,132	Public parkland dedication requirements	Parks Master Plan	14,844
Fredericksburg	Yes	Planning and Zoning Commission	\$70,961,981 (4.6%) \$3,286,962	None	• 2016 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan • Parks Master Plan 2013 Update	27,862

Government Agencies and Non-profit Groups

Comal County and the Hill Country region has a large number of public and private organizations dedicated to water management, natural area preservation, parks development, and environmental advocacy. As Comal County, its residents, and community leaders look to develop initiatives regarding parks and open spaces, coordination with these existing entities may be valuable. These organizations provide a wide range of services from environmental assessment, grant funding, land-owner coordination, maintenance, and environmental planning.

State and National organizations such as the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Bat Conservation International, and Texas Parks and Wildlife all operate or oversee the largest amounts of parkland within Comal County.

Entities such as the Edwards Aquifer Authority and the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA) oversee the health,

water quality, and distribution services of waters within the Edwards Aquifer and the regional river basins.

The Hill Country Alliance, Hill Country Conservancy, and Texas Land Trust Council are all groups aimed at preserving the Hill Country's ecosystems, providing research assistance, land management strategies, and conservation easements with land owners.

Local groups working specifically in Comal County include the Comal County Conservation Alliance, which advocates for conservation lands; Keep Canyon Lake Beautiful, which hosts clean up events; Gorge Preservation Society, which protects geological and historical sites; and the Headwaters at the Comal, which educates and provides restoration efforts along the Comal river and Comal Spring.

Appendix A, Organizational Directory, provides more extensive information on the specific missions, powers, projects, and services each organization provides.

Major Government Entities



Other Political Subdivisions



WORD

Major Comal County Community Groups



Major Non-Profit Groups



Local and Regional Entities

Public Organizations in Comal County

- Canyon Lake Community Resource and Recreation Center
- Canyon Lake Gorge Preservation Society (Guadalupe Blanco River Authority)
- Canyon Lake Water Service (Under SJWTX Inc., Deer Creek & Canyon Lake)
- Comal – Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
- Comal County Parks Maintenance and Improvement Committee (PMAIC)
- Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA)
- Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority/Guadalupe-Blanco River Fund
- Headwaters of the Comal River
- Water Oriented Recreation District of Comal County (WORD)

Non-Governmental Agencies/Private

- Bracken Cave Preserve (Bat Conservation International Inc.)
- Canyon Lake Area Chamber of Commerce/Keep Canyon Lake Beautiful
- Canyon Lake Dam Community Alliance
- Comal County Conservation Alliance
- Comal Trails Alliance
- The Great Springs Project
- The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance
- The Hill Country Conservancy
- Preserve Our Hill Country Environmental Foundation
- The Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country

Regional Planning Authorities

- Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Capitol Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Private Recreation in Comal County

- Camp Fimfo Texas Hill Country
- Camp Huaco Springs
- Caps Crossing Campground
- Cedar Ridge Range
- Guadalupe Canoe Livery
- Guadalupe River RV Park and Campgrounds
- Gypsy River Resort
- Kane's Ol' River Hideaway
- KL Ranch Camp
- Lakeside Golf club
- Lazy L&L Campground
- Little Ponderosa River Outfitters
- Mountain Breeze Campground
- Mystic Quarry
- Natural Bridge Caverns
- Potters Creek Park
- Randolph Recreation Park
- Rebecca Creek Campgrounds
- Rio Guadalupe Resort
- River Road Camp Inc
- Roys Rentals and Campground
- Sons Guadalupe River Camping
- Whitewater Amphitheater
- Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp Resort

Sports Leagues in Comal County

- Bulverde Athletic League
- Bulverde Youth Soccer Association
- Canyon Lake Little League
- Canyon Lake Youth Soccer
- New Braunfels Little League
- Mid-Tex Youth Football League
- Spring Branch Youth Football Association
- Spring Branch Tennis Center
- Canyon Lake Girls Softball

Public School Districts in Comal County

- Comal Independent School District
- New Braunfels Independent School District

Other Organizations and Entities

- Boy / Girl Scouts of America (B/GSA)
- Center of Archaeological Research- University of Texas at San Antonio
- Cibolo Center for Conservation
- Friends of Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area
- Gardening Volunteers of South Texas
- Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas
- Indigenous Cultures Institute (ICI)
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (LBJWC)
- Land Heritage Institute with the EPlcenter
- Llano River Watershed Alliance
- Meadows Center for Water and the Environment
- Nation Audubon Society (Texas Chapter Bexar, Bastrop, Travis Audubon)
- National Historic Trail Association (El Camino Real de los Tejas)
- Native Plant Society of Texas
- Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT)
- Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce
- Rails to Trails Conservancy
- San Marcos Aquatic Research Center
- San Marcos River Foundation
- Save Our Springs Alliance
- Texan By Nature
- Sierra Club
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Comal County
- Texas A&M Forest service
- Texas Association for Environmental Education
- Texas Agricultural Land Trust (TALT)
- Texas Cave Management Association (TCMA)
- Texas Environmental Health Association Central Texas Chapter
- Texas Farm and Ranch Land Conservation Program
- Texas Land Trust Council
- Texas Living Waters Project
- Texas Master Gardener
- Texas Master Naturalist Lindheimer Chapter
- Texas Ornithological Society (TOS)
- Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers Community Based Organization
- Texas Society of Ecological Restoration (TxSER)
- Texas State University (San Marcos)
- Texas Water Smart
- Texas Wildlife Association
- The Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country
- The Nature Conservancy of Texas
- The University of Texas at San Antonio
- Trust for Public Land (TPL)
- Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Compliance

This Master Plan was developed to be consistent with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) eligibility requirements for Outdoor Recreation grants and funding. In order to be eligible for TPWD funding, the agency requires that a county or municipality submit an updated parks master plan every five years and a completely new plan every ten years.

Minimum requirements for the plan include:

- ✓ 1: A summary of accomplishments and existing conditions
- ✓ 2: Up to date pertinent public input (demand-based assessment)
- ✓ 3: A review of parks level of service (standards-based assessment)
- ✓ 4: Inventory data and review of park facilities and resources
- ✓ 5: A demographic review
- ✓ 6: A list of priority projects and actions
- ✓ 7: A Strategic Plan in the form of project maps and implementation strategies
- ✓ 8: Specific goals and objectives based on public input and assessments

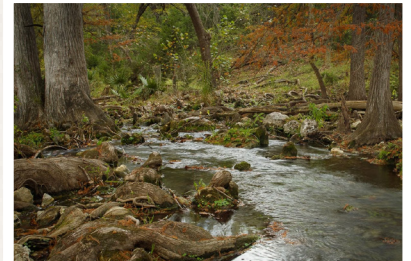
TPWD owns and operates over 630,000 acres of protected and natural areas in Texas for the benefit of its residents. Three properties in Comal County are owned by TPWD; 1, Guadalupe River State Park (GRSP); 2, Honey Creek State Natural Area (Honey Creek); and 3, Honey Creek Spring Ranch. Located near Spring Branch, these contiguous lands help protect the water quality of the Guadalupe River and its ecosystem, rock outcroppings, natural water flows, and native vegetation. TPWD hosts trail walks, water-based recreation programs, and campground access for the public at GRSP. Honey Creek and Honey Creek Spring Ranch are open to public visits only through guided tours. Honey Creek is the only unaltered stream or river in the entire state of Texas, retaining all natural flows, vegetation, and soil compositions. Honey Creek is also home to the Honey Creek Cave which is the longest cave in Texas at over 20 miles long.

TPWD continuously assists in research and funding of park and recreational activities undertaken by private and public entities. Through the Local Parks Grants Program, National Recreational Trails Fund, Boating Access Grants, Community Outdoor Outreach Program, and other programs, the TPWD has funded local community parks and trails in Comal County. These initiatives include a \$298,000 grant to New Braunfels for the West Alligator Creek Trail-Phase 2A project, workshops with New Braunfels on urban wildlife, \$300,000 for Veramendi Trails Phase 2, \$56,000 for the New Braunfels Forever Foundation for their Texas Nature Expeditions Program, and \$750,000 for the 125-acre Zipp Family Sports Park. This demonstrates the integral role the TPWD plays in protecting ecosystems and providing the funds for recreational amenities and services to Comal County.



In 2021, with help from the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Council, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission voted to acquire Honey Creek Spring Ranch (pictured above), located adjacent to Honey Creek State Natural Area, to prevent the construction of 1,600-home subdivision on 1,825 acres of land, which was opposed by local residents and environmental groups.

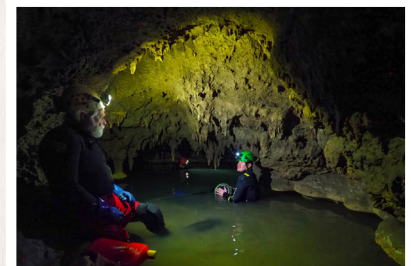
Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



Bald Cypress and Live Oaks at Honey Creek
Source: Texas Historical Commission



Guadalupe River State Park, operated by TPWD, in Comal and Kendall County
Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



Honey Creek Cave
Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



GRSP Campgrounds
Source: The Dyrt, Deborah C

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and Park Metrics

NRPA is the leading not-for-profit organization which champions the work of park and recreation professionals nationwide. It's mission is to advance parks, recreation and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people.

NRPA offers certifications and accreditations to individuals and entities such as the Certified Park and Recreational Professional (CPRP), the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accreditation, and annual awards for parks planning efforts. These accreditations can bolster the credibility, resources, and funding base for agencies that provide parks and recreational services.

Park Metrics is a set of data benchmarks developed by NRPA for municipal and county entities to assess park and recreational level of service. Utilizing annual survey data from agencies through the Agency Performance Review Survey, national averages for parks and recreational activities are provided to entities. These averages are then compared to the entities own averages to assess if they fall behind or ahead of national parks service levels. Such assessment benchmarks include an average acreage of parkland per 1,000 people, budgetary expenditures per park acreage and population, individual facility type service areas, staffing and capacity, agency funding, and agency programs and participation.

These benchmarks merely provide the opportunity for a jurisdiction to compare itself to similar, or benchmark, communities. They are not to be viewed as "standards" and Comal County must establish its own set of targets for service.

APPENDIX A, COMMUNITY CONTEXT CONCLUSION

The following section provides a summary of findings from Appendix A, Community Context. Utilizing analysis of Comal County's existing parkland, along with regional community comparisons, demographic review, conservation lands and facilities inventory, and plans/reports review, a comprehensive summary of existing conditions is as follows:

Demographic Review and Development Trends

- The fastest development growth is in areas surrounding New Braunfels, Bulverde, and U.S. 281, with new large subdivision developments scattered in the center of the County near Canyon Lake
- Comal County is experiencing some of the largest demographic growth in the state and region
- A majority of new development is single family homes replacing farm-ranch land and natural areas
- A majority of parcels over 50 acres is already developed within the County

Parkland and Facilities Inventory

- A majority of parkland and trails within the County are municipal or State operated
- Over 32 boat ramps, kayak launches, and tube launches are located in Comal County, mainly along the Guadalupe River and Canyon Lake
- Trails within the County are around 1-mile long and do not connect to other active recreational facilities
- A majority of park facilities in the County are privately-owned or have restricted access, and are mainly located within the New Braunfels and Canyon Lake regions
- Compared to regional counties, Comal has less conservation land and parkland per capita

Environmental Risks and Constraints

- Comal County has a large abundance of tree canopy and topographic variation drawing in regional eco-tourists
- Developed land for residential uses is causing clear-cutting of tree canopy and other environmental risks
- Flood risk is greatest along Dry Comal Creek, Cibolo Creek near Bulverde, and the Guadalupe River up-stream of Canyon Lake
- Comal County is continually threatened by drought, floods, and wildfires

Agency Authority and Governmental Entities

- Municipalities in Comal County have parkland dedication ordinances and additional environmental protections that the County does not have
- A large number of trails and park master plans exist for Comal County through municipal plans and non-profit backed plans
- Many entities and agencies work in and around Comal County to protect resources and develop trails and recreational spaces

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX B





NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Introduction

Conducting a needs assessment of a parks system helps determine the adequacy of a community's parks and recreation provisions and the adequacy in meeting the needs of the community. Specifically, this needs assessment helps Comal County elected officials and staff to determine:

- Residents' level of satisfaction with existing parks and recreation facilities, recreational programs, and services;
- Community needs, priorities, and preferences for various types of parks, facilities, and recreational programs;
- Gaps in parks service areas and programming; and
- Residents' willingness and preferences to fund needed improvements, facilities, and programs.

An effective needs assessment employs several assessments to gather information on community needs, priorities, and the existing conditions of the parks system. This master plan utilizes qualitative and quantitative methods to gather data on community needs to begin to hone in on the appropriate sets of goals and recommended actions. The assessments conducted within Appendix B, *Needs Assessment*, are detailed to the right.

Types of Assessments Used

○ Demand-based Assessment

First, a Demand-based Assessment analyzes community input received through public engagement activities carried out between October 2022 and March 2023. Public engagement activities included listening sessions with key stakeholders, an online community needs survey, and a statistically valid survey. Information obtained through these public engagement activities helped to reveal the community's preferences and needs for the types of parks and recreation facilities and natural areas.

○ Standards-based (Level of Service) Assessment

Second, a Standards-based Assessment is employed to assess the level of service for parks and facilities, in Comal County. This approach utilizes recommended park areas and facilities standards and the 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Report to describe the level of service for parkland and recreational facilities available to Comal residents. Due to the county's large size and park facilities offered by municipal entities, this Standards-based Assessment provides a high-level review of service standards.

○ Resource-based Assessment

A Resource-based Assessment reviews the key natural and built resources in Comal County that have the potential to augment the current parks system by providing additional outdoor space for parkland, trails, and open space development and preservation. The natural features explored in this assessment include creeks, tree canopy zones, endangered species habitats, geologic formation, school properties, and municipal and state owned parkland.



Limestone out-cropping, part of the Balcones Escarpment, along FM 306
Source: Half

DEMAND-BASED ASSESSMENT

Approach

Gathering community input is an essential step in the development of parks master plans. It ensures that the needs of stakeholders and community residents are incorporated in the parks and environmental planning process. The feedback received through public engagement is critical in planning park facilities, conservation zones, open spaces, County initiatives, and recreational programs that are desired by and serve the needs of all community members. Feedback from Comal residents and stakeholders in the parks system is also important in building consensus for anticipated changes or additional programs to park facilities and land management.

To ensure public engagement in the development of this master plan and to understand residents' perceptions and experiences regarding Comal County's parks, a series of listening sessions were organized with key stakeholders, two community needs opinion surveys were conducted, and four community open houses were held for Comal County residents.



Stakeholder Listening Sessions

A series of listening sessions with key stakeholders and entities who manage or have vested interests in parks, natural areas, eco-tourism, and water management were held from October to December 2022.



Public Open Houses

Four public open houses held at public community locations, gave residents the opportunity to provide feedback, ask questions, and participate in mapping and dot-board activities. The four open houses were held from February 6th to 9th 2023.



Online Community Survey

An online questionnaire of 22 questions was available online from February to March 2023 for residents to provide feedback and their vision for parks and open spaces in their community.



Statistically Valid Community Survey

A phone and paper questionnaire (the same questions as the online community survey) provides statistically accurate feedback from a broad range of Comal residents.

Stakeholder Listening Sessions

The following pages present findings and feedback from a number of key stakeholder (digital/online and in-person) meetings held within the months of October to December 2022 at the beginning of the Master Plan process. The purpose of the stakeholder interviews was to find critical operational or infrastructural issues within organizations, understand existing collaborations and local initiatives, identify potential needs, and understanding the stakeholders opinions for the future of parks and natural areas in Comal County and the Hill Country region. Findings from each stakeholder meeting are organized using a S.W.O.T. style analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats).

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA)

Date: November 3rd, 2022

Strengths

- County has many natural resources that authorities and residents can catalyze

Weaknesses

- Need for more parkland in populated areas such as along U.S. 281

Opportunities

- Need for more public free-access park areas
- Need for County-wide impervious surface regulations, development protection codes, development ordinances, and tree canopy protection (similar to the City of New Braunfels)
- Need for a County-wide economic impact study on regional recreational travelers
- Need for greenspace easements due to current growth and development trends

Threats

- Overcrowding at parks, safety concerns
- Overcrowding at boat ramps

Comal County Conservation Alliance

Date: October 31st, 2022

Strengths

- Unique landscape and recreational opportunities

Weaknesses

- Unlike neighboring counties, no existing County dedicated staff for conservation or coordination of natural spaces
- Development hurting endangered and endemic species like the golden-cheeked warbler
- County's limited knowledge and ability for natural space / parks bonds and funding

Opportunities

- Sports complexes and tourism
- Pocket parks
- Expand knowledge of County-City staff and residents regarding natural spaces
- Need to identify priority areas/locations for conservation in the County
- Land conservation surrounding existing conserved lands such as Bracken Cave and Natural Caverns
- Guadalupe River and Honey Creek area
- Existing large ranch and land-owner collaborations

Threats

- Lack of or limited development regulations to preserve lands and rural character
- Quarry facilities and other potentially long-term damaging commercial-industrial facilities
- Developmental damage to critically important aquifer recharge zones

Guadalupe River State Park & Honey Creek State Natural Area (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

Date: November 7th, 2022

Strengths

- Honey Creek preservation as the only 'untouched' water body in Texas
- Comal County is regionally recognized as a place with desired parks and recreational opportunities
- Canyon Lake and Guadalupe River recreation facilities

Weaknesses

- Trash and pollution issues from park visitors
- Development encroachment near or next to parkland
- Limited responsibility delineations between organizations, municipalities, and County entities
- Limited public park restroom facility maintenance or lack of restrooms at facilities
- Muddy conditions at park facilities
- Limited flexible-use open space
- Limited parking facility capacity
- Limited staff and facility capacity

Opportunities

- Trail development
- Additional partnerships with universities
- Cross-county resource sharing and planning efforts
- Need for more diverse park options and facility types
- Integration between health planners and parks planners
- Natural buffers between natural parks and intense development
- Need for aesthetic standards for buildings and utility structures in and around parks
- Young adult health education
- A Healthy Parks initiative (similar to Travis County)
- Utilize school yards/collaborations with ISD's to increase access to public parks

Threats

- Development at or near the headwaters of Honey Creek and other critical water systems
- Limited cross-county collaborations regarding rivers and natural spaces
- Climate and environmental changes in Comal County such as floods and droughts
- Retail development near park entrances reducing visitor experiences
- Feral cats, raccoons, and hogs
- Noise and light pollution

Headwaters of the Comal/Comal Trails Alliance

Date: November 2nd, 2022

Strengths

- Many existing natural open space properties in the County

Weaknesses

- Limited organizational capacity, authorities, and resources

Opportunities

- Need for citizen input / vote on land preservation and natural space efforts
- Need to form a Bond Committee
- Need for a privatization of specific actions and protected areas
- Need for wayfinding and educational signage
- Focus on watersheds and recharge zones

Threats

- Water resource management stresses due to a high level of development
- Inequities in parks and recreational services (geographically and spatially) between residents of Comal County, both living in municipalities and in the County
- Environmental damage to water quality, air quality, and the environment due to increased development

Hill Country Alliance

Date: November 14th, 2022

Strengths

- Many regional advocates and community groups that are focused on parks, water preservation, natural resources, and natural spaces

Weaknesses

- Limited funding opportunities in Comal for natural space enhancement and preservation

Opportunities

- Bond approvals for natural resource preservation in Comal County similar to Kendall and Hays counties
- Conservation development incentives that developers will want to opt into
- A committee where community members can discuss, prioritize, and oversee natural and open space development in Comal County
- Ways of recognizing and appreciating past Comal residents who donated parkland and nature open spaces for future generations
- Dedicated County staff for natural resource preservation and development impacts

Threats

- Quarry and heavy industry along Interstate 35

Stakeholder Listening Sessions Findings

Stakeholders are mostly concerned over the amount of development occurring within the County. The significant loss is the natural landscape which much of Comal County's quality of life, economy, and community character is built off of. Stakeholders want to see additional open space and natural area opportunities with trails and passive activities.

Overcrowding is a concern at public parks in the center of the County. Stakeholders want to see increased collaboration between non-profit community groups and the County to establish more natural area opportunities. Stakeholders noted the opportunities for public bonds, easement buffers, and parkland additions around existing parks as strategies for increasing access to parkland.

Overall, stakeholders would like to see an increase in the municipalities' and the County's capacity for parkland and natural area provisions.

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Fort Worth District

Date: November 3rd, 2022 (in-person)

Strengths

- Large Canyon Lake recreational opportunities and economic value along the shoreline

Weaknesses

- Limitations in monitoring and safety administration between entities
- Poor condition of many boat ramps

Opportunities

- Trails to connect existing parks

Threats

- Increased Canyon Lake visitation with limited ability to add parkland or capacity

Community Resource and Recreation Center (CRRC)

Date: January 17th, 2023

Strengths

- Strong community support

Weaknesses

- Limited existing capacity and facilities
- Limited staffing

Opportunities

- Additional gymnasium type
- Classroom space
- Indoor recreational spaces
- Work-out space
- More handicap parking
- Mini disc-golf course

Threats

- Continued increasing demand with no increase in capacity

Water Oriented Recreation District of Comal County (WORD)

Date: November 2nd, 2022 (in-person)

Strengths

- Regional recognition of high quality desirable recreational facilities and ecological assets
- Regional tourism economic benefits

Weaknesses

- Limited opportunity for state and federal funding
- Vehicle traffic and parking management
- Limited staffing and monitoring ability at recreational facilities
- Instances of unsafe, dangerous, and illegal behavior by park visitors

Opportunities

- Need for greater collaboration between governing agencies and non-profits
- Need for a balance between park access, conservation, and economic development
- Need for more green space and conservation lands

Threats

- Overcrowding
- Limited/finite lake front parks and lake front recreational opportunities
- Trash and pollution from recreational visitors
- Increased park visitation and ability to serve the future population

James C. Curry Nature Center trails
Source: Halff

Community Open Houses

A series of four public community Open Houses were held in the evenings from February 6th to 9th, 2023. Through sign-in sheets and headcounts, there was a total of 219 attendees at the four events. The goal of the Open Houses was to identify specific needs of residents, concerns over park space, and their openness to concepts such as conservation, natural areas, and funding mechanisms.

The Open Houses presented a series of information boards depicting the County's demographic profile (from Appendix A), a series of informative maps (from Appendix A), and a series of dot board activities asking for people's preferences about parks and open space opportunities. In addition, comment cards and paper versions of the online community survey were provided as an opportunity to receive a wide range of feedback. Three members from the project team and at least one county representative was in attendance at each Open House.

The following section will present the findings from the dot board activities, comment cards, and mapping activities.

Detailed information, attendance sheets, and images of each dot board can be found in Appendix E, Public Engagement. Findings from each meeting, summarized on the following pages, are color categorized by meeting location. Due to the large population and size of Comal County, specific locational trends and regional needs can be identified through the differing feedback at each Open House location, although county-wide trends are common.

New Braunfels Open House

Date: February 6th, 2023
Location: County Courthouse
Attendees: 71

Bulverde Open House

Date: February 8th, 2023
Location: Mammen Family Library
Attendees: 51

Garden Ridge Open House

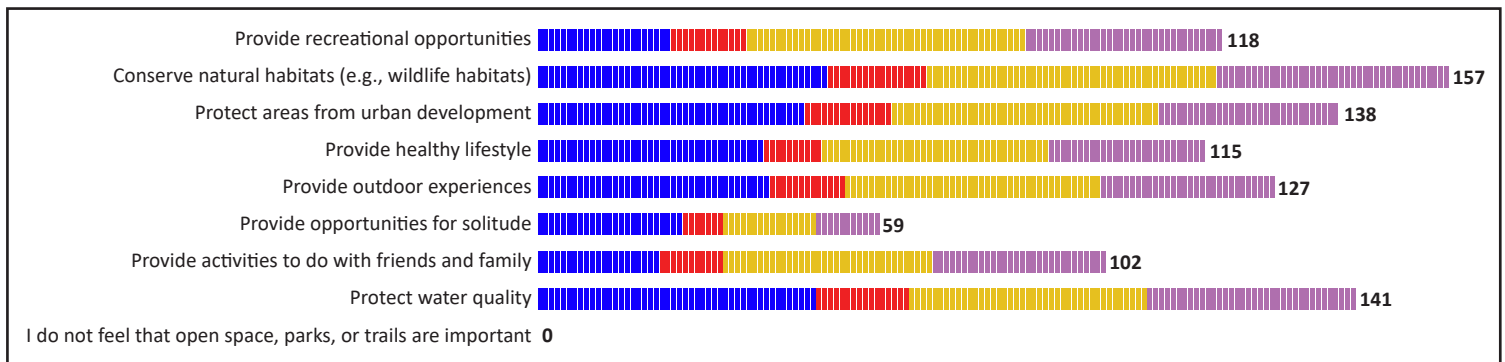
Date: February 7th, 2023
Location: Davenport High School
Attendees: 22

Canyon Lake Open House

Date: February 9th, 2023
Location: Tye Preston Library
Attendees: 75

Board #1: Why do you think open space, parks, and trails are important?

Attendees were asked to place a dot next to the reasons why they think open space, parks, and trails are important. Each line dash below represents one dot response along with the corresponding meeting location color.



This question included an 'Other' category where attendees placed write-in sticky notes on the board. The most written in response was the need for more facilities such as pickle ball and playgrounds. Other reasons for the importance of parks and open spaces mentioned included that park spaces are free to use, that parks can help mitigate flooding, parks protect air quality, and that parks help protect the Edwards Aquifer.

Board #1 Findings:

Attendees throughout the County, despite geographic differences, view parks, open space, and trails to be important in similar ways. Open House attendees felt that parks are most important to 'conserve natural habitats', 'protect areas from urban development', and 'protect water quality'. The lower number of dots placed next to 'provide activities to do with friends and family' and 'provide recreational opportunities' can indicate that the Comal population has a larger focus on natural areas and passive recreational opportunities as opposed to large-scale active recreational facilities.



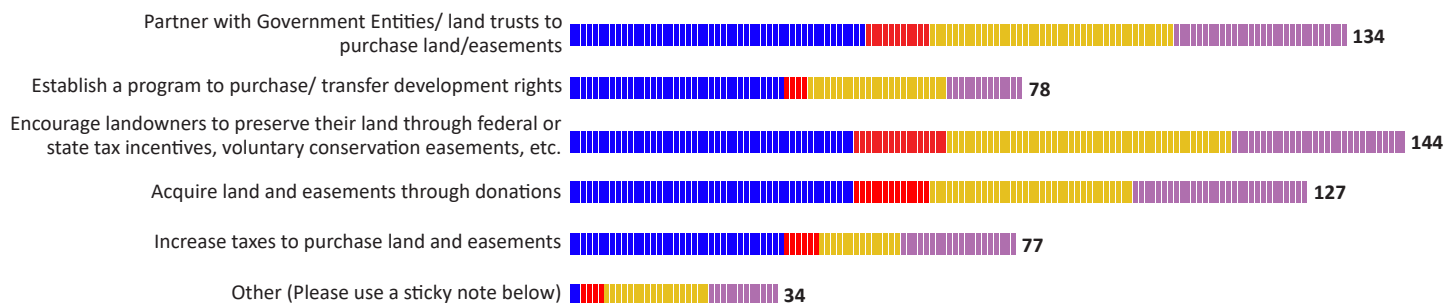
New Braunfels Open House at Comal County Courthouse
Source: Halff



Bulverde Open House at Mammen Family Public Library
Source: Halff

Board #2: In order to preserve open space, do you think Comal County should...

Attendees were asked to place a dot next to what they think Comal County should do to preserve open space. Each line dash below represents one dot response along with the corresponding meeting location color.



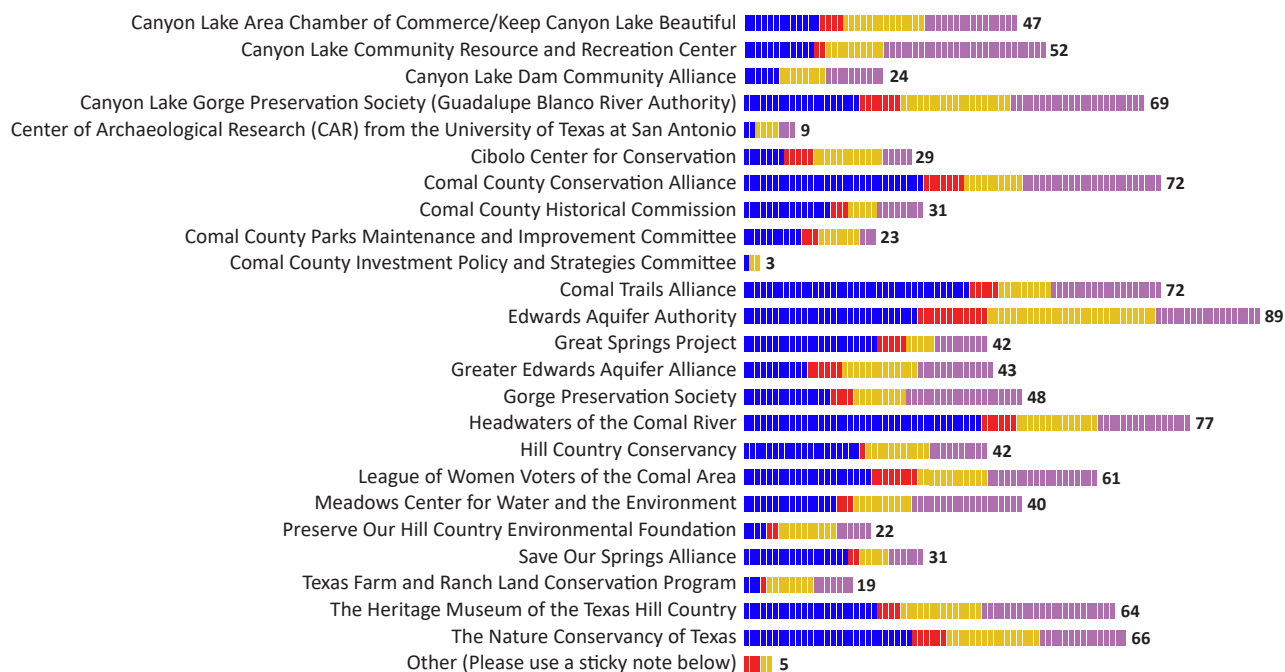
This question included an 'Other' category where attendees place write-in sticky notes on the board. The most common response was to pass a bond to buy land for conservation similar to neighboring counties. Other responses include requiring developers to preserve trees, developing user fees, increasing developer regulations and participation in the preservation program, stopping additional strip mining, and encourage partnerships between landowners.

Board #2 Findings:

Attendees throughout the County, despite geographic differences, feel that the County should take similar actions to preserve open space. The more popular action the County should take was 'Encourage landowners to preserve their land through federal or state tax incentives, voluntary conservation easements, etc.'. While not in the top three preferences, there were a fair amount of attendees that supported an increase in taxes for the purchase of land easements or the establishment of a program to purchase/transfer development rights. Partnerships and acquisition of land through donations were also popular actions attendees felt the County should do.

Board #3: Please place a dot next to organizations and non-profit groups in and around Comal County that you are familiar with.

Attendees were asked to place a dot next to what organization they are familiar with. Each line dash below represents one dot response along with the corresponding meeting location color.



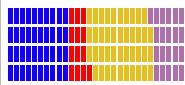




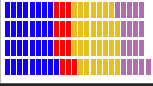




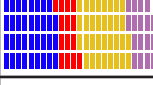




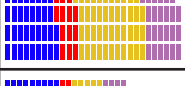









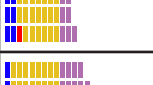









This question included an 'Other' category where attendees place write-in sticky notes on the board. Other organizations mentioned by attendees were the Native Plant Society of Texas, Texas Master Naturalists, Spring Branch Tennis Association, and the Hill Country Alliance.

Board #3 Findings:

Overall, attendees were familiar with a wide range of non-profits and organizations working in Comal County. The most well-known groups include the Edwards Aquifer Authority and Headwaters of the Comal. Of the presented organizations/groups, the County committees were the least known organizations. Some geographic differences are displayed with residents of New Braunfels knowing of the Headwaters of the Comal River more than other regions of the County.

Board #4:**What aspects of Comal County do you hope to see emphasized as it develops its Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan?**

Attendees were asked to place a dot next to each aspect they hope to see the Master Plan emphasize. Attendees ranked each aspect on a scale of most valuable aspect to least valuable aspect. Each line dash below represents one dot response along with the corresponding meeting location color.

	5 MOST VALUABLE	4	3	2	1 LEAST VALUABLE
Conservation and/or preservation of sensitive habitats	 116	 22	 2	 0	 0
Preserving undeveloped areas in Comal County	 93	 20	 4	 3	 1
Preservation of wildlife habitat and tree canopy	 99	 26	 3	 0	 0
Preservation of water quality and aquifer recharge zones	 115	 14	 1	 0	 0
Development of more trails and passive recreational opportunities	 83	 35	 7	 2	 6
Development of more active recreational opportunities (i.e. playgrounds, splashpads, dog parks)	 45	 24	 19	 8	 27
Development of more sports/athletics facilities	 55	 16	 12	 11	 45

Board #4 Findings:

A majority of attendees view that all actions/initiatives are valuable for the County to emphasize. ‘Conservation and/or preservation of sensitive habitats’ and ‘Preservation of water quality and aquifer recharge zones’ were the most supported actions/initiatives. Based on the findings above, preservation and conservation efforts, followed by preservation of recharge zones were most valuable. Trails and passive recreation opportunities were also deemed valuable. Attendees of the New Braunfels Open House, as show on the facing page map, are assumed to be mostly from the New Braunfels region of Comal County. They feel that it is less important for the County to emphasize active recreational opportunities (i.e. playgrounds, splashpads, dog parks), and athletics/sports facilities. This could be due to the large amount of trails and park facilities already provided by the City of New Braunfels.



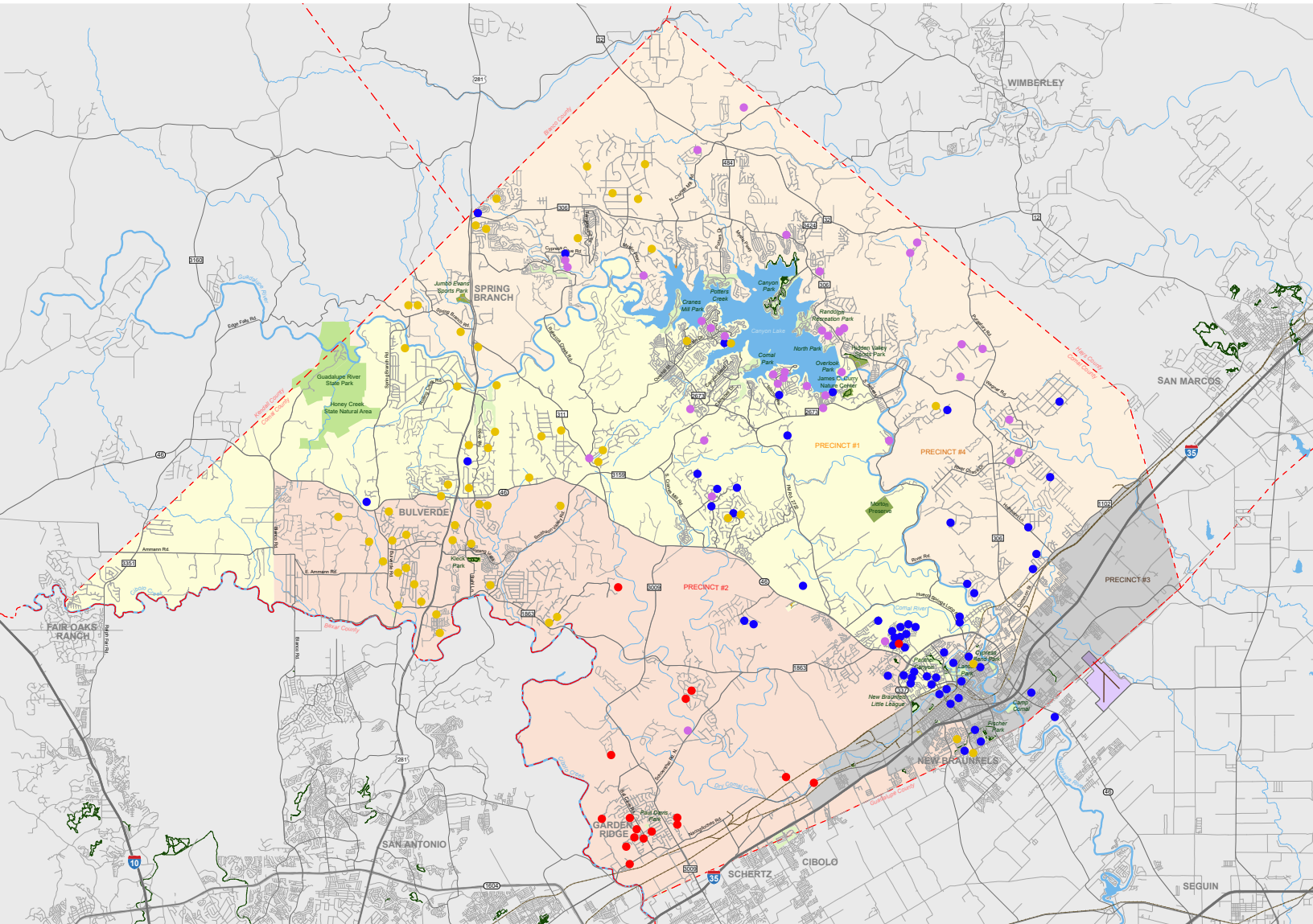
New Braunfels Open House at Comal County Courthouse
Source: Halff



Canyon Lake Open House at Tye Preston Memorial Library
Source: Halff

Map #1:**Where do you live in Comal County?**

Attendees were asked to place a dot where they live in Comal County. Each dot on the digital map below represents one dot response on the board map, along with the corresponding meeting location color.

**Map #1 Findings:**

Attendance of all four Open Houses represents a wide geographic representation of the County's population, with both rural and urban attendees participating in relatively equal proportions. No one region or meeting location heavily outnumbered another meeting location. A majority of attendees participated in the closest meeting location to their residence.



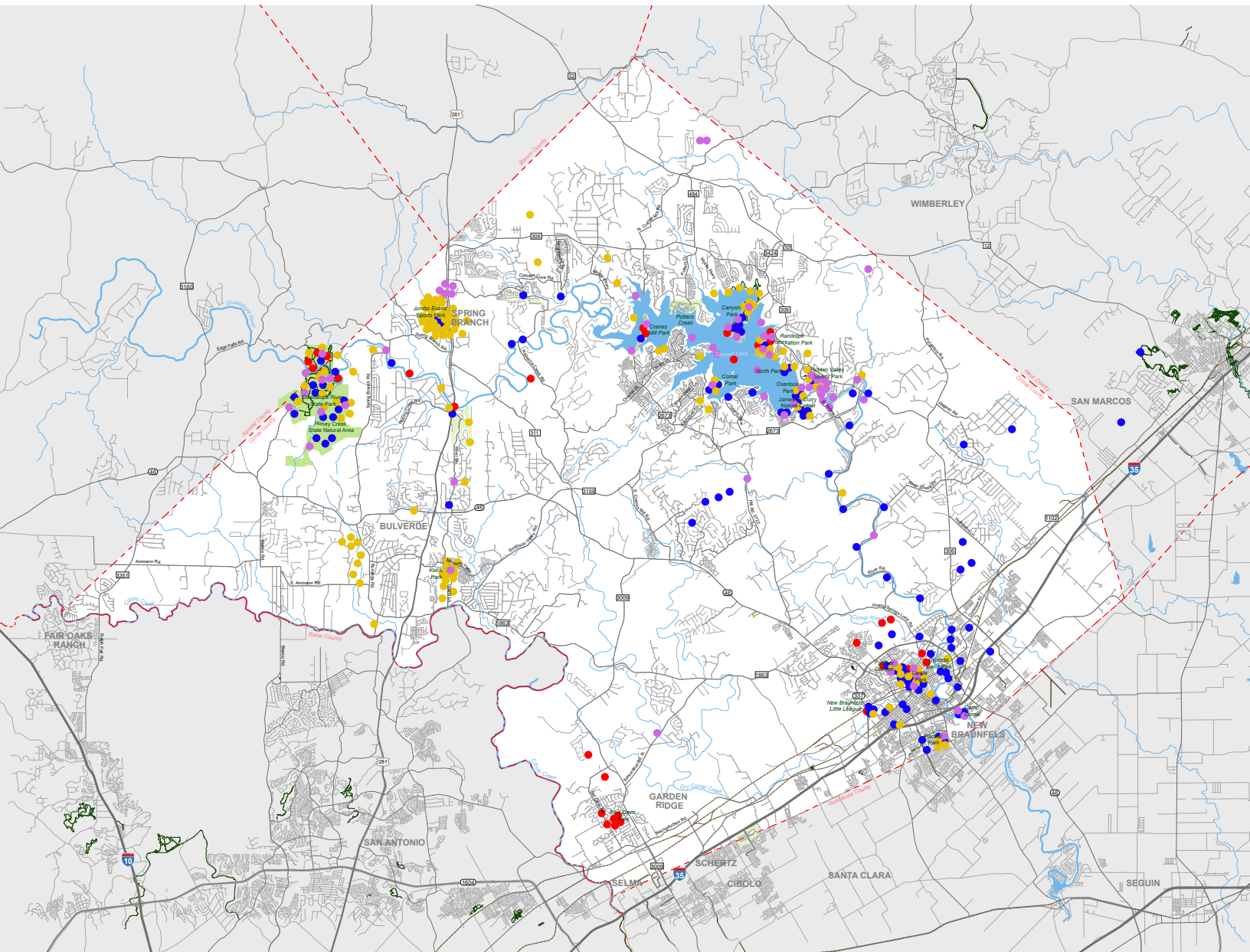
Canyon Lake Open House at Tye Preston Memorial Library
Source: Halff



New Braunfels Open House at Comal County Courthouse
Source: Halff

Map #2: Where do you participate in recreation?

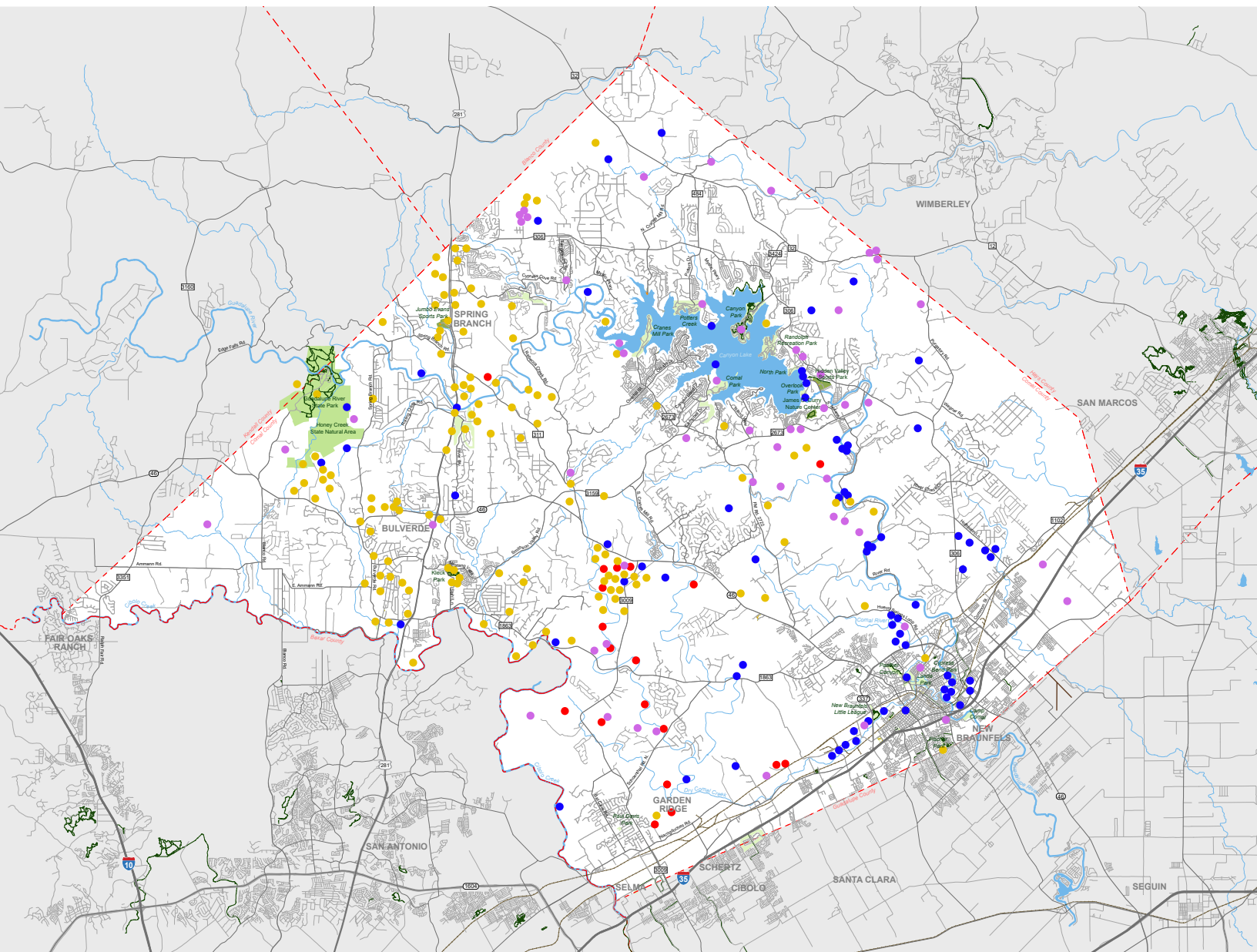
Attendees were asked to place a dot where they participate in recreational activities in Comal County. Each dot on the digital map below represents one dot response on the board map, along with the corresponding meeting location color.

**Map #2 Findings:**

Attendees said they recreate in a majority of four locations; 1, City of New Braunfels; 2, Canyon Lake; 3, Jumbo Evans Sports Park; and 4, Guadalupe River State Park. Attendees show some geographic preference, with attendees from the Garden Ridge Open House mostly recreating at Paul Davis Park, and Bulverde/Spring Branch residents recreating at Jumbo Evans Sports Park. The placed dots show that Canyon Lake is a popular recreation destination with Open House attendees throughout the County. Recreation tends to be based around land adjacent to water such as Canyon Lake, the Guadalupe River along River Road, and near Bulverde Elementary School. Attendees did not note locations in the center, far north or far west of the County due to a current lack of recreational facilities and parkland in those areas.

Map #3: What locations in Comal County would you like to see parks, trails, and preserved open space?

Attendees were asked to place a dot where they would like to see parks, trails, and preserved open space. Each dot on the digital map below represents one dot response on the board map, along with the corresponding meeting location color.



Map #3 Findings:

There are many locations throughout Comal County attendees would like to see parkland and preserved open space. The most popular location chosen is at the intersection of FM 3009 and Highway 46, where the site of a proposed quarry operation is located. Locations were also noted along the Guadalupe River such as along River Road and near Highway 281. Attendees noted land adjacent to Jumbo Evans Sports Park and Guadalupe River State Park as potential additional locations for parkland and open space. Other minor dot clusters include the Dry Comal Creek between Landa Street and I-35, land north of Park Hill Drive along FM 401, land at the Devils Backbone along FM 32, and land along Rusk Street in New Braunfels. The remainder of the dots are placed on various lands currently comprising a large amount of tree canopy or adjacent to water resources.

Comment Cards

Below is a summary of write-in comment cards received at each Open House meeting. Attendees could write-in any additional information, feedback, or needs pertinent to the County's Master Plan.

New Braunfels Open House

- Develop more walking, running, and biking trails [off road] (X3, written in on 3 comment cards)
- Public access to Guadalupe River below dam at all crossings
- Please look at not allowing any more sewage to be dumped into Canyon Lake or its tributaries
- Develop more trails as a form of true transportation
- Protect more land over the recharge zone
- Purchase land on lower Guadalupe below dam and allow public access
- Connect and preserve El Camino Real through Comal County
- There are drainage areas crossing FM 1101 near SH 46 that would benefit greatly by sidewalks trees and basic facilities
- Property on the NW corner of Hunter Rd. and FM 306 is a great place for green space
- No more baseball fields are needed
- More native trees and vegetation in parks and flood areas
- Need for more flood mitigation techniques (X2)
- Reduce soil erosion
- Require developers to set aside areas for open space in their development project
- Redirect school taxes to land purchase/protection

Garden Ridge Open House

- Finish tennis courts at Jumbo Evans
- Need for more walking and biking opportunities
- County should work with HOA/POA's to facilitate protection of private parks and lands
- Don't use eminent domain
- No more strip mining and quarries- we need to save the land we have
- Hold developers accountable to participate in preservation program
- Plan, save, replace important natural resources

Bulverde Open House

- Need for pickle ball (X14, written in on 14 comment cards)
- Finish tennis courts at Jumbo Evans and build more (X22)
- Concerns over overcrowding
- Need for county to think of preservation as an economic opportunity
- Need for more places to bike (X4)
- Need for skateboarding (X2)
- More accessible spaces for people with disabilities
- Need for a county bond- up for vote for parkland and conservation
- Greater collaboration between the County and land entities (X2)
- Require developers to put in acres of parkland
- Finish out the existing parkland with facilities
- Require developers to improve roadways, easements, preserve trees and greenspace before building

Canyon Lake Open House

- Need for pickle ball (X36, written in on 36 comment cards)
- Need for more public access swimming areas/pools
- Need for more passive recreation such as safe walking trails and bicycle paths (X10)
- Need for more playgrounds/splashpads
- Preservation of water quality and aquifer recharge zones (X4)
- Preserving undeveloped areas in Comal County (X2)
- Aquifer and recharge zone protection (X5)
- More public access points to the Guadalupe River and Canyon Lake for water recreation (X5)
- Increase management of boat ramps
- Land conservation and preservation (X8)
- Need for more sports fields and active recreation (X2)
- Partner with ISD schools for shared-use facilities (X2)
- More free open park space with non-limited access
- Implement a County bond for preservation and parkland (X3)
- Develop more sports fields or provide more access to fields (X3)

Community Open Houses Findings

Feedback from attendees at the four community Open Houses were relatively consistent in their needs, desires, and vision for the future of parks, recreation, trails, and natural areas in Comal County.

- There is a county-wide demand for passive recreation such as trails, open spaces, bicycle facilities, and casual recreation along waterways.
- Demand for additional sports fields and facilities is most prominent in northern and western Comal County.
- Of all Open House attendees, there is an overall consensus that lands and natural areas in Comal County need to be preserved due to the high rate of land development.
- Those in attendance are generally willing to pay and vote for a public bond for land acquisition and coordination with non-profit entities in Comal County.
- Similar to national trends, pickleball was the most requested sports facility, alongside new tennis courts at Jumbo Evans Sports Park.
- Attendees were concerned and did not want to see any more large quarry operations or housing developments resulting in complete environmental degradation and tree canopy loss.
- Attendees were also generally concerned over water quality issues, sewage outfalls, protection of the Edwards Aquifer, recharge zones, and the negative impacts development can have on such hydrological systems.

(Below) Bulverde Open House at Mammen Family Public Library
Source: Halff



(Above) New Braunfels Open House at Comal County Courthouse
Source: Halff



Online Community Survey and Statistically Valid Survey

As part of the public engagement process two surveys were undertaken to assess the existing public opinion of County parks and services, assess community concerns and needs, and assess community responsiveness to a number of actions the County could take for the future of parks and natural areas. The following pages will present the findings from the two community surveys side-by-side and conclude with a list of summary findings.

Online Community Survey

Date: February 3rd to March 31st, 2023

Responses: 1,014

Method: Online Web Portal

The Online Community Survey (Online Survey) was open to the public through SurveyMonkey, an online surveying platform, for over seven weeks. Flyers and online postings were distributed (shown below, including the Open Houses promotional flyer) to advertise the Online Survey. The Survey was advertised on numerous County and City websites and social media pages, local newspapers, and shared within local social media groups. Attendees of the Community Open Houses had the additional option to fill out the Online Survey at a computer station or on paper.

Responses and findings from the Online Community Survey are color-coded in blue.

Statistically Valid Survey

Date: February to March 31st, 2023

Responses: 518

Method: Mailed flyers (paper or online), and Phone Calls

The Statistically Valid Survey (SV Survey) was administered by the ETC Institute. A 'statistically valid survey' includes surveying a random sample of the County, including proportionally valid response rates from the County based on household income, race-ethnicity, age, and household size. The SV Survey aids in potentially identifying more accurate findings from County residents overall, instead of just groups specifically interested in parks, open spaces and natural areas, willing to seek-out and partake in an online survey or community open house. The SV Survey process was undertaken between February and March 2023.

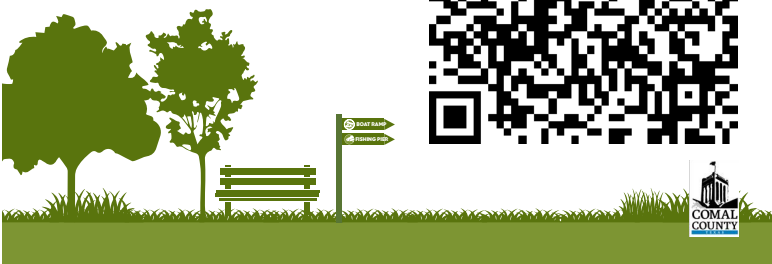
Responses and findings from the Statistically Valid Survey are color-coded in orange.

COMAL COUNTY Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan COMMUNITY ONLINE SURVEY

Comal County is currently creating a Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan. This Master Plan will be a document that assists with short- and long-term decision making by elected officials on such things as potential capital expenditures, potential partnerships and management strategies. This survey is your opportunity to provide input regarding the future of parks, open space, and natural areas in your community!

Scan the QR Code to
take the quick survey!

or visit:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/ComalParksPlan



Online Community Survey promotional flyer
Source: Half

COMAL COUNTY Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan



COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSES FEBRUARY 6th to 9th, 2023

What?

Comal County is currently creating a Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan. This Master Plan will be a document that assists with short- and long-term decision making by elected officials on such things as potential capital expenditures, potential partnerships and management strategies. These open houses are your opportunity to provide input regarding the future of parks, open space, and natural areas in your community!

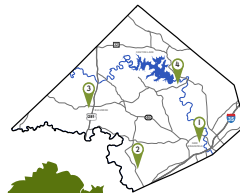
Why?

The Master Plan will help Comal County develop a preferred vision for parks, open space, and natural areas and identify opportunities for such that exist within your community. This can only be accomplished through measuring community preferences for parks, open space and natural areas as well as the willingness to pay for those.

Where and When?

- 1 February 6th, Mon., 5:45pm - 7:45pm
Comal County Courthouse
100 N. Seguin Ave, New Braunfels, TX 78130
- 2 February 7th, Tues., 5:45pm - 7:45pm
Davenport High School (Garden Ridge)
23255 FM 3009, San Antonio, TX 78266
- 3 February 8th, Wed., 5:00pm - 6:30pm
Mammen Family Public Library
131 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde, TX 78163
- 4 February 9th, Thurs., 5:45pm - 7:45pm
Tye Preston Memorial Library
16311 S. Access Rd, Canyon Lake, TX 78133

There will be four public community open houses throughout Comal County from February 6th to 9th, 2023.



Community Open Houses promotional flyer
Source: Half

Question #1:

How often do you visit any open spaces, parks and/or trails in Comal County (incl. Canyon Lake and Guadalupe River State Park)?

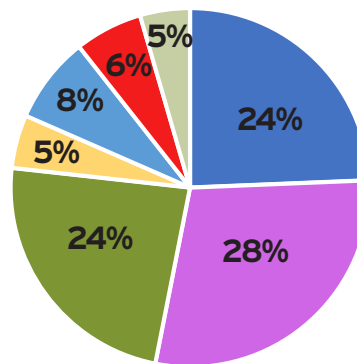
Question #1 Findings:

There is an overall consistency of park visitation rates between the Online Survey and SV Survey. A majority of respondents visit parks in Comal County multiple times per month or year. A little less than a quarter of respondents visit a park multiple times per week. Only 6 and 10 percent of respondents only visit a park once a year, while 5 and 6 percent have not visited a park or trail in Comal County in the past year.

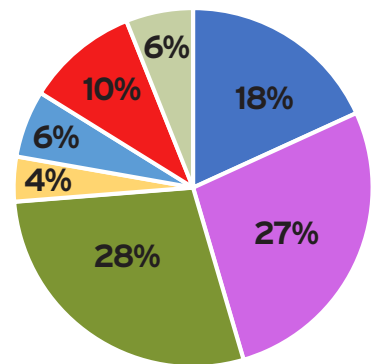
Question #1 Key

- Multiple times per week
- Multiple times per month
- Multiple times per year
- Once per week
- Once per month
- Once per year
- I do not visit open spaces, parks, or trails in Comal County

Online Community Survey



Statistically Valid Survey



Question #2:

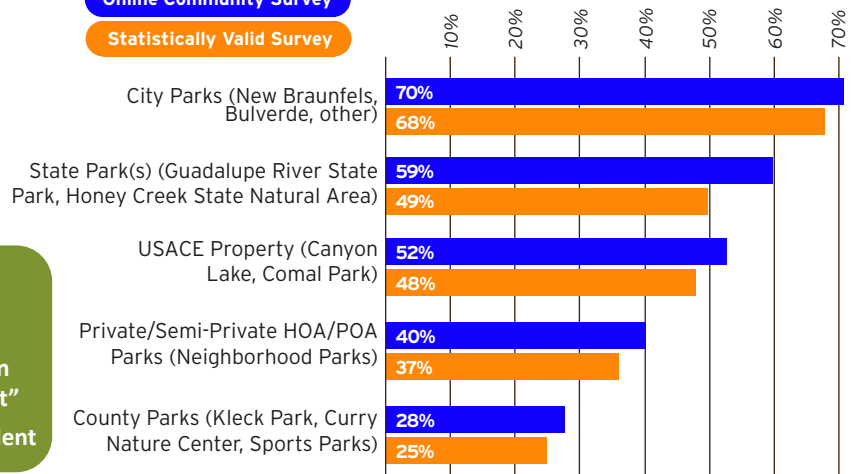
If you visit any open spaces, parks and/or trails in Comal County, where are those located?

Question #2 Findings:

Both Online survey and SV survey respondents, at over 65 percent, visit the City of New Braunfels parks the most. Around half of survey respondents visited a State Park or USACE park in the past year. The least visited types of park spaces in the County are County owned or operated facilities, at only around 25 percent attendance over the past year.

Online Community Survey

Statistically Valid Survey



"Parks increase scenic beauty, increases surrounding property value, protects air quality, better investment and use of space than urban sprawl."

-Online Survey Respondent

"I enjoy hiking, but go to Hays County every Saturday because the trails in Comal are too short"

-SV Survey Respondent

Question #3:

If you do not, what prevents you from visiting open space, parks, and/or trails in Comal County?

Question #3 Findings:

Of the SV Survey respondents, the top three reasons that prevent users for visiting include: not enough parking, overcrowding, and the distance from park facilities [excluding 'I have no time'].

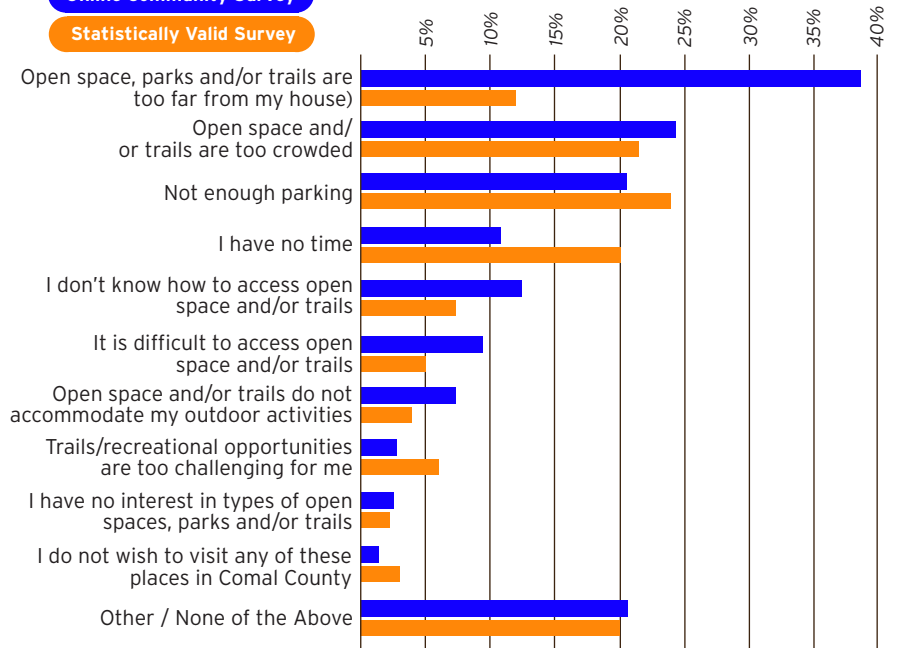
Of the Online Survey respondents, the top three reasons that prevent users for visiting include: distance from park facilities, overcrowding, and not enough parking.

These findings indicate that the primary mode users use to access existing parkland and open space is by driving a personal vehicle. This increases the demand for parking spaces within the parks. Overall the major reason preventing park visitation is a lack of infrastructural capacity.

Overall respondents do not feel that the difficulty of trails or facilities or a lack of interest in park facilities is a barrier to park visitation.

Online Community Survey

Statistically Valid Survey



Question #4: Have you visited any of the following Comal County-owned or operated parks in the past 12 months?

Question #4 Findings:

At or over half of all Survey respondents have not visited a County park in the past year. The most popular County park, in terms of attendance, is Jumbo Evans Sports Park, followed by the Curry Nature Center. The least visited park spaces are Kleck Park and Hidden Valley Sports Park.

"During the summer we visit Comal Park multiple times a month to access the water to swim and kayak."

-SV Survey Respondent

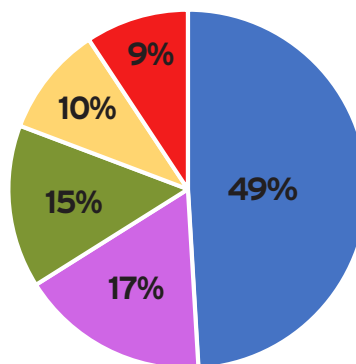
Question #4 Key

- None
- Jumbo Evans Sports Park
- Curry Nature Center
- Kleck Park
- Hidden Valley Sports Park

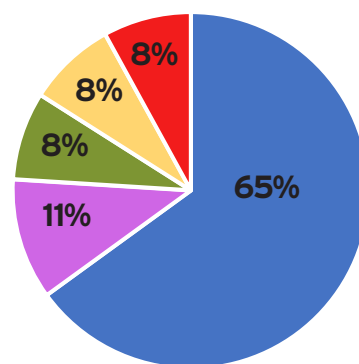
"Parks and open spaces are important factors in attracting businesses who provide high-wage jobs, and for attracting the people."

-Online Survey Respondent

Online Community Survey



Statistically Valid Survey



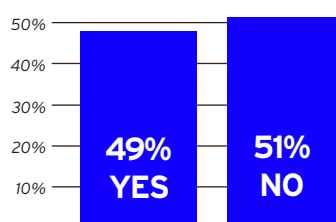
Question #5: Do you live in a neighborhood that has its own open space, parks and/or trails?

Question #5 Findings:

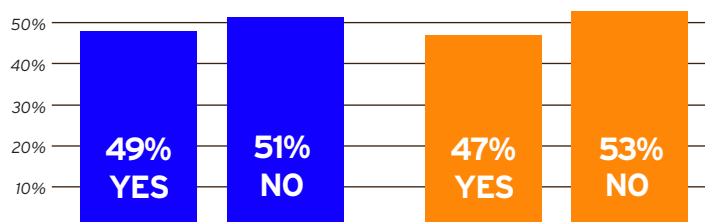
A little less than half of all Survey respondents have access to private neighborhood/subdivision park and open spaces amenities. These may include HOA parks, pools, private easement trails, and neighborhood clubhouses.

The other half of respondents do not have private access to recreation amenities and are reliant of municipal and county provision of parks and open spaces.

Online Community Survey



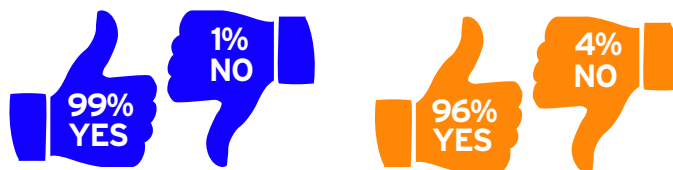
Statistically Valid Survey



Question #6: Do you think open space, parks, and trails are important for Comal County?

Question #6 Findings:

Overall the vast majority of respondents to both Surveys think that open spaces, parks, and trails are important for Comal County. Only around 2.5% (average) of respondents feel that these are not important for the county.



Question #7, 8, and 9: When it comes to recreational resources in Comal County, is there a need for more _____ for public use?

Questions #7, #8, and #9 Findings:

Over 80 percent of both Online and SV Survey respondents feel that there is a need for more publicly available parks, open spaces, and natural areas.

There is overall more of a need for natural areas and open spaces when compared to park spaces, although a majority see a need for all types of spaces.

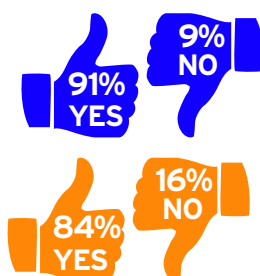
"The parks around canyon lake are closed more than open especially in the fall and winter. I have lived in this area for 50+ years, so many of the areas around the lake are closed and not utilized. It appears the only spaces and times things are open and maintained are during tourist season."

-SV Survey Respondent

Online Community Survey

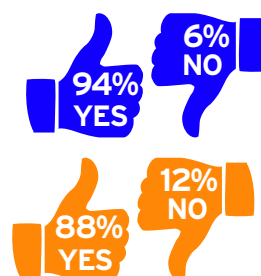
Statistically Valid Survey

Is there a need for more **PARKS** for public use?



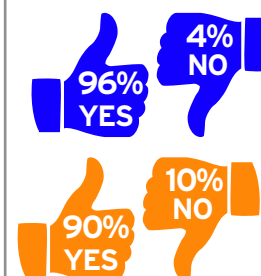
87.5% Agree

Is there a need for more **OPEN SPACE** for public use?



91% Agree

Is there a need for more **NATURAL AREAS** for public use?



93% Agree

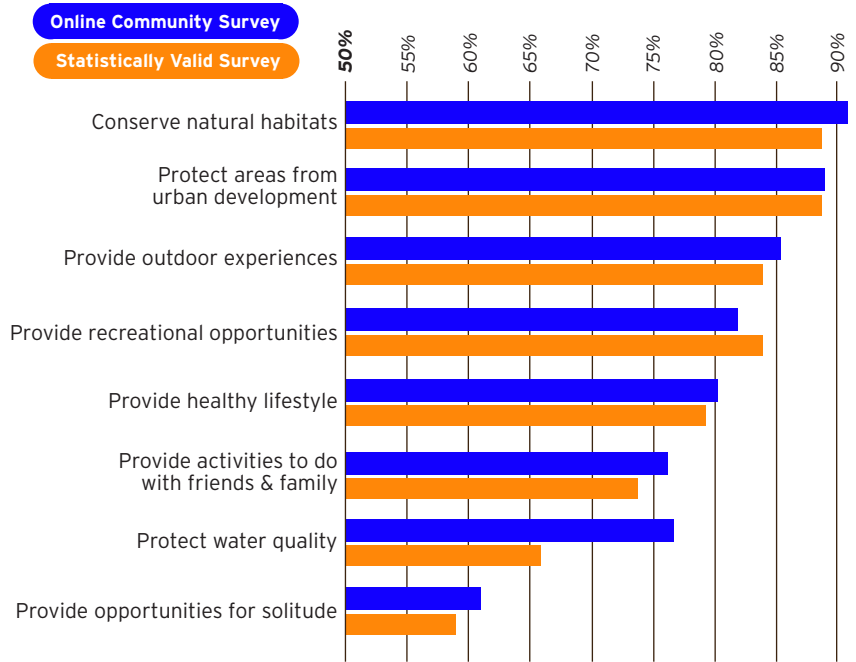
Question #10: Why do you think open space, parks, and trails are important?

Question #10 Findings:

Respondents of the Online Survey and SV Survey had an overwhelming consensus on why they think open spaces, parks, and trails are important.

The top reasons, with over 85 percent agreement, is that parks are important for the conservation and preservation of lands. The provision of outdoor experiences and recreation opportunities is viewed as important to over 80 percent of respondents.

While over 50 percent of all respondents think that all of these categories are important, the least important reasons that parks are important are to 'Protect Water Quality' and 'Provide Opportunities for Solitude'.



Questions #1-10: Quotes from community members

"Development is inevitable. Open space is needed to protect the environment from those who are insensitive to the natural beauty of Comal County. An open space ordinance is needed to provide required building and parking lot setbacks along roadways to provide green spaces, restricted green space reserves at subdivision entrances to prevent commercial development closing in and creating traffic congestion and destroying the serenity. Defining specific green space requirements in commercial and large residential developments can go a long way to preserve the environment that will not create a financial burden on the county."

-Online Survey Respondent

"I ride my horse at Canyon LakeHancock Trail) and it often has people illegally camping, driving on trails, or dumping trash. It could be monitored better by authorities."

-Online Survey Respondent

"Traffic has become a real problem"

-Online Survey

"Since so much land is private, many people only enjoy the beauty of Comal County from the roads. Trails, etc allow the possibility of going out to enjoy Comal (biking or walking) without the danger of fast traffic on small, shoulder-less roads."

-Online Survey Respondent

"Undeveloped Green Space and undeveloped hillsides are disappearing. Negatively impacts wildlife and the aesthetics of the area."

-Online Survey Respondent

"The tourists have pushed out the residents, we cannot even enjoy our neighborhoods due to traffic and crowds, not to mention the STR's that even deny us our residential neighborhoods. We have to cater to them, we have no rights any longer, we cannot complain due to the current laws. It just isn't fun anymore which it should be to explore and enjoy where we live and why we invested to live here."

-SV Survey Respondent

"Would love to see a frisbee golf course!"

-Online Survey Respondent

"Not enough parks with playground equipment for children; those that do exist are not well designed for the heat."

-SV Survey Respondent

"The community's health (all forms of life) requires nature. Once an area is paved, mined, or otherwise stripped of its natural state in any way, it is extremely hard to reclaim."

-Online Survey Respondent

"We need public access river facilities"

-Online Survey Respondent

"We need protection of the Dry Comal Creek, Dry Bear Creek and other waterways upstream of the Guadalupe and Comal Rivers."

-Online Survey Respondent

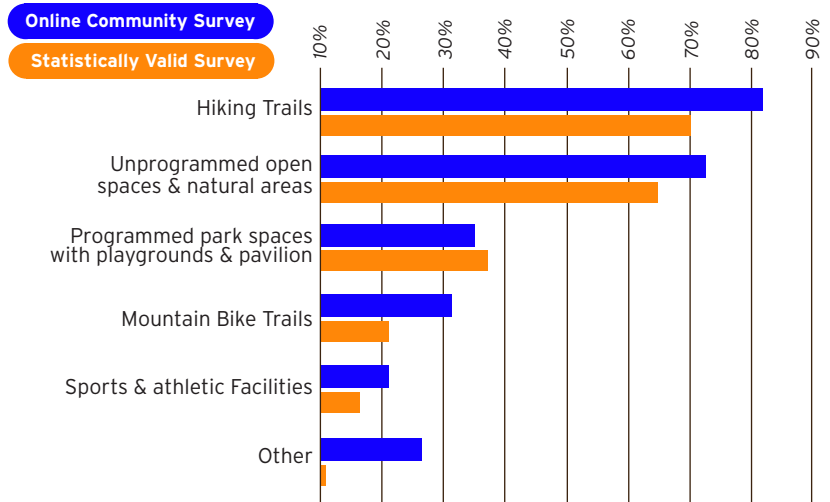
"Setting aside land keeps Comal County looking like Comal County. Counties around us have set aside much more land. It is a quality of life issue and having more protected land would be attractive to both residents and visitors. Look at how over-loved Landa and Fischer Parks are"

-Online Survey Respondent

Question #11: What facilities in the County would you like to see more of?

Question #11 Findings:

There is an overall consensus between the Online and SV Survey respondents in regards to what facilities they would like to see in Comal County. Passive recreational options such as 'Hiking Trails' and 'Unprogrammed Open Spaces' were the most popular options with over 60 percent of respondents wanting to see more of these spaces in the County. 'Programmed Park Spaces', including playgrounds, is something around 30 percent of respondents would like to see more of. 'Mountain Bike Trails' and 'Sports and Athletic Facilities' had the least amount of support for more facilities with only around 20 percent of respondents wanting more in the County.



Question #11: Quotes from community members who chose to write-in a response under the 'Other' category

"More parking at existing fishing docks, fishing piers and restrooms. Traffic has become a real problem in and out of some public tubing sites. Private owners charging high price to park, extra hours for police (traffic and crossing areas), EMS calls for injuries all come out with acost to Comal County."

-Online Survey Respondent

"We definitely need more sports complexes around here. We have outgrown the fields. It would also be great to have additional places to mountain bike and hike!"

-Online Survey Respondent

"There isn't anywhere along water where I can walk my dog north of the Lake. All parks along water will not allow me to take my dog and I will not leave my dog alone at a picnic site to cool off in the water."

-Online Survey Respondent

"Natural surface running trails similar to the natural surface trails in McAllister Park."

-Online Survey

"More requirements for green spaces in businesses - like parking lots for big stores, shopping malls, residential builders, companies. Require more trees, plants, grass to be planted for a set amount of concrete or paving put down. Also set standards that prevents builders from coming in and tearing out every tree on a piece of property to build something - either through restrictions or monetary incentives."

-Online Survey Respondent

"I feel that there aren't enough available trails, and they don't have enough miles available for hiking. GRSP is too long a drive, but it has the mileage and everything I want from trails. I like the dry comal creek trail but it's very short."

-SV Survey Respondent

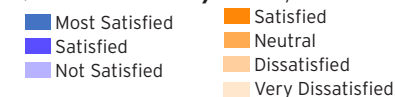
Question #12: How satisfied are you with the following types of existing recreational facilities in Comal County?

Question #12 Findings:

Survey respondents were asked to rank their satisfaction on three major categories of 'parks and recreation' related spaces within the County. A majority of respondents to both Surveys are satisfied to neutral on existing facilities in the County. Overall satisfaction of 'Active Recreation Spaces' is the highest in the County, while satisfaction of 'Sports/Activities' has the lowest satisfaction.

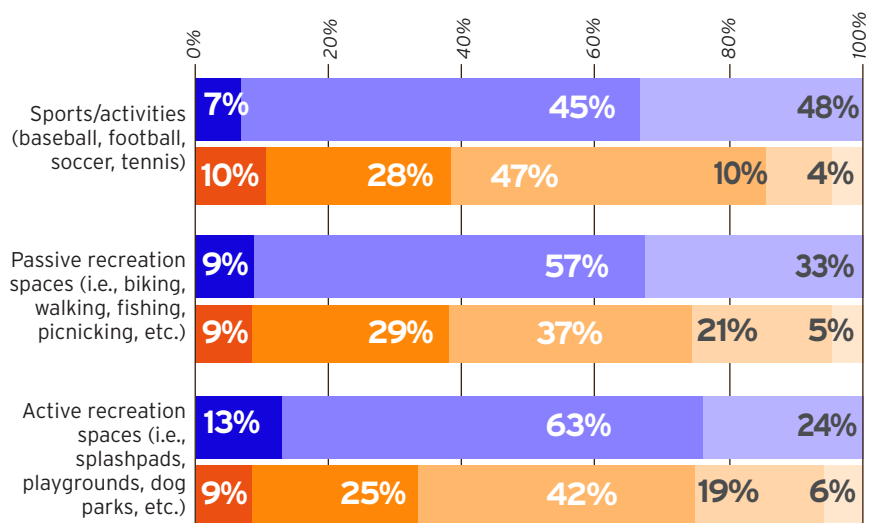
Responses show that there is the least satisfaction in overall recreational spaces including, biking and walking trails, playgrounds, picnic areas, and dog parks. Around 25 percent of respondents are at least dissatisfied with the existing facilities mentioned above.

Question #12 Key



Online Community Survey

Statistically Valid Survey



Question #13: How important is it to you for Comal County to protect (conserve), expand, or improve the following?

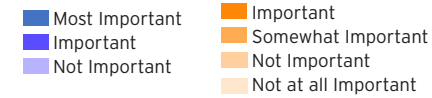
Question #13 Findings:

There is an overall consensus that it is important for the County to protect, expand, and improve natural resources and land. A majority of resources listed for protection/improvement were supported by a majority of both Online and SV Survey respondents. Measures which protect, expand, or improve water-based resources are the most popular, while the preservation/improvement of land-based resources (natural areas and wildlife) is seen as very important to around 75 percent of respondents. The only resource listed which still has a majority support, but had a large portion of respondent stating it is not important, is parks for active recreation/athletic fields.

"Parks also protect water quantity and can be used for flood mitigation. Additionally, outdoor and recreational opportunities are very important to the county's economy and various studies show that a high priority for higher-end employers and employees is the availability of parks and open space for recreational activities and well-being."

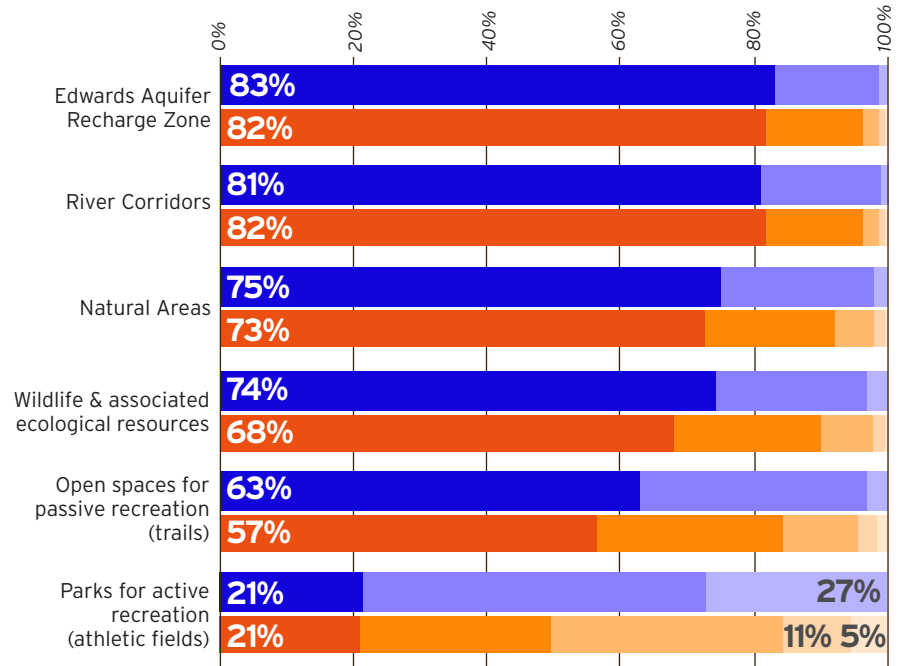
-Online Survey Respondent

Question #13 Key



Online Community Survey

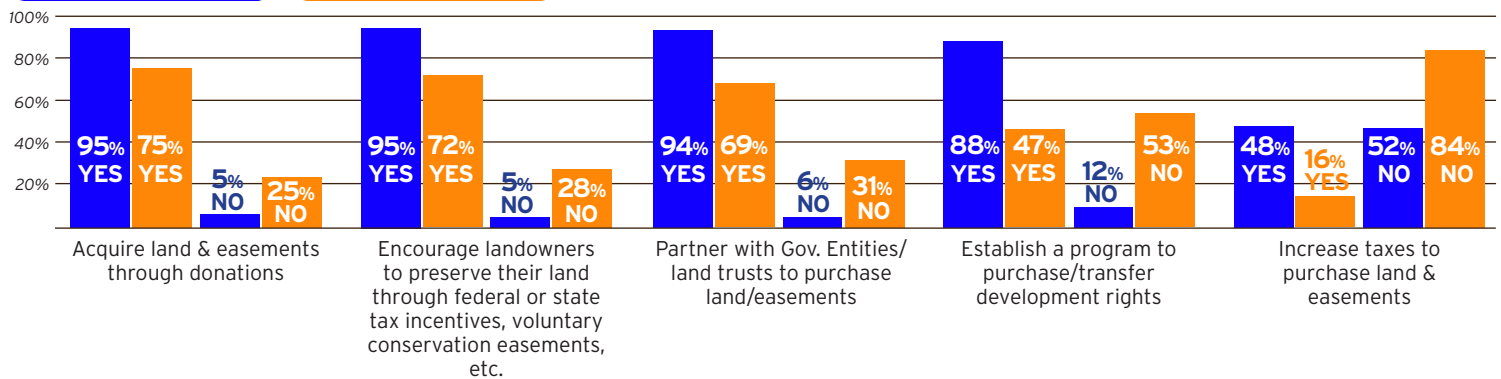
Statistically Valid Survey



Question #14: In order to protect (conserve), expand, or improve any items listed above in Question 13, do you think Comal County should do any of the following?

Online Community Survey

Statistically Valid Survey



Question #14 Findings:

Survey respondents were provided with five different actions the County can take to achieve the protection/improvement of the resources listed in Question 13 above. Online Survey respondents are overall more supportive of these five measures compared to SV Survey respondents, although generally the same measures are supported by both survey respondents.

The 'Establishment of purchasing/transferring development rights' has overall support amongst Online Survey respondents, while support is about 50/50 (split) for SV Survey respondents. The least supported measure by both Online and SV Survey respondents is an increase in taxes to purchase easements. 52 percent and 84 percent of respondents were opposed to an increase in taxes for this action.

The acquisition of land through donations and easements is the most popular action the County can take to protect/improve natural resources and parks. The second and third most popular actions include the protection of lands through tax incentives and land trust purchases through federal and state easements.

Question #15:

Please indicate your level of support for the following funding mechanisms which could be used to acquire lands for parks, open spaces and/or natural areas, and support management and ongoing maintenance of the County's system.

Question #15 Findings:

Respondents to the Online Survey are overall more supportive of potential measures the County could take when compared to SV Survey respondents. Respondents noted an overall consensus of support for 'Grants' and 'Partnerships'. 'User Fees' has relatively equal support against and for the measure. A property tax supported bond was somewhat supported by over 70 percent of Online Survey respondents, while around 35 percent of SV Survey respondent supported property tax supported bonds. Overall, 'Increased Property Tax' was opposed by a majority of survey respondents, with about 50 percent and 35 percent strongly opposing this measure.

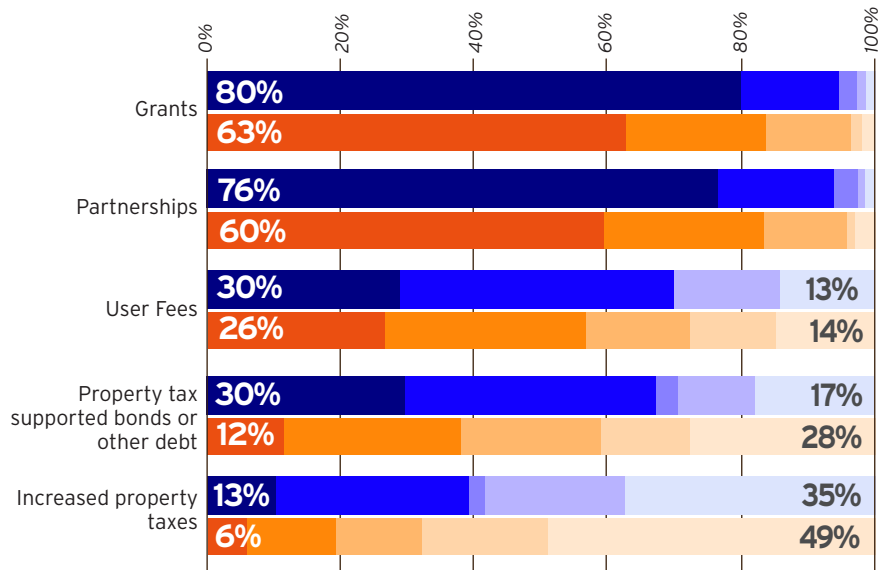
Question #15 Key

Online Community Survey

Statistically Valid Survey

Very Supportive
Somewhat Supportive
No Opinion
Somewhat Oppose
Strongly Oppose

Very Supportive
Somewhat Supportive
Neutral
Somewhat Oppose
Strongly Oppose



"Any greenway trails similar to those in San Antonio would be great - paved or unpaved."
-Online Survey Respondent

"Horseback riding trails, areas for research for preservation (caves/aquifers) dye tracing. Air monitoring stations. All available for public to see and get educated. Universities may actually go in on this with the county!"
-Online Survey Respondent

Question #16:

How important is it for Comal County's Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan to emphasize the following?

Question #16 Findings:

Respondents to the Online Survey and SV Survey have an overwhelming consensus on what they feel is important for this Master Plan to emphasize. Preservation and Conservation measures had the most support, while development measures had the least support. The protection of water quality, preservation of wildlife and sensitive habitats, and preserving undeveloped areas are widely supported throughout the County.

The development of trails and passive recreational options is seen as important or valuable by at least 60 percent of all survey respondents.

The development of active recreation (playgrounds and ball courts) is seen as important by about half of respondents, while half see active recreation as not an important focus. Specifically, the development of sports facilities is widely seen as not important, with over 40 percent of respondents noting sports facilities as least valuable or not important.

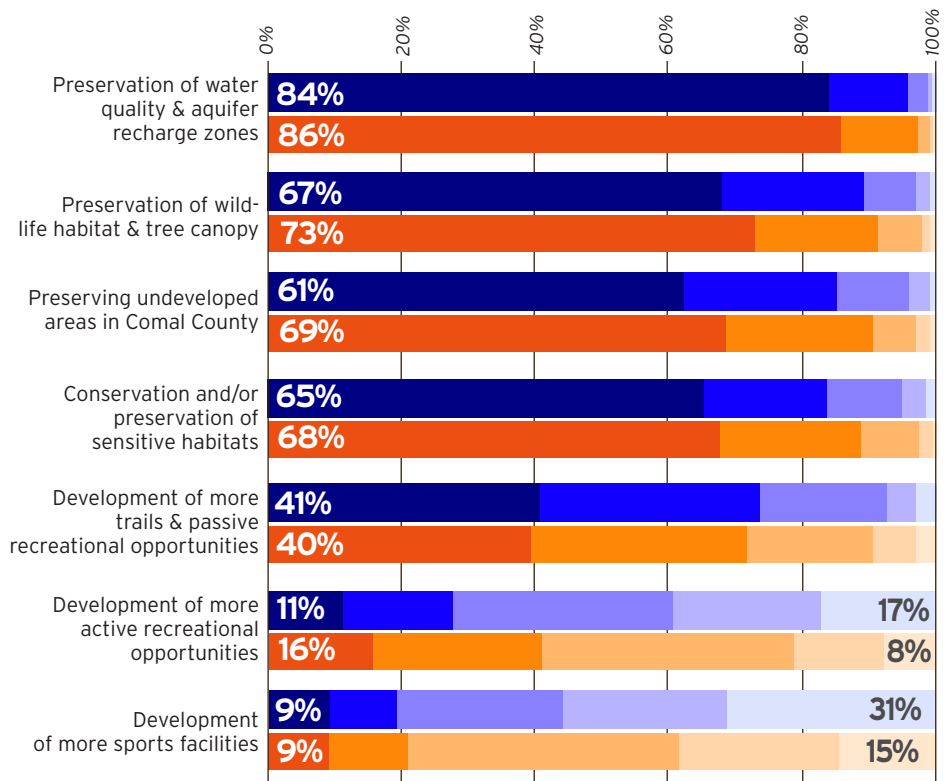
Question #16 Key

Online Community Survey

Statistically Valid Survey

5, Most Valuable
4, Pretty Valuable
3, Somewhat Valuable
2, Not Very Valuable
1, Least Valuable

5, Very Important
4, Important
3, Somewhat Important
2, Not Important
1, Not At All Important



Question #17:

Would you prefer that the Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan focus more on open space and natural resource protection, more on providing outdoor recreation opportunities, or a balance of the two?

Question #17 Findings:

The Online Survey asked respondents to assess where they feel the emphasis of the Master Plan and future planning efforts should be prioritized by clicking on a sliding scale. A majority of respondents feel that the Master Plan should fall somewhere between an 'equal emphasis of natural areas and outdoor recreation' and 'strong emphasis on natural resource protection'.

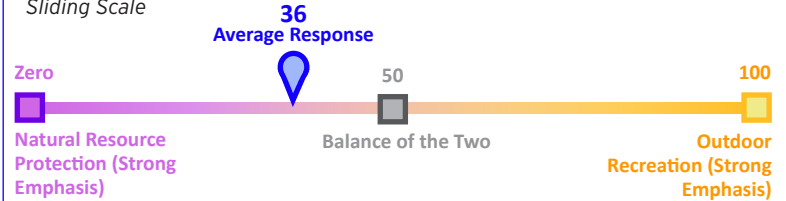
The same conclusion is found in the SV Survey, with over 61 percent of respondents feeling that the future planning efforts should emphasize open spaces and natural resources over outdoor recreation. Only seven percent of respondents would prefer County efforts to focus more on outdoor recreation. One-third, 32 percent, of respondents would like to see an equal emphasis and balance between the two.

"As Comal County grows, I believe it is our duty to preserve this land from overdevelopment. We need to consider pedestrian infrastructure, walkability, and equitable access to outdoor spaces. We are at a pivotal moment in this county - to do nothing for fear of tax increase will keep us from properly growing and conserving the land around us. I will be more than happy to pay more taxes should these funds be properly used to develop and conserve the public access around us."

-Online Survey Respondent

Online Community Survey

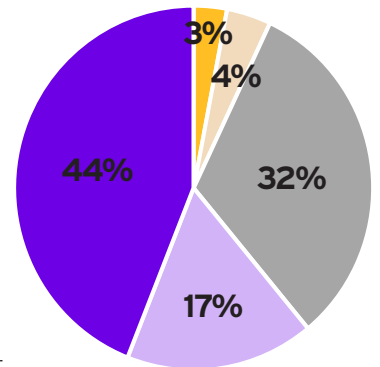
Sliding Scale



Statistically Valid Survey

Bracket Characteristics

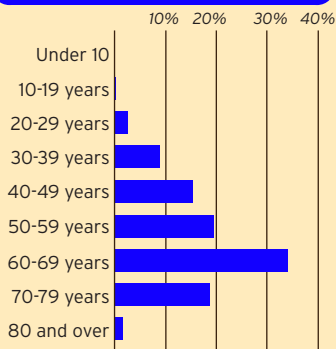
- Plan should strongly emphasize open space/natural resource protection over outdoor recreation
- Plan should slightly emphasize open space/natural resource protection over outdoor recreation
- Plan should equally emphasize open space/natural resource protection & outdoor recreation
- Plan should slightly emphasize outdoor recreation over open space/natural resource protection
- Plan should strongly emphasize outdoor recreation over open space/natural resource protection



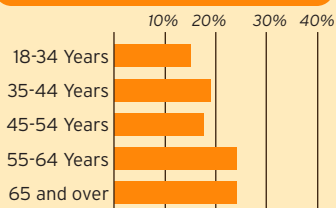
Survey Respondent Characteristics

Question #18: What is your age?

Online Community Survey

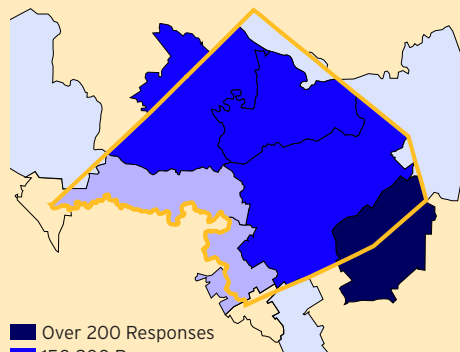


Statistically Valid Survey



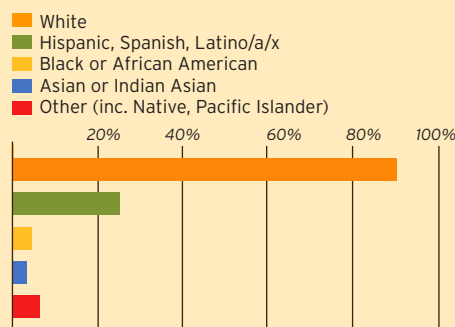
Question #19: What is your Zip-Code?

Online Community Survey



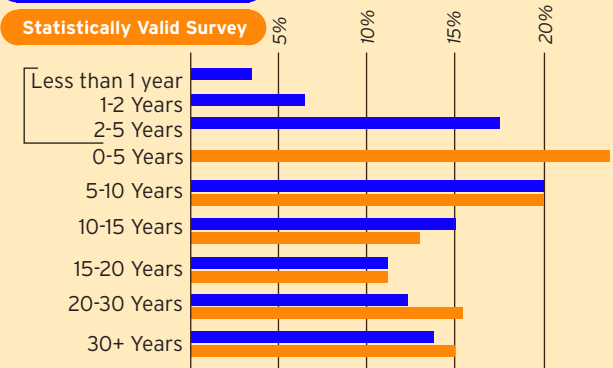
Question #21: Which of the following best describes your race?

Statistically Valid Survey



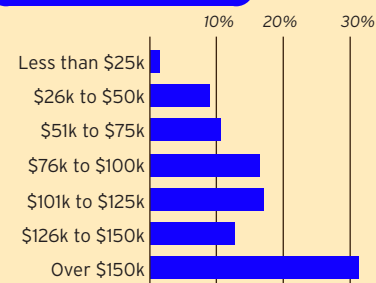
Question #20: How many years have you lived in Comal County?

Online Community Survey



Question #22: What is your annual household income?

Online Community Survey



Community Surveys and Demand Based Assessment Findings

Feedback from the Online Community Survey and Statistically Valid Survey was relatively consistent with similar responses in County resident's needs, desires, and vision for the future of parks, and natural areas in Comal County. While the desire and/or need for park facilities and preservation is slightly lower among Statistically Valid Survey respondents, a large need for parks, open spaces, and natural areas still exists. Below is a summary of the major findings from both Community Surveys:

Parks Attendance and Engagement

- At or over half of Survey respondents have not been to a County owned or operated park in the past year
- The most visited Comal County park is Jumbo Evans Sports Park, followed by Curry Nature Center
- Overall satisfaction with existing Comal County recreational facilities
- Major barriers to park visitation include residents' distance from park facilities, overcrowding, and not enough parking
- Respondents visited New Braunfels city parks the most, followed by State parks; the least visited parks were County owned or operated facilities

Parks Needs and Wants

- Strong support for additional hike and bike trails, including natural trails, mountain bike trails, and off-street multi-use paths
- Strong support for additional parking and park capacity, with major concerns of overcrowding of park facilities as the population grows
- Concerns over park pollution, trash, noise, and high number of tourists, particularly relating to traffic around public parks
- Strong support for protecting water-based resources, along with a need for more public waterfront access
- Strong support for additional unprogrammed open spaces and natural areas for public access
- A majority do not view sports and athletic fields / facilities as important or needed in the County

Parks Funding and Support

- Strong support for funding mechanisms through Grants and Partnerships
- Opposition to an increase in property-taxes as a basis for funding parks, open spaces, and preservation easements
- Support for acquisition of land through donations, tax incentives to protect land, and partnerships with land trusts
- Strong support for an emphasis on natural areas and open spaces, and general opposition to an active-recreational facilities emphasis
- Some support for additional development regulations or incentives to add parkland and green spaces to development



Comal River
Source: All Trails



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STANDARDS-BASED (LEVEL OF SERVICE) ASSESSMENT

Approach

The Standards-Based Assessment for this Master Plan assesses the distance (one to five mile) and access of residents from parkland and park facilities. This assessment also utilizes 2023 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Report service metrics to assess at a high level the relative access and availability to parks and facilities amounts compared to national standards and trends. Findings of this assessment provide an overview of where in the County is currently best served by parks and natural areas, and, which residents are underserved by parks and natural areas.

Comal ISD Properties

57 school properties were assessed with a half-mile and quarter-mile buffer. Often, school properties are open to the public on weekends and after school hours, providing park access to adjacent residential areas. In Comal County some, but not all, school properties allow for this public access. Comal ISD properties with park facilities adjacent to residential areas are found mostly in New Braunfels, Garden Ridge, and Bulverde, opening opportunities for shared-use of the facilities to help provide park space for nearby residents.

Regional Parks and Special Use Park Access

Regional parks can be considered the controlled access parks along Canyon Lake (Comal Park and Canyon Park), the two county operated sports complexes, and state-owned parkland such as the Guadalupe River State Park. Regional parks typically serve a large dispersed population where service area buffers may not be applicable. As depicted on Map B.1, the County sports parks (in yellow) serves eastern Canyon Lake and the Spring Branch areas along U.S. 281 within a five-mile radius. Since these parks contain special use sports facilities a larger service radius is provided, versus parkland which serves more of a neighborhood service with playground facilities. Of the four County parks, highlighted with a dashed five-mile radius, large portions of south and central Comal County are not served.

Parks Service Areas

Map B.1, *Parks Service Areas*, depicts half-mile and quarter-mile distances from all parkland and school properties within Comal County. This map also depicts a five-mile buffer around County owned or operated regional parkland.

Municipal and County Local Parks

A majority of Comal residents are not located within a half-mile radius of a public local park. A half-mile is considered the typical comfortable walking distance for pedestrians to access parks. Parks within New Braunfels and Garden Ridge are located close to many residential areas. County parks, such as Kleck Park, is adjacent to the Hidden Trails subdivision, while James C. Curry Nature Center is adjacent to only some rural-character residential land uses. Residences along SH 46, FM 306, and FM 484 notably lack access to parkland within a half mile distance, requiring residents to drive at least five miles to access parkland.

Key Takeaways

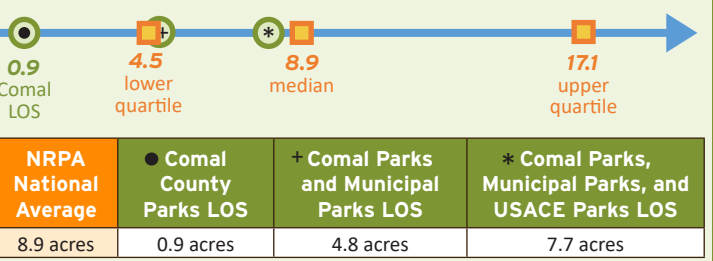
- Parkland and natural areas conservation gaps are evident in several areas including:
- East of Guadalupe River and FM 306
 - West of Guadalupe River between New Braunfels and Canyon Lake
 - North of Canyon Lake

Level of Service for Parks and Open Space

Parkland Acres Per 1,000 Residents

2023 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Report states that agencies with a population between 100,000 and 200,000, on average nationally, have 8.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Including just Comal County operated parks, the County is far below the national average of parkland level of service (LOS) at only 0.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. If all public parkland, including County operated, municipal operated, and U.S. Corps of Engineers parks are included the County's LOS is 7.7 acres per 1,000 residents, which is still below the national median LOS.

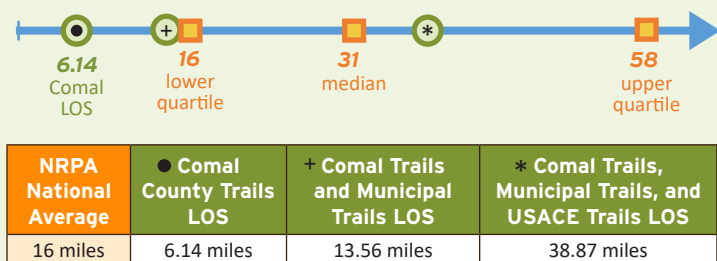
Comal County Parkland LOS Benchmark Statistics



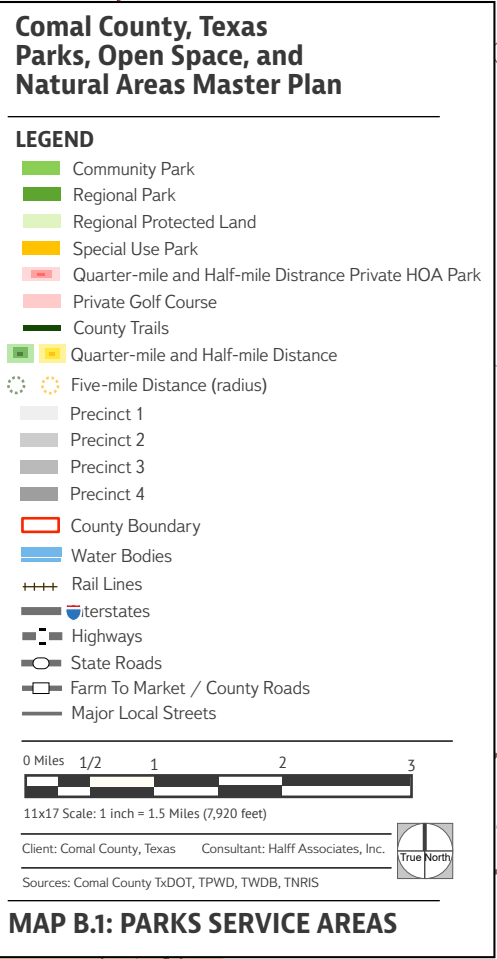
Trail Miles Per 1,000 Residents

2023 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Report states that agencies with a population between 100,000 and 250,000, on average nationally, have 16 miles of trails per 1,000 residents. Including just Comal County operated trails, at 6.14 miles, the County is far below the national average of 31 miles of trails. If all public trails, including County operated, municipal operated, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers trails are included, the County has 38.87 miles of trails which is above the national average of 31 miles, but below the upper quartile of 58 miles of trails.

Comal County Trail Miles LOS Benchmark Statistics



Source: 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review, National Recreation and Park Association



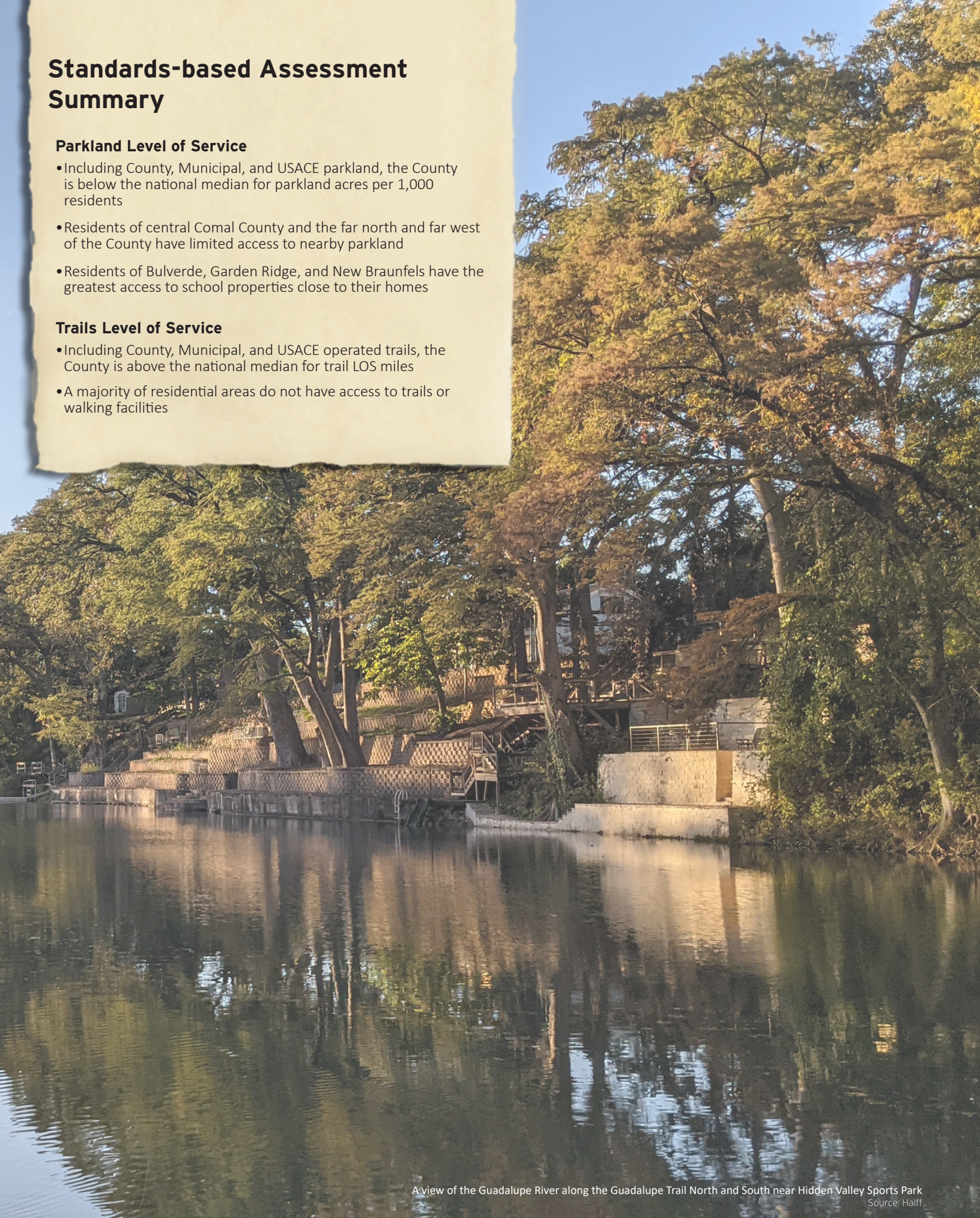
Standards-based Assessment Summary

Parkland Level of Service

- Including County, Municipal, and USACE parkland, the County is below the national median for parkland acres per 1,000 residents
- Residents of central Comal County and the far north and far west of the County have limited access to nearby parkland
- Residents of Bulverde, Garden Ridge, and New Braunfels have the greatest access to school properties close to their homes

Trails Level of Service

- Including County, Municipal, and USACE operated trails, the County is above the national median for trail LOS miles
- A majority of residential areas do not have access to trails or walking facilities



A view of the Guadalupe River along the Guadalupe Trail North and South near Hidden Valley Sports Park
Source: Half

PARKS CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT (for County Parks)

Assessment Methodology

A parks conditions assessment helps identify existing conditions of facilities in terms of the quality, access, and safety of park elements. Four parks either owned or operated by Comal County are assessed on the following pages. Findings from the Conditions Assessment will aid in evaluating existing needs and deficits and future improvements of County-operated facilities.

Facility Scoring



A facility score of 'zero' indicates very poor conditions, including needing immediate repair or replacement due to safety and risk of injury-related issues, unacceptable aesthetics, non-performing design, major plant health issues, or non-compliant accessibility. A facility score of 'two' indicates moderate conditions, including overall safe conditions, some needed repairs, and some accessibility concerns. A facility score of 'four' indicates very good conditions, including safe and compliant facilities, healthy vegetation (natural and ornamental), no required repairs, and is visually and operationally well maintained. Detailed scoring Park Condition Sheets are located in Appendix B.

0: Very Poor Condition
Restoration, Removal, Replacement Required

1: Poor Condition
Major Repair Required to return to Typical and Prescribed Maintenance

2: Moderate Condition
Moderate Repair Required to return to Typical and Prescribed Maintenance

3: Good Condition
Minor Repair Required to return to Typical and Prescribed Maintenance

4: Great Condition
No repair required, Prescribed Maintenance

County Parks Profile

As previously stated, Comal County only operates four parks. On the following pages a conditions assessment of these County operated parks is summarized. Information regarding other park facilities in Comal County can be found in Appendix A, on pages A.13 and A.14. The detailed parks conditions Assessment Sheets scoring is found in Appendix B, *Parks Conditions Assessment*.

Assessed Parks



Hidden Valley Sports Park

93.7 acre park along the Guadalupe River with sports fields, a community center, walking trail, and community garden.



Jumbo Evans Sports Park

64.3 acre park with six soccer fields, six diamonds fields, a football field, six tennis courts, and batting cage facilities.



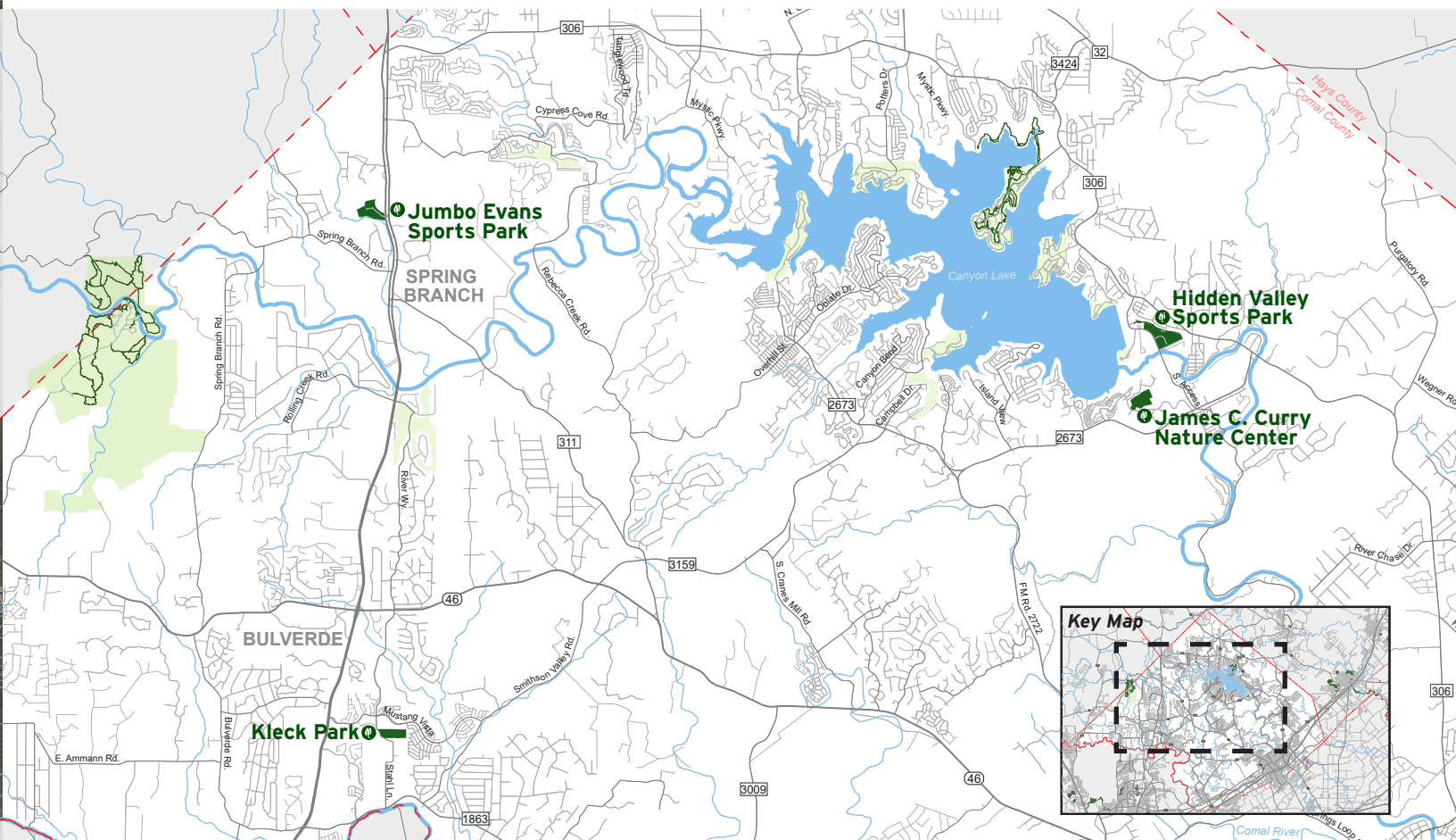
Kleck Park

43.5 acre park featuring 7,128 feet (1.35 miles) of natural walking trails and mountain biking through Ashe Juniper trees with benches and bird house facilities.



James C. Curry Nature Center

53.9 acre park featuring 8,448 feet (1.6 miles) of natural walking trails through a valley of Ashe Juniper trees and views of surrounding hills.



Hidden Valley Sports Park Conditions Assessment

Facilities Scoring

①: Worst Condition
②: Poor Condition
③: Moderate Condition
④: Good Condition
⑤: Best Condition

Turf

① ② ③ ④ N/A

Plantings and Trees

① ② ③ ④ N/A

Irrigation

① ② ③ ④ N/A

Parking

① ② ③ ④ N/A

Pathways and Trails

① ② ③ ④ N/A

Basketball Nets and Play Surfaces

① ② ③ ④ N/A

Tennis Courts, Fencing, Nets

① ② ③ ④ N/A

Park Access

① ② ③ ④ N/A

Amenities (Benches, Tables, etc.)

① ② ③ ④ N/A

Play Equipment

① ② ③ ④ N/A

Facilities (Shelters, Buildings, etc.)

① ② ③ ④ N/A

Athletic Fields and Equipment

① ② ③ ④ N/A

Signage (Regulatory, Wayfinding)

① ② ③ ④ N/A

Fencing

① ② ③ ④ N/A

Lighting

① ② ③ ④ N/A

Total Score: 23/52 (44%)

Park Map



Source: Nearmap Imagery



Overall good quality fencing, shade, and seating. Minor repairs may be needed along the bottom fence line and repair of eroded areas along bleacher concrete pads. Turf repair is required around playing fields.

Source: Halff Associates



The playground at the soccer field may be unsafe due to the condition and lack of fall surfaces. Turf conditions are adequate for play. Seating, fencing, and goals require minor repairs, including additional benches, fence stabilization, and renetting. There are currently no bleachers.

Source: Halff Associates



Most shade structures are in overall good condition, although a lack of rain gutters on roofing has caused erosion around the buildings.

Source: Halff Associates

Erosion damage and unsafe grade change from basketball court.

Source: Halff Associates



Good quality turf on playing fields, with needed minor regrading and resurfacing on mounds and runners lanes. Signage and score boards are in overall good condition. Fields in the center of the park are in the worst condition needing reseeding and regrading to be play-ready. Field numbering should be readily visible from the main entrance road for visitors and emergency responders.

Source: Halff Associates



Sidewalks along many diamond fields are obstructed by utility and light poles, requiring re-alignment and repair of depressions and cracking along edges.

Source: Halff Associates



Park drive grading causes water to pool in many locations. Park drive and fence edging are often muddy and require reseeding. Minor fence repairs are needed at the central diamond field and football field.

Source: Halff Associates



Restroom facilities are in generally good condition and located at all fields.

Source: Halff Associates



The overall quality of the turf surrounding playing fields and around the park is in poor condition, with many grading issues, tripping hazards. Grass reseeding required.

Source: Halff Associates



The fence line at the soccer field parking lot requires immediate repair. The shade structure and playground surfacing require immediate replacement due to safety concerns and potentially falling debris.

Source: Halff Associates



The east Guadalupe Trailhead entry/exit should be formalized with signage, similar to the western trailheads. There is the potential for trailhead improvements, including parking and a shade structure.

Source: Halff Associates

Park Summary

Hidden Valley Sports Park is mostly comprised of sports fields in fair to great condition. The diamond field four-plex and the north side of the park have the highest quality fields, while the fields closest to Mabel Jones Drive need re-seeding, re-grading, new lighting, and fence-signage replacement. Sports pavilion buildings and concessions are overall new and in great condition, with some minor improvements required for restroom facilities and emergency response signage. Lighting at fields is new and provides adequate coverage, although lighting on park drives and at parking lots is limited. Parking lots also need minor repaving and are currently not striped with the exception of handicapped spaces. Entry drives could be enhanced with additional vegetation and erosion prevention. There is no wayfinding signage or park map on site. Park drives require additional regrading due to standing water damage. There are no direct pedestrian connections between the north and south sides of the park and the recreation center. Auxiliary support facilities such as the playground and the pavilion north of the recreation center require complete removal and replacement. The basketball court paving, hoops, and nets are in good condition, but have erosion and a large drop-off from the court surface to existing grade of adjacent grass areas. Additional turf re-seeding is required between fields, along fence lines, and along steep grade changes. Additional and formalized trailheads could be added to access the adjacent Guadalupe Trail. The park is only accessible by vehicle and is not connected to other development by way of sidewalk or trail.

Jumbo Evans Sports Park Conditions Assessment

Facilities Scoring

①: Worst Condition
②: Poor Condition
③: Moderate Condition
④: Good Condition
⑤: Best Condition

Turf

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Plantings and Trees

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Irrigation

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Parking

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Pathways and Trails

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Basketball Nets and Play Surfaces

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Tennis Courts, Fencing, Nets

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Park Access

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Amenities (Benches, Tables, etc.)

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Play Equipment

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Facilities (Shelters, Buildings, etc.)

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Athletic Fields and Equipment

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Signage (Regulatory, Wayfinding)

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Fencing

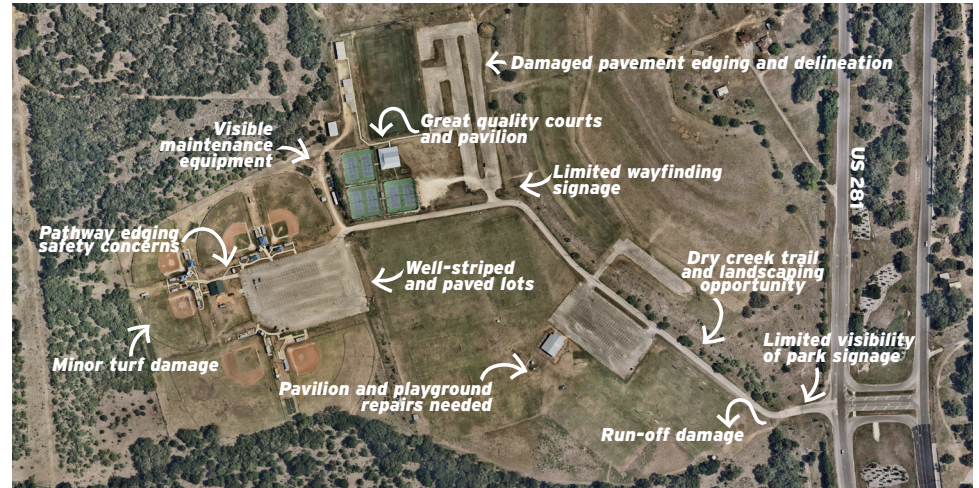
0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Lighting

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Total Score: 33/52 (63%)

Park Map



Source: Nearmap Imagery



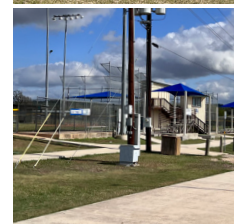
Park drives have longitudinal cracking. Repair and resurfacing will be required in the near future.

Source: Half Associates



Field access from parking lots is good. Additional parking backstops and parking lot delineation is warranted to prevent turf damage.

Source: Half Associates



Utility and maintenance facilities could use additional buffering for safety and aesthetic reasons.

Source: Half Associates



Tennis courts are in great condition, but some erosion and edging repair is required to improve access.

Source: Half Associates



Many field walkways have large slopes, drop offs, and erosion damage, which can be improved with soil topdressing and minor regrading. The overall quality of paving is good with minimal cracks; exceptions include locations where drainage and utilities cross under the pavement.

Source: Half Associates



Park signage improvements can be made at the park entry and at sponsorship boards. Fields are clearly labeled and addressed for emergency response vehicles.

Source: Halff Associates



The park entry drive can be improved for visual clarity, visual quality of entry, and pavement preservation due to grading and erosion issues. Park access and signage may also be limited due to fast moving traffic along U.S. 281.

Source: Halff Associates



The majority of pavilion structures are in good condition; updating the soccer field pavilion may be warranted. Additional seating should be added to the diamond fields building (top). Restroom and storage facilities at the soccer field (middle) can be improved; Access may be impaired due to grading and parking lot edging damage.

Source: Halff Associates



The football field is in great condition. The field is well-lighted. Turf is in good condition. Bleachers are in great condition and have adequate access.

Source: Halff Associates



Diamond field turf and soil is in fair condition, with minor regrading and repairs needed, including restriping due to fading and turf damage. Lighting is adequate on diamond fields, provides good coverage, and is in good condition.

Source: Halff Associates



Fencing is in overall good to great condition. Minor repairs to structural poles may be needed at diamond fields due to settling soil, and some minor repair at gates needed.

Source: Halff Associates



Shade structures are in great condition and provide adequate coverage over dug-outs and bleacher seating.

Source: Halff Associates

Park Summary

Jumbo Evans Sports Park is mostly comprised of sports fields in great condition. The entry drives could be enhanced with additional vegetation, erosion prevention, and more visible higher quality signage. Park drives and parking lots are in moderate condition needing minor repaving and re-striping. Edging of asphalt pavement in most locations is undefined and eroded. Additional backstops may be needed in parking lots to prevent vehicles on the turf. Sport pavilion buildings and concessions are overall new and in great condition. The soccer pavilion could be updated and include sidewalks to parking lot facilities. Pathways are in good condition but are seeing increased erosion and damage due to low turf edging concerns and a lack of soil compaction. Playing fields are all in good condition with minor turf and striping maintenance. Utilities and maintenance infrastructure are located in highly visible areas and may require buffering for safety reasons. Dugouts and shade structures are in great condition and provide adequate coverage. Field and court lighting is in good condition with adequate coverage. Minor turf improvements may be needed between fields and around the tennis courts, due to high drop offs and grading. Score boards and bleachers at diamond fields and the football field are in great condition. Emergency signage is in place, but a park map is not provided.

Kleck Park Conditions Assessment

Facilities Scoring

①: Worst Condition
②: Poor Condition
③: Moderate Condition
④: Good Condition
⑤: Best Condition

Turf

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Plantings and Trees

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Irrigation

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Parking

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Pathways and Trails

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Basketball Nets and Play Surfaces

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Tennis Courts, Fencing, Nets

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Park Access

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Amenities (Benches, Tables, etc.)

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Play Equipment

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Facilities (Shelters, Buildings, etc.)

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Athletic Fields and Equipment

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Signage (Regulatory, Wayfinding)

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Fencing

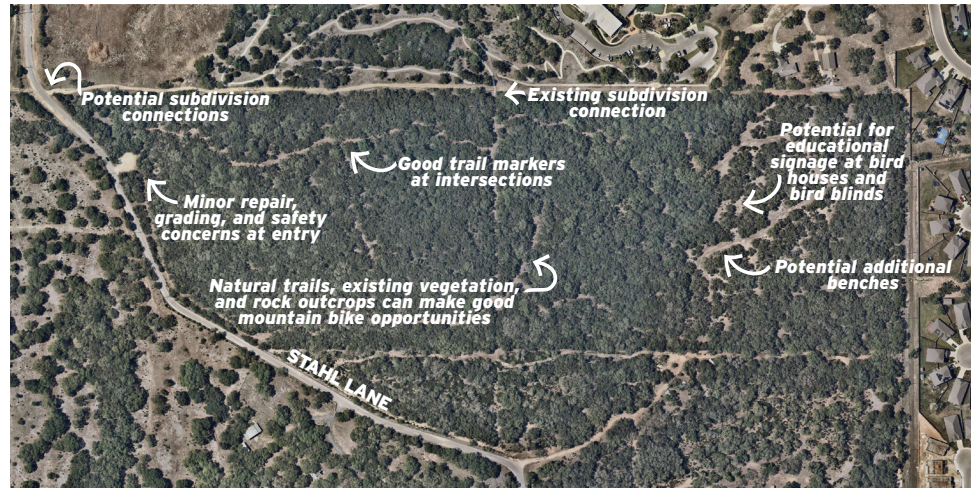
0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Lighting

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Total Score: 17/24 (71%)

Park Map



Source: Nearmap Imagery



Good shade cover. No fallen tree limbs or height obstructions. Trails may require corraling (strategic stones, roots, or trees that define the path) to prevent trail widening, and specific sections of trail may be considered slippery or unsafe due to rocks.

Source: Halff Associates



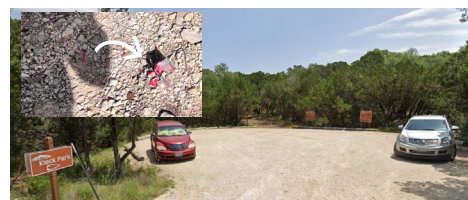
Community driven efforts such as birdhouses at Kleck Park provide habitats and nesting opportunities for birds. Additional bird houses and educational bird signage may be added to enhance visitor experience.

Source: Halff Associates



Signage is in good condition, located at most trail forks, and has clear legibility. Milepost signage and emergency response location numbers (every one-tenth mile) along the trails would improve safety.

Source: Halff Associates



Parking lot is unpaved and in fair condition. Additional backstops, gravel compaction, and clean up may be needed. There is a safety concern with exposed steel rods which may cause human and vehicle damage.

Source: Halff Associates, Google Imagery



In some locations the trails path is unclear. Further delineation is warranted to improve legibility and to prevent damage to adjacent vegetation.

Source: Halff Associates

Park Summary

Natural unpaved hiking trails at Kleck Park are in good to great condition. Minor concerns regarding trail grading and trail edge definition exist which may cause trail widening and vegetation damage; additional trail corraling methods should be used. Park signage is in overall good condition. Additional park signage would improve wayfinding and safety deeper into the park. Additional seating may also be needed. Due to the parks character and designation as a hiking and mountain biking trail, additional safety signage may be required. Access to the park can be improved by providing sidewalks to nearby subdivisions. The park can also be better utilized as a bird education site with additional birdhouses, interpretive signage, and bird blinds. Parking lot gravel surface requires routine grading, leveling, and compacting.

James C. Curry Nature Center Conditions Assessment

Facilities Scoring

①: Worst Condition
②: Poor Condition
③: Moderate Condition
④: Good Condition
⑤: Best Condition

Turf

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Plantings and Trees

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Irrigation

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Parking

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Pathways and Trails

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Basketball Nets and Play Surfaces

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Tennis Courts, Fencing, Nets

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Park Access

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Amenities (Benches, Tables, etc.)

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Play Equipment

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Facilities (Shelters, Buildings, etc.)

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Athletic Fields and Equipment

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Signage (Regulatory, Wayfinding)

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Fencing

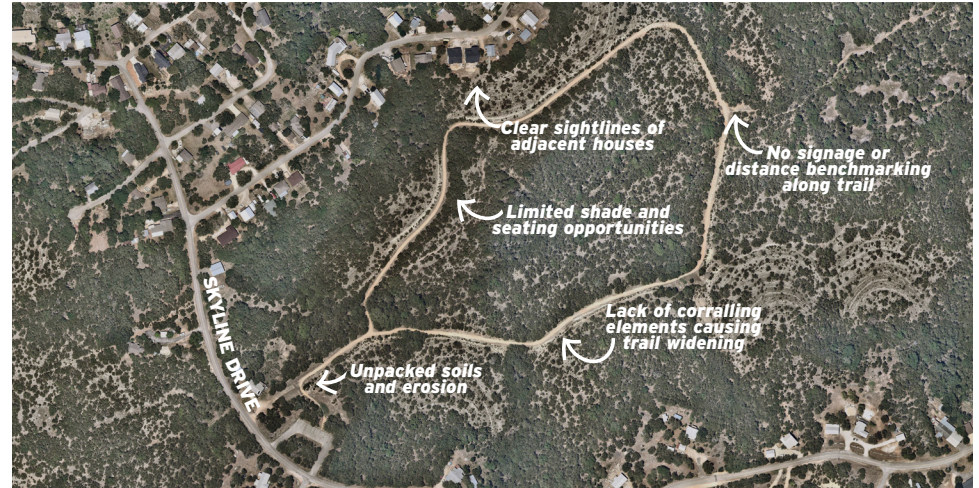
0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Lighting

0 1 2 3 4 N/A

Total Score: 15/24 (63%)

Park Map

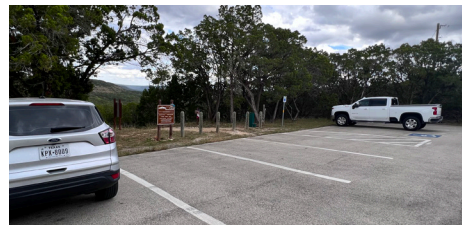


Source: Nearmap Imagery



Erosion and soil damage on slopes near entrance can create unsafe walking conditions.

Source: Halff Associates



The parking lot is well paved and striped.

Source: Halff Associates



In some locations development is visible on higher ground which can detract from the preserved natural experience for visitors.

Source: Halff Associates



Trail entrance could be better defined, including landscape enhancements. Water fountain is in good condition, but is not accessible from pavement.

Source: Halff Associates

Park Summary

Natural unpaved hiking trails at Curry Nature Center are in fair to good condition. Concerns exist regarding trail grading and erosion due to the mostly steep terrain the park is located within. The trail entrance and trail require additional definition and soil compacting. The parking lot is in good condition. Additional benches and maps should be located along the trail. Vegetation buffers should be maintained to reduce clear sightlines to neighboring properties and structures.



Trail edges could be better-defined to reduce erosion potential and to eliminate unintentional widening by users.

Source: Halff Associates

Table B.1: Park Conditions Assessment Scoring

Parks	Turf	Plantings and Trees	Irrigation	Parking	Pathways and Trails	Basketball Nets and Play Surfaces	Tennis Courts, Fencing, Nets	Park Access	Amenities (Benches, Tables, etc.)	Play Equipment	Facilities (Shelters, Buildings, etc.)	Athletic Fields and Equipment	Signage (Regulatory, Wayfinding)	Fencing	Lighting	TOTALS
Hidden Valley Sports Park	2	2	n/a	1	1	3	n/a	1	3	0	3	2	1	2	2	23 / 52
Jumbo Evans Sports Park	2	3	n/a	3	3	n/a	4	1	3	0	4	2	2	3	3	33 / 52
Kleck Park	n/a	4	n/a	3	3	n/a	n/a	1	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	n/a	n/a	17 / 24
James C. Curry Nature Center	n/a	4	n/a	4	2	n/a	n/a	1	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	n/a	15 / 24
TOTALS	4	13	0	11	9	3	4	4	11	0	7	4	8	5	5	

Park Conditions Assessment Summary

Overall, Comal County park facilities are in good condition with good to great condition sports fields/courts, and fair to good trail and passive recreational facilities. The Conditions Assessment (conducted November 2022) demonstrated a series of consistent findings common to all County Parks, detailed below:

- Sports fields are generally in good condition with regular maintenance required
- Sports courts are in great condition but require improvements to access due to elevation changes along courts edges; due in part to erosion
- There is limited to no lighting at soccer fields and open play areas
- Sports field dugouts, pavilions, shade coverings, and restroom buildings are overall in good condition
- Fences require minor repairs to stabilize posts. Reseeding is required along the edges
- Turf covering perimeter of sports fields is spotty and shows signs of wear and erosion
- Clear directional signage is required at park entrances and within the parks, including field identification signage at Hidden Valley
- Pathways between facilities and parking lots at sports complexes are limited or need repair
- Park trails are in good condition with good directional signage
- Parking lots are generally well paved, but need further edging definition and drainage control
- While there is one instance of neighborhood pedestrian access points across the whole system, vehicles are the primary way that visitors access the parks
- Playgrounds are limited and in poor condition

Score Summary

Comal County parks scored on average a 2 (Fair) to 3 (Good). Plantings and Trees, Amenities, and Parking categories scored the best overall. Park Accessibility, Signage, and Turf categories, exclusive of sports fields, scored the lowest overall. Jumbo Evans Sports Park scored 10 points higher than Hidden Valley Sports Park mainly due to a higher quality of parking lots, facilities (shelters, buildings), and fencing. Kleck Park scored only two points higher than James C. Curry Nature Center mainly due to paved parking facilities and signage at Kleck. See Table B.1, *Park Conditions Assessment Scoring*, above.

RESOURCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

Approach

A Resource-based assessment looks at the natural and built features of the area being planned for. The idea is to identify the features which contribute most to the natural environment and identify resources that can be utilized to bolster parks, recreation, and natural area offerings.

A resource-based assessment typically assesses the following:

- **Tree Canopy**
 - To identify areas providing the greatest benefit to birds, ground cover, water filtration, and regional air cooling
- **Rock Formations**
 - To identify sensitive or visually attractive areas in which minimal topographical changes should occur
- **Native/Endangered Habitat**
 - To identify areas of continued or increased protection, including areas adjacent to such habitats
- **Caves and Caverns**
 - To identify topographic areas in which development can adversely affect the quality of ground water, and identify potential tourist zones
- **Riparian Vegetation, Wetlands, and Flood Plains**
 - To identify low lying areas not suitable for construction and which provide benefits for fishing and water filtration
- **Large Landowners**
 - To identify parcels which may have the greatest benefit or effect to the County overall if land uses change
- **Headwater and Stream-Fork Locations**
 - To identify areas with a significant effect on downstream properties and economic activity
- **Vistas/Sightlines**
 - To identify spots which hold a high visual value and character to the region
- **Adjacent Land to Parks**
 - To identify lands suitable for parkland acquisition or expansion which may affect existing parkland
- **Major Geological/Archaeological Historical Sites**
 - To identify archaeological or natural-historical sites which should be protected, hold significant historical or research potential, and hosts tourism potential
- **Springs and Water Outfall**
 - To identify freshwater resources to avoid pollutants or contaminants from entering into the groundwater

The following pages will present a general map of resources within Comal County, along with a short summary of the resources and their geographical character.



Water sampling along Cibolo Creek to identify levels of potentially harmful estrogen
Source: Scott Ball, San Antonio Report



Natural Bridge Caverns family tour
Source: Natural Bridge Caverns



Guadalupe River State Park swimming and tubing area
Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Resources and Opportunities

Tree Canopy and Protect Species Zones

Golden-cheeked Warbler habitat and significant tree canopy density zones are found throughout the County. Particularly three large regions where both zones overlap include; 1, upstream of Canyon Lake along the Guadalupe river; 2, surrounding Natural Bridge Caverns; and 3, along the Guadalupe River between New Braunfels and Canyon Lake. The largest contiguous zone of tree canopy in the County is found between New Braunfels and Canyon Lake along River Road and FM 306.

Flood Plains and Headwaters

Three major river systems are found within Comal County. One, the Guadalupe River has a wide floodplain and low lying land north of Canyon Lake contributing in part to major bends in the river. Two, Dry Comal Creek, which has many finger streams with wide floodplains consisting of most lands between Garden Ridge and New Braunfels. Three, Cibolo Creek, adjacent to Bulverde, has a significant flood plain zone along the Creek and along tributaries leading north towards SH 46. Additional tributaries exist leading south and southeast towards Seguin and Cibolo. Generally, the fall line of major tributaries in Comal County, the beginning of river headwaters, are found along major roadways such as SH 46, FM 306, and FM 3159.

Major Topographic Variances

Based on findings from Map A.4, Comal County Elevations and Peaks, on page A.21, three zones of major topographic variances are identified. Major topographic variances includes regions where there are significant peaks and valleys within a small geographical area in which vistas and sightlines may be visible from a large geographical distance. One major zone occurs along tributaries leading into Cibolo Creek in the Cibolo Bluffs and Garden Ridge region. The second major zone is along the Guadalupe River just upstream of Canyon Lake. Lastly, the largest and more significant zone in Comal County with topographic variance is the region between New Braunfels and Canyon Lake along the Guadalupe River. This third region lies on top of the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone and minor tributaries of the Guadalupe River.

Pipelines

Regions where contiguous easements exist such as power lines, pipelines, drainage channels/easements, and railroads provide opportunities to establish parks and recreational facilities such as trails. Typically, these easements are used for utility purposes and owned by one single entity. Significant pipeline and electrical easements exist parallel to SH 46 between New Braunfels and Guadalupe River State Park. These easements are currently clear-cut with no trees and could offer connectivity potential for trails in the future.

Major Cave Systems

The Hill Country is known for its karst topography and cave systems. While many minor caves exist throughout Comal County, two major cave systems are highlighted on Map B.2. The first cave system is the Honey Creek Cave in and around Guadalupe River State Park, with more than 20 miles of mapped passages. The second region is the Cibolo Bluffs region, which houses the Natural Bridge Caverns North and South Caves, which has multiple sinkhole locations where bat habitats and viewing zones exist as a major tourist activity.

Resource-Based Assessment Summary

Based on the findings presented in Map 3.2, *Natural Resources*, five major zones containing multiple valuable natural resources are identified and detailed below:

Guadalupe River Road Valley

- Largest contiguous tree canopy zone
- Largest contiguous zone for the Golden-cheeked Warbler
- Topographic variance with peaks, valley, and vista opportunities
- Karts topography and geological rock formations / outcroppings
- Highly visible and traveled region between New Braunfels and Canyon Lake hotspots

Natural Bridge at Garden Ridge

- Abundant tree canopy
- Existing protected conservation and State lands
- Cave systems and sinkholes
- Existing tourist hot spot for bat and bird watching

Guadalupe River Bend North

- Large flood plain zone
- Abundant tree canopy
- Large undeveloped lands along the Guadalupe River
- Topographic variance with peaks and valleys

Honey Creek

- Abundant tree canopy
- Existing protected conservation and State lands
- Largest contiguous zone for the Golden-cheeked Warbler
- Cave systems and sinkholes
- Limited large residential developments

Cibolo Creek at Bulverde

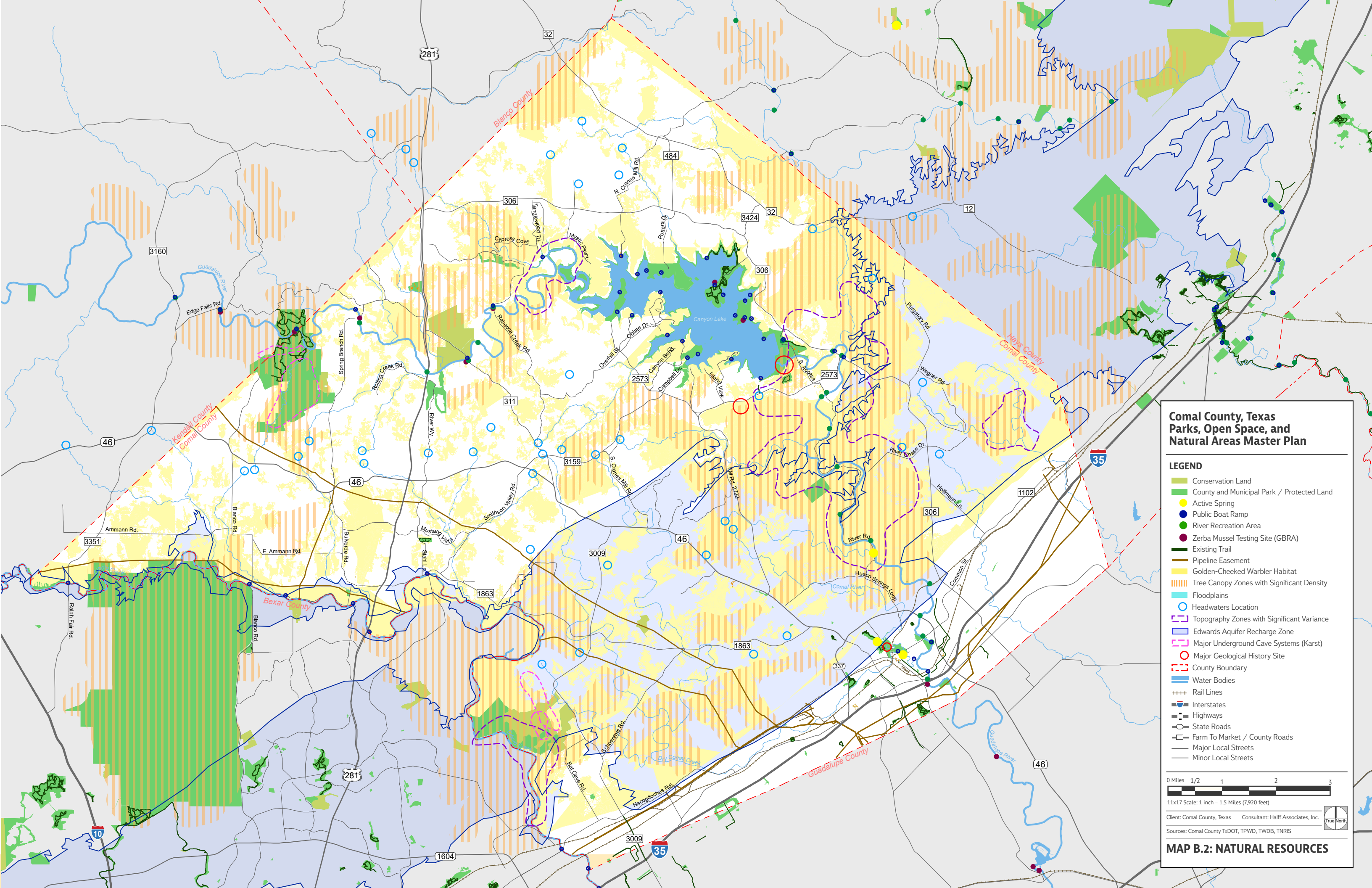
- Large flood plain zone
- Adjacent to protect federal land at Camp Bullis
- Large interaction with mostly undeveloped lands along Cibolo Creek

East and West Fork Dry Comal

- Abundant scattered tree canopy
- Wide flood plains and large number of tributaries
- Scattered Golden-cheeked Warbler habitats
- Limited large residential developments
- Large downstream impacts on Dry Comal Creek and New Braunfels

Major Geological/Archaeological Historic Sites

Ancient discoveries have been uncovered in Comal County for centuries including dinosaur tracks, fossils, and rock formations. Many discoveries have been along Guadalupe River tributaries, Cibolo Creek, and Comal Creek. The two major sites identified in Comal County include the Canyon Lake Gorge which showcases significant rock strata of sedimentary rock and dinosaur tracks. The second location is along FM 2673 at the Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country, which houses museums and walking tours of dinosaur fossils and other remains of extinct animals.



Comal County, Texas Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan

LEGEND

- Conservation Land
- County and Municipal Park / Protected Land
- Active Spring
- Public Boat Ramp
- River Recreation Area
- Zerba Mussel Testing Site (GBRA)
- Existing Trail
- Pipeline Easement
- Golden-Cheeked Warbler Habitat
- Tree Canopy Zones with Significant Density
- Floodplains
- Headwaters Location
- Topography Zones with Significant Variance
- Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone
- Major Underground Cave Systems (Karst)
- Major Geological History Site
- County Boundary
- Water Bodies
- Rail Lines
- Interstates
- Highways
- State Roads
- Farm To Market / County Roads
- Major Local Streets
- Minor Local Streets

0 Miles 1/2 1 2 3

11x17 Scale: 1 inch = 1.5 Miles (7,920 feet)

Client: Comal County, Texas Consultant: Half Associates, Inc.

Sources: Comal County TxDOT, TPWD, TWDB, TNRS

MAP B.2: NATURAL RESOURCES

APPENDIX B, NEEDS ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

The following section provides a summary of findings from Appendix B, Needs Assessment. Utilizing public engagement feedback, community surveys, analysis of Comal County parks conditions, national level of service standards, and analysis of natural resources, a comprehensive summary of the Needs Assessment is as follows:

Demand-based Assessment

- A majority of residents do not view sports and athletic fields/facilities as important or needed in the County, but have voiced strong support for additional hike and bike trails, including natural trails, mountain bike trails, and off-street multi-use path
- A majority of residents want to see passive natural areas and open spaces when compared to active recreational facilities such as sports courts and programmed parkland
- Desire by residents for increased parkland capacity, increased protection of natural resources, and increased safety measures for park goers and maintenance
- General opposition to increased property taxes
- Support for County partnerships, grants, and tax incentive

Standards-Based (Level of Service) Assessment

- Comal County is far below the average level of service of parkland and trails per 1,000 population, when compared to other counties and municipalities with a similar population
- Residents in the far corners of the County (north, east, west) and central Comal County have limited access to park facilities

Park Conditions Assessment

- Park sports facilities are in generally good condition with minor repairs needed on fencing, at ball fields, and parking lots
- Need for additional lighting, wayfinding signage, and access circulation within parks by way of paved walkways
- Limited opportunities to walk or access the parks outside of a personal vehicle
- Repair or replacement of playground facilities and basketball courts

Resource-based Assessment

- Regions surrounding existing protected lands such as Honey Creek and Bracken Cave host abundant natural resources and natural area opportunities
- The Guadalupe River region between New Braunfels and Canyon Lake hosts the largest amount of hill peaks and valleys, tree canopy density, Golden-cheeked Warbler habitat, flood plains, and Karst topography in the entire County.





Canyon Lake Gorge tour
Source: Canyon Lake Gorge Preservation Society

ORGANIZATIONAL DIRECTORY

APPENDIX C





ORGANIZATIONAL DIRECTORY

Directory Utilization

This directory includes information regarding local and regional entities, as listed to the right, which can assist Comal County in the implementation of the recommendations in the 2023 Comal County A Master Plan for Great Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas.

Federal Agencies

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Fort Worth District
- U.S. Department of Defense Joint Base San Antonio

State Agencies

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Municipalities

- City of Bulverde
- City of Garden Ridge
- City of New Braunfels
- City of Schertz
- City of Spring Branch

Regional Entities

- Canyon Lake Water Service (Under SJWTX Inc., Deer Creek & Canyon Lake)
- Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
- Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA)
- Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA)
- Water Oriented Recreation District of Comal County (WORD)

Non-profit & Community Organizations

- Bat Conservation International Inc. - Bracken Cave Preserve
- Canyon Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
- Canyon Lake Community Resource and Recreation Center
- Canyon Lake Dam Community Alliance
- Canyon Lake Gorge Preservation Society
- Comal County Conservation Alliance
- Comal Trails Alliance
- Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance
- The Great Springs Project
- Headwaters of the Comal River
- Hill County Alliance
- Hill Country Conservancy
- Keep Canyon Lake Beautiful
- El Camino Real de los Tejas (National Historic Trail Association)
- The Nature Conservancy (Cibola Bluffs Nature Preserve)
- Natural Bridge Caverns
- Texas Land Trust Council

Table C.1: Organizational Directory Matrix

Organization	Organization Type	Area/Scope	Funding	Research/Assessment Services	Conservation and Preservation Services	Utilities Services	Landowners	Sports Facility Operator	Trail Operator	Water Recreation Operator	Boat Ramp Operator	Campground Operators
Joint Base San Antonio Outdoor Recreation at Canyon Park	Federal	Joint Base San Antonio	Federal	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Federal	Canyon Lake, Comal County	Federal	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)	State	Texas	State and Federal	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)	State	Texas	State and Federal	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Canyon Lake Water Service (Under SJWTX Inc., Deer Creek & Canyon Lake)	Regional	Canyon Lake	County, State, Fees (non-tax)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Comal-Trinity Groundwater Conservation District	Regional	Comal	Fees	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA)	Regional	Bexar, Medina, Uvalde, Atascosa, portions of Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe, and Hays counties.	Federal, fees	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA)	Regional	Kendall, Comal, Hays, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun and Refugio	Fees, Donations, Grants	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Water Oriented Recreation District of Comal County (WORD)	Regional	Comal County	Fees, Taxes, and Grants	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bat Conservation International Inc. (Bracken Cave Preserve)	501c3	Single Location Unit	Tours, Camping, Grants, Donations	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Canyon Lake Area Chamber of Commerce	501c6	Canyon Lake, Comal County	Memberships, Events, Donations	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Canyon Lake Community Resource and Recreation Center (CRRC)	501c3	Canyon Lake, Comal County	Grants, Donations	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Canyon Lake Dam Community Alliance	501c3	Canyon Lake	Grants, Donations	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Canyon Lake Gorge Preservation Society	501c3	Comal County	Grants, Donations	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Comal Trails Alliance (CTA)	501c3	Comal County	Grants, Donations	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Comal County Conservation Alliance	501c3	Comal County	Grants, Donations	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Great Springs Project (GSP)	501c3	Travis, Hays, Comal, Bexar counties	Grants, Donations	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA)	501c3	EAA counties	Grants, Donations	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Headwaters of the Comal River	501c3	Single Unit Location	Grants, Donations	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Hill Country Alliance	501c3	Texas Hill Country	Grants, Donations	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Hill Country Conservancy	501c3	Texas Hill Country	Grants, Donations	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Keep Canyon Lake Beautiful	501c3	Canyon Lake	Grants, Donations	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
El Camino Real De Los Tejas National Historic Trail Association	501c3	Texas	Grants, Donations	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
The Nature Conservancy (Cibolo Bluffs Nature Preserve)	501c3	Single Unit Location	Grants, Donations	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Natural Bridge Caverns	For Profit	Single Unit Location	Fees	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Texas Land Trust Council	501c3	Texas	Grants, Donations	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No



U.S. Department of Defense Joint Base San Antonio

Organization Type: Federal

Scope Focus: Single Unit Location (Camp Bullis)

Contacts:

Address: 19399 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX 78257

Phone: 1(210)295-7644 [Executive Officer at Camp Bullis]

1(210)221-5453 [Sam Houston Public Affairs]

Website: <https://www.jbsa.mil/campbullis/>

Purpose:

- Training facility for the United States Army
- Provide recreational and natural space opportunities
- Protect local geology, wildlife, and historic archaeology

Mission and Vision:

- "Camp Bullis provides Base Operations Support and Training Support to Joint Base San Antonio Mission Partners in order to sustain their Operational and Institutional training requirements."
- "Provide an environment that offers state of the art training facilities, to include firing ranges, simulation facilities, maneuver lands, and other training enablers and services that fully support the training requirement of our mission partners."

Operations:

- Camp Bullis is jointly operated with the Lackland Air Force Base, Randolph Airforce Base, Joint Base Sam Houston, and San Antonio Fort Sam Houston.
- Training and Medical Command Staff
- Building maintenance and service Staff
- Departments found at Camp Bullis include:
 - Family Assistance Office
 - Outdoor Recreation Office
 - The Camp Bullis Joint Base Safety Office
 - The State Family Programs Office
 - The Environmental and Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) Office
- On-site, Eisenhower Park and Observation Tower is open to the public

Powers and Authorities:

- Comal County has established a Camp Bullis Dark Sky Zone in portions of the County which are adjacent to the training facility which limits the amount of outdoor lighting requiring a permit.

Programs:

- Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program
- Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscapes Program
- Integrated Training Area Management to provide a uniform training land management capability across the total Army
- Live Firing Range Training sites
- The Camp Bullis Outdoor Recreation Program including fishing, archery, gun classes, playgrounds, sports courts, and swimming.
- State Family Program for Army families
- Freedom Military School
- Range Control Building and Training
- Security and Threat Awareness Programs-
- Small Business Program
- Cantonment Area for visitors

Funding:

- Federal funding

Fees and Charges:

- None

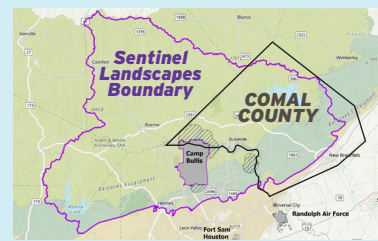
Physical Assets:

- Over 50 square miles of Army training facilities and semi-protected lands (Camp Bullis only)



Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape (CBSL) Program

The Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape (CBSL) Program is a document which guides land use, development, environmental protection, and water resources in and around Camp Bullis. The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is a national program which "is a coalition of federal agencies, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations



Source: USDA Sentinel Landscapes

that works with private landowners to advance sustainable land management practices around military installations and ranges." (<https://sentinellandscapes.org/>) The Sentinel Landscapes webpage further describes that "once a location becomes a sentinel landscape, USDA, DoD, and DOI work with local partners to equip private landowners with the resources necessary to carry out sustainable management practices on their properties." Major focuses of the CBSL include: 1. Ensuring that water resources from surface water, springs, and rivers remains abundant for the Camp and residents as development increases. 2. Reducing the risk of night-time light pollution due to adjacent development to Camp Bullis. 3. Ensuring the protection of endemic species to the Hill County and the Camp Bullis area. 4. Reduce the risks of extreme weather fluctuations such as droughts and flooding. 5. Address and reduce development encroachment risks. 6. Support and expand access to public recreational opportunities. (<http://aacog.net/742/Sentinel-Landscape-Initiative>) The Program currently has over 40 associated and collaborative local organizations which will help address impacts to the Camp Bullis region. With a Sentinel Program in place, stakeholders and landowners within the designated boundary can receive additional funding opportunities, benefits of collaborative efforts, new resources, and increased strategic planning. The Sentinel Program looks to develop a federally approved Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Plan which will open additional federal funding opportunities.



Source: U.S. Army



Source: Camp Bullis



Source: Comal County



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Fort Worth District

Organization Type: Federal agency

Scope Focus: Fort Worth, Dallas, Del Rio, San Antonio, Austin, Lubbock, Longview, Texas

Contacts:

Address: 819 Taylor Street Fort Worth, TX 76102

Phone: 1(817)886-1043 [Contracting]

1(817)886-1577 [Recreation Natural AND Resources]

1(817)886-1854 [Regional Planning Environmental Center]

Email: public.affairs@usace.army.mil

Website: <https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/>

Purpose:

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is a group / formation under the United States Army tasked with engineering, military construction, and civil works project that pertain to the larger operations of states and cross state line resources such as rivers, aquifers, flooding, pipelines, and more.
- The USACE works in Comal County to ensure the safety and operation of Canyon Lake and the Canyon Lake Dam.

Mission and Vision:

- "Deliver vital engineering solutions, in collaboration with our partners, to secure our Nation, energize our economy, and reduce disaster risk."

Operations:

- The Fort Worth Division operates under the larger Southwestern Division and Commander
- Operates a number of boat ramps and parks on and around Canyon Lake
- Operates and monitors the Canyon Lake Dam water levels and assesses risk of flooding or overflow
- Division staff under positions such as:
 - District Engineer
 - Dam Safety Officer
 - Commander and Resource Management Officer
 - Deputy Commander
 - Programs and Project Management

Powers and Authorities:

- Right to own, operate, enforce, and patrol lands and recreational assets
- At Canyon Lake the USACE has established a no build zone from base elevation 909' (ft.) to 948' (ft.)
- Authority to call and utilize the Canyon Lake release and spillway for the purposes of flood prevention and regional safety
- Authority to repair, maintain, legislate, and construct at the Canyon Lake Dam under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899, USC 408 (Section 40) upon the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, Section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970, Section 1135 of the 1986 Water Resources Development Act, Section 206 of the 1996 Water Resources Development Act, and Section 204(f) of the Water Resources Development Act.

Funding:

- State and Federal Funds

Fees and Charges:

- Potential boat ramp fees

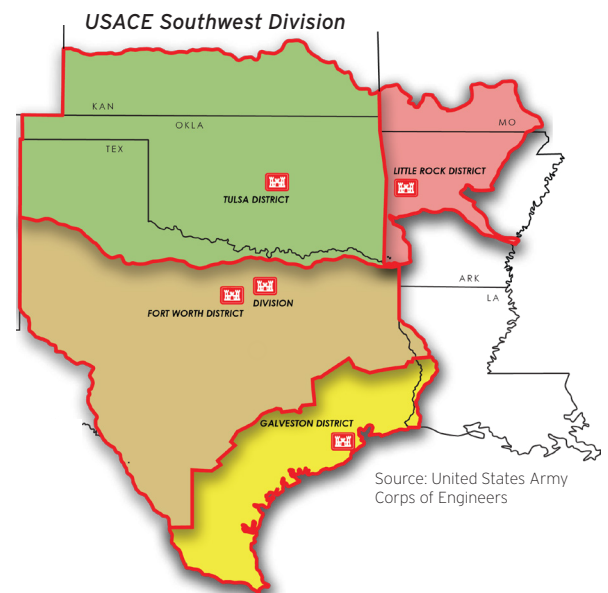
Physical Assets:

- In Comal County the USACE owns all lands surrounding Canyon Lake from base elevation 909' (ft.) to 914' (ft.)
- Owns and operates of the following sites in Comal County:
 - Canyon Lake Dam and spillway
 - Cranes Mill Park
 - Guadalupe Park
 - Hancock Horse Trail
 - Tittle Jacobs Creek
 - Potter's Creek Park
 - Hidden Valley Sports Park*
 - Overlook Park
 - North Park

*Leased by Comal County

Programs:

- Public, controlled access, park operations at North Park and Overlook Park
- Law enforcement and patrol at Canyon Lake and the Canyon Lake Dam
- Emergency Stream Bank and Shoreline Protection
 - Example project: Colorado River project for protection of the Garfield Water Supply Facility including rip-rap and native plantings to stabilize shorelines.
- Flood Damage Reduction
 - Example project: Little Fossil Creek, Haltom City channel widenings and mitigation of nearby lands.
- Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration
 - Example project: Rio Grande-Laredo 77-acre riparian ecosystem restoration in a wildlife corridor to improve hydrological connectivity, remove invasive species, erect nesting habitat, and reduce erosion
- Project Modifications for Improvements to the Environment
 - Example project: Lewisville Lake-Frisco reversal of environment degradation caused by impoundment, with new wetland construction, native hardwood and grass plantings, and recreational paths.
 - Example project: San Marcos River Section 206: Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Project 2014 including riparian plantings, shoreline stabilization, land remediation, and hydrological flow enhancements.
- Public information and reports on Facility Closures, Reservoir Releases, and waterflow conditions
- Joint cooperation, efforts, and reports with municipalities, counties, and other entities
- General Investigations Program and Continuing Authorities Program to address smaller to medium sized projects at \$10 million or less
- Flood Plain Management Services Program
- Field and surveying assessment, mapping, and analysis
- Public safety and awareness videos and flyers
- Prescribed controlled burns
- K-12 programs



Source: United States Army Corps of Engineers

Canyon Lake Master Plan (2017)

The Canyon Lake Master Plan (2017) was developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the purposes of appropriate stewardship, development, strategic planning, and environmental sustainability for the next 25 years. The Master Plan has established Recreational Objectives such as improving campground facilities and amenities, evaluating demand for facilities on a regular basis, increasing universally accessible facilities on Canyon Lake, and improving the Shoreline Management Program. Natural Resource Management Objectives include minimizing environmental disturbances, managing unauthorized use of public lands and trash dumping, addressing invasive species and prescribed treatments, and protecting / reconstructing wetlands and riparian zones. Cultural Resource and Visitor / Outreach Objectives include implementing more educational signage and programs, capturing trends in boat accident causes and locations, educating adjacent landowners along the shoreline, ensuring green infrastructure and Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) criteria are met for government facilities, developing additional partnerships, and ensure the cultural and historic protection of surrounding sites. Finally, the Master Plan includes a Resource Plan which guides the types of facilities, general density of facilities, land uses of parks, and specific water / land zones at parks along Canyon Lake.



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

Organization Type: State agency

Scope Focus: State of Texas

Contacts:

Address: 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744

Phone: 1(512)389-4800

Website: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/>

Purpose:

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department operates, maintains, and oversees over 80 State Parks and wildlife areas for the benefit of public use and recreation
- Providing research, education, and community events, to landowners, recreational users, and students

Mission and Vision:

- “To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

Operations:

- Regional and Park specific staff (Wardens, Rangers, biologists, educators)
- Law enforcement offices and staff
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Mutual Association
- Volunteer opportunities and collaborations with non-profit groups, scouts, and recreational organizations
- Texas Master Naturalist Program
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation

Powers and Authorities:

- Powers to own, operate, and manage lands
- Powers to establish and oversee controlled hunting zones
- Fish and game law enforcement

Funding:

- Public, private, donations
- Entry and use fees
- Gift shops and merchandise sales
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine subscriptions

Fees and Charges:

- Campsite fees
- Event and program participation fees
- Park entry fees
- Membership and Association fees

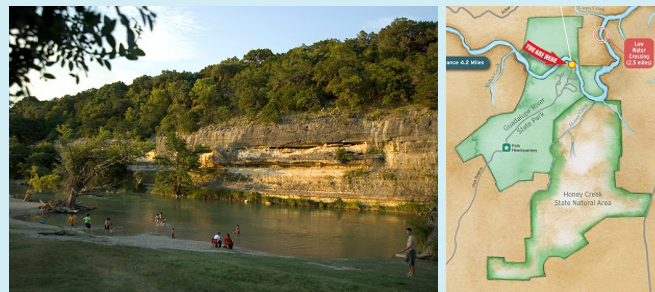
Physical Assets:

- Over 80 public State Parks in Texas
- The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, Texas
- Perry R. Bass Marine Fisheries Research Center in Palacios, Texas
- Airport Commerce Facility/Ed Werland Training Room in Austin, Texas
- Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center in San Marcos, Texas
- State Law Enforcement Headquarters at 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744



Guadalupe River State Park and the Honey Creek State Natural Area

The Guadalupe State Park (GSP) and Honey Creek State Natural Area (Honey Creek) are Federal / State owned lands. GSP, established in 1983 from land acquired in 1974, is a 1,939 acre park open to the public. The park features active recreational options such as campgrounds, canoeing, fishing, horse-hiking trails, geocaching, and swimming / tubing. The park also features picnic zones, birdwatching stations, and hiking trails. GSP protects many iconic Texas flora and fauna such as Bald Cypress trees, Live Oak trees, White-Tailed Deer, and the Golden-Cheeked Warbler. The Guadalupe River State Park Paddling Trail is one of the main water-based recreation opportunities at the Park, providing over five miles of paddling through natural landscapes. Major natural points of interest include the Guadalupe River Rapids, Swallow Cliff, Scenic Overlook, and the prairie Rust House. The Park also features a Discovery Center with hands-on exhibits and educational opportunities for youth.



Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife

Honey Creek is a controlled access park through reservations only. The park's main focus is the preservation of natural and native habitats. Only natural hiking trails are found at the park to preserve the natural ecological functions of the park, which one can partake in a guided two-mile nature tour along the trails. Honey Creek is the only water body in the state of Texas which has been completely untouched and unaltered. Honey Creek showcases what settlers to the Hill Country saw upon first settling to the area.



Source: Jason Merlo Photography

Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife

Programs:

- Parkland hiking trails
- Rock-climbing, swimming, and cycling active recreational opportunities
- Birding and horseback riding interactive opportunities
- Park / cave / water tours, events, and fundraisers
- Boating safety and law public education
- Campgrounds and campsites
- Texas Outdoor Family camping workshops
- Coordination with scout groups
- Controlled hunting and Wildlife Management Areas
- Technical guidance on proper natural area management and use by the public
- Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshops
- Passport To Texas, radio guide to the Texas outdoors
- Under The Texas Sky podcast
- Texas Parks and Wildlife television series on the Public Broadcast Station
- Texas Archery in the Schools program
- Texas Outdoor Women's Network
- Project WILD K-12 educational program
- Texas Pollinator BioBlitz events
- Get Outside expo and events
- Texas Bighorn Sheep Program
- Managed Lands Deer Program



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Organization Type: State Agency

Scope Focus: State of Texas

Contacts:

Address: 12100 Park 35 Circle Austin, TX 78753

PO Box: P.O. Box 13087 Austin, TX 78711-3087

Phone: 1(512)239-1000

Website: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/>

Purpose:

- A statewide agency which regulates, legislates, and monitors entities which impact the environmental quality of Texas lands, air, and water.
- A statewide agency which monitors, measures, and educates the public and local leaders on issues such as policy, environmental changes, water and air quality, and scientific research.

Mission and Vision:

- "The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality strives to protect our state's public health and natural resources consistent with sustainable economic development. Our goal is clean air, clean water, and the safe management of waste."

Operations:

- 3 TCEQ Commissioners appointed by the Governor or Texas
- A General Council for legal, legislative, and enforcement actions
- A Public Interest Council to ensure advocacy for the public's interests
- A Chief Auditors Council
- A Chief Clerk Council
- Occupational Licensing and Registration Division
- The TCEQ has six (6) main offices under the Commissioner's Office; these include:
 - Office of Administrative Services
 - Office of Compliance and Enforcement
 - Office of Legal Services
 - Office of Air
 - Office of Waste
 - Office of Water

Powers and Authorities:

- Ability to levee charges, fees, penalties, and licenses to enforce state legislature on environmental quality, granted by the Texas Health and Safety Code and other codes passed by the Texas Legislature and State governing bodies
- Ability to inspect and suspend operations of entities if regulations are not met
- Ability to enter into contracts with private entities for specific action plans and sites

Funding:

- Fees and Charges
- State and Federal funds
- Texas Emissions Reduction Plan Trust

Programs:

- Waste Program, which aims to assist entities in purchasing and remediating brownfield and contaminated sites
- Air Quality Program, which measures particulates, emissions, toxins, and hard chemicals in the air
- State Implementation Plan for Air Quality, which includes special study zones, one of which includes the San Antonio Area and Comal County
- Texas Air Quality Forecasts and Monitoring / Air Quality Index reports
- TCEQ Energy Savings Plan aimed at reducing energy consumption
- Remediation and Site Clean-up contracting and collaboration
- Agriculture feedlots, runoff, operations, pesticides, and air quality monitoring
- Grants for transportation and vehicle infrastructure improvements
- Report publication and public information from of the Texas Legislature



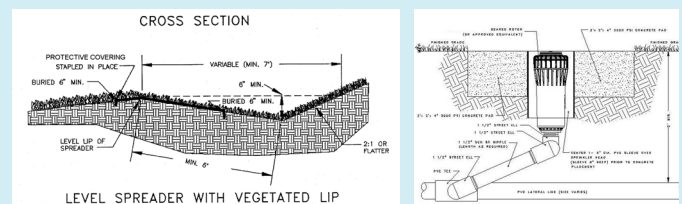
Fees and Charges:

- Vehicle Emission Inspections in Texas
- Air Emissions Fees
- On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF) Site Evaluations and Fees
- Landscape Irrigator inspections and fees
- Waste, Landfill, Processing, Storage, and Land Treatment and Discharge Fees
- Surface Disposal Fees
- General Permit Stormwater and General Permit Wastewater Fees
- Voluntary Clean-up Program Fees
- Toxic Release Inventory Reporting Fees
- Petroleum Product Delivery Fees and Storage Tank requirements
- Public Health Service Fees
- Feedlot, agricultural operations, and pesticide Permits and Registration
- Waste Water and Drinking Water treatment and discharge fees

Complying with the Edwards Aquifer Rules: Technical Guidance on BMPs (2005)

Complying with the Edwards Aquifer Rules: Technical Guidance on BPM's is a document which guides and demonstrates key land use practices which helps to protect hydrological flows and the Edwards Aquifer. The document was created by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for the use of developers, municipalities, residents, and contracted workers to ensure that construction is done in the safest and least environmentally impactful way possible.

First, a series of Sediment Controls are described such as rock berms, fencing, temporary construction access, spill prevention controls, and utility crossings. Next the Master Plan details the importance of comprehensive site planning noting, the preservation of surveyed wetlands and tree canopies. This also includes recommendations to reduce street widths, provide vegetation buffer strips, reduce building setbacks, using pervious pavements, and clustering development, to reduce full-site hydrological impacts of water-runoff and ground permeability. Next, a series of biological and chemical control methods are introduced, including utilizing alternatives to synthetic herbicides, proper storage and inspection, proper mechanics and backflow preventions, limiting pest control measures, and preventing application before rain events. Next, the document highlights best landscaping and vegetative practices, such as tree protection (to reduce erosion, heat effects, and reduce flooding), trenching and tunneling damage prevention methods, encouraging stormwater basin landscaping and Xeriscape programs, creating filter strips, preserving riparian vegetations, and minimizing turf/grass maintenance. Next, the Document addressing permanent structures such as buildings and walls and channels. Best permanent construction techniques highlighted include, sub-grade sediment criteria, bioretention techniques, permeable surface treatments, constructed wetlands, parking lot pavement treatments, sprinkler and valve practices, building grading techniques, berm and built wall grades and elevations, man-made outfalls, and drain/curb/gutter techniques. Lastly, the Document highlights the best practices for wastewater storage and removal, septic tank practices and safety, and other residential or municipal water retention / filtration systems.





Canyon Lake Water Service (Under SJWTX Inc., Deer Creek & Canyon Lake)

Organization Type: Public utility

Scope Focus: Comal County, Blanco County

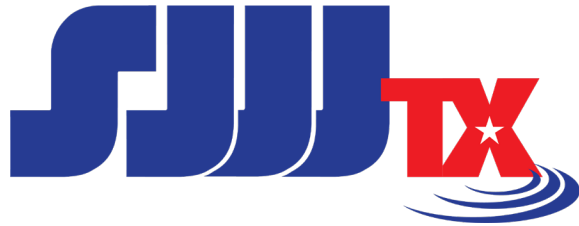
Contacts:

Address: 1399 Sattler Rd, New Braunfels, Texas 78132

PO Box: P.O. Box 1742 Canyon Lake, Texas 78133

Phone: 1(830)312-4600

Website: <https://www.sjwtx.com/my-service-area/canyon-lake-service-area>



Fees and Charges:

- Management fees and charges
- Monthly water usage bills
- Processing and filing fees

Programs:

- Canyon Lake Drought Contingency and Emergency Plan
- Canyon Lake Water Quality Testing
- The Consumer Confidence Reports of Water Quality

Physical Assets:

- Over 16,650 separate connections within the SJWTX 250 square mile service area
- Underground stormwater drains, water mains, pipes, and channels
- Wastewater treatment, storm water treatment, and storage facilities
- Utility easements
- Wastewater treatment facility at Old Triple Peak, south of Canyon Lake

Purpose:

- Water and wastewater delivery, pumping, storage, distribution
- Water treatment and testing
- Water-infrastructure construction/maintenance for Comal and Blanco County for residential, commercial, public, and private uses
- Manages wastewater treatment facilities, water treatment facilities, storm drains, underground pipe utilities, water meters, fire hydrants, and water storage facilities

Mission and Vision:

- "Trusted professionals delivering exceptional quality water and service to customers and communities while protecting the environment and providing a fair return to shareholders."
- "To serve customers, communities, employees, shareholders, and the environment at world-class levels."
- "SJWTX, Inc. ("SJWTX"), doing business as Canyon Lake Water Service Company, has successfully provided safe and reliable water and wastewater service to its customers in Texas since 2006. SJWTX safeguards public health, promotes environmental stewardship, and delivers sustainable solutions in seven counties."

Operations:

- Over 40 Staff members

Powers and Authorities:

- Abilities to set billing rates and water utility tariffs at a reasonable level which does not exceed the operational cost of the Canyon Lake Water Service
- Power to plan for, construct, manage, and repair underground water utilities, utility easements, and stormwater drains/channels

Funding:

- State and local infrastructure funds



Source: Canyon Lake Water Service



Wastewater treatment Facility at Old Triple Peak Drive, south of Canyon Lake (facing south)

Source: Canyon Lake Water Service



Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

Organization Type: Groundwater Management District

Scope Focus: Comal County

Contacts:

PO Box: P.O. Box 664, Spring Branch, TX 78070

Email: admin@ComalTrinityGCD.com

Website: <https://www.comaltrinitygcd.com/>

Purpose:

- Monitor and permit well and pump construction and water extraction within Comal County.
- Make and enforce rules to provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, and recharge of groundwater and aquifers of Comal County, except wells or water from the Edwards Aquifer.

Mission and Vision:

- "The Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (CTGCD) was created to help Comal County residents conserve, preserve, recharge, protect, and prevent waste of groundwater from the Trinity Aquifer which underlies all of Comal County."

Operations:

- Eight (8) Board of Directors Members, four of which represent each Comal County Commissioner Precinct

Powers and Authorities:

- Authority to issue bonds; and implement assessments, fees, and surcharges under Texas House Bill 2407 during the 2015 84th Texas Legislature.
- Permissions to enter into contracts with public and private entities, Installation of well monitoring equipment,
- Operational approval, installation, monitoring, and repair of groundwater wells, including contracts with sub-consultants, contractors, and private entities.
- Cannot regulate or operate wells connecting to, leading from, or directly affecting the Edwards Aquifer.

Funding:

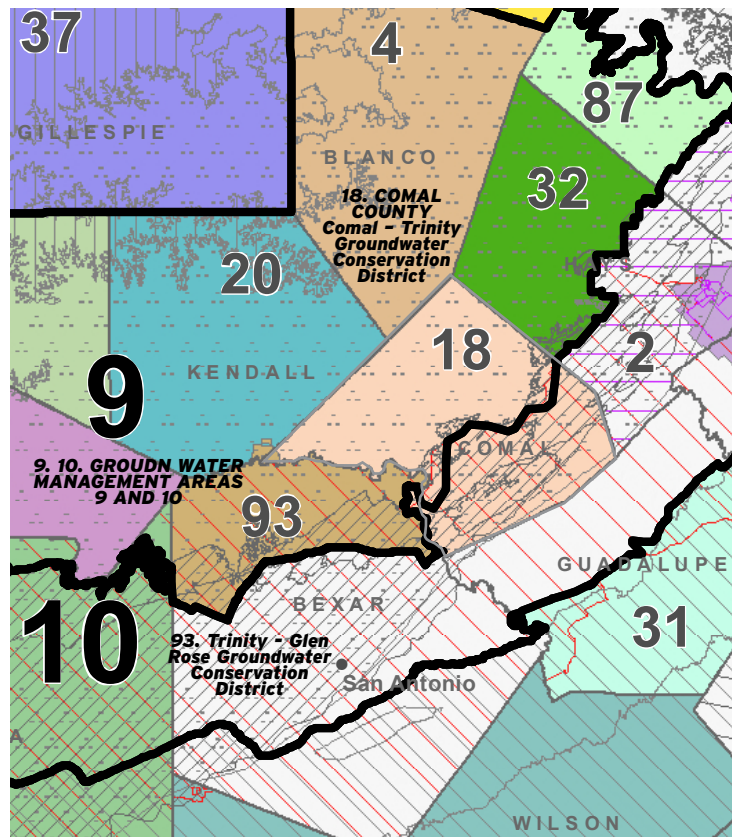
- Local infrastructure funds
- Operational and service fees

Fees and Charges:

- Fees permissible for administrative acts, such as maintenance, operations, assessments, and installations

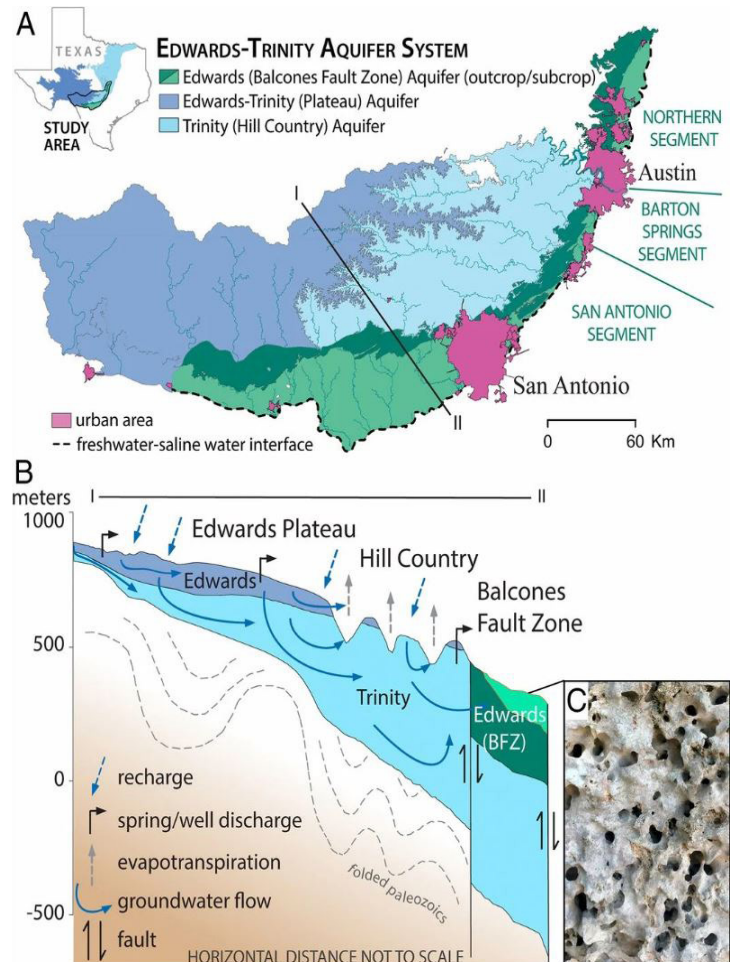
Programs:

- Groundwater level monitoring (for private and public wells, including drought risks)
- Well and pump approval, assessment, and quarterly pumpage reports
- Provides drought, water contamination, pollution, groundwater information



Groundwater Conservation Districts of Texas

Source: Texas Water Development board



Edwards-Trinity Aquifer System

Source: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences





Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA)

Organization Type: Regional, Groundwater Management District

Scope Focus: Bexar, Medina, Uvalde, Atascosa, Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, Counties

Contacts:

Address: 900 E. Quincy, San Antonio, Texas 78215

Phone: 1(210) 222-2204 or 1(800)292-1047

Email: eahcp@edwardsaquifer.org

Website: <https://www.edwardsaquifer.org/>



Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan Report 5 (2021)

The Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan is an annual report released to highlight habitat conservation around the Edwards Aquifer. The document states that the Plan "was approved by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a regional plan to protect eight federally listed and three non-listed species—termed Covered Species—associated with the Edwards Aquifer while helping to ensure its stability as a regional water supply".

The document begins by describing the existing conditions of the Edwards Aquifer, its location in primarily 6 counties (Kinny, Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Comal, and Hays), and changes in ground water withdrawal and flow rates. Covered species (listed and endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) found through the region are described, particularly Texas Wild-Rice, San Marcos Salamander, Comal Springs Salamander, Fountain Darter, San Marcos Gambusia, and the Pecks Cave Amphipod. Next, a series of conservation measures enacted by regional authorities, municipalities, and counties, are benchmarked to assess achievements and outstanding actions.

- Regional actions include Expanded Water Quality Monitoring, Biological Monitoring, Impervious Cover and Water Quality Protection, and Refugia sites to house critical species.
 - City of New Braunfels conservation measures include Flow-Split Management in the Old and New Channels, Management of Public Recreational Use of Comal Springs and River Ecosystems, Decaying Vegetation Removal and Dissolved Oxygen Management, Control of Harmful Non-Native Animal Species, Prohibition of Hazardous Materials Transport across the Comal River and its Tributaries, Native Riparian Habitat Restoration, Management of Household Hazardous Wastes, and Impervious Cover and Water Quality Protection.

See Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, next page, to continue

Programs:

- Edwards Aquifer Conservancy is a separate 501(c)3 non-profit established by the Edwards Aquifer Authority to aid in operations of the Authority
- The Conservancy has 7 Board of Directors and 2 staff members
- The Edwards Aquifer Conservancy is the entity that owns the land that Edwards Aquifer Authority's Field Research Park and Education Outreach Center are located.
- Research and scientific data modeling and assessment
- Edwards Aquifer Well Metering Program
- Hosts scientific lectures and podcasts
- Groundwater Management Plan
- Critical Period Management Plan
- Comprehensive Water Management Plan 2004
- Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan Report 3 (2019)
- Hazardous Materials Training
- Habitat and species rehabilitation

Physical Assets:

- Operates over 600 irrigation wells and 1,000 industrial/municipal wells
- EAHCP Refugia Facility at the San Marcos Aquatic Resource Center (SMARC) (threatened and endangers species tanks and rehab)
- Edwards Aquifer Education Outreach Center at 23400 Cibolo Vista, San Antonio, Texas 78259
- Granted deeds to 150+ acres of land in 2009 (Cibolo Vista Tracts 1 and 2) now named EAA Field Research Park (used for research and management activities) near 23524 Cibolo Vista, San Antonio, Texas 78261

Purpose:

- Manages water extraction, water levels, well permitting, public education, and associated research/data to protect and maintain the Edwards Aquifer.

Mission and Vision:

- "The mission of the EAA is to Manage, Enhance and Protect the Edwards Aquifer."
- "The Edwards Aquifer Authority is a regional water management agency that regulates with integrity, transparency, respect, and commitment to sustainability of the aquifer."

Operations:

- 16 Board of Directors by District. Southeastern Comal County consists of District 8 and District 9.
- 6 Departments of the organization consisting of Administrative and Financial Services, Aquifer Management Services, Threatened and Endangered Species Services, External and Regulatory Affairs, and Communications and Development.

Powers and Authorities:

- Permits, operations, and measurements of well extractions from the Edwards Aquifer. Regulate activities affecting groundwater within the aquifer, groundwater withdrawn from the Aquifer, regulate the quality of surface water to preserve and protect the Aquifer, enact and enforce regulations to prevent the waste or pollution of the Aquifer, and enforce water quality standards as granted by the Texas 1993 Edwards Aquifer Authority Act.
- Assists in the development of municipal food, development, and building codes

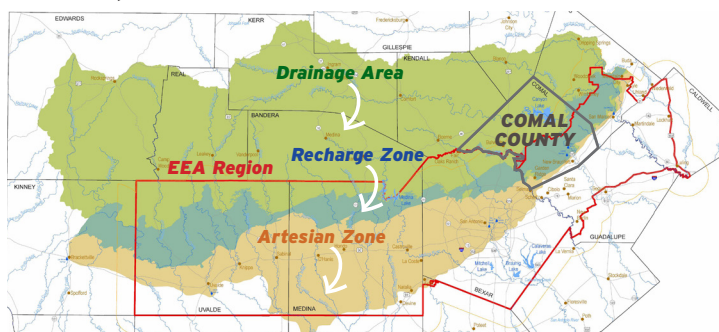
Funding:

- Well operations are funded through Public and State resources, including well operations and permitting fees
- Research and Facility operations are funded through donations, entrance fees, and grants
- The Edwards Aquifer Conservancy, under the Edwards Aquifer Authority, is granted land from private entities, counties, and cities within the Edwards Aquifer Authority jurisdictional area.

Fees and Charges:

- Aquifer management and maintenance fees
- Registration-administrative-application fees
- Programming fees
- Failure to comply fees
- Pollution fees
- Well maintenance and operation fees

Edwards Aquifer



Source: Edwards Aquifer Authority



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA)

Organization Type: Regional, River Authority

Scope Focus: *Guadalupe-Blanco River watershed (Kendall County, Comal County, Blanco County, Hays County, Bexar County, Guadalupe County, Dewitt County, Victoria County, Refugio County, Calhoun County, Arkansas County)*

Contacts:

Address: 2225 E. Common Street, New Braunfels, TX 78130

Phone: 1(830)379-5822

Website: <https://www.gbra.org/>

Purpose:

- Water and wastewater delivery, pumping, storage, distribution, water treatment and testing, and water-infrastructure construction/maintenance for Guadalupe-Blanco-San Antonio River watershed are for residential, commercial, public, and private uses.
- Manages wastewater treatment facilities, water treatment facilities, storm drains, underground pipe utilities, water meters, fire hydrants, and water storage facilities.
- Operate Hydroelectric generating dam (Canyon Lake Power Station) which provides power for New Braunfels through New Braunfels Utilities
- Laboratory monitoring of water conditions
- Recreational parkland maintenance and operations
- Establish regulations for navigation of the waterways within the GBRA jurisdiction.
- Conduct research and advocacy for the protection of the Guadalupe-Blanco-San Antonio River watershed
- Provides information on environmental resource management, flood mitigation, hazard mitigation, and water recreation.

Powers and Authorities:

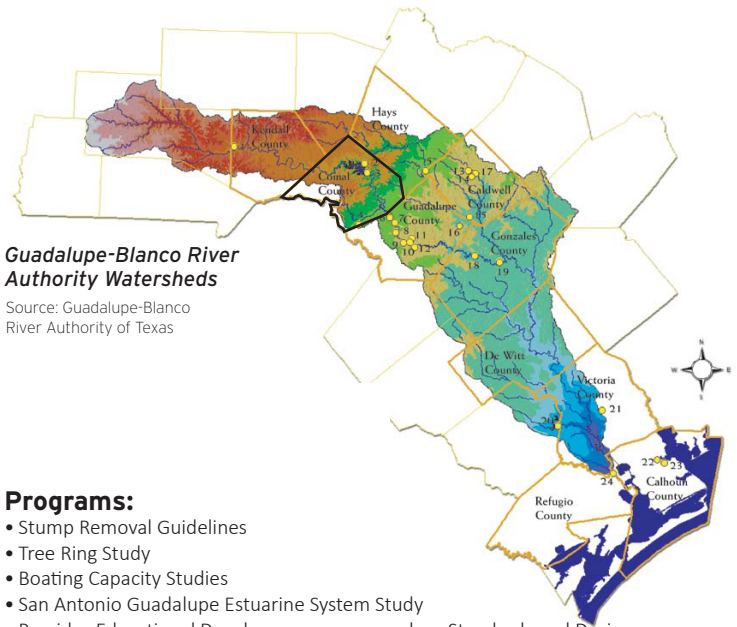
- The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) is a political subdivision that was created under Article XVI, Section 59 of the Texas Constitution to develop, store and protect the water resources of the Guadalupe River Basin for the benefit of its residents
- GBRA has the right to establish regulations for navigation of the waterways subject to its jurisdiction and is empowered under the laws of the State of Texas to establish restrictions on the use of watercraft navigating the waterways subject to its jurisdiction.
- GBRA is responsible for reservoir water management and release within the 'conservation pool,' between 800 feet mean sea level (msl) and the normal operating elevation of 909 msl. The Corps is responsible for management and release of waters within the 'flood control pool' at elevations of 909 to 943 msl. The Dam and Reservoir are owned by the Federal Government. GBRA has the right to store water in the Conservation Pool portion of the Reservoir for water supply purposes and to deliver that water to customers.
- Owner and operator of Lake Dunlap, Lake McQueeney, Lake Placid, Lake Nolte, Lake Gonzalez, and Lake Wood. Waterfront development on these lakes must be reviewed and approved by GBRA through an Application And Construction Permit.

Funding:

- State and Local infrastructure funds
- Private donations and grants

Fees and Charges:

- Water service fees
- Monitoring and Installation fees
- Recreational park fees
- Entry and participation fees for programs



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority Watersheds

Source: Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority of Texas

Programs:

- Stump Removal Guidelines
- Tree Ring Study
- Boating Capacity Studies
- San Antonio Guadalupe Estuarine System Study
- Provides Educational Developer resources such as Standards and Design Guidelines for Wastewater Treatment Plants and Lift Stations, Standards and guidelines for Developer Utilities, and Standards and Guidelines for customer water delivery points.
- Guadalupe River Habitat Conservation Plan
- GBRA Lab water testing facility, which provides analysis for private and public entities
- Clean Rivers Program
- Watershed Protection Plan
- Zebra Mussels Monitoring Program
- River Heritage Tour Program
- Recreational Programs such as Yoga in The Gorge and Coleta Outdoor Classroom / Field Investigation
- The Gorge Preservation Society is an organization under the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, tasked with advocating for the preservation of natural rock formations in and around Canyon Lake. See page A.17 for information on the Gorge Preservation Society.
- K-12 Educational Field Trips to water treatment plants, Canyon Lake Gorge, the GBRA lab
- GBRA collaborates with local outdoor education groups such as the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center, Cibola Nature Center, Coleta Creek Reservoir and Park, The Meadows Center of San Marcos, and the Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge at San Antonio Bay
- Online magazines and reports such as the River Run seasonal magazine, the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, and the Basin Highlights Report.
- Provides online seminars and lectures on local projects and environmental water protection

Physical Assets:

- Canyon Lake Power Station and six-megawatt dam at 16880 S Access Rd, Canyon Lake, Texas 78133. The plant operates through a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, with permits from TCEQ and the U.S Army Corps of Engineers.
- 8 Wastewater Treatment Plants (Lockhart Wastewater Reclamation Division [Larremore street Plant, FM 20 Plant], Hays Wastewater Reclamation Division, Buda Wastewater Reclamation Division [Sunfield Wastewater Treatment Plant, Shadow Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, Crestview Wastewater Treatment Plant], Rural Utilities Division [Canyon Park Estates Wastewater Treatment Plant, Stein Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant]).
- 6 Water Treatment Plants (Western Canyon Water Treatment Plan Division [services Comal and Kendall County], Luling Water Treatment Plan Division, Lockhart Water Treatment Plan Division, San Marcos Water Treatment Plan Division, Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plan Division, Calhoun County Water Treatment Plan Division).
- Owners and operators of Lake Dunlap, Lake McQueeney, Lake Placid, Lake Nolte, Lake Gonzalez, and Lake Wood.
- GBRA Lab in Seguin, Texas and General Offices in New Braunfels, Texas.
- Owners and operators of Canyon Lake Gorge, Coleta Creek Park, Lake Wood Park, and Nolte Island Park.
- 10 kiosks for the River Heritage Tour Program located along waterways from Boerne to Port Lavaca.



Water Oriented Recreation District of Comal County (WORD)

Organization Type: *Regional Water District*

Scope Focus: *Comal County (North and Central)*

Contacts:

Address: 1928 FM 2673 Canyon Lake, Texas 7813

PO Box: P.O. Box 2789 Canyon Lake, Texas 78133

Phone: 1(830)907-2300

Email: info@wordcc.com

Website: <https://wordcc.com/>

Purpose:

- District established to improve investments for water resources, water recreation, ecological stability, and water safety and usage guidelines.
- Participates in community education efforts, public health and sanitation advocacy, and emergency warning systems for flood and drought conditions.
- Provides law enforcement and emergency medical services for over 30 square miles of open water recreational areas in Comal County
- Determines, manages, and ensures safe compliance of fish attractor areas, Canyon Lake buoy placement, boat ramp locations, and times of operations based on water levels.

Mission and Vision:

- “The purpose of WORD is to improve the environment and welfare of the district by conserving natural resources, improving public health, promoting water safety, and operating public parks located in the district.”

Operations:

- Seven-member Board of Directors appointed by the Comal County Commissioners Court
- Oversight and operations of parks maintenance, permits for water-related businesses, and collection of user fees. Operation of three parks include Comal Park, Nichol’s Landing and Canyon Park.

Funding:

- Park entry fee
- Tax levies
- User fees

Fees and Charges:

- Park entry fee
- Associated recreational facility user fees where applicable
- User fees are expended toward, clean-up efforts, local projects, and education and outreach

Powers and Authorities:

- Powers to levy taxes from recreational and tourism related sales (such as boat rentals, hotels, and short-term rentals,
- Powers to monitor and regulate recreational user safety with on-ground forces
- Powers to fund, construct, operate, and maintain physical land and recreational assets
- Powers to regulate entry fees, access points, buoy and swimming locations, to and within parks under WORD operation
- Powers to regulate and create legislation to prevent foam, plastic containers, and glass bottles use on and within WORD parks, including a littering ordinance.

Programs:

- Clean-up events, Stash Your Trash Contest
- Grant programs for local services/parks operators
- Multi-agency partnership to operate flood siren warning systems
- Virtual River Tour Guide
- Park and water-based facilities maintenance and planning
- Collaborations with other entities and outreach programs
- Annual Fun Fish, youth fishing event

Physical Assets:

- Operators of Canyon Park, Comal Park, and Nichol’s Landing Park/Paddling Trail.
 - Canyon Park (485 acres) is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Comal Park (116 acres) is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Nichols Landing (owned by Comal County located at 7922-7960 Old Spring Branch Rd, Spring Branch, Texas 78070
 - 9.9 Mile Nichol’s Paddling Trail
- Flood sirens throughout Comal County as part of a multi-agency partnership
- Operates boat ramps at Canyon Park and Comal Park
- Operates over three miles of walking and hiking trails

WORD

WATER-ORIENTED
RECREATION DISTRICT
OF COMAL COUNTY



WORD operated campgrounds at Comal Park

Source: WORD



Fun Fish youth event 2017

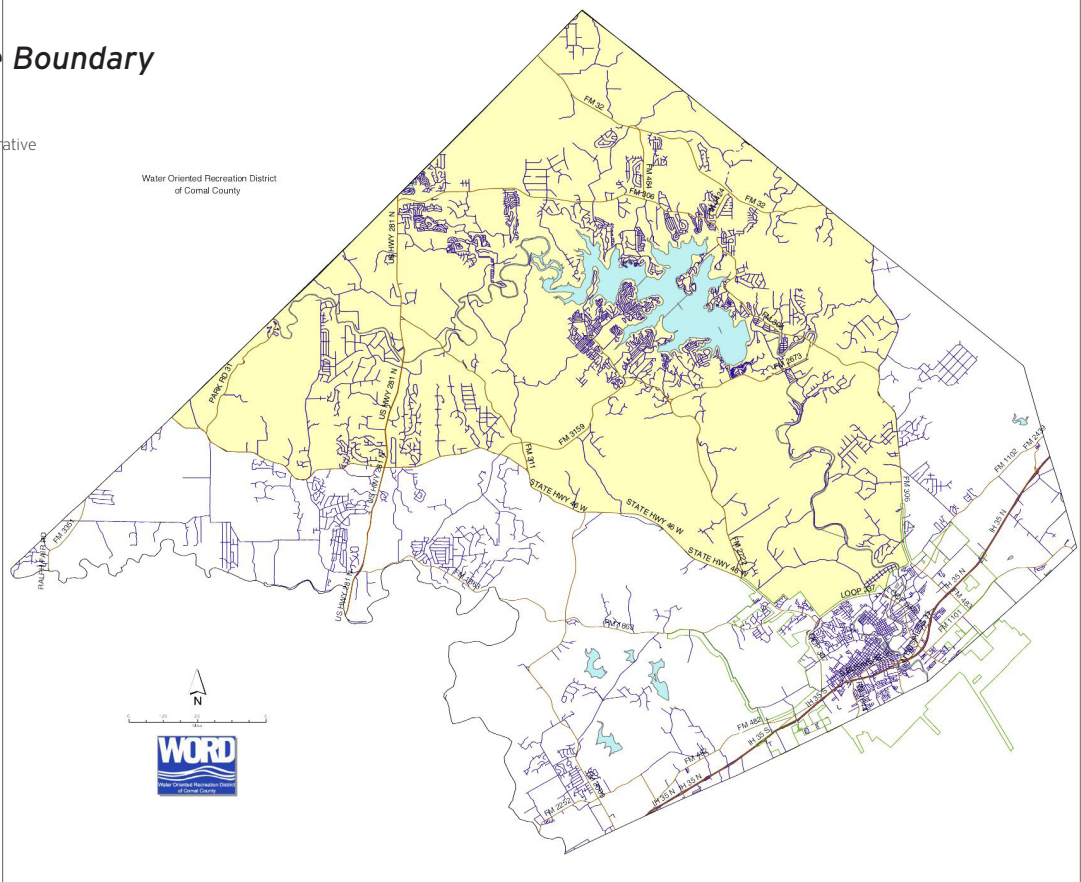
Source: WORD



Fun Fish youth event 2022

Source: WORD

*For a detailed enlargement of the Administrative Boundary See Chapter 3





Canyon Lake Area Chamber of Commerce

Organization Type: 501(c)(6)

Scope Focus: Canyon Lake Area

Contacts:

Address: 3934 FM 2673, Canyon Lake, TX 78133

Phone: 1(830)964-2223

Email: info@canyonlakechamber.com

Website: canyonlakechamber.com



Canyon Lake Area Chamber of Commerce North Pole Village

Source: Herald-Zeitung

Purpose:

- Represent businesses and promote networking between area businesses and the community.

Mission and Vision:

- The Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce is a group dedicated to promoting and supporting local tourism, business development, community initiatives, and the growing the local economy of the Canyon Lake and Guadalupe River areas.

Operations:

- Three (3) Officers
- Five (5) Board of Directors
- One (1) Staff member
- Coordination with Play In New Braunfels and the New Braunfels Visitors Center

Funding:

- Memberships
- Donations and Partnerships

Programs:

- Annual publication of the Canyon Lake and Guadalupe River 2022 Visitors and Relocation Guide
- Winter Texan annual event
- Funding of local events including, Real Texas Bar-B-Que Cook-off held each April, the Wimberley Gospel Music Festival, KidFish, CROPWALK, Market Days, Texas Dinosaur Day, Independence Day Parade, and the Hill Country Trade Show, North Pole Village, Christmas Parade, Parade of Lights on the Lake

Physical Assets:

- Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center (3934 FM 2673, Canyon Lake, TX 78133)

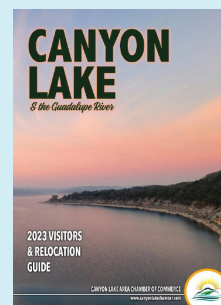


Canyon Lake Area Chamber of Commerce celebrates "Winter Texan" visitors

Source: My Canyon Lake

Canyon Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Canyon Lake & the Guadalupe River 2023 Visitors & Relocation Guide

The annual Visitors and Relocation Guide published by the Canyon Lake Area Chamber of Commerce provides information on the six communities of the Canyon Lake area. The guide includes information for each of the four trails, seven parks, and 23 boat ramps surrounding Canyon Lake. Profiles for a variety of organizations, businesses, and attractions including Natural Bridge Caverns, the Canyon Lake Gorge, and the Chamber's Keep Canyon Lake Beautiful are included.



Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center

Source: Comal Trails Alliance



Bat Conservation International Inc. (Bracken Cave Preserve)

Organization Type: *Private, International*

Scope Focus: *Bracken Cave Preserve along Cibolo Creek*

Contacts:

*Address: 500 North Capital of Texas Highway, Building 1, Suite 175
Austin, Texas 78746*

Local Unit at 26101 FM3009, San Antonio, Texas 78266

PO Box: P.O. Box 140434 Austin, Texas 78714-0434

Phone: 1(512)327-9721

Email: bracken@batcon.com

Website: <https://www.batcon.org/>

Purpose:

- To preserve the native lands that maternal bats reside and migrate.
- Ensure the health and stability of bat populations and other wildlife within Comal County and internationally.
- Provides cave tours and conservation lands for visitors

Mission and Vision:

- “Our mission is to conserve the world’s bats and their ecosystems to ensure a healthy planet.”

Operations:

- 15 Board or Directors
- Seven (7) Executive Leaders
- 13 members of the Science Advisory Committee, each with a Ph.D.
- 20 Conservation Specialists
- 14 Scientists
- Two (2) Networking and Partnerships Leaders
- Six (6) Development and Communications staff
- Five (5) Operations staff

Powers and Authorities:

- None

Funding:

- The Nature Conservancy
- Private, Public, Grants, Donations
- Adopt A Bat Program
- Apparel and merchandise sales
- Bat Con International Memberships

Fees and Charges:

- Cave and facility entry fees

Programs:

- Ticketed cave and bat tours
- Online seminars on bat habitat preservation and natural landscapes
- Scientific research, testing, and assessment of habitats, mating, health, and migration patterns



Canyon Lake Community Resource and Recreation Center

Organization Type: *501(c)(3)*

Scope Focus: *Canyon Lake, Comal County*

Contacts:

Address: 1917 FM2673, Canyon Lake, Texas 78133

Phone: 1(830)964-2324

Email: operations@crrcofcanyonlake.org

Website: <https://www.crrcofcanyonlake.org/>

Purpose:

- The Canyon Lake Community Resource and Recreation Center provides residents and visitors with dedicated space for recreational programming, community events, and a thrift shop, including providing public information, emergency disaster relief, and a food bank.

Operations:

- Seven (7) Managerial and Directorial staff
- Eight (8) Board of Directors
- Volunteer Opportunities

Powers and Authorities:

- None

Funding:

- Private, Grants, Donations
- Thrift store funds

Fees and Charges:

- Event participation fees
- Community garden plots

Programs:

- Food Pantry
- Thrift Store
- Provides medical equipment and wellness check-ups
- Provides tax financial assistance / education
- Indoor sports and recreational activities
- Senior Club
- Community events such as North Pole Village, Pickleball Tournament, and Family Fest
- 5k Turkey Cobble Wobble Run
- Community newsletter

Physical Assets:

- Indoor Recreation Center (1917 FM 2673, Canyon Lake, Texas 78133)
- Indoor Event and Recreation Space (Hidden Valley Sports Park, 125 Mabel Jones Dr, Canyon Lake, TX 78133)*
- Community Garden (Hidden Valley Sports Park, Canyon Lake, TX 78133)
- Thrift Store (1917 FM 2673, Canyon Lake, Texas 78133)
- CAREs Clinic (1917 FM 2673, Canyon Lake, Texas 78133)

**Sub-leasee of Hidden Valley Sports Park from Comal County*





Canyon Lake Gorge Preservation Society

Organization Type: 501(c)3

Scope Focus: Canyon Lake, Comal County

Contacts:

Address: 16029 South Access Road Canyon Lake, Texas 78133

Phone: 1(830)964-5424

Email: gpscanyongorge2002@gmail.com

Website: <https://gorgepreservationsociety.org/>
<https://canyongorgetours.com/>

Purpose:

- The Canyon Lake Gorge Preservation Society, the non-profit organization of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, aims to educate and protect gorges and rock formations around Canyon Lake, particularly rock formations at the base of the Canyon Lake Dam.
- To educate the public and visitors with guided tours of historic dinosaur footprints and rock/sediment formations

Mission and Vision:

- "The Gorge Preservation Society is a non-profit organization, whose mission is to promote the enjoyment and conservation of a unique natural phenomenon called the Canyon Lake Gorge, by encouraging responsible, quality access opportunities through academic partnerships, economic initiatives and citizen involvement."

Operations:

- The Canyon Lake Gorge Preservation Society is a non-profit under the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority.
- 7 Board of Directors
- Staff is composed entirely of volunteers who serve as Trailblazers, Tour Guides & Docents, and Board & Committee members.

Powers and Authorities:

- Ability to collaborate with the Municipalities, Counties, and WORD through inter-local agreements

Funding:

- Private donations, grants, and memberships
- Merchandise

Fees and Charges:

- Educational tours and outdoor classroom fees

Programs:

- Provides public hiking trails
- Public education events
- Moonlight in the Gorge Gala
- Maintenance and upkeep of the Canyon Lake Gorge Hiking Trails

Physical Assets:

- Canyon Lake Gorge Service and Storage Building
- Gorge and Floodway land trails owned by the USACE*

*Leased to GBRA



Canyon Lake Dam Community Alliance

Organization Type: 501(c)3

Scope Focus: Canyon Lake

Contacts:

Address: 1885 FM 2673, #F21 Canyon Lake, TX 78133

Phone: 1(830)221-1104

Email: walkcanyondam@gmail.com

Fax: 1(830)608-2026

Website: <https://damcommunityalliance.com/>

Purpose:

- To provide the Canyon Lake community with continued open spaces and parkland around and on the Canyon Lake Dam.

Mission and Vision:

- "Uniting our Canyon Lake community and raising funds to restore and enrich access to the lake, the dam, and the parks."
- "To be a non-profit partner for the U.S. Corps of Engineers Canyon Lake Office committed to the planning, fundraising, and completion of projects dedicated to enriching the lake, the dam, and the surrounding parks for the benefit of the community, and visitors alike."

Operations:

- Nine (9) Board of Directors
- Coordinates with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Volunteer Opportunities

Funding:

- Memberships
- Merchandise sales
- Public, private, donations

Fees and Charges:

- Event participation fees
- Community garden plots

Programs:

- Annual Dam Fine Car Show





Comal County Conservation Alliance (CCCA)

Organization Type: 501(c)3

Scope Focus: Comal County

Contacts:

PO Box: P.O. Box 2804 Canyon Lake, Texas 78133

Phone: 1(830)964-2324

Email: info@comalconservation.org/

Website: <https://www.comalconservation.org/>

Purpose:

- Works to preserve Comal Counties water resources, wildlife habitat, rural landscape, and quality of life, as the county continues to grow and develop.
- Coordinates with landowners and funding agencies to develop conservation easement agreements

Operations:

- 10 Board members
- One (1) Staff member (Administrative Coordinator)

Powers and Authorities:

- Has the authority of own land, but currently does not seek to own land, instead opting to be a coordinator and in-between for connecting landowners to conservation resources

Funding:

- Friends of Comal County Conservation Alliance
- Private, Grants, Donations
- Merchandise Sales

Programs:

- Comal Land Conservation Fund (CLCF 2020) [landowner's effort to establish a conservation easement with a Land Trust],
- Conservation Insider Newsletter to The Friends of Comal County Conservation Alliance
- Conservation efforts / Education and awareness through online and in-person seminars
- Outreach events and coordination with other community entities (farmers markets, Folk Fest, EarthDay)

Comal County Conservation Alliance Land Conservation Menu: Model Projects, Options, and Opportunities (2019)

The Land Conservation Menu is a document which provides entities with information on conservation land and open space opportunities in Travis, Hays, Comal, and Bexar, counties (Interstate 35 corridor).

The document begins by providing successful model land protection projects such as Bracken Cave, Balcones Canyonlands, San Marcos 'Loop and Check' Corridor and Trail, and Government Canyon. It is described that these projects were successful due to partnerships between the state, counties, and local conservation groups; this includes continued investments and protection of the land once designated as protected.

Next the Land Conservation Menu highlights a series of funding mechanisms municipalities, landowners, and counties can utilize to ensure parkland and conservation land in their communities. The funding methods include private donations and grants, local bonds, conservation plan funds, sales taxes, government grants, user fees, and low-interest loans.

Land Conservation Menu: Model Projects, Options, and Opportunities (2019) continued

Local bonds noted include:

- City of Austin's Water Quality Protection Lands Program- 1998, 2000, 2006, and 2012 (Passed funds have been provided towards 60% the programs land acquisitions)
- City of San Antonio 2017-2021 GO Bond Program [\$39,000,000 for drainage and flood control, -Approved 79%] [\$187,000,000 for parks, recreation, and open space – Approved 70%]
- City of Austin 2018 GO Bond Program [\$149,000,000 for parks and recreation -Approved 81%] [\$184,000,000 for flood mitigation, open space, and water quality protection lands – Approved 84%]
- City of New Braunfels 2019 GO Bond Program [\$117 million approved by election ballot, with \$16,500,000 towards parks and recreation and \$5,000,000 towards Library facilities and services]

Next the document details sales tax and low-interest loans utilized towards land protection. These include:

- San Antonio's Edwards Aquifer Protection Program – Sales Tax – The City of San Antonio dedicates 1/8 of a cent of sales tax revenue to create a land fund to protect water resources [60% Approval]
- San Antonio's Howard Peak Greenways System – Sales Tax- Funded with 1/8 cent sales tax dedicated to the Howard H. Peak Greenway Trails System [60%+ Approval, renewed in 2005, 2010, and 2015]

Additional funding options are detailed in the document such as Low interest loans, grants, and user fees.

- Low-interest Grants
 - Clean Water State Revolving Fund (administered by TWDB, \$550 Million available annually for Texans)
 - Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (\$550 Million available annually)
- Grants
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
 - Local Parks Grants and Recreational Trails Grants
 - Section 6 Competitive "Nontraditional" Grants
 - Regional Conservation Partnership Program
 - Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
 - Texas Farm & Ranch Lands Conservation Program
 - Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)
 - Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant (HWCG)
 - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
 - Surface Transportation Program (STP)
 - Transportation Alternative Projects (TAP)
- User Fees
 - Water / Wastewater / Drainage Fees
 - Impact Fees (such as Road and Development)
 - Habitat Mitigation Fees

Lastly, The Land Conservation Menu details methods for land protection. These include:

- Primary Methods
 - Fee Simple Acquisition (Market value purchase)
 - Conservation Easements (Legal agreement between landowners and agencies)
 - Purchase of Development Rights (Legal agreement between landowners and agencies)
- Other Methods
 - Bargain Sale (Below market value purchase)
 - Installment Sale (Deferred payment purchase)
 - Right of First Refusal (Option to match an offer and acquire property if interest in the land occurs)
 - Undivided Interest (Several parties share ownership)
 - Acquisition with Sale-back or Leaseback (Switch of sale from A to B to A – for the purposes of adding protective restrictions)
 - Outright Donation (donation of full title)
 - Donation via Bequest (granted due to death or will)
 - Donation with Reserved Life Estate (right to use for owner's lifetime)
 - Lease (Legal agreement between landowners and agencies)
 - Intergovernmental Agreements/Partnership
 - Agency Transfer
 - Land Exchange
 - Nonprofit Acquisition and Conveyance to Public Agency
 - Joint Venture Partnership
 - Management Agreement
 - Mutual Covenants (Agreement between adjoining landowners to control future land uses)
 - Transfer of Development Rights



Comal Trails Alliance (CTA)

Organization Type: 501(c)3

Scope Focus: Comal County

Contacts:

PO Box: P.O. Box 311245 New Braunfels, Texas 78131

Email: info@comaltrails.org

Website: <https://www.crrcofcanyonlake.org/>

Purpose:

- Advocate for the development of trails and active transportation options in Comal County
- Maintain unpaved walking trails and mountain bike trails throughout the County

Mission and Vision:

- "We work to create trails connecting communities and providing opportunities for education, health, preservation, and enjoyment of the natural resources in Comal County!"
- "Imagine a community where all have access to safe, active transportation options to reach area resources, including libraries, parks, schools, and local businesses."
- "Envision a regional network of on and off-road trails supporting a vibrant local business economy and attracting high quality tourism focused on healthy, active events while protecting natural resources and educating visitors on the historical significance of our community."

Operations:

- Volunteer led organization through the Comal County Commissioners Court

Powers and Authorities:

- Ability to collaborate with the Municipalities, Counties, and WORD through inter-local agreements

Funding:

- Private, grants, donations
- Memberships

Programs:

- Trail clean-ups and maintenance workdays
- Seminars and presentations on trails and active transportation
- Annual "Sweaty Yeti" 5k race



The Great Springs Project

Organization Type: 501(c)3

Scope Focus: Travis, Hays, Comal, Guadalupe, and Bexar counties

Contacts:

Address: 409 West 14th Street Austin, Texas 78701

PO Box: P.O. Box 12331 Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: 1(512)781-8598

Email: info@greatspringsproject.org

Website: <https://greatspringsproject.org/>

Purpose:

- Establish trails and a green corridor connecting four large springs in the Texas Hill Country from Austin to San Antonio.
- Promote the protection of springs, the Edwards Aquifer, and other water resources throughout the Texas Hill Country.

Operations:

- Five (5) Board of Directors members
- 11 Advisory Board members
- 12 staff members consisting of administration, a Land and Trails team, and a Development and Operations team

Powers and Authorities:

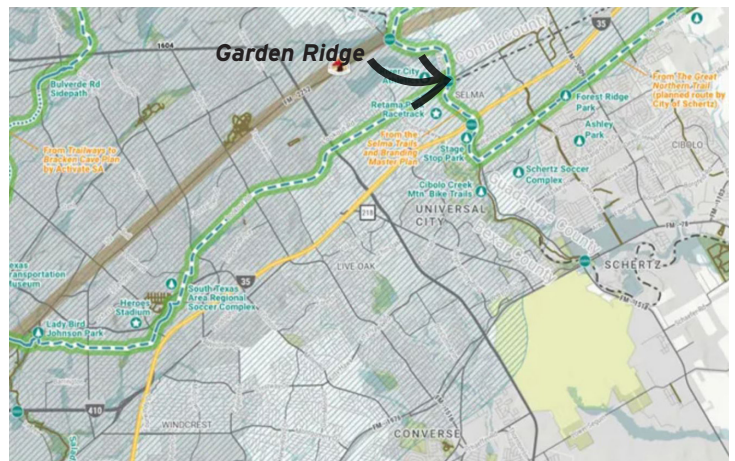
- Cannot own or buy land. Great Spring Project only works to facilitate connections between municipalities, counties, landowners, stakeholders, land trusts, local trail operators, and funding agencies.

Funding:

- Private, Grants, Donations
- Municipal and State entities

Programs:

- Plans to connect the following springs by trails:
 - Barton Springs (north)
 - San Marcos Springs
 - Comal Springs
 - San Antonio Springs (south)
- Plans to connect to and extend the existing Violet Crown Trail in South Austin
- Online seminars and lectures on the important of water protection and active transportation options



Identified potential trail alignments

Source: Great Springs Project



Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

Organization Type: 501(c)3, non-profit

Scope Focus: San Antonio, San Marcos, Wimberley, Dripping Springs, and Austin areas

Contacts:

Address: 1809 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78212

PO Box: P.O. Box 15618 San Antonio, TX 78212

Phone: 1(210) 320-6294 (Executive Director),
1(210)320-0149 (Technical Director)

Email: info@aquiferalliance.org

Website: <https://aquiferalliance.org/>

Purpose:

- Advocates for the preservation and protection of the Edwards Aquifer
- Producing and distributing educational materials to the public and private sector for sustainable practices and protection for the Edwards Aquifer
- Coordination with cities and entities to aid in the development of sustainable water-use and land-use practices

Mission and Vision:

- "The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes effective broad-based advocacy for protection and preservation of the Edwards Aquifer, its springs, watersheds, and the Texas Hill Country that sustains it."

Operations:

- 11 Board of Directors
- 12 Advisory Board Members

Funding:

- Public and private donations
- Merchandise sales
- Memberships

Programs:

- Business leaders, Texans For Every Drop, Corporate Membership
- Legislative advocacy
- Provides educational resources pertaining to water management, water quality, flood management, water harvesting, and climate change.
- Fundraisers (Art Show, Earth Day Event, Viva Texas Rivers, auctions)



Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan Report 5 (2021) continued

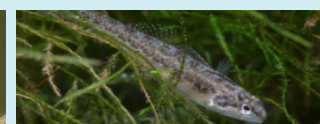
- City of San Marcos conservation measures include Management of Aquatic Vegetation and Litter below Sewell Park, Sediment Management below Sewell Park, Designation of Permanent Access Points and Bank Stabilization, Septic System Registration and Permitting Program, and Minimizing Impacts of Contaminated Runoff.
- Texas State University conservation measures include Reducing Diversion of Surface Water, Native Riparian Habitat Restoration, Research Programs in Spring Lake, Sessom Creek Sand Bar Removal, Management of Golf Course and Grounds, and Control of Harmful Non-Native and Predator Species.

Next, a series of Biological Goals and Management Objectives are presented.

- First, protecting the Fountain Darter, a small fish which feeds on small insects, endemic to only the Comal Creek and San Marcos River. Many freshwater fish need exceedingly clear and uncontaminated water, which can be difficult to retain at populations and wastewater outfall increases.



Source: Edwards Aquifer Authority



Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife

- Second, protecting the Comal Springs Riffle Beetle with new riparian habitat and spring filtration methods.



Source: Edwards Aquifer Authority



Source: U.S. Geological Survey

- Third, maintain water conditions for the Comal Springs Dryopid Beetle and Peck's Cave Amphipod.

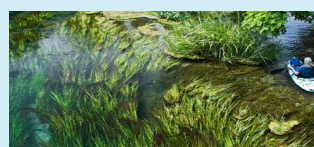


Source: Edwards Aquifer Authority



Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife

- Fourth, protect and expand Texas Wild-Rice coverage, a semi-submerged grass that is regional endemic to the San Marcos River. Threats to the species mostly come from over-dredging waterways and damage recreational users cause from coastline trampling.



Source: TPWD

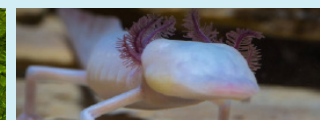


Source: TPWD

- Fifth and Sixth, increase habitat for the San Marcos Salamander and Texas Blind Salamander, especially in and around Spring Lake.



Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife



Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Lastly, the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan highlights management techniques, duties, and methods for achieving and benchmarking the methods and goal proposed in the Report. The Edwards Aquifer Authority's committees (Adaptive Management Stakeholder Committee, Adaptive Management Science Committee, EAHCP Budget Work Group, Springflow Habitat Protection Work Group, and the Implementing Committee) should benchmark with data and regularly schedule discussions to provide a forum of changes and immediate action throughout the year.

Outreach and collaborations are suggested as the most efficient and well-rounded methods for implementation and information dispersion. The Outreach Section notes the Education Outreach Center (at the Headwaters) as a key contributor to educating to the public and recreational users. A detailed breakdown of the Edwards Aquifer Authority's budget and money allocation is provided; 61% of which goes to Springflow Protection, 7% for Comal Springs, and 13% for San Marcos Spring.



Headwaters at the Comal River

Organization Type: 501(c)3,

Scope Focus: Comal River basin

Contacts:

Address: 333 East Klingemann Street New Braunfels, Texas 78130

Phone: 1(830)608-8937

Email: info@headwatersatthecomal.org

Website: <http://www.headwatersatthecomal.org/>

Purpose:

- Restore 16 acres of land along the Comal River to reduce pollution and enhance native habitats
- Provide parkland and an Educational Center for visitors
- Provide educational resources and opportunities for best water and land practices

Mission and Vision:

- “Strengthening the relationship between the community and nature by showcasing the significance of the Comal Springs. Creating a premier education center inspiring hearts and minds on the importance of conservation to community.”

Operations:

- 7 Board of directors
- 4 Staff including a watershed educator and program coordinator
- Technical Advisory Committee, consisting of representation from Center of Archaeological Studies, Texas State University, San Marcos Aquatic Research Center, Edwards Aquifer, Authority, Edwards Aquifer Research & Data Center, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, and others.
- Capital Campaign Committee
- An Education Task Force, consisting of representation from New Braunfels ISD, Comal ISD, and The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University
- Coordinates with the landowners of the 16-acre site, New Braunfels Utilities

Funding:

- Memberships
- Merchandise sales
- Public, private, donations



Fees and Charges:

- Admissions tickets to enter the park space

HEADWATERS
AT THE COMAL

Programs:

- Guiding the transformation of a 16-acre industrial New Braunfels Utility site, at 333 East Klingemann, adjacent to Comal River and Blieders Creek, into a restored native ecosystem and premier education center inspiring hearts and minds on the importance of conservation to the community
- Field trips and birthday parties at the Headwaters, including educational presentations and activities
- Riparian replanting along the Comal
- Future construction of public parkland, nature pavilion spaces, trails, and natural spring overlooks
- Future construction of an Environmental Education Center
- Research Partnership Program
- Goal to restore and uncap the historic spring cistern
- Constructing berms, bioswales and vernal pools to filter and cleanse stormwater before it enters the Comal River.
- Historical education of historic springs, water systems, and habitats important to Comal County and New Braunfels history
- Evening of Lights holiday event
- Historic on-site excavations and prehistoric excavation funding

Physical Assets:

- 16 Acre restoration site along the Comal River in New Braunfels
- Future Environmental Education Center
- Future parkland, trails, and overlooks

Headwaters at the Comal, Park and Site Master Plan

The Headwaters at the Comal is currently in the process of developing a paid access park, education center, and reestablishment / remediation of the Comal Rivers vegetation and flow. The 16 acre site is located along the Comal River between Gruene and Downtown New Braunfels.



Source: NearMap 2022 Imagery

The Master Plan, shown below, features enhance riparian vegetation, a Comal Spring overlook, bioswales, native turf gardens, prairie lands, birding perches, wetland areas, and nature trails. The site will also feature an education center for youth, a terraced amphitheater, a courtyard, and a picnic garden. The site plan also includes many innovative water techniques such as berms, rail gardens at the parking lot, rainwater cisterns, permeable pavements, bank stabilizing plantings, and rainwater harvesting.

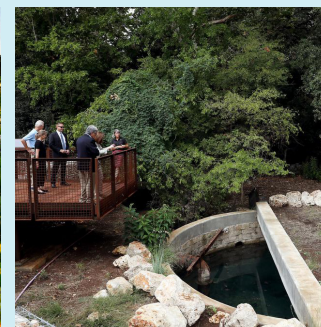
The Master Plan



Source: Texan By Nature



Source: New Braunfels Utilities



Source: San Antonio Business Journal



Keep Canyon Lake Beautiful

Organization Type: 501(c)(6)

Scope Focus: Canyon Lake, Guadalupe River

Contacts:

Address: 3934 FM 2673, Canyon Lake, TX 78133

Phone: 1(830)964-2223

Email: keepclbeautiful@gmail.com

Website: keepcanyonlakebeautiful.com

Purpose:

- Litter prevention, beautification, and waste reduction through education and community engagement.

Mission and Vision:

- Keep Canyon Lake Beautiful is a program of the Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce dedicated to the education and engagement of everyone for the responsibility of the environmental health of the Canyon Lake community through litter prevention, beautification, and waste reduction.

Operations:

- Three (3) Officers
- Five (5) Board of Directors
- One (1) Staff member
- Coordination with Play In New Braunfels and the New Braunfels Visitors Center
- Volunteers

Funding:

- Donations and Partnerships

Programs:

- Two annual community cleanup events.
- Pop-up Clean-Up and gardening events at local parks

Physical Assets:

- Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center (3934 FM 2673, Canyon Lake, TX 78133)



Keep Canyon Lake Beautiful



2022 Governor's Community Achievement Awards

Source: Keep Canyon Lake Beautiful Facebook



Hill Country Conservancy

Organization Type: 501(c)3, Non-profit

Scope Focus: "Hill Country" area

Contacts:

Address: 5524 Bee Caves Road, Suite G4 Austin, Texas 78746

PO Box: P.O. Box 163125 Austin, Texas 78716-3125

Phone: 1(512)328-2481

Website: <https://hillcountryconservancy.org/>,
<https://violetcrowntrail.com/>

Purpose:

- Hill Country Conservancy partners with landowners to protect natural spaces in the Hill Country through conservation easements and land management practices.
- Provides trail opportunities connecting local and regional parks, such as the Violet Crown Trail connecting Zilker Park and Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin.
- Provides information on the importance of land conservation, water resources, and habitat restoration strategies.
- Promote conservancy through community programming, education, volunteer opportunities, and landowner workshops.

Mission and Vision:

- "Hill Country Conservancy preserves vital natural resources through conservation, community collaboration and engagement to sustain our region now and forever."

Operations:

- 21 Board of Directors, consisting of investment leaders, realtors, gas service providers, conservancy advocates, teachers, and lawyers.
- Nine (9) Staff members, consisting of operations, community engagement, development, stewardship, and a trail project manager.

Powers and Authorities:

- Officially accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission in 2014
- Ability to collaborate with the municipalities, counties, and private landowners

Funding:

- Private, grants, donations
- Memberships
- Event ticket sales

Programs:

- Hill Country Headwaters Conservation Initiative which aims to replant, protect, and manage habitats and riparian vegetation at the headwaters of major regional rivers. This initiative includes partnerships with over 18 organizations including the National Resource Conservation Service, Wimberley Valley Watershed Association, City of Austin Watershed Protection Program, and Texas A&M Forest Service.
- Violet Crown Trail initiative. A planned 30-mile trail will go from Zilker Park in Austin to Sunset Valley, then into Hays County.
- Emerging Professionals In Conservation group
- Sunset Bat Paddle
- National Public Lands Day trail clean up
- Hill Country Nights event with live music, food, and an auction
- Utopia fest event
- Think and Drink Wildlife event
- Rock climbing event



State of the Hill Country 2022

The State of the Hill Country 2022 (SHC) is a document that details eight 'metrics' for tracking and managing changes in the natural resources of the Hill Country due to population growth and development. Each 'metric' highlights a major topic that pertains to the Hill Country's environment and management; Each year the metrics are reassessed providing readers with an up-to-date document on the economic and ecological affairs of the Hill Country.

Metric 1: Population Growth in Unincorporated Areas

- SHC recognizes that much of the Hill County's growth has been in unincorporated and rural areas. It is recommended that County's increase their capacity to enact growth control measures, conduct impact evaluations, manage growth more responsibly, and fund additional staff / resources. The main goal is to decrease or eliminate unneeded environmental fragmentation and negative impacts of water quality.

Metric 2: Amount of Conserved Lands

- SHC recommends that continued conservations efforts with landowners, ranchers, and farmers, should continue to grow and be funded. Published data from the Texas Land Trust Council and San Antonio Edwards Aquifer Protection Program should increasingly be taken into account when planning for residential and commercial developments

Metric 3: Amount of Developed Lands

- SHC describes that trends in the National Landcover Dataset should continue to be monitored by municipal leaders to assess the amount of growth and impact on lands. It is recommended that a long-term goal for Central Texas should be to conserve as much land as is also being developed.



Source: Hill Country Alliance

Metric 4: Pristine Streams

- SHC recommends that increased water quality assessment should occur with the increased chances of run-off and pollutants from developed areas. SHC acknowledges that aquifer health, wildlife retainment, and habitats quality are dependent on clean water in streams. Techniques mentioned to reduce stream pollution include reducing agricultural run-off, reducing impervious surface run-off, managing algae blooms, and encourage low impact design strategies.



Texas Wild Rice at Sewell Park

Source: Texas State University

See *Hill Country Conservancy*, on next page, for Metrics 5-8

State of the Hill Country 2022 continued

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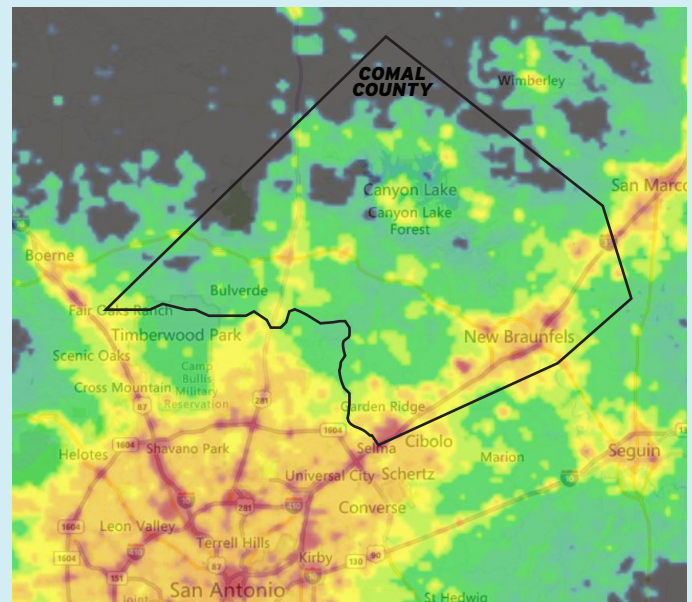


Source of the Comal River at Comal Spring

Source: New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung, Edwards Aquifer

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Light pollution in Comal County 2022

Source: The Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite from the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service

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Hill Country Alliance

Organization Type: 501(c)(3)

Scope Focus: Central Texas Hill Country

Contacts:

Address: 1322 West Highway 290, Suite D Dripping Springs, TX 78620

PO Box: P.O. Box 151675 Austin, TX 78715

Phone: 1(512) 894-2214

Email: info@hillcountryalliance.org

Website: <https://hillcountryalliance.org/>

Purpose:

- “The Hill Country Alliance (HCA) is dedicated to ensuring for future generations an opportunity to benefit from the unique features of the Texas Hill Country region, including the countless spring-fed streams, its agricultural heritage, wildlife, and spectacular scenic beauty.”
- “The Hill Country Alliance is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to raise public awareness and build community support around the need to preserve the natural resources and heritage of the Central Texas Hill Country.”
- Education and Outreach awareness of development threats, conservation, natural spaces, and community health.
- Advocacy for residents and local leaders on a municipal, county, and state level

Mission and Vision:

- “The mission of the Hill Country Alliance is to bring together a diverse coalition of partners to preserve the open spaces, starry night skies, clean and abundant waters, and unique character of the Texas Hill Country.”

Operations:

- 12 Board of Directors, each representing a county of the Central Texas Hill Country.
- 11 staff, including a stewardship manager, research manager, conservation network manager, water program manager, night sky program manager, director of philanthropy, and others.

Funding:

- Memberships
- Public, private, donations

Physical Assets:

- Non-ownership, alliance with four local landowners; Bandera Canyonlands Alliance, South Llano Watershed Alliance, Pedernales Watershed, and the Clearview Alliance



GROWTH AND CONSERVATION IN TEXAS

A PRIMER ON COUNTY TOOLS AND PATHS FORWARD 2023

*Commissioned by: The Hill Country Alliance, Cibola Center for Conservation, Comal County Conservation Alliance, Environmental Defense Fund, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, League of Women Voters of the Comal Area, and the National Wildlife Federation
Prepared by: Gap Strategies*

Programs:

- Texas Hill Country Conservation Network; A sub-organization of the Hill Country Alliance, dedicated to the planning and funding of public conservation lands and water resource management plans. The Network has goals to develop a Hill Country County-wide Watershed Conservation Plan, passing strategic bonds totaling \$400 million for land conservation, and protecting 100,000 acres of open space.
- Annual Texas Water Symposium
- Public education on topics such as water quality, land resources, night sky light pollution, water collection, development impacts, building codes, and utilities infrastructure.
- Public advocacy for rural residents who may not have the authority of resources for strategic planning that municipalities may have.
- One Water in the Texas Hill Country guidebook
- State of the Hill Country report, providing existing conditions and information on regional growth, issues, initiatives, and future planning efforts
- Land conservation efforts with private landowners in the Hill Country area





El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association

Organization Type: 501(c)3, Non-profit

Scope Focus: Texas

Contacts:

PO Box: P.O. Box 41286 Austin, Texas 78704

Website: <https://www.elcaminorealdelostejas.org/>
<https://www.nps.gov/elte/index.htm>

Purpose:

- The National Historic Trail Association is a non-profit which aims to continue the development of a system of trails connecting key historic sites between the Rio Grande River and Red Rivers in Texas.
- Teach users about Texan, Native, and Mexican history and historic sites.

Mission and Vision:

- "El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association seeks to protect the historic integrity of the trail, to educate and engage the public about its significance, and to promote resource development, interpretation, and tourism along its path."
- Construct new trail connections and improve existing trail sections to develop a comprehensive trail system throughout Texas that connects sites to teach users about Mexican-American history, Native nations, cattle ranching, and Texan independence.

Operations:

- 11 Board of Directors, representing four Texas regions. Comal County is part of the San Antonio-Goliad Region for board representation.
- Coordination with the National Park Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in establishing the trail alignments and completion. The National Park Service has dedicated the El Camino Real de los Tejas as a National Historic Trail.



El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Alignments

Source: National Parks Service

Funding:

- Memberships
- Public, private, donations
- Sponsorships
- National Parks Service

Programs:

- The proposed alignment of the El Camino Real de los Tejas that is most impactful for Comal County runs from Downtown San Antonio to Downtown San Marcos and The San Marcos River at Old Bastrop Road.
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Historic research and Archaeological surveys of sites in partnership with GTI Environmental and other historic associations
- Camino Real Traveling Exhibit (awareness and fundraising) with the National Park Service
- Annual Meeting / Conference which includes presentations and walking tours

Physical Assets:

- None in ownership, but has assisted in the improvement and establishment of a number of trails in Texas, including:
 - The Lobanillo Swales Project in Sabine County, Texas
 - Onion Creek Metropolitan Park near the town of Waterloo, Texas
 - Floresville El Camino Trail
 - Rancho de las Cabras
 - Mission Nuestra Señora del Rosario de los Cujanes
 - Presidio Nuestra Señora de Loreto de la Bahía
 - Comal Springs
 - Guadalupe River Crossing
 - Comanche Lookout Park
 - Paso de Dolores and Pérez Rancho Jacal
 - Mission Espada Aqueduct



Signage at Sabine National Forest
Source: National Parks Service



Mission along trail in San Antonio
Source: National Parks Service



Caddo Mounds State Historical Site
Source: National Parks Service



The Nature Conservancy (Cibolo Bluffs Nature Preserve)

Organization Type: 501(c)3

Scope Focus: State, National

Contacts:

Address: 200 E. Grayson, Suite 202 San Antonio, TX 78215

Phone: 1(281)407-3251

Email: texas@tnc.org

Website: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/texas/>

Purpose:

- Coordinate with landowners and organizations for conservation land establishment
- Tackle climate change; protect oceans, land, food sustainability, and fresh water
- Provide educational and research services to landowners on best practices and techniques

Mission and Vision:

- “Founded in the U.S. through grassroots action in 1951, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has grown to become one of the most effective and wide-reaching environmental organizations in the world. Thanks to more than a million members and the dedicated efforts of our diverse staff and over 400 scientists, we impact conservation in 76 countries and territories: 37 by direct conservation impact and 39 through partners.”
- Coordinate with landowners and organizations to ensure natural area protection and sustainable land use practices

Operations:

- 400 international scientists
- Oversees more than 100 marine conservation projects
- Protects over 125,000,000 acres of land internationally
- Individual U.S. State Directors and local leaders
- Technology and information systems staff
- Marketing and development staff

Powers and Authorities:

- Ability to enter into contracts with private and public landowners for specific land use and management agreements
- Landowners under the Nature Conservancy have tax write off benefits

Funding:

- Public, private, donations
- Memberships
- Merchandise sales

Programs:

- Conservation land establishment
- Education to youth and landowners about land use practices and climate adaption
- Work with states and municipalities to establish parkland and protected zones in growing areas
- Provides magazine articles and published research
- Provides volunteer opportunities for youth and students
- Local park events and clean-ups
- The Nature Lab online educational tools
- Internships for students
- Prescribed / controlled burn programs
- Annual state reports

Physical Assets:

- Protects over 125,000,000 acres of land internationally



Natural Bridge Caverns

Organization Type: Private

Scope Focus: “Hill Country” area

Contacts:

Address: Single Location Unit at 26495 Natural Bridge Caverns Rd,
San Antonio, Texas 78266

Phone: 1(210)651-6101

Fax: 1(210)651-6144

Website: <https://naturalbridgecaverns.com/>

Purpose:

- Private organization that provides protected lands and cave systems
- Provide natural wildlife experiences to the public
- Educate the public on the importance of geological protection
- Provide unique family-oriented recreational activities

Mission and Vision:

- “Our mission is to conserve the world’s bats and their ecosystems to ensure a healthy planet.”

Powers and Authorities:

- None, private landowner

Funding:

- Private, public, grants, donations
- Online store and souvenir photos
- Ticket and entry fees

Fees and Charges:

- Cave and entry ticket fees
- Rental space and experiences for schools, birthday parties, and scout groups
- Event ticket fees

Programs:

- Cave tours such as the Discovery Tour, Hidden Passages Tour, Adventure Tours, and Bat Flight Packages
- Christmas at the Caverns

Physical Assets:

- Over 600 acres of land consisting of the Natural Bridge Caverns and Wildlife Ranch
- Gem and Fossil Mining
- Twisted Trails Zip Rails and Ropes Course
- Twisted Trails climbing and Tykes Trail
- Gift Shop and Restaurant at the Discovery Village Trading Post



Texas Land Trust Council

Organization Type: 501(c)3

Scope Focus: Texas

Contacts:

PO Box: P.O. Box 2677 Wimberley, TX 78676

Phone: 1(512)-994-8582 [994-TLTC]

Email: info@texaslandtrustcouncil.org

Website: <https://texaslandtrustcouncil.org/>

Purpose:

- Provide geographic information systems, datasets, research, and assistance to entities in order to preserve lands and demonstrate the economic value of conservation easements and land trusts.
- Advocate for economic and environmental benefits of natural landscapes through providing technical assistance, training, and research.

Mission and Vision:

- “To support and strengthen the land trust community to serve as a powerful voice for land and water conservation in Texas.”
- “The Texas Land Trust Council (TLTC), through its Conservation Lands Inventory (CLI), is using the power of geographic information to better understand and communicate the success and economic benefits of conservation efforts throughout Texas.”
- “The Texas Land Trust Council (TLTC) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that builds and supports a strong, active coalition of more than 30 organizations working to conserve the lands and waters of Texas. We serve as a powerful voice for conservation to protect drinking water, Texas’ iconic wildlife, and our rich natural and cultural heritage.”

Operations:

- 13 Board Members
- Nine (9) Honorary Council Members
- Internship and volunteer opportunities

Funding:

- Memberships
- Public, private, donations
- Universities and research institutions

Programs:

- Annual Texas Land Conservation Conference
- Publication of the Conservation Easements Guide for Texas Landowners
- Texas Conservation Lands Inventory and Valuing Economic Benefits of Texas Conservation Lands (2019) reports
- Monthly newsletters
- Technical and geographic data survey assistance
- Economic and social impact research





PARKS INVENTORY

APPENDIX D





PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY

Table D.1: All Parks

Park	Size (Acres)	Ownership	Operator	Diamond Field	Basketball / Volleyball	Tennis Court	Soccer Field	Football Field	Pickleball Court	Playground	Pavilion / Gazebo	Amphitheater	Boat Ramp or Water Access	Pool	Splashpad	Skatepark	Dog Park	Disc Golf Course	Mountain Bike / Hiking Trails	Outside Restroom
Hidden Valley Sports Park	93.7	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)	Comal County	9	1	0	9	4	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Jumbo Evans Sports Park	64.3	Comal County	Comal County	6	0	6	11	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Kleck Park	43.5	Comal County	Comal County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
James C. Curry Nature Center	53.9	Comal County	Comal County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Guadalupe North and South Trailheads	12.9	USACE	USACOE / Water Oriented Recreation District (WORD)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Overlook Park	30.4	USACE	USACE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
North Park	53.2	USACE	USACE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canyon Lake Gorge	82.0	USACE	Canyon Lake Gorge Preservation Society	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Comal Park	116.0	USACE	WORD	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Cranes Mill Park	80.0	USACE	WORD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Canyon Lake Park	29.0	USACE	WORD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Randolph Recreation Park	36.0	USACE	Joint Base San Antonio	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Nichol's Landing	11.0	Comal County	WORD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulverde Community Park	13.5	City of Bulverde	City of Bulverde	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Solms Park	8.04	City of New Braunfels	New Braunfels	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
New Braunfels Little League (NBLL)	20.8	NBLL	NBLL	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mission Hill Park	10.0	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puppy Playland Dog Park	13.1	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Dry Comal Nature Trail	20.2	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Jesse Garcia Park	0.9	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HEB Soccer Complex	14.4	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
New Braunfels Cemetery	4.86	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hinman Island Park	10	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ernest Eikel Field / Jaws Skate Park	4.0	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Walnut Avenue Pocket Park	2.51	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neighborhood Park	0.43	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Main Plaza	0.47	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Market Plaza	0.77	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Das Rec (Recreation Center)	6.54	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	6	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tube Chute	1.91	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Garden Street Tubers Exit	0.04	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lindheimer Plaza	0.25	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
River Acres Park	1.1	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kraft Park	9.0	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haymarket Plaza	3.47	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Faust Street Bridge	1.14	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table D.1: All Parks (continued)

Park	Size (Acres)	Ownership	Operator	Diamond Field	Basketball / Volleyball	Tennis Court	Soccer Field	Football Field	Pickleball Court	Playground	Pavilion / Gazebo	Amphitheater	Boat Ramp or Water Access	Pool	Splashpad	Skatepark	Dog Park	Disc Golf Course	Mountain Bike / Hiking Trails	Outside Restroom	Totals
Union Street Tuber Exit	0.3	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Panther Canyon	44.8	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Fredericksburg Fields	5.87	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landa Park	56.92	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	6	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Landa Park Golf Course	114.6	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prince Solms Park	15.52	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Cypress Bend	18.1	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Comal Cemetery	33.2	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Torrey Park	4.9	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Crest Lane Greenbelt	4.4	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alligator Creek Greenbelt	46	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Timmerman Park	2.9	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alves Lane	3.27	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camp Comal	42.78	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Fischer Park	62.53	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
County Line Memorial Trail	53.92	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morningside Park	17.02	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	v	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Paul Davis Park	14.7	City of Garden Ridge (Garden Ridge)	Garden Ridge	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Eagle Scout Park	0.9	Garden Ridge	Garden Ridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harvey B. Bell Park	1.0	Garden Ridge	Garden Ridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Park Lane Park	0.6	Garden Ridge	Garden Ridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regency Oaks Park	1.6	Garden Ridge	Garden Ridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch	450	Wuest Legacy Partners LTD	Wuest Legacy Partners LTD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural Bridge Caverns		NBWR Properties LTD	NBWR Properties LTD	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bracken Cave Preserve	1,521.0	Bat Conserv... International	Bat Conserv... International	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cibolo Bluffs Nature Preserve	653.0	Cibolo Preserve	Cibolo Preserve / The Nature Conservancy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guadalupe State Park	1,938.7	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)	TPWD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Honey Creek State Natural Area	2,293.7	TPWD	TPWD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Garden Ridge Community Center	1.4	Garden Ridge	Garden Ridge	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bulverde Community Center	6.5	City of Bulverde	City of Bulverde	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Westside Community Center (NB)	2.2	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Grand Total	8,269.5	-	-	36	21	12	35	5	0	37	75	5	19	4	4	1	3	1	7	44	

Table D.2: ISD Facilities

School	Diamond Field	Basketball / Volleyball	Tennis Court	Soccer Field	Football Field	Pickleball Court	Playground	Pavilion / Gazebo	Amphitheater	Boat Ramp or Water Access	Pool	Splashpad	Skatepark	Dog Park	Disc Golf Course	Mountain Bike / Hiking Trails	Outside Restroom
Canyon High School	3	2	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Canyon Lake High School	2	1	6	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Davenport High School	2	0	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Pieper High School	2	2	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
Smithson Valley High School	2	4	6	3	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Memorial Early College High School	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
New Braunfels High School	2	2	8	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Canyon Middle School	2	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Church Hill Middle School	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Danville Middle School	3	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mountain Valley Middle School	1	1	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pieper Ranch Middle School	2	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Smithson Valley Middle School	1	0	3	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Spring Branch Middle School	0	2	3	3	3	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
New Braunfels Middle School	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Oak Run Middle School	0	2	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Arlon Seay Elementary School	2	1	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bill Brown Elementary School	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clear Spring Elementary School	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Freiheit Elementary School	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Garden Ridge Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goodwin Frazier Elementary School	0	4	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hoffman Lane Elementary School	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indian Spring Elementary School	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson Ranch Elementary School	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morningside Elementary School	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mountain Valley Elementary School	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oak Creek Elementary School	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rahe Bulverde Elementary School	0	2	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rebecca Creek Elementary School	0	2	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Specht Elementary School	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Startzville Elementary School	1	3	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Timberwood Park Elementary School	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	26	50	65	34	20	0	64	10	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	21

Table D.3: Trails

Trails	Length (Miles)	Ownership	Operator	Purpose
James C. Curry Nature Center Trail	0.9	Comal County	Comal County	Hiking and Mountain Biking
Kleck Park Trails	1.28	Comal County	Comal County	Hiking
Tye Preston Library Trail	1.1	Comal County	Comal County	Hiking
Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce Trail	0.75	Comal County	Comal County	Hiking and Mountain Biking
Morton Preserve Paths	0.3	Comal County	Comal County	Hiking (Private)
Nichols Landing Paddling Trail	9.9	Comal County/WORD	Comal County/WORD	Paddling
County Line Memorial Trail	2.18	City of New Braunfels (New Braunfels)	New Braunfels	Hike and Bike Trail
Dry Comal Nature Trail	2.25	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	Hiking and Mountain Biking
Panther Canyon	1.85	New Braunfels	New Braunfels	Hiking
Guadalupe State Park	15.4	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)	TPWD	Hiking
Guadalupe River South Trail	1.8	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	USACE	Hiking and Mountain Biking
Old Hancock Trail	3.5	USACE	USACE	Hiking and Horseback Riding
Madrone Trails at Canyon Park	7.6	USACE	WORD	Hiking and Mountain Biking
Canyon Lake Gorge Overlook Trail	1.3	USACE	USACE	Hiking
Canyon Lake Dam Walkway	1.7	USACE	USACE	Walking Trail
Totals	51.81	-	-	-

Table D.4: Boat Ramps and Kayak Launches

Ramp or Launch	Name	Owner/Operator
Canyon Lake Ramp 1	Skyline Park or Canyon Dam	USACE/Comal County
Canyon Lake Ramp 2	Turkey Cove	USACE/Comal County
Canyon Lake Ramp 3	Comal Park 1	USACE/WORD
Canyon Lake Ramp 4	Comal Park 2	USACE/WORD
Canyon Lake Ramp 5	Tom Creek 1	USACE/Comal County
Canyon Lake Ramp 6	Tom Creek 2	USACE/Comal County
Canyon Lake Ramp 7	Lakeview Drive	USACE/Comal County
Canyon Lake Ramp 8	Lakeview Drive	USACE/Comal County
Canyon Lake Ramp 9	Crane's Mill Marina	USACE/Crane's Mill Marina
Canyon Lake Ramp 10	Crane's Mill	USACE
Canyon Lake Ramp 11	Rebecca Creek	USACE/Comal County
Canyon Lake Ramp 12	Lake Canyon Yacht Club	USACE/Lake Canyon Yacht Club
Canyon Lake Ramp 13	Sunny Side	USACE/Joint Base San Antonio
Canyon Lake Ramp 14	Jacob's Creek 1	USACE/Joint Base San Antonio
Canyon Lake Ramp 15	Jacob's Creek 2	USACE/Joint Base San Antonio
Canyon Lake Ramp 16	Hancock Cove	USACE/Joint Base San Antonio
Canyon Lake Ramp 17	Hancock Cove	USACE
Canyon Lake Ramp 18	Canyon Park	USACE/WORD
Canyon Lake Ramp 19	Canyon Lake Marina	Canyon Marina
Canyon Lake Ramp 20	Potter's Creek Park	USACE
Canyon Lake Ramp 21	Potter's Creek West	USACE
Canyon Lake Ramp 22	Lakeshore Drive	Comal County
Canyon Lake Ramp 23	North Crane's Mill Road	Comal County
Nichols Landing Boat Drive	Nichols Landing Park	WORD
TPWD Boat Ramp	Guadalupe at I-35 (near River Ranch)	TPWD
Cypress Bend Park Ramp	Cypress Bend Park	City of New Braunfels
Nichol's Paddle Trail Kayak Launch 1	Guadalupe at FM 311	WORD
Nichol's Paddle Trail Kayak Launch 2	Guadalupe at Rebecca Creek	WORD
Horseshoe Kayak Launch 1	Horseshoe Bend	N/A
Horseshoe Kayak Launch 2	Horseshoe Bend	N/A
Guadalupe State Park Kayak Launch	Guadalupe State Park	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Comal River Tube Chute	Prince Solms Park	City of New Braunfels



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT APPENDIX E





STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY



2023

Comal County, Texas

Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey

Findings Report



ETC
INSTITUTE

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Executive Summary

2023 Comal County Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey Executive Summary

Overview

ETC Institute administered a survey to residents of Comal County during the winter months of 2023. The purpose of the survey was to explore the community's interests, wishes, and willingness to pay in regard to possible future open space preservation and park land developments in response to the region's rapid development.

Methodology

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in Comal County. Each survey packet contained a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. Residents who received the survey were given the option of returning the survey by mail or completing it online at *ComalCountySurvey.org*.

After the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute followed up with residents to encourage participation. To prevent people who were not residents of Comal County from participating, everyone who completed the survey online was required to enter their home address prior to submitting the survey. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered online with the addresses that were originally selected for the random sample. If the address from a survey completed online did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the online survey was not included in the final database for this report.

The goal was to collect a minimum of 400 completed surveys from residents. The goal was met with 518 completed surveys collected. The overall results for the sample of 518 households has a precision of at least ± 4.3 at the 95% level of confidence.

This report contains the following:

- Charts showing the overall results of the survey (Section 2)
- Tabular data showing the overall results for all questions on the survey (Section 3)
- Responses to open-ended questions (Section 4)
- A copy of the survey instrument (Section 5)

The major findings of the survey are summarized on the following pages.

Open Spaces, Parks, Trails, and Recreational Facilities

Use of Open Spaces, Parks, and Trails. Respondents were asked to indicate how often their household visits open spaces, parks, or trails in Comal County. The highest percentage of respondents (28%) visit multiple times a year followed by 27% visiting multiple times a month. The spaces visited most often are city parks (68%), state parks (49%), and USACE property (48%); specifically, Jumbo Evans Sports Park (11%) was visited most often.

Barriers to Use. Most respondents (65%) indicated they had not visited any Comal County-owned or operated parks in the past year. Respondents were prevented from visiting more often due to lack of parking (24%), areas being too crowded (21%), and lack of time (20%). Forty-seven percent of respondents (47%) live in a neighborhood that has its own open space, parks, or trails.

Importance of Open Spaces, Parks, and Trails. Most respondents (96%) think it is important for Comal County to have open spaces, parks, and trails. Respondents most often agree it is important to have those spaces in order to conserve natural habitats (88%), protect areas from urban development (88%), provide outdoor experiences (84%), and provide recreational opportunities (84%). Most respondents think there is a need for more parks (84%), open spaces (88%), and natural areas (90%) for public use and benefit. The highest percentage of respondents want to see more hiking trails (70%) and unprogrammed open spaces/ natural areas (65%).

Satisfaction with Recreational Facilities. Respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction regarding three types of recreational facilities in Comal County. Respondents most often felt neutral regarding satisfaction for sports/activities (47%), active recreation spaces (42%), and passive recreation spaces (37%).

Preservation and Land Acquisitions

Preservation, Expansion, and Improvements. Respondents think its most important (rating “important” or “very important”) to protect, expand, or improve the river corridors (97%), Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone (96%), and natural areas (93%). Respondents think it is most important (rating “very important”) for the master plan to emphasize the preservation of water quality and aquifer recharge zones (86%), preservation of wildlife habitat and tree canopy (73%), preservation of underdeveloped areas (69%), and conservation/preservation of sensitive habitats (68%). Respondents most often prefer that the plan strongly emphasizes open space/natural resource protection over outdoor recreation (44%) or equally emphasizes open space/natural resource protection and outdoor recreation (32%).

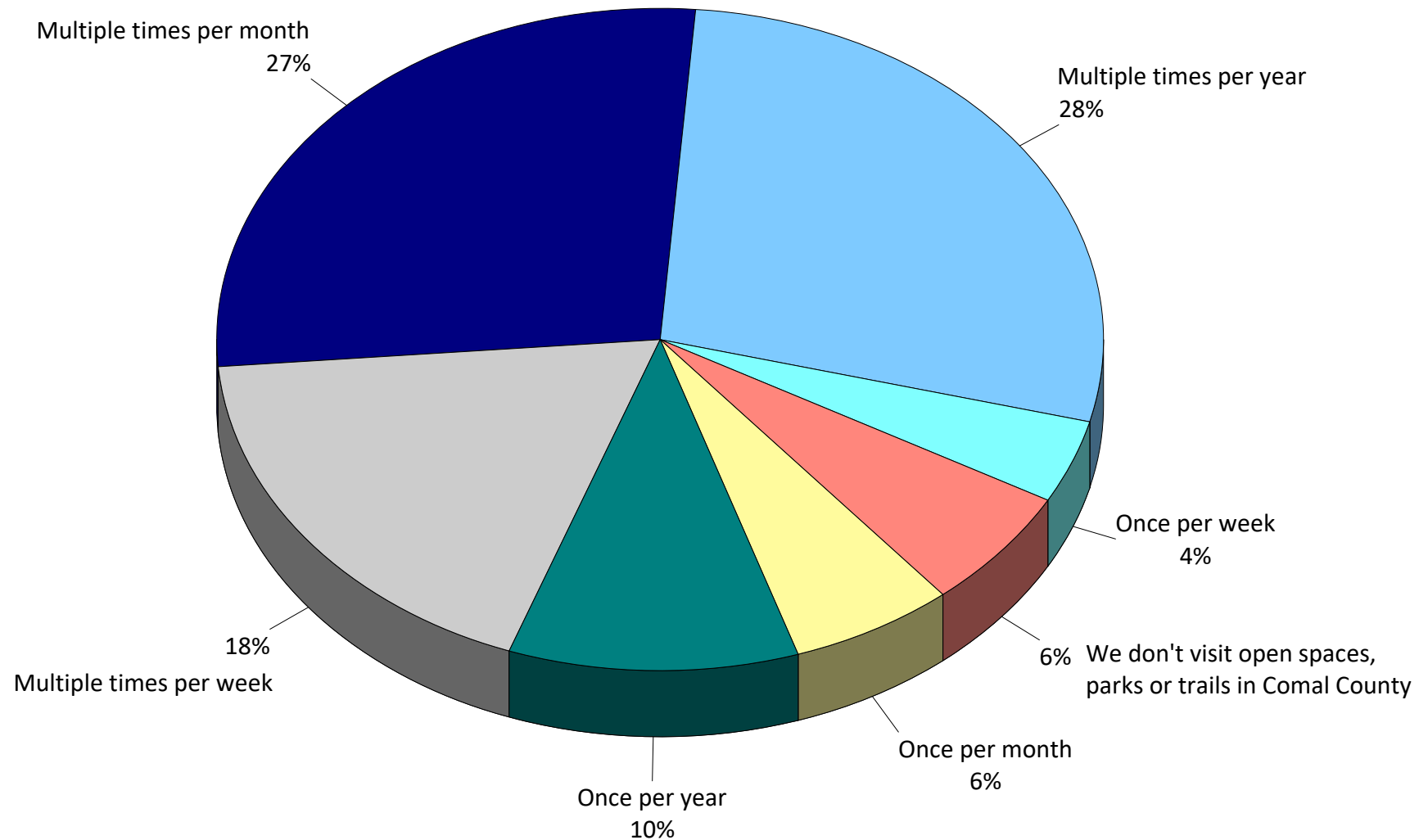
Funding Methods. The highest percentage of respondents believe Comal County should acquire land and easements through donations (75%), encourage landowners to preserve their land through federal or state tax incentives/voluntary conservation easements/etc. (72%), and partner with government entities/land trusts to purchase land/easements (69%). Respondents most support (rating “very supportive”) funding for acquiring land and the management and ongoing maintenance via grants (63%) and partnerships (60%).



Charts & Graphs

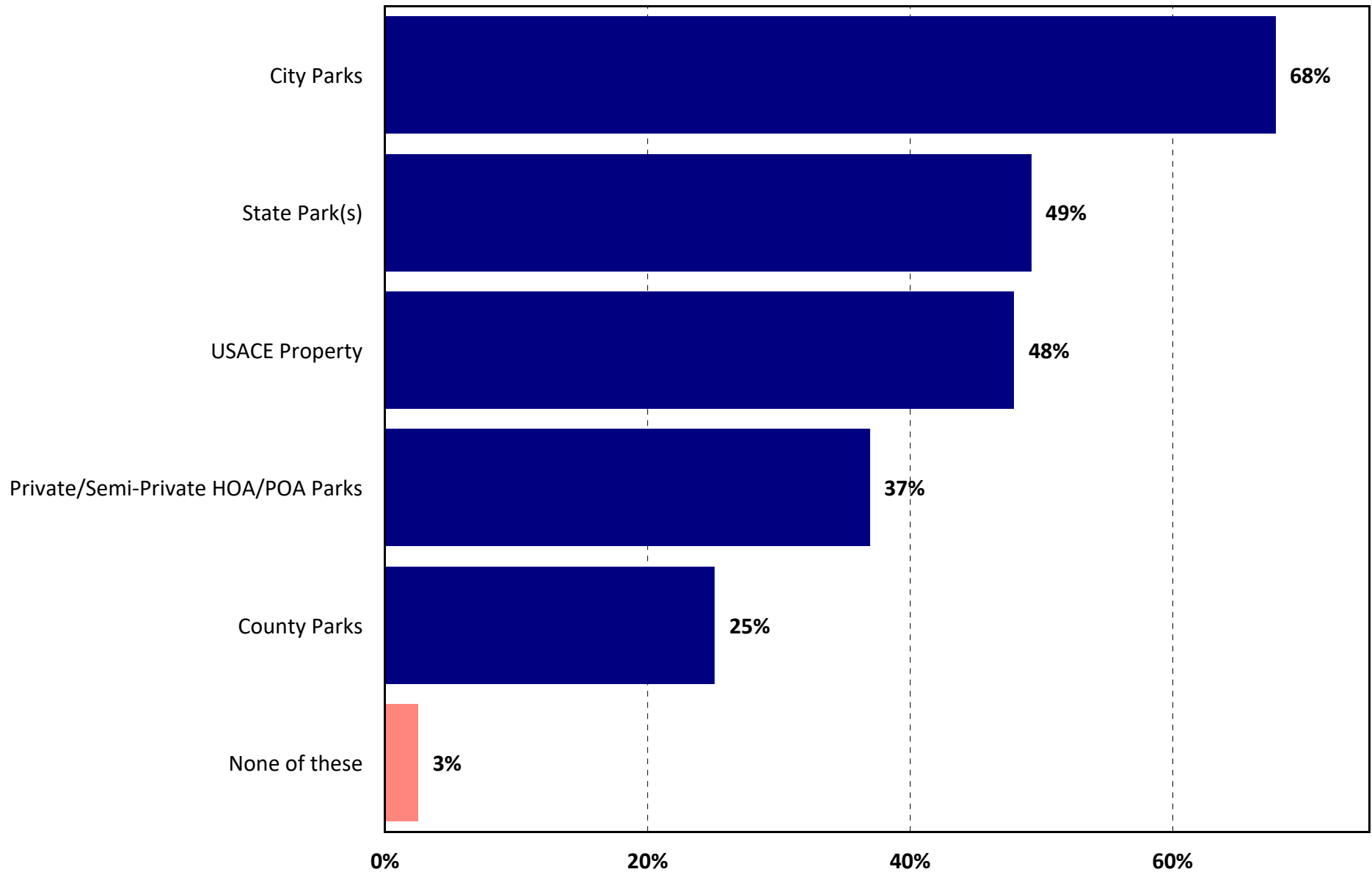
Q1. How often does your household visit any open spaces, parks and/or trails in Comal County (including Canyon Lake and Guadalupe River State Park)?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



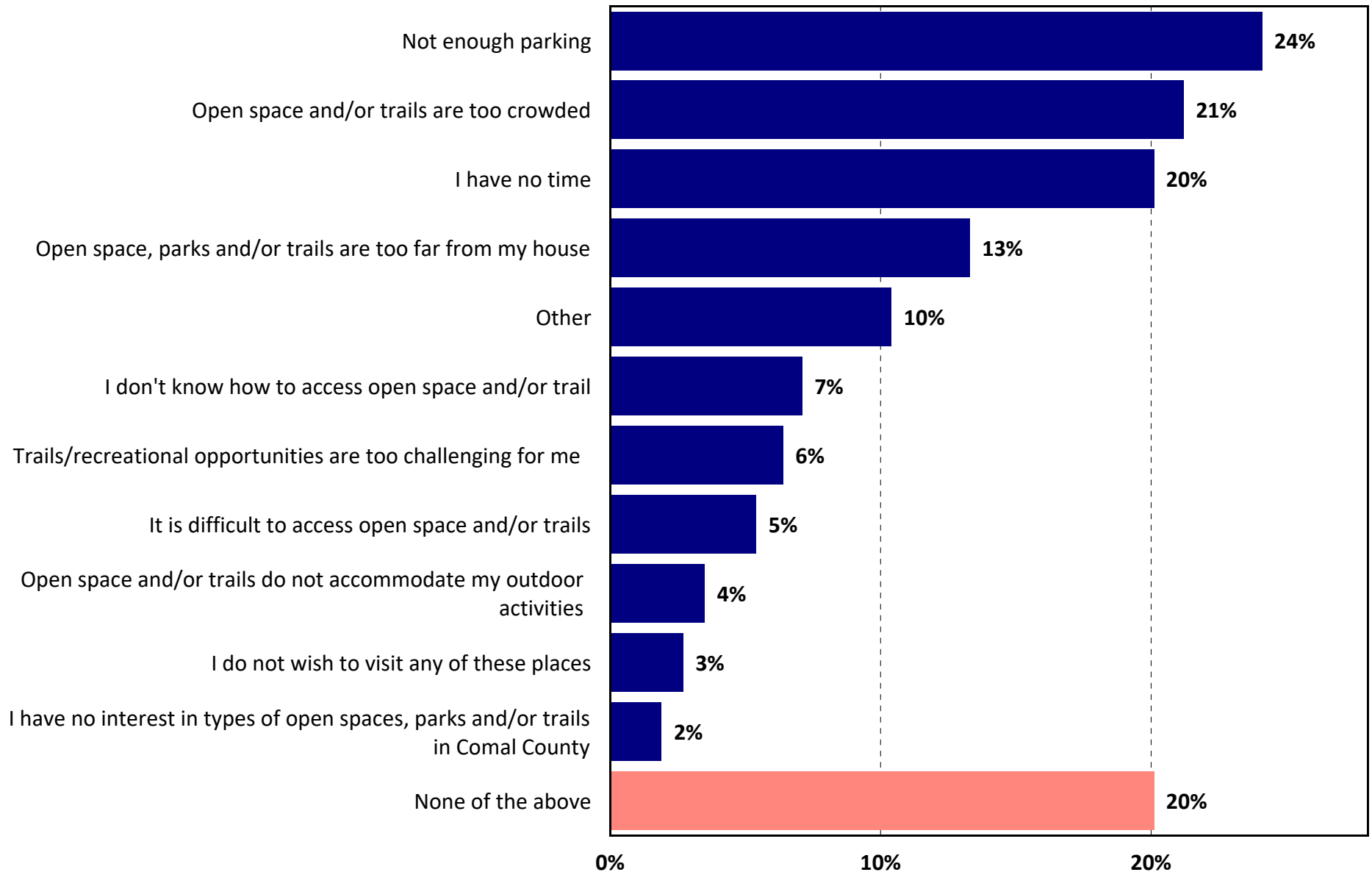
Q2. If you visit any open spaces, parks and/or trails in Comal County, where are those located?

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



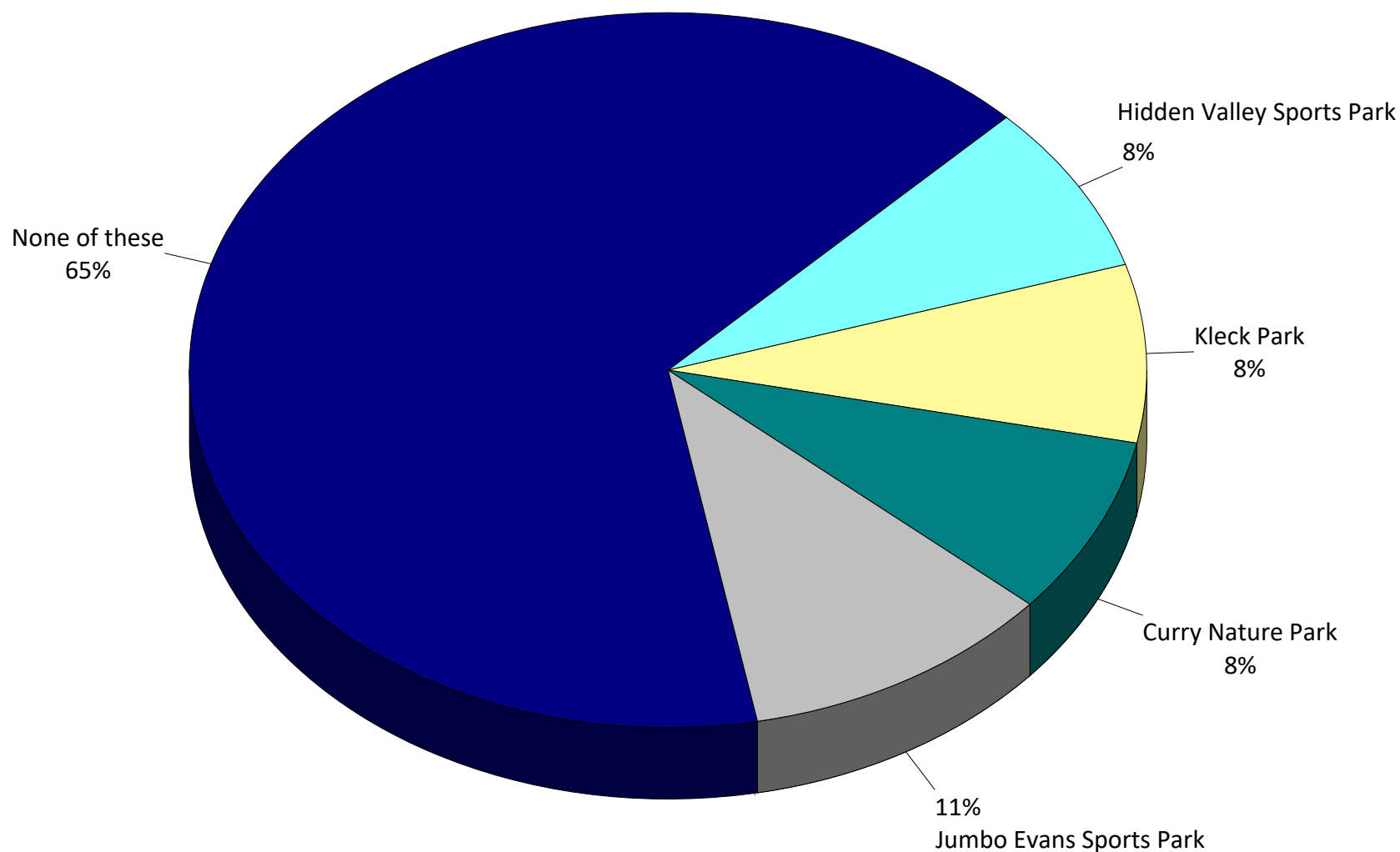
Q3. What prevents you from visiting open space, parks and/or trails in Comal County more often?

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



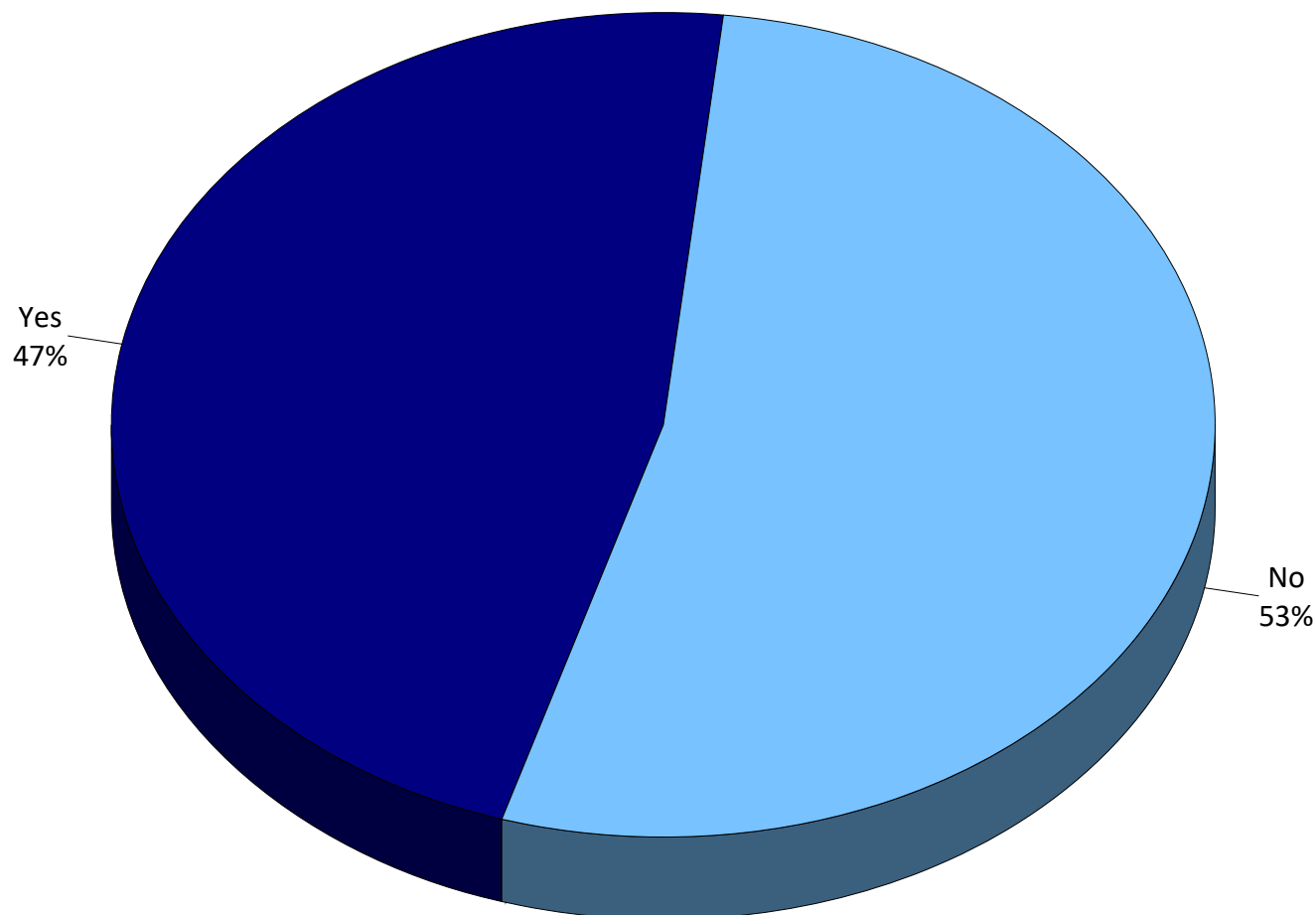
Q4. Have you visited any of the following Comal County-owned or operated parks in the past 12 months?

by percentage of respondents



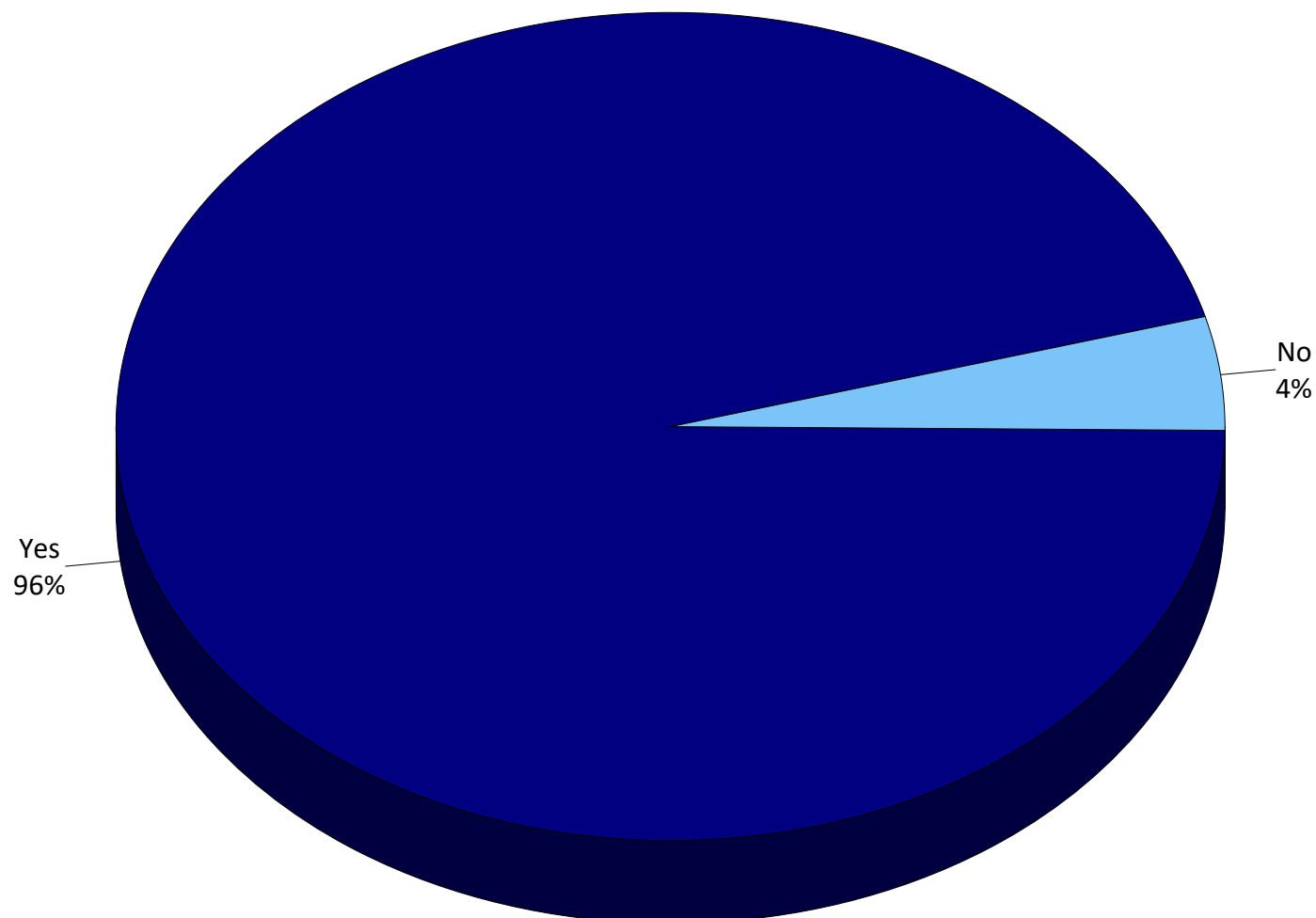
Q5. Do you live in a neighborhood that has its own open space, parks and/or trails?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



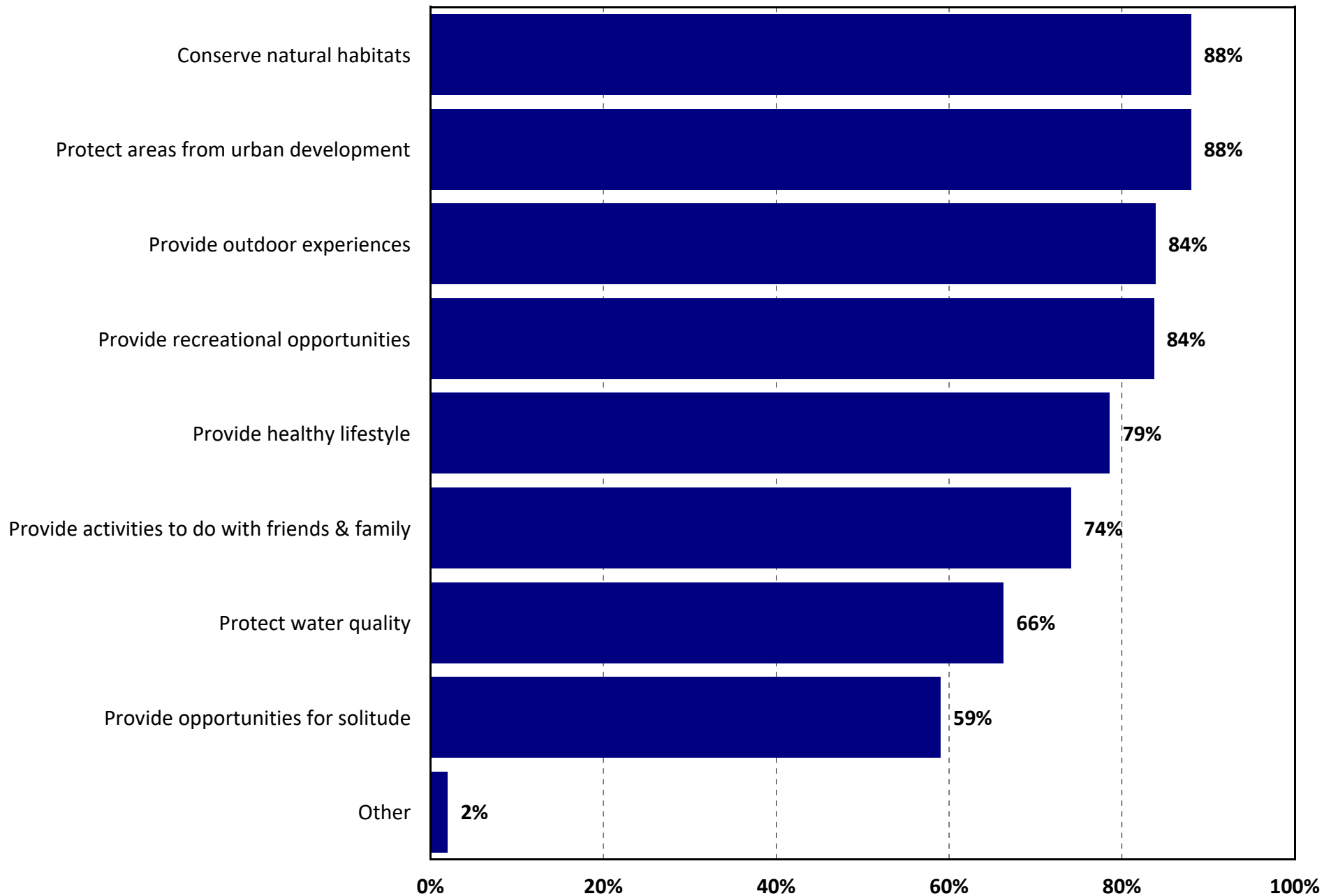
Q6. Do you think open space, parks, and trails are important for Comal County?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



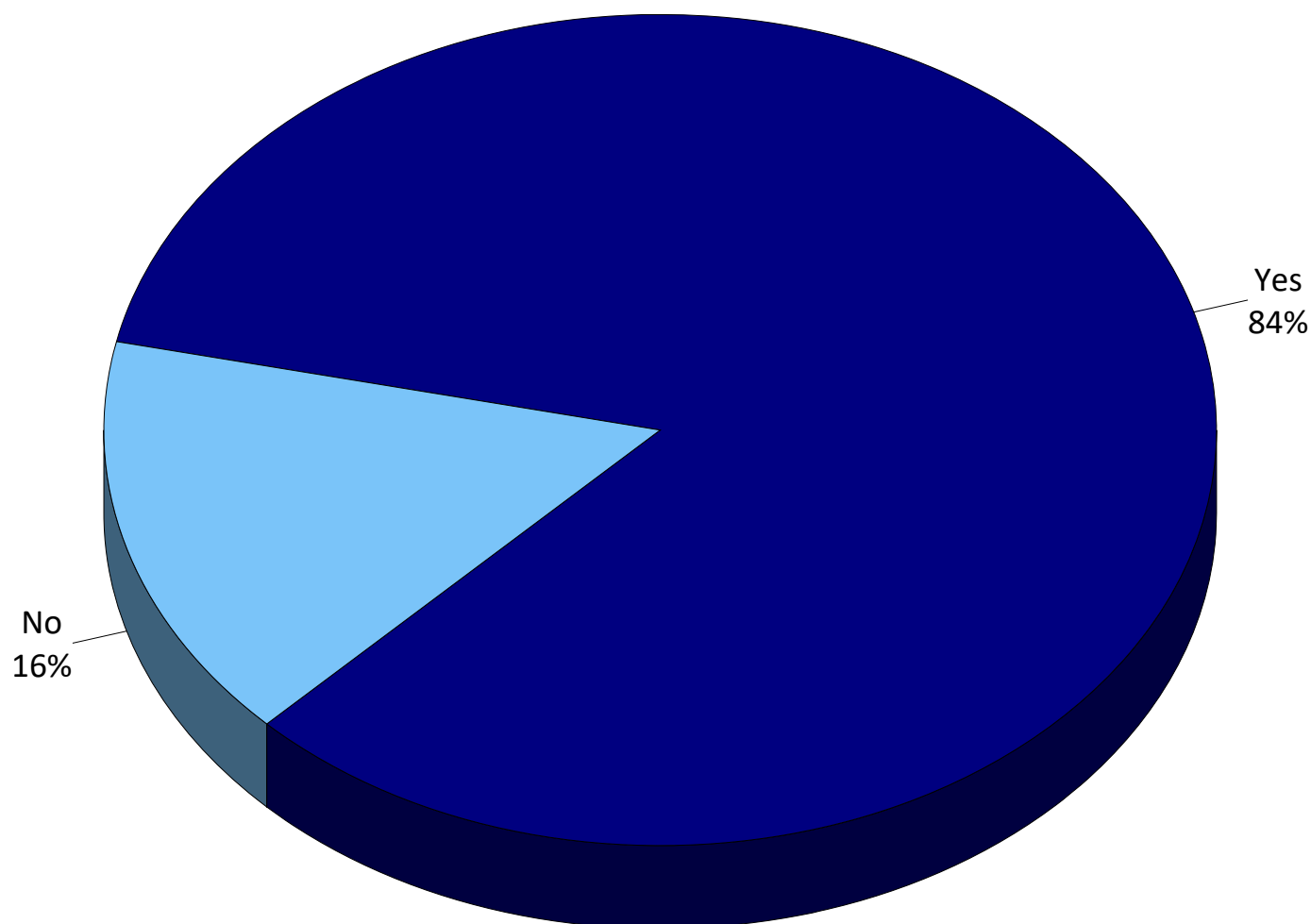
Q6a. Why do you think open space, parks, and trails are important?

by percentage of respondents



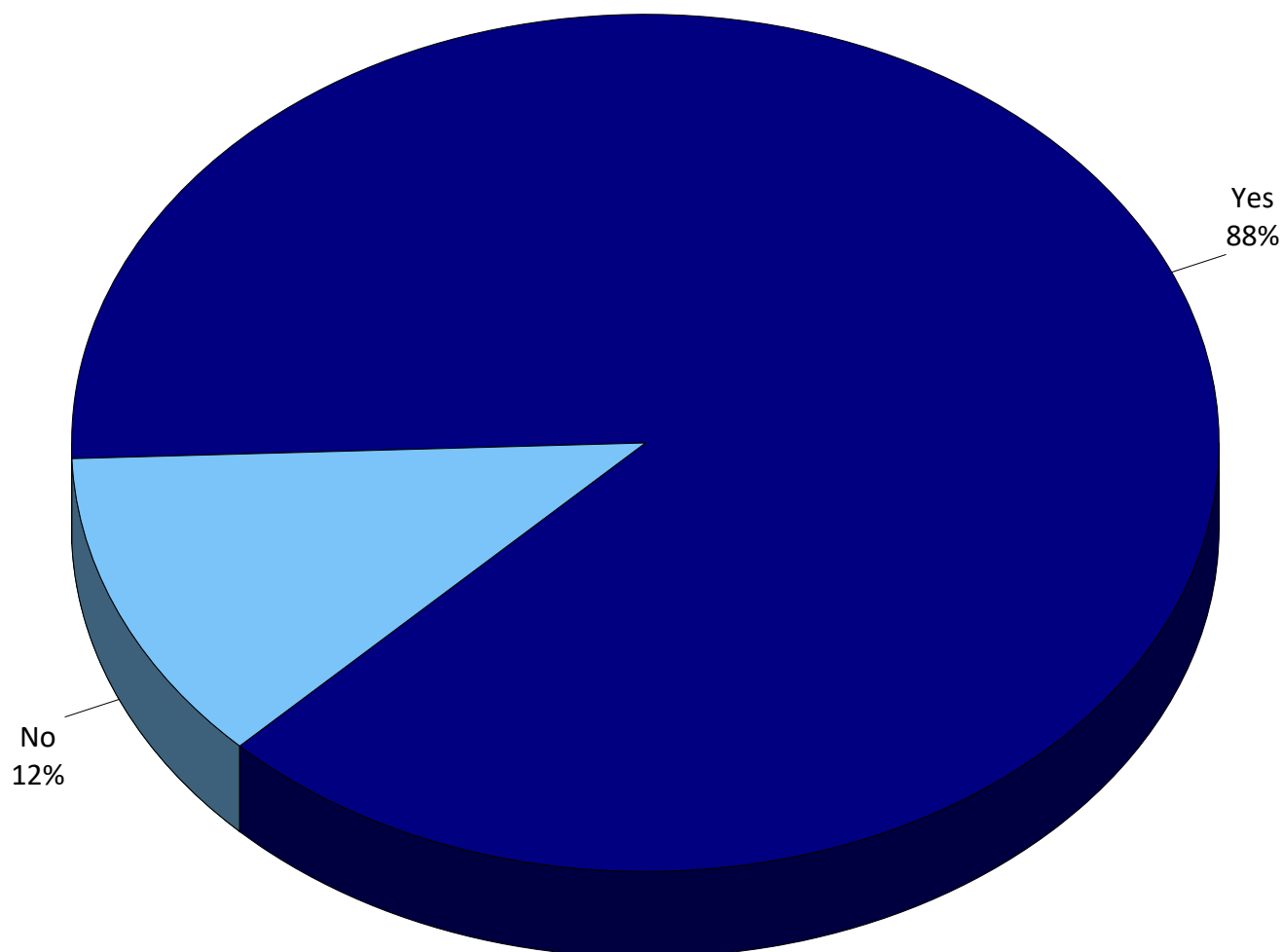
Q7. When it comes to recreational resources in Comal County, is there a need for more PARKS for public use?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



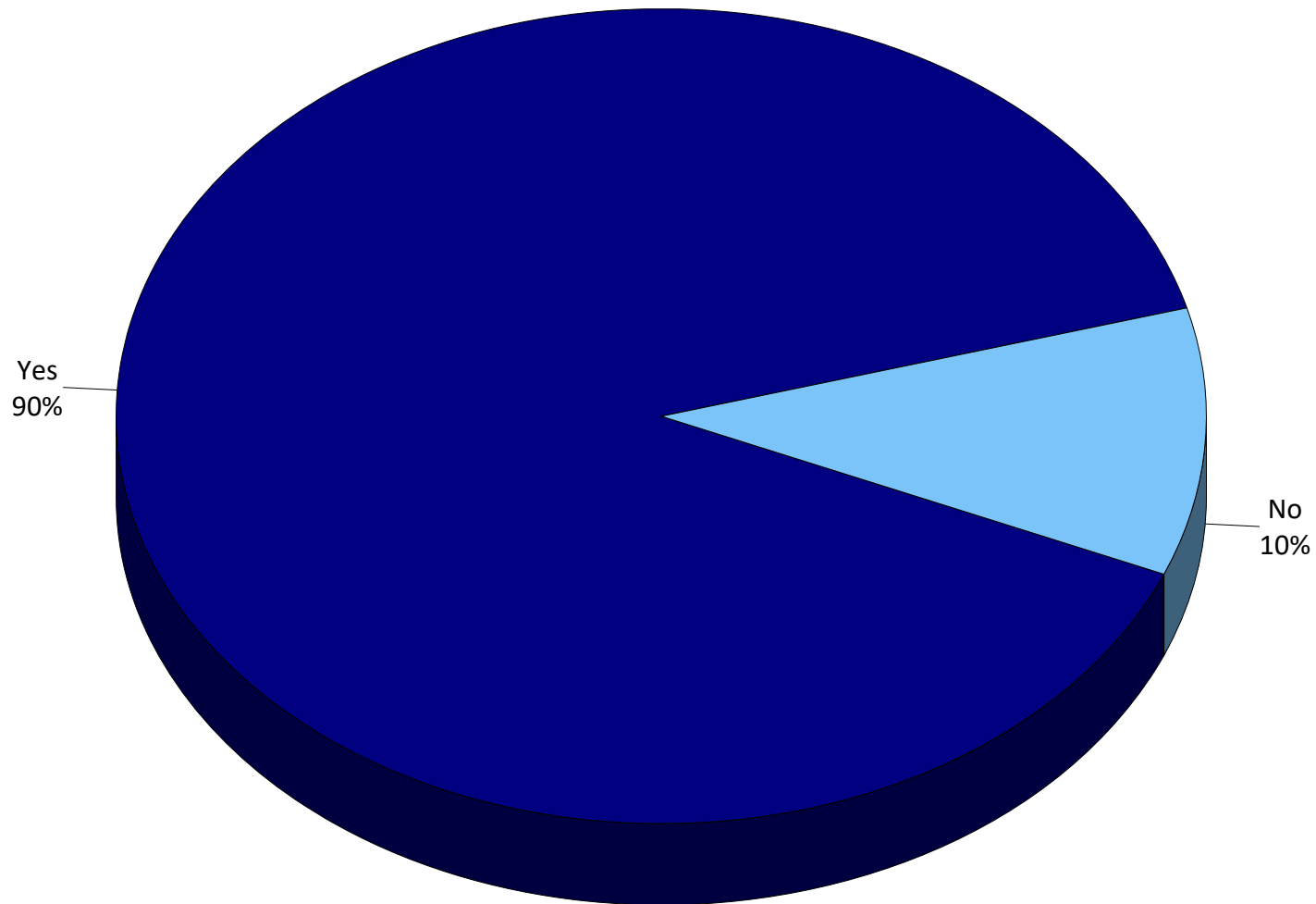
Q8. When it comes to recreational resources in Comal County, is there a need for more OPEN SPACE for public use?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



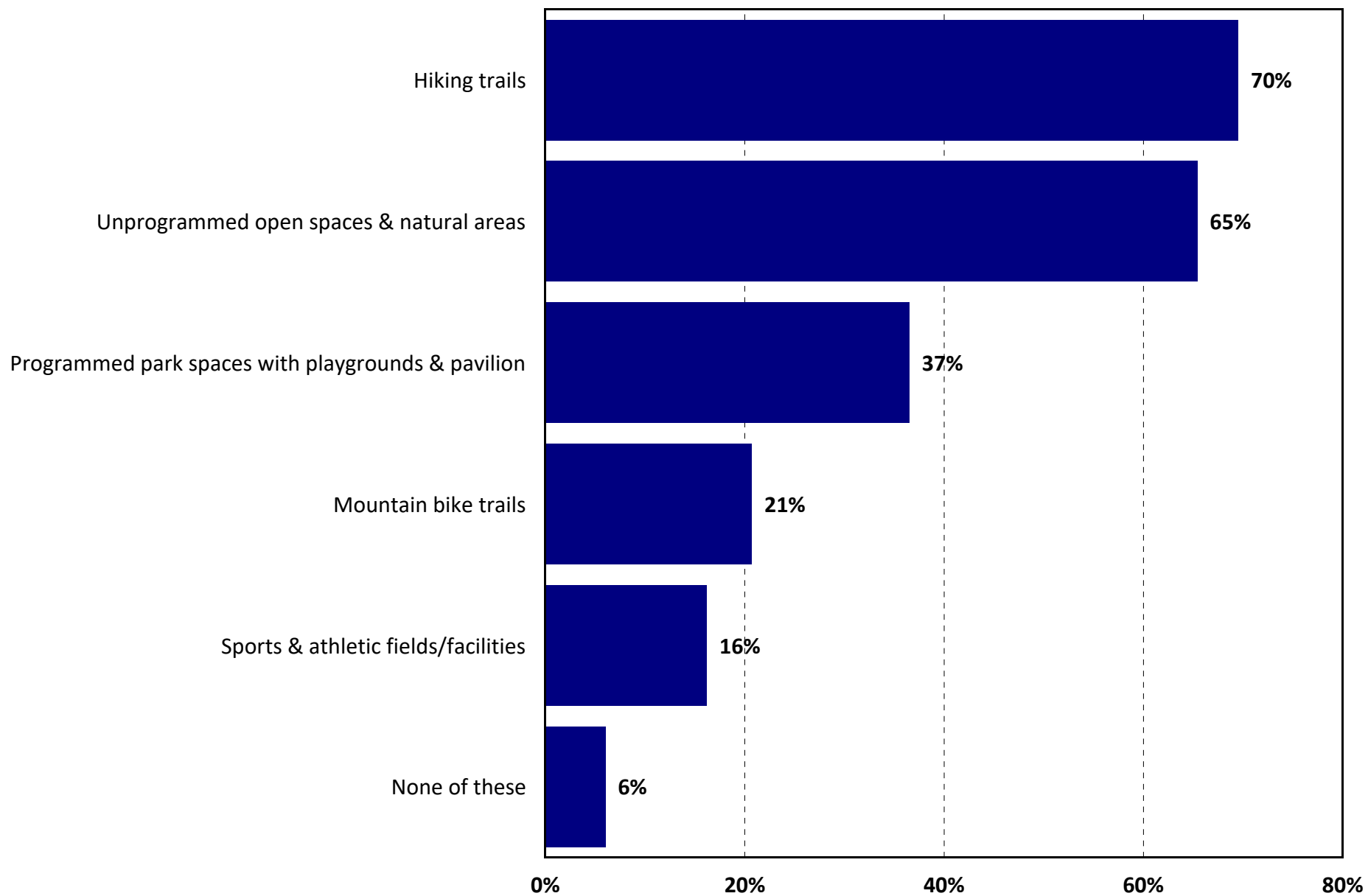
Q9. When it comes to natural resources in Comal County, is there a need for more NATURAL AREAS for public benefit?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



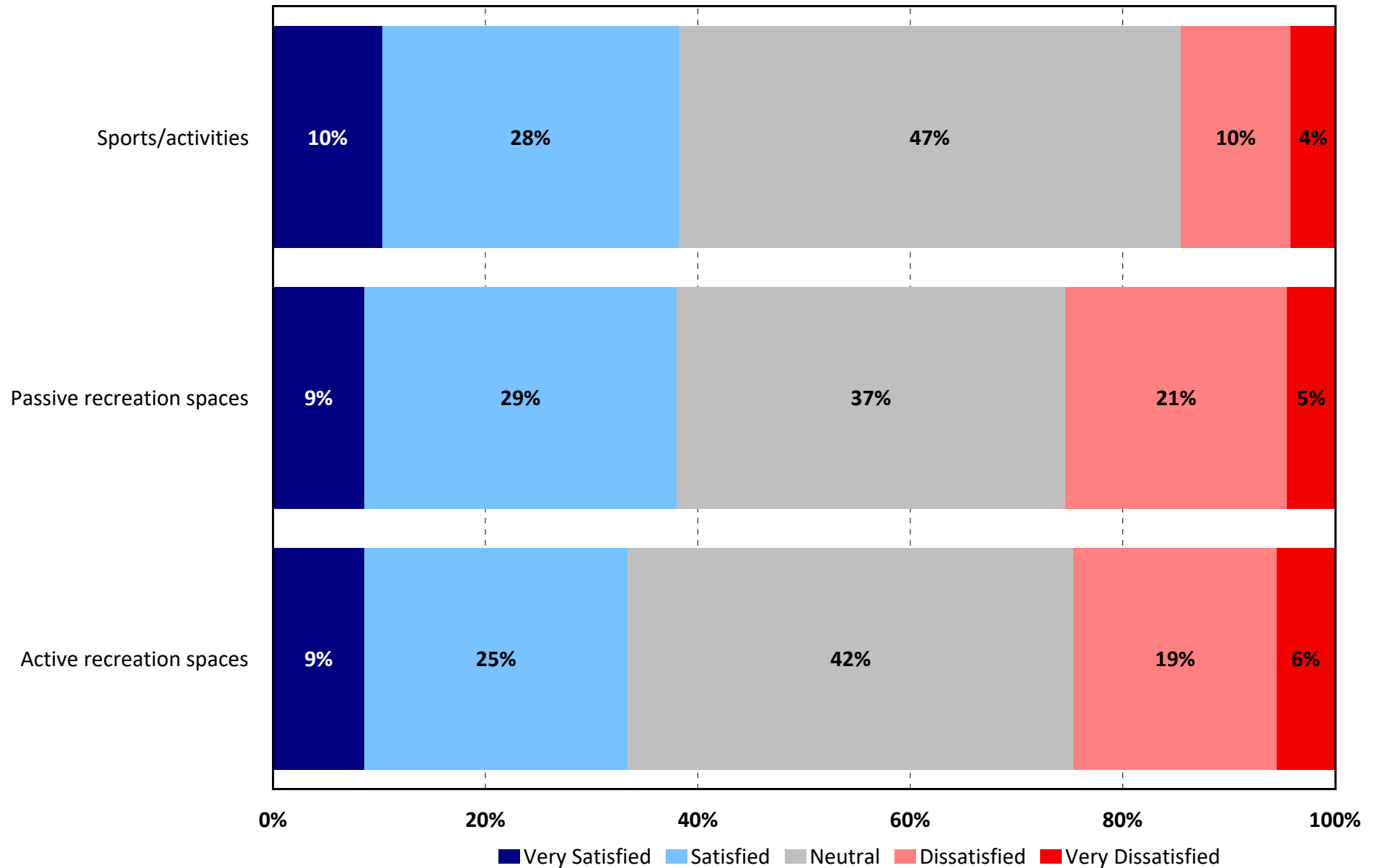
Q10. What would you like to see more of?

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



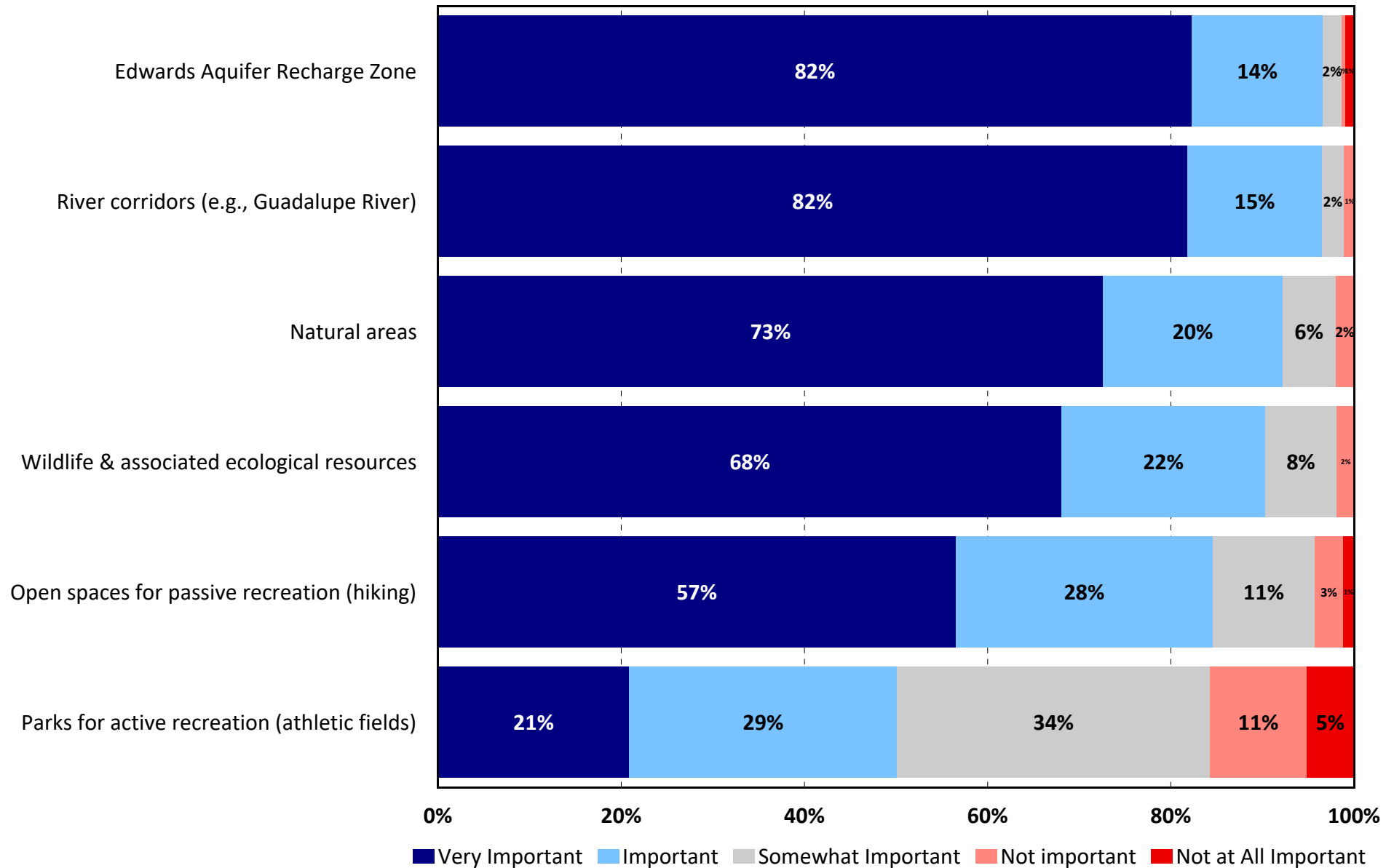
Q11. How satisfied are you with the following types of existing recreational facilities in Comal County?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know")



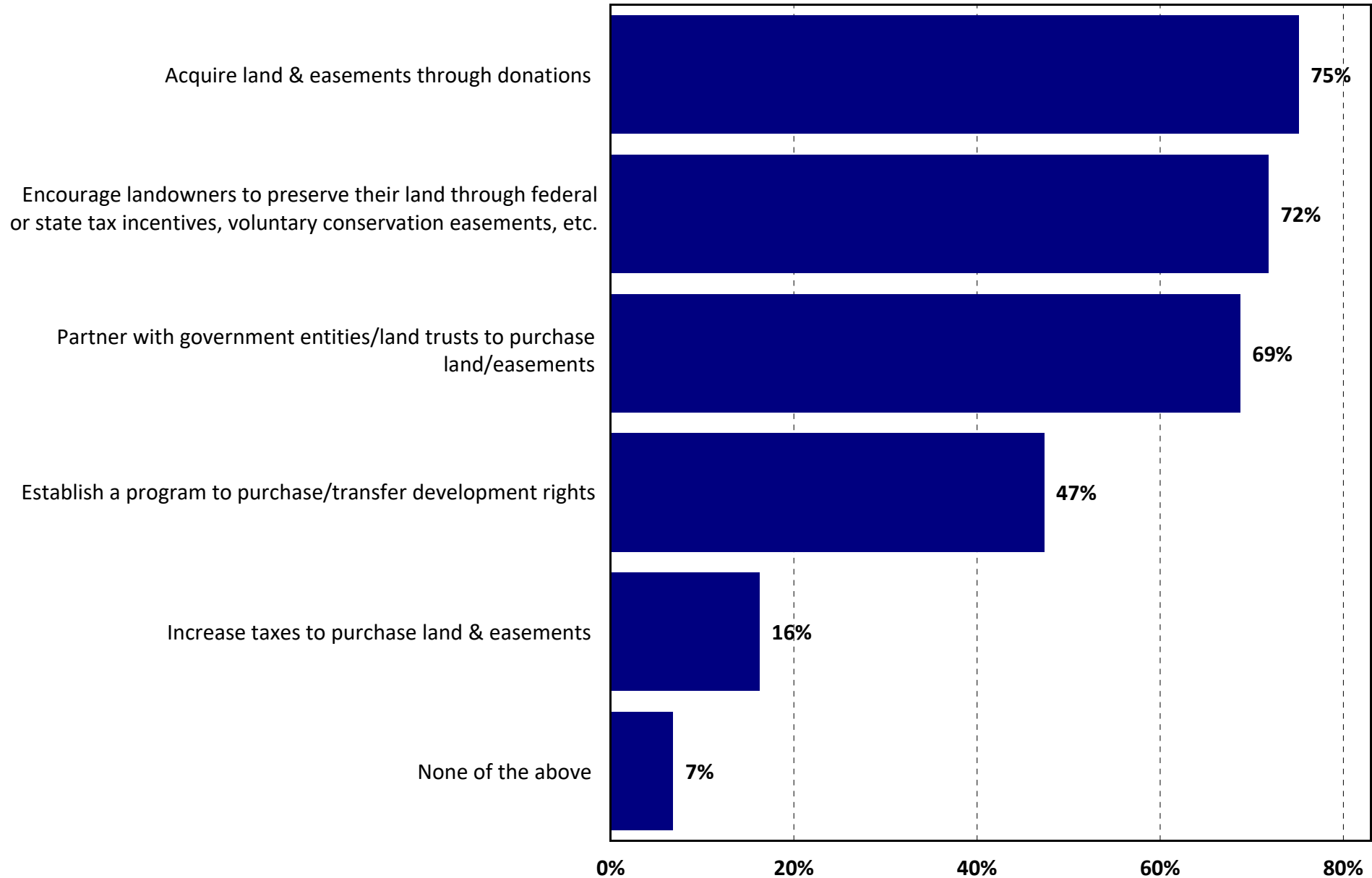
Q12. How important is it to you for Comal County to protect (conserve), expand, or improve the following?

by percentage of respondents (excluding “don’t know”)



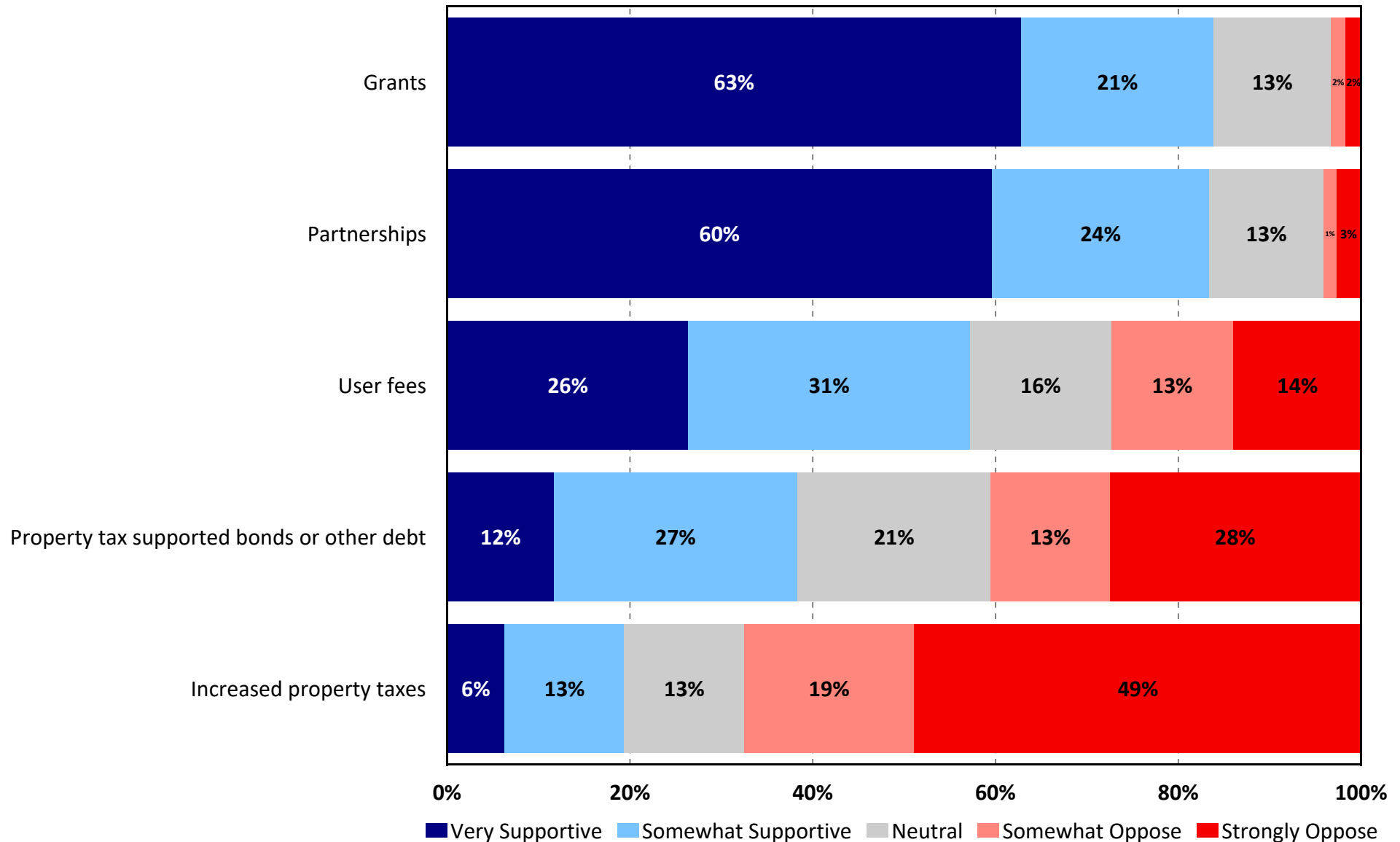
Q13. In order to protect (conserve), expand or improve any items listed above in Question 12, do you think Comal County should do any of the following?

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



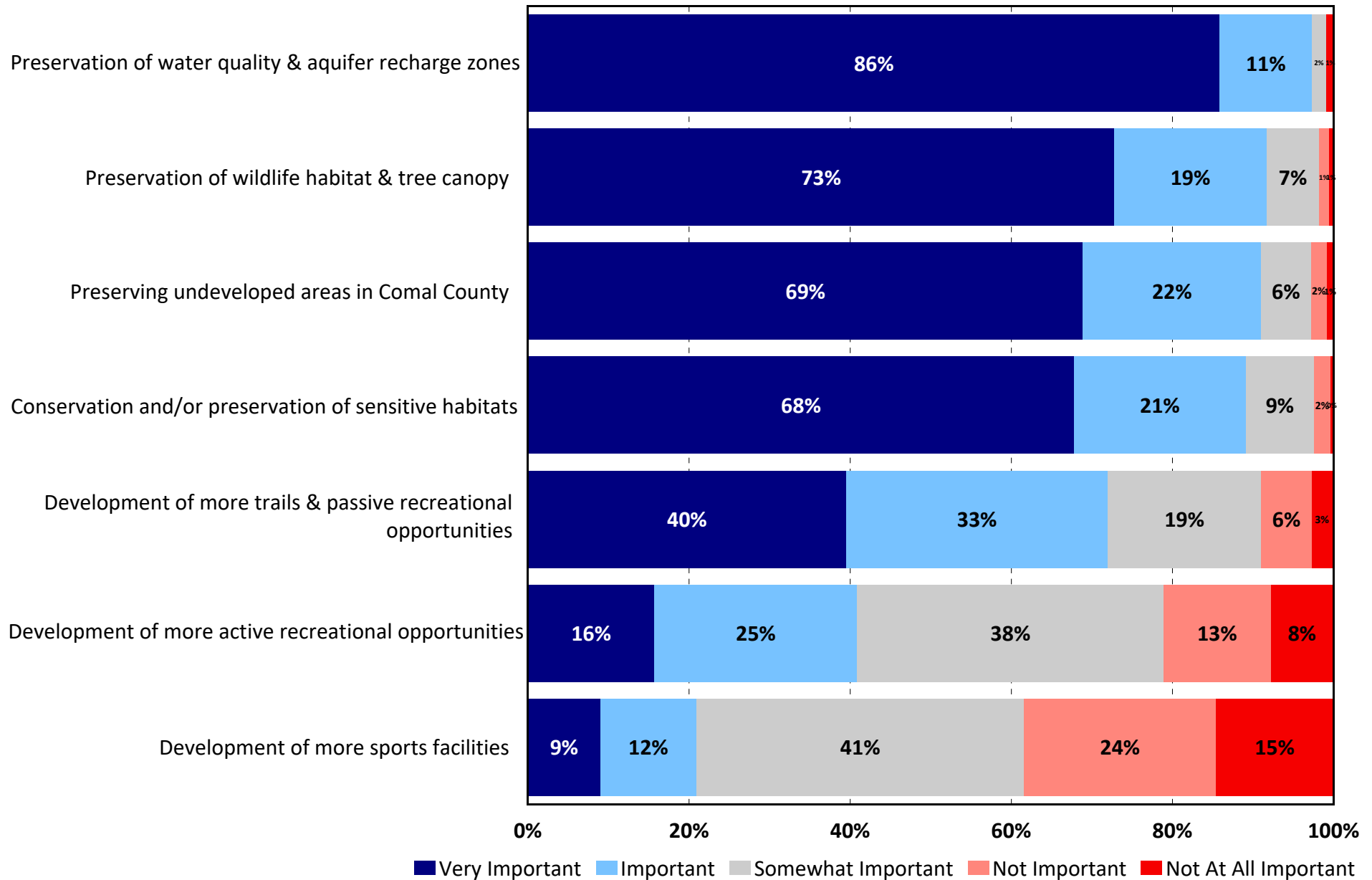
Q14. Please indicate your level of support for the following funding mechanisms which could be used to acquire lands for parks, open spaces and/or natural areas, and support management and ongoing maintenance of the County's system.

by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know")



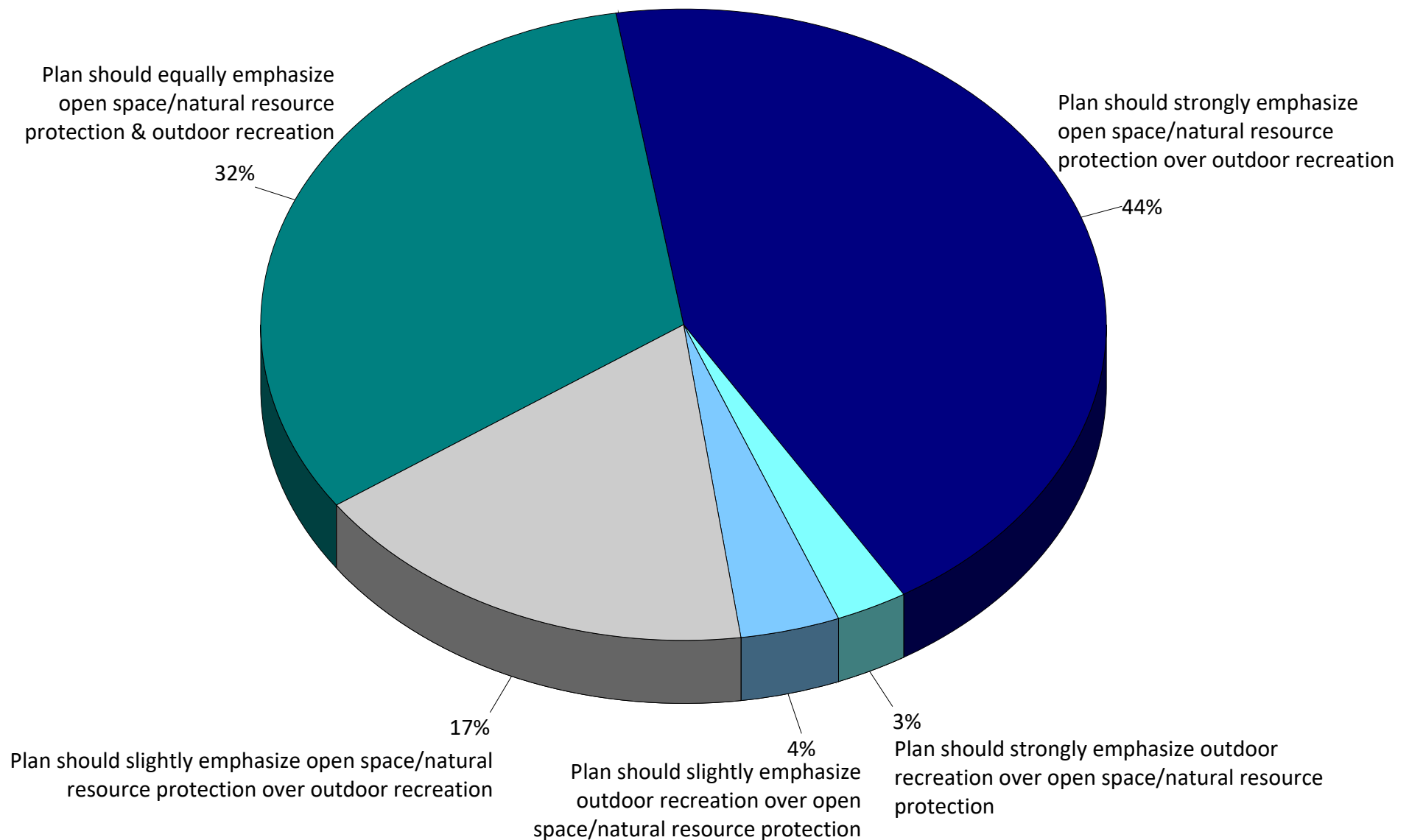
Q15. How important is it for Comal County's Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan to emphasize the following?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know")



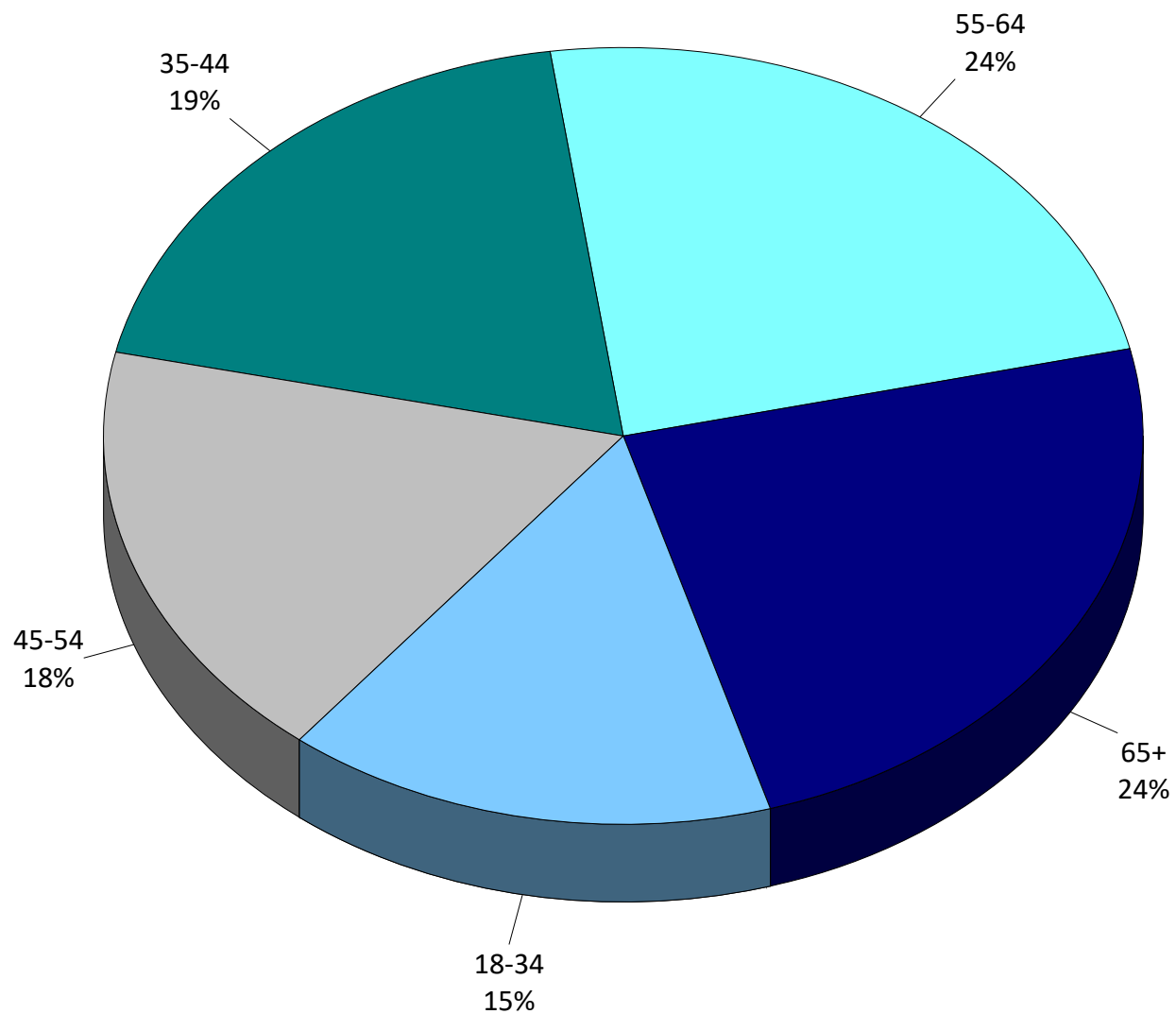
Q16. Would you prefer that the Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan focus more on open space and natural resource protection, more on providing outdoor recreation opportunities, or a balance of the two?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



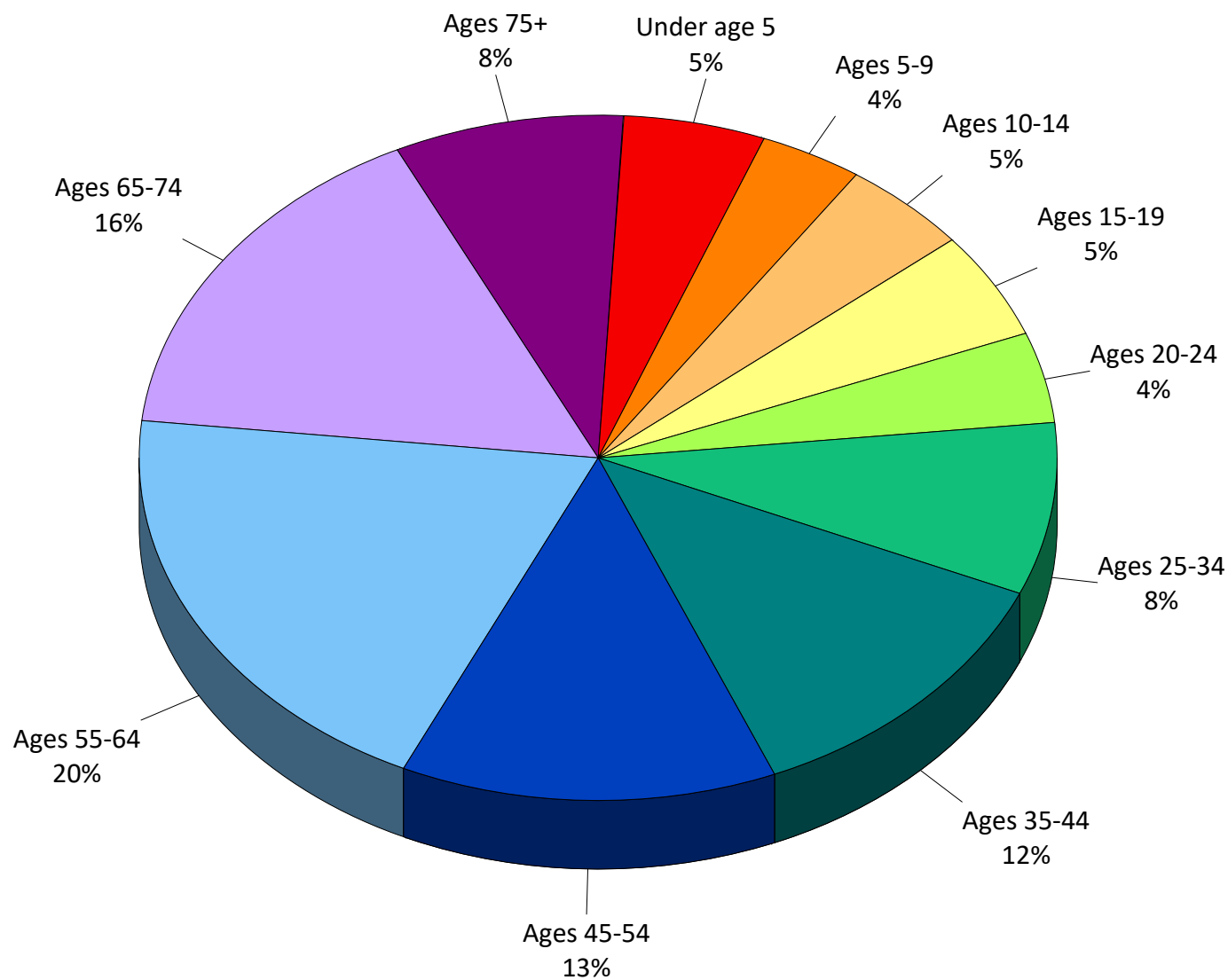
Q17. What is your age?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



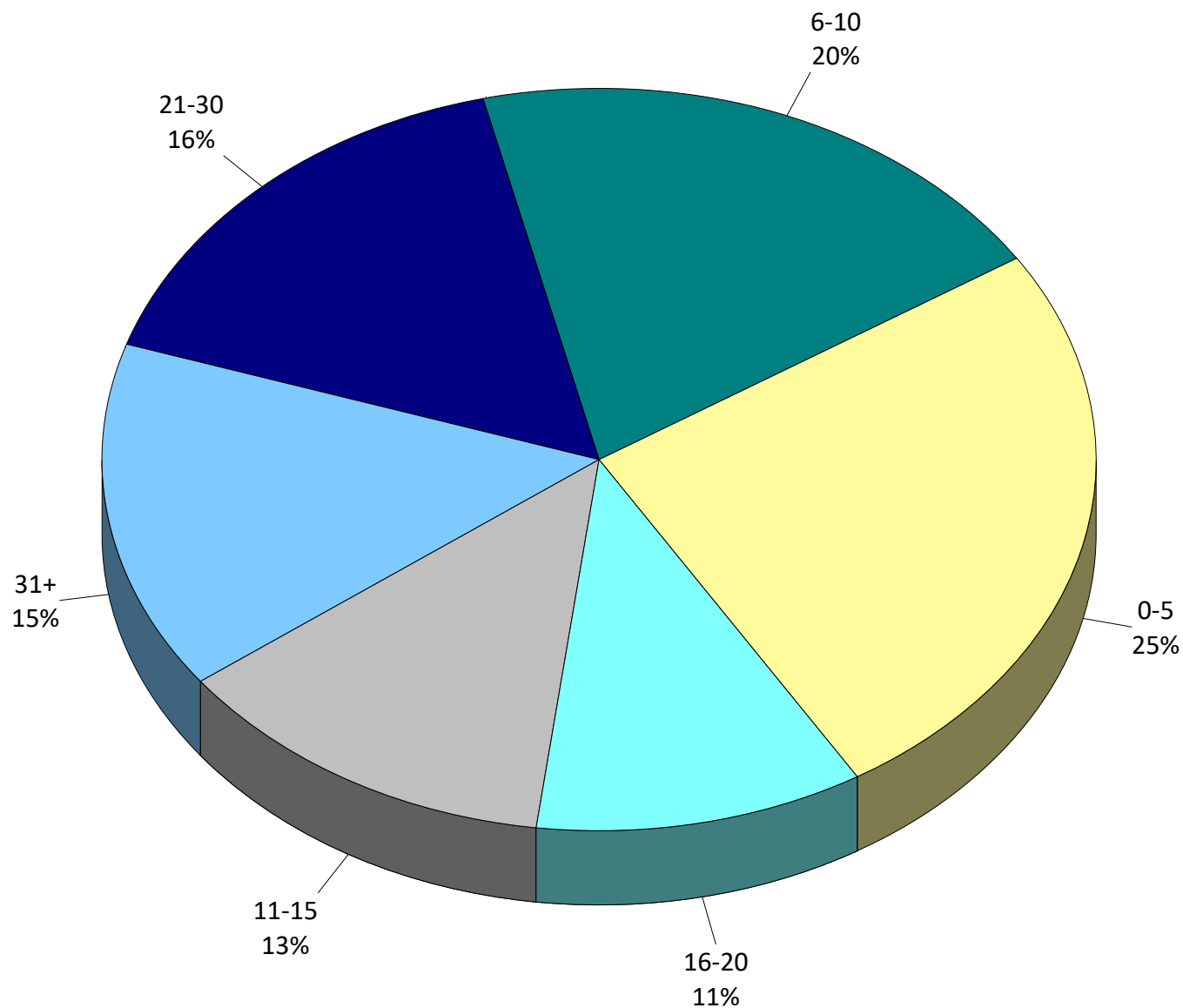
Q18. Including yourself, how many people in your household are in the following age groups?

by percentage of persons in household



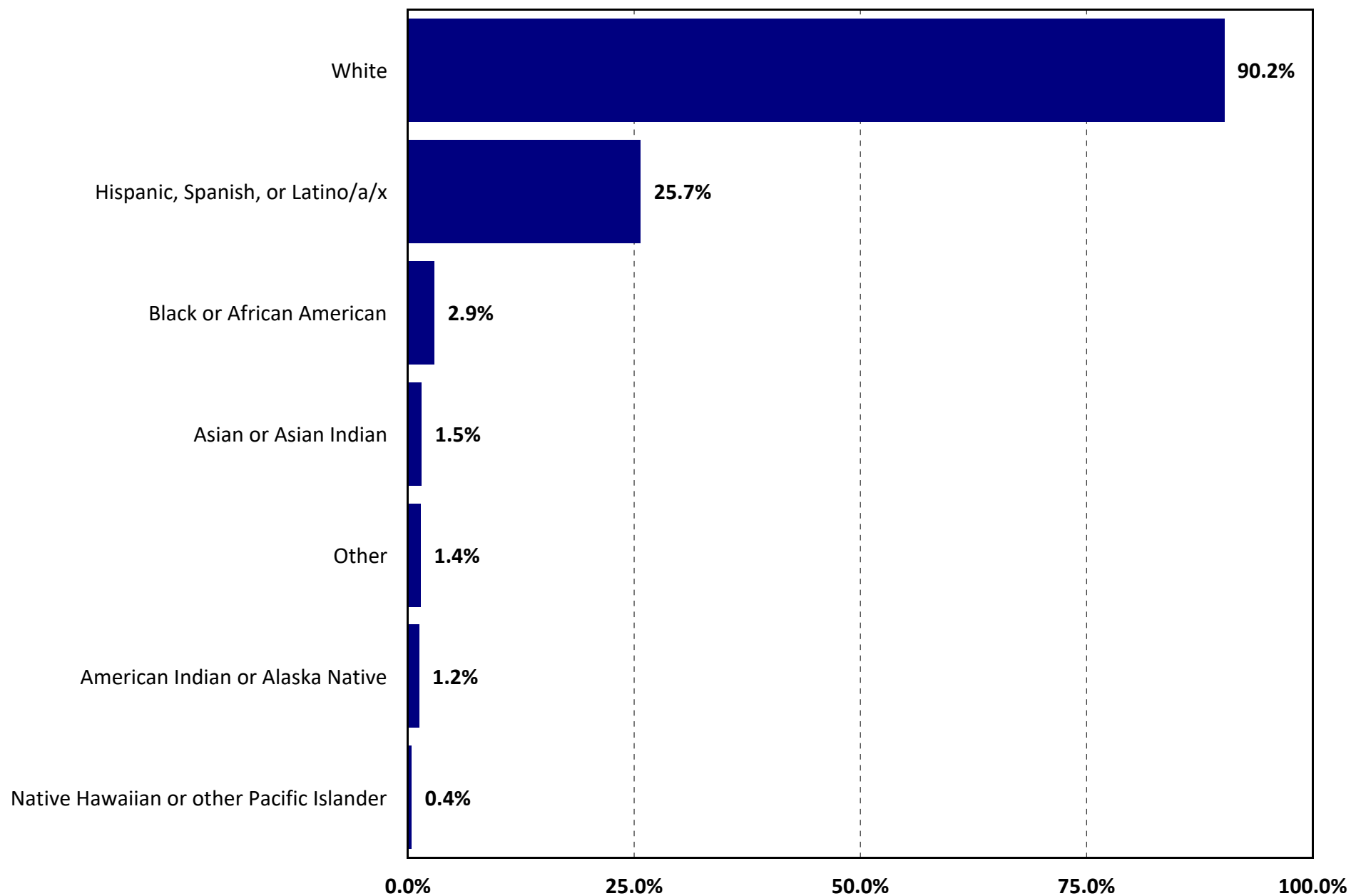
Q19. Approximately how many years have you lived in Comal County?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



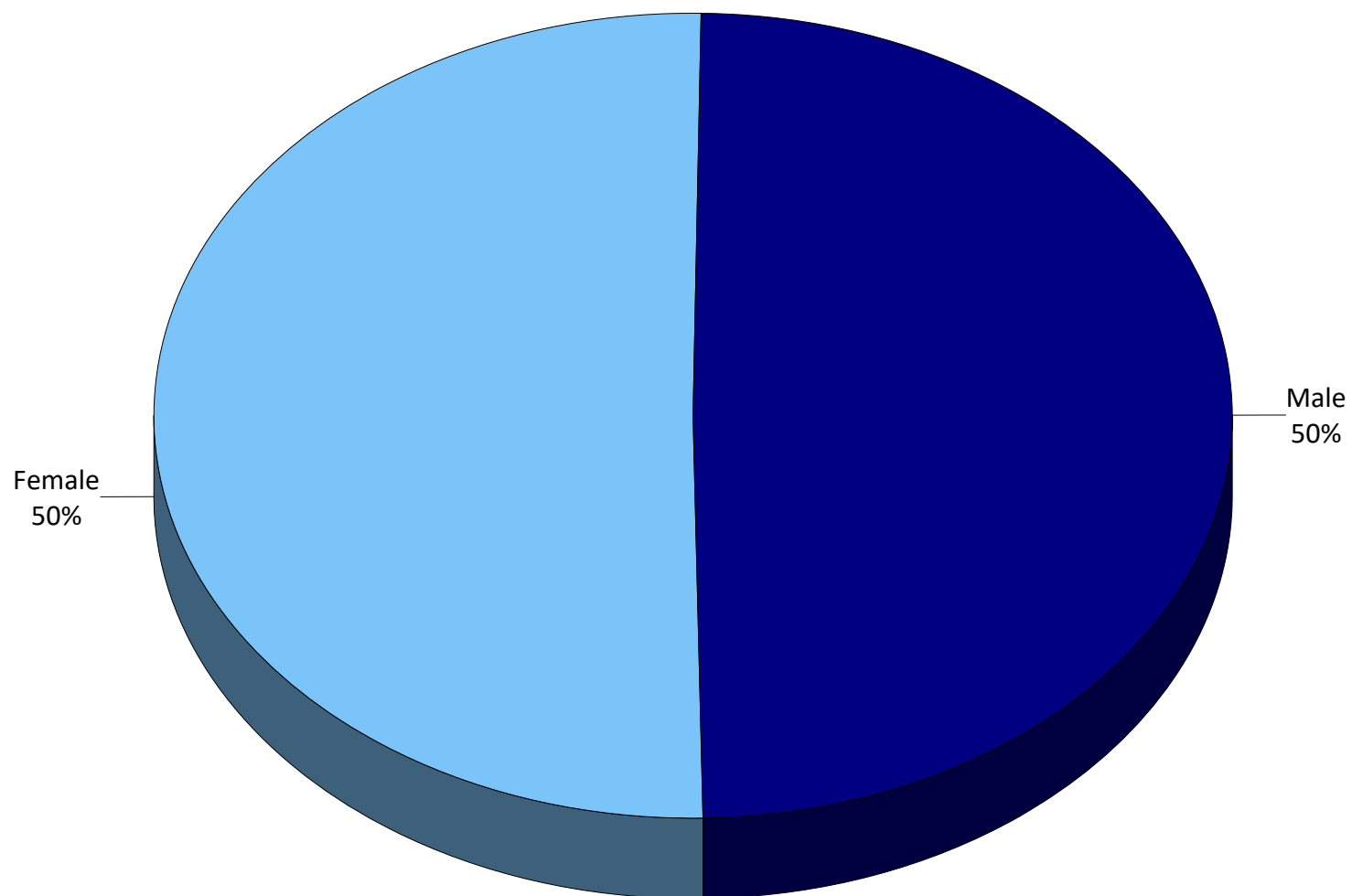
Q20. Which of the following BEST describes your race?

by percentage of respondents



Q21. Your gender:

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")





Tabular Data

Q1. How often does your household visit any open spaces, parks and/or trails in Comal County (including Canyon Lake and Guadalupe River State Park)?

Q1. How often does your household visit any open spaces, parks and/or trails in Comal County	Number	Percent
Multiple times per week	94	18.1 %
Multiple times per month	141	27.2 %
Multiple times per year	142	27.4 %
Once per week	21	4.1 %
Once per month	31	6.0 %
Once per year	53	10.2 %
We don't visit open spaces, parks or trails in Comal County	31	6.0 %
Not provided	5	1.0 %
Total	518	100.0 %

WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED

Q1. How often does your household visit any open spaces, parks and/or trails in Comal County (including Canyon Lake and Guadalupe River State Park)? (without "not provided")

Q1. How often does your household visit any open spaces, parks and/or trails in Comal County	Number	Percent
Multiple times per week	94	18.3 %
Multiple times per month	141	27.5 %
Multiple times per year	142	27.7 %
Once per week	21	4.1 %
Once per month	31	6.0 %
Once per year	53	10.3 %
We don't visit open spaces, parks or trails in Comal County	31	6.0 %
Total	513	100.0 %

Q2. If you visit any open spaces, parks and/or trails in Comal County, where are those located?

Q2. Where are open spaces, parks and/or trails located	Number	Percent
County Parks (Kleck Park, Curry Nature Center, Jumbo Evans Sports Park, or Hidden Valley Sports Park)	121	25.1 %
USACE Property (Canyon Lake)	231	47.9 %
City Parks (New Braunfels, Bulverde, etc.)	327	67.8 %
State Park(s) (Guadalupe River State Park, Honey Creek State Natural Area)	237	49.2 %
Private/Semi-Private HOA/POA Parks (Neighborhood parks)	178	36.9 %
None of these	12	2.5 %
Total	1106	

Q3. What prevents you from visiting open space, parks and/or trails in Comal County more often?

Q3. What prevents you from visiting open space, parks and/or trails in Comal County more often	Number	Percent
I have no time	104	20.1 %
Open space, parks and/or trails are too far from my house	69	13.3 %
Not enough parking	125	24.1 %
Open space and/or trails are too crowded	110	21.2 %
I don't know how to access open space and/or trails	37	7.1 %
Trails/recreational opportunities are too challenging for me	33	6.4 %
Open space and/or trails do not accommodate my outdoor activities	18	3.5 %
It is difficult to access open space and/or trails	28	5.4 %
I have no interest in types of open spaces, parks and/or trails in Comal County	10	1.9 %
I do not wish to visit any of these places	14	2.7 %
Other	54	10.4 %
None of the above	104	20.1 %
Total	706	

Q4. Have you visited any of the following Comal County-owned or operated parks in the past 12 months?

Q4. What Comal County-owned or operated parks have you visited in past 12 months	Number	Percent
Kleck Park	45	8.7 %
Curry Nature Park	47	9.1 %
Jumbo Evans Sports Park	62	12.0 %
Hidden Valley Sports Park	45	8.7 %
None of these	376	72.6 %
Total	575	

Q5. Do you live in a neighborhood that has its own open space, parks and/or trails?

Q5. Do you live in a neighborhood that has its own open space, parks and/or trails	Number	Percent
Yes	239	46.1 %
No	269	51.9 %
Not provided	10	1.9 %
Total	518	100.0 %

WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED

Q5. Do you live in a neighborhood that has its own open space, parks and/or trails? (without "not provided")

Q5. Do you live in a neighborhood that has its own open space, parks and/or trails	Number	Percent
Yes	239	47.0 %
No	269	53.0 %
Total	508	100.0 %

Q6. Do you think open space, parks, and trails are important for Comal County?

Q6. Are open space, parks, & trails important for Comal County	Number	Percent
Yes	490	94.6 %
No	22	4.2 %
Not provided	6	1.2 %
Total	518	100.0 %

WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED

Q6. Do you think open space, parks, and trails are important for Comal County? (without "not provided")

Q6. Are open space, parks, & trails important for Comal County	Number	Percent
Yes	490	95.7 %
No	22	4.3 %
Total	512	100.0 %

Q6a. Why do you think open space, parks, and trails are important?

Q6a. Why are they important	Number	Percent
Provide recreational opportunities	410	83.7 %
Conserve natural habitats (e.g., wildlife habitats)	431	88.0 %
Protect areas from urban development	431	88.0 %
Provide healthy lifestyle	385	78.6 %
Provide outdoor experiences	411	83.9 %
Provide opportunities for solitude	289	59.0 %
Provide activities to do with friends & family	363	74.1 %
Protect water quality	325	66.3 %
Other	10	2.0 %
Total	3055	

Q7. When it comes to recreational resources in Comal County, is there a need for more PARKS for public use?

Q7. Is there a need for more parks for public use	Number	Percent
Yes	421	81.3 %
No	79	15.3 %
Not provided	18	3.5 %
Total	518	100.0 %

WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED

Q7. When it comes to recreational resources in Comal County, is there a need for more PARKS for public use? (without "not provided")

Q7. Is there a need for more parks for public use	Number	Percent
Yes	421	84.2 %
No	79	15.8 %
Total	500	100.0 %

Q8. When it comes to recreational resources in Comal County, is there a need for more OPEN SPACE for public use?

Q8. Is there a need for more open space for public use	Number	Percent
Yes	435	84.0 %
No	59	11.4 %
Not provided	24	4.6 %
Total	518	100.0 %

WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED

Q8. When it comes to recreational resources in Comal County, is there a need for more OPEN SPACE for public use? (without "not provided")

Q8. Is there a need for more open space for public use	Number	Percent
Yes	435	88.1 %
No	59	11.9 %
Total	494	100.0 %

Q9. When it comes to natural resources in Comal County, is there a need for more NATURAL AREAS for public benefit?

Q9. Is there a need for more natural areas for public benefit	Number	Percent
Yes	449	86.7 %
No	52	10.0 %
Not provided	17	3.3 %
Total	518	100.0 %

WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED

Q9. When it comes to natural resources in Comal County, is there a need for more NATURAL AREAS for public benefit? (without "not provided")

Q9. Is there a need for more natural areas for public benefit	Number	Percent
Yes	449	89.6 %
No	52	10.4 %
Total	501	100.0 %

Q10. What would you like to see more of?

Q10. What would you like to see more of following	Number	Percent
Unprogrammed open spaces & natural areas	339	65.4 %
Hiking trails	360	69.5 %
Mountain bike trails	107	20.7 %
Programmed park spaces with playgrounds & pavilions	189	36.5 %
Sports & athletic fields/facilities	84	16.2 %
None of these	31	6.0 %
Total	1110	

Q11. How satisfied are you with the following types of existing recreational facilities in Comal County?

(N=518)

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisf- ied	Very dissatisfi- ed	Don't know
Q11-1. Passive recreation spaces (biking, walking, fishing, picnicking, etc.)	8.1%	27.8%	34.6%	19.7%	4.2%	5.6%
Q11-2. Active recreation spaces (playgrounds, splashpads, dog parks, etc.)	7.5%	21.8%	36.9%	16.8%	4.8%	12.2%
Q11-3. Sports/activities (baseball, football, soccer, tennis, etc.)	8.3%	22.6%	38.2%	8.3%	3.5%	19.1%

WITHOUT DON'T KNOW

**Q11. How satisfied are you with the following types of existing recreational facilities in Comal County?
(without "don't know")**

(N=518)

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Q11-1. Passive recreation spaces (biking, walking, fishing, picnicking, etc.)	8.6%	29.4%	36.6%	20.9%	4.5%
Q11-2. Active recreation spaces (playgrounds, splashpads, dog parks, etc.)	8.6%	24.8%	42.0%	19.1%	5.5%
Q11-3. Sports/activities (baseball, football, soccer, tennis, etc.)	10.3%	27.9%	47.3%	10.3%	4.3%

Q12. How important is it to you for Comal County to protect (conserve), expand, or improve the following?

(N=518)

	Very important	Important	Somew- hat important	Not important	Not at all important	Don't know
Q12-1. Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone	80.9%	14.1%	1.9%	0.4%	1.0%	1.7%
Q12-2. River corridors (e.g., Guadalupe River)	80.7%	14.5%	2.1%	1.0%	0.4%	1.4%
Q12-3. Open spaces for passive recreation (hiking)	56.0%	27.8%	11.0%	3.1%	1.2%	1.0%
Q12-4. Parks for active recreation (athletic fields)	20.1%	28.0%	32.8%	10.0%	5.0%	4.1%
Q12-5. Wildlife & associated ecological resources	67.6%	21.8%	7.7%	1.7%	0.4%	0.8%
Q12-6. Natural areas	72.2%	19.5%	5.8%	1.5%	0.4%	0.6%

WITHOUT DON'T KNOW

**Q12. How important is it to you for Comal County to protect (conserve), expand, or improve the following?
(without "don't know")**

(N=518)

	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not important	Not at all important
Q12-1. Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone	82.3%	14.3%	2.0%	0.4%	1.0%
Q12-2. River corridors (e.g., Guadalupe River)	81.8%	14.7%	2.2%	1.0%	0.4%
Q12-3. Open spaces for passive recreation (hiking)	56.5%	28.1%	11.1%	3.1%	1.2%
Q12-4. Parks for active recreation (athletic fields)	20.9%	29.2%	34.2%	10.5%	5.2%
Q12-5. Wildlife & associated ecological resources	68.1%	22.0%	7.8%	1.8%	0.4%
Q12-6. Natural areas	72.6%	19.6%	5.8%	1.6%	0.4%

Q13. In order to protect (conserve), expand or improve any items listed above in Question 12, do you think Comal County should do any of the following?

<u>Q13. What following should Comal County do</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Acquire land & easements through donations	389	75.1 %
Partner with government entities/land trusts to purchase land/easements	356	68.7 %
Establish a program to purchase/transfer development rights	245	47.3 %
Encourage landowners to preserve their land through federal or state tax incentives, voluntary conservation easements, etc.	372	71.8 %
Increase taxes to purchase land & easements	84	16.2 %
None of the above	35	6.8 %
Total	1481	

Q14. Understanding that most would increase what you currently pay in property taxes to Comal County, please indicate your level of support for the following funding mechanisms which could be used to acquire lands for parks, open spaces and/or natural areas, and support management and ongoing maintenance of the County's system.

(N=518)

	Very supporti- ve	Somew- hat supporti- ve	Neutral	Somew- hat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Q14-1. User fees	25.3%	29.5%	14.9%	12.7%	13.5%	4.1%
Q14-2. Property tax supported bonds or other debt	10.8%	24.5%	19.5%	12.0%	25.3%	7.9%
Q14-3. Increased property taxes	6.0%	12.4%	12.4%	17.6%	46.3%	5.4%
Q14-4. Grants	59.8%	20.1%	12.2%	1.5%	1.7%	4.6%
Q14-5. Partnerships	56.2%	22.4%	11.8%	1.4%	2.5%	5.8%

WITHOUT DON'T KNOW

Q14. Understanding that most would increase what you currently pay in property taxes to Comal County, please indicate your level of support for the following funding mechanisms which could be used to acquire lands for parks, open spaces and/or natural areas, and support management and ongoing maintenance of the County's system. (without "don't know")

(N=518)

	Very supportive	Somewhat supportive	Neutral	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Q14-1. User fees	26.4%	30.8%	15.5%	13.3%	14.1%
Q14-2. Property tax supported bonds or other debt	11.7%	26.6%	21.2%	13.0%	27.5%
Q14-3. Increased property taxes	6.3%	13.1%	13.1%	18.6%	49.0%
Q14-4. Grants	62.8%	21.1%	12.8%	1.6%	1.8%
Q14-5. Partnerships	59.6%	23.8%	12.5%	1.4%	2.7%

Q15. How important is it for Comal County's Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan to emphasize the following?

(N=518)

	Very important	Important	Somew- hat important	Not important	Not at all important	Don't know
Q15-1. Conservation and/or preservation of sensitive habitats	66.2%	20.8%	8.3%	1.9%	0.4%	2.3%
Q15-2. Preserving undeveloped areas in Comal County	66.8%	21.4%	6.0%	1.9%	0.8%	3.1%
Q15-3. Preservation of wildlife habitat & tree canopy	71.4%	18.5%	6.4%	1.2%	0.6%	1.9%
Q15-4. Preservation of water quality & aquifer recharge zones	84.7%	11.2%	1.7%	0.4%	0.6%	1.4%
Q15-5. Development of more trails & passive recreational opportunities	38.4%	31.7%	18.5%	6.2%	2.5%	2.7%
Q15-6. Development of more active recreational opportunities (i.e., playgrounds, splash pads & dog parks)	15.1%	24.1%	36.5%	12.7%	7.5%	4.1%
Q15-7. Development of more sports facilities	8.5%	11.2%	38.2%	22.4%	13.7%	6.0%

WITHOUT DON'T KNOW

Q15. How important is it for Comal County's Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan to emphasize the following? (without "don't know")

(N=518)

	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not important	Not at all important
Q15-1. Conservation and/or preservation of sensitive habitats	67.8%	21.3%	8.5%	2.0%	0.4%
Q15-2. Preserving undeveloped areas in Comal County	68.9%	22.1%	6.2%	2.0%	0.8%
Q15-3. Preservation of wildlife habitat & tree canopy	72.8%	18.9%	6.5%	1.2%	0.6%
Q15-4. Preservation of water quality & aquifer recharge zones	85.9%	11.4%	1.8%	0.4%	0.6%
Q15-5. Development of more trails & passive recreational opportunities	39.5%	32.5%	19.0%	6.3%	2.6%
Q15-6. Development of more active recreational opportunities (i.e., playgrounds, splash pads & dog parks)	15.7%	25.2%	38.0%	13.3%	7.8%
Q15-7. Development of more sports facilities	9.0%	11.9%	40.7%	23.8%	14.6%

Q16. Would you prefer that the Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan focus more on open space and natural resource protection, more on providing outdoor recreation opportunities (including sports and athletics), or a balance of the two?

Q16. Would you prefer that Parks, Open Space, & Natural Areas Master Plan focus more on open space & natural resource protection, more on providing outdoor recreation opportunities, or a balance of two

	Number	Percent
Plan should strongly emphasize open space/natural resource protection over outdoor recreation	221	42.7 %
Plan should slightly emphasize open space/natural resource protection over outdoor recreation	88	17.0 %
Plan should equally emphasize open space/natural resource protection & outdoor recreation	162	31.3 %
Plan should slightly emphasize outdoor recreation over open space/natural resource protection	19	3.7 %
Plan should strongly emphasize outdoor recreation over open space/natural resource protection	14	2.7 %
Not provided	14	2.7 %
Total	518	100.0 %

WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED

Q16. Would you prefer that the Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan focus more on open space and natural resource protection, more on providing outdoor recreation opportunities (including sports and athletics), or a balance of the two? (without "not provided")

Q16. Would you prefer that Parks, Open Space, & Natural Areas Master Plan focus more on open space & natural resource protection, more on providing outdoor recreation opportunities, or a balance of two	Number	Percent
Plan should strongly emphasize open space/natural resource protection over outdoor recreation	221	43.8 %
Plan should slightly emphasize open space/natural resource protection over outdoor recreation	88	17.5 %
Plan should equally emphasize open space/natural resource protection & outdoor recreation	162	32.1 %
Plan should slightly emphasize outdoor recreation over open space/natural resource protection	19	3.8 %
Plan should strongly emphasize outdoor recreation over open space/natural resource protection	14	2.8 %
Total	504	100.0 %

Q17. What is your age?

Q17. Your age	Number	Percent
18-34	76	14.7 %
35-44	98	18.9 %
45-54	89	17.2 %
55-64	119	23.0 %
65+	121	23.4 %
Not provided	15	2.9 %
Total	518	100.0 %

WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED

Q17. What is your age? (without "not provided")

Q17. Your age	Number	Percent
18-34	76	15.1 %
35-44	98	19.5 %
45-54	89	17.7 %
55-64	119	23.7 %
65+	121	24.1 %
Total	503	100.0 %

Q18. Including yourself, how many people in your household are:

	Mean	Sum
number	2.54	1282
Under age 5	0.13	63
Ages 5-9	0.09	47
Ages 10-14	0.12	59
Ages 15-19	0.13	66
Ages 20-24	0.11	54
Ages 25-34	0.20	102
Ages 35-44	0.32	160
Ages 45-54	0.33	167
Ages 55-64	0.50	254
Ages 65-74	0.41	208
Ages 75+	0.20	102

Q19. Approximately how many years have you lived in Comal County?

Q19. How many years have you lived in Comal

County	Number	Percent
0-5	130	25.1 %
6-10	100	19.3 %
11-15	66	12.7 %
16-20	54	10.4 %
21-30	84	16.2 %
31+	77	14.9 %
Not provided	7	1.4 %
Total	518	100.0 %

WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED

Q19. Approximately how many years have you lived in Comal County? (without "not provided")

Q19. How many years have you lived in Comal

County	Number	Percent
0-5	130	25.4 %
6-10	100	19.6 %
11-15	66	12.9 %
16-20	54	10.6 %
21-30	84	16.4 %
31+	77	15.1 %
Total	511	100.0 %

Q20. Which of the following BEST describes your race?

Q20. Your race	Number	Percent
Asian or Asian Indian	8	1.5 %
Black or African American	15	2.9 %
American Indian or Alaska Native	6	1.2 %
White	467	90.2 %
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	2	0.4 %
Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x	133	25.7 %
Other	7	1.4 %
Total	638	

Q20-7. Self-describe your race:

Q20-7. Self-describe your race	Number	Percent
European	2	28.6 %
Mixed	2	28.6 %
More than one race	1	14.3 %
Black & White	1	14.3 %
Italian Jewish	1	14.3 %
Total	7	100.0 %

Q21. Your gender:

<u>Q21. Your gender</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	254	49.0 %
Female	259	50.0 %
Not provided	3	1.0 %
Total	518	100.0 %

WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED

Q21. Your gender: (without "not provided")

<u>Q21. Your gender</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	254	49.3 %
Female	259	50.3 %
Total	515	100.0 %



Open-Ended Responses

Open-Ended Questions Responses

Q3—"Other": What prevents you from visiting open space, parks and/or trails in Comal County more often?

- Allergies
- Can't be in the sun.
- Closed, too many people from out of town and locals can't get in.
- depends on weather
- disabled
- Don't know much about them. Taking the time to research.
- During the summer we visit Comal Park multiple times a month to access the water to swim and kayak. We go when we have time.
- Far too crowded for those of us that live in the area to even get to, not only do we have to pay, but sit in traffic to even get in, There are no breaks for Seniors nor us that got the Senior seasonal Pass for the Parks, etc. The tourists have pushed out the residents, we cannot even enjoy our neighborhoods due to traffic and crowds, not to mention the STR's that even deny us our residential neighborhoods. We have to cater to them, we have no rights any longer, we cannot complain due to the current laws. It just isn't fun anymore which it should be to explore and enjoy where we live and why we invested to live here. Most tourists take advantage of us that live here full time and it is all about how much fun they can have and ignore all the guidelines and common sense of others.
- have a private HOA on river
- I enjoy hiking, but go to Hays Co every Saturday b/c the trails in Comal are too short, not challenging.
- I feel that there aren't enough available trails, and they don't have enough miles available for hiking. GRSP is too long a drive, but it has the mileage and everything I want from trails. I like the dry comal creek trail but it's very short and you have to do laps to get mileage.
- I go to the lake
- I have my own
- I have physical issues with walking in open spaces and on trails. Hopefully this will change once I have a knee replaced.
- I live on 50 acres just north of Ammann Road in the Silver Hills subdivision.
- I love running trails and all the local ones are not very long mileage
- I ride my horse at Canyon Lake (Hancock Trail) and it often has people illegally camping, driving on trails, or dumping trash. If it could be monitored better by authorities, that would help
- I'd go to Comal Park but it's essential a trash dump.
- I'd like more places to take my dogs.
- Locals are forced to use lake mid-week due to crowds.
- mobility issues
- Most often they are closed.
- Most parks around here at Canyon Lake closed during the months between September thru early spring. Best time of year to go and nothing open.
- Need level services, I have bad knees.

- need to patrol for off leash dogs. We have been attacked by dogs when walking.
- New Braunsfel is my hometown.
- No Pickleball and the trails are not maintained
- no time
- Not enough parks with playground equipment for children....those that do exist are not well designed for the heat
- Not enough parks. Stop building gas stations and apartments.
- Not sure where these parks and trails are located.
- Only knew about the one in Canyon Lake.
- Other obligations keep us from visiting more often.
- Parks and trails are often closed.
- physical ability.
- Physical limitations.
- Physical limitations.
- Safety concerns for a single woman who loves to hike
- Safety/crime issues.
- The parks around canyon lake are closed more than open especially in the fall and winter. I have lived in this area for 50+ years, so many of the areas around the lake are closed and not utilized. It appears the only spaces and times things are open and maintained are during tourist season.
- There are few off road bicycle trails except for more technical ones, such as the Madrone. We need hard surface trails for all types of bicycles, mostly for safety reasons. Biking on roads/shoulders is very dangerous in Comal County.
- There are really very few trails to walk in New Braunfels so we go to San Marcos who has excellent trails with easy access and parking
- There aren't enough of them or they are too far away. You can't expect Landa Park to be the end all for anyone inside the loop.
- They usually don't have any trees for shade
- time
- Too many non residents. Disrespectful, trashy, non residents.
- Too much drinking, cussing, loud music.
- Too much traffic. Too populated
- Traffic is getting to be a bit too much.
- Trash, drunks and illegal activity.
- Visitors leave places so messy, trash everywhere, dirty diapers left in parking lots and in parks.
- We have a park, open spaces, fitness center and pools in our subdivision.
- We live on a ranch here in the County and hike, walk, play and enjoy critters large and small...working on placing our working ranch into a conservation easement.
- We live on large acreage which fulfills our open space desires.

Q6a—"Other": Why do you think open space, parks, and trails are important?

- Birding & other wildlife viewing
- Enhance air quality.
- Mental health
- Nothing about these areas protect natural habitat or provide solitude, especially in the warmer months. The parks that are "dawn to dusk" are huge opportunities for illegal activity from dusk till dawn. Curry Park is a great example. The parking lot is known for drug deals and illegal camping year round.
- Overall quality of life.
- preserves wildlife
- provide educational opportunities.
- The County needs to implement an ordinance that restricts subdivision of property, Minimum lot size should be limited to 2 acres or more. Any developer wanting to develop land should be required to allocate a percentage to open space. Water/septic is a huge issue here as well.
- There is something beautiful about sharing these parks with family, furry family too, and friends.
- They are better than the vast concrete fields built by HEB and other large companies.

5 Survey Instrument



COMAL COUNTY

OFFICE OF COUNTY JUDGE

Sherman Krause • 100 Main Plaza • New Braunfels, TX 78130

February 24, 2023

Dear Comal County Resident,

Your household was selected to participate in this survey for the Comal County Parks, Open Spaces and Natural Areas Master Plan. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete and will give you an opportunity to make your voice heard in the development of the Comal County Parks, Open Spaces and Natural Areas Master Plan. Please be assured that your responses will remain confidential.

Our partner, ETC Institute, will compile the survey results and present them to Comal County for review.

We appreciate you taking the time to complete the assessment. To ensure your feedback counts, your response must be returned no later than two weeks from the receipt of this letter. Please feel free to use the enclosed postage-paid envelope addressed to:

ETC Institute

725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061

If you would like to take the survey online, the address is: comalcountysurvey.org

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Boyd, Comal County Assistant County Engineer at boydro@co.comal.tx.us or 830-608-2090.

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read 'Sherman Krause', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sherman Krause

Comal County Judge

2023 Comal County Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey

We want to hear from you about what is important with regards to Comal County Parks, Open Spaces and Natural Areas.

As part of a master planning process, Comal County is exploring the community's interests, wishes and willingness to pay in regard to possible future open space preservation and park land development in response to the region's rapid development.

Comal County has no budgeted funds or current plans to engage in any of the activities listed in the survey below but wishes to understand the current inventory and situation in these regards and is asking the public for help to understand what is desired now and into the future.

Because of the county's limited authorities and methods to do otherwise, almost all of the endeavors discussed in the survey would necessitate large, long-term investments and expansion of government services that almost certainly would include the use of property tax money collected from you and all of our citizens to undertake.

Comal County owns or leases five (5) properties that have varying degrees of development that range from no development at all or very limited developed trails with a few parking spaces for access to lighted sports fields with large, formal parking lots. The County's approach to provision of these parks and open spaces has been primarily through partnerships with local organizations that provide varying degrees of capital funds for development and resources for ongoing maintenance.

While the County's most desired method for funding any potential capital projects is the use of non-county funds like grants, even grant funding requires local matches and has administrative costs. All monies the County would spend on these things would come from property taxes.

Your participation in this survey is very important to the development of strategies, potential partnerships and better defining its role in providing these things.

This survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete. When you are finished, please return your survey in the enclosed postage-paid, return-reply envelope. If you prefer, you can complete the survey online at comalcountysurvey.org. We greatly appreciate and value your time!

DEFINITIONS: For the purposes of this survey, please consider the definitions of the following terms used:

- **Park(s)** - land set aside and typically developed with varying amenities for recreation purposes.
- **Open Space(s)** - land set aside for varying purposes, including preservation, buffers, drainage, and aesthetics that may have some limited development for public access for low-impact recreation like hiking.
- **Natural Area(s)** - land set aside, primarily for preservation/conservation, environmental mitigation or other like purposes that would only have limited public access, if any.

1. How often does your household visit any open spaces, parks and/or trails in Comal County (including Canyon Lake and Guadalupe River State Park)?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Multiple times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Once per month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Multiple times per month | <input type="checkbox"/> (6) Once per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Multiple times per year | <input type="checkbox"/> (7) We don't visit open spaces, parks or trails in Comal County <i>[Skip to Q3.]</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Once per week | |

2. If you visit any open spaces, parks and/or trails in Comal County, where are those located? *[Check all that apply.]*

- ☐ (1) County Parks (Kleck Park, Curry Nature Center, Jumbo Evans Sports Park, or Hidden Valley Sports Park)
- ☐ (2) USACE Property (Canyon Lake)
- ☐ (3) City Parks (New Braunfels, Bulverde, etc.)
- ☐ (4) State Park(s) (Guadalupe River State Park, Honey Creek State Natural Area)
- ☐ (5) Private/Semi-Private HOA/POA Parks (Neighborhood Parks)
- ☐ (6) None of these

3. What prevents you from visiting open space, parks and/or trails in Comal County more often?*[Check all that apply.]*

- ☐ (01) I have no time
☐ (02) Open space, parks and/or trails are too far from my house
☐ (03) Not enough parking
☐ (04) Open space and/or trails are too crowded
☐ (05) I don't know how to access open space and/or trails
☐ (06) The trails/recreational opportunities are too challenging for me
☐ (07) Open space and/or trails do not accommodate my outdoor activities
☐ (08) It is difficult to access open space and/or trails
☐ (09) I have no interest in the types of open spaces, parks and/or trails in Comal County
☐ (10) I do not wish to visit any of these places
☐ (11) Other: _____
☐ (12) None of the above

4. Have you visited any of the following Comal County-owned or operated parks in the past 12 months? [Check all that apply.]

- ☐ (1) Kleck Park
☐ (2) Curry Nature Park
☐ (3) Jumbo Evans Sports Park
☐ (4) Hidden Valley Sports Park
☐ (5) None of these

5. Do you live in a neighborhood that has its own open space, parks and/or trails?

- ☐ (1) Yes ☐ (2) No

6. Do you think open space, parks, and trails are important for Comal County?

- ☐ (1) Yes ☐ (2) No *[Skip to Q7.]*

6a. Why do you think open space, parks, and trails are important? [Check all that apply.]

- ☐ (1) Provide recreational opportunities
☐ (2) Conserve natural habitats (e.g., wildlife habitats)
☐ (3) Protect areas from urban development
☐ (4) Provide healthy lifestyle
☐ (5) Provide outdoor experiences
☐ (6) Provide opportunities for solitude
☐ (7) Provide activities to do with friends and family
☐ (8) Protect water quality
☐ (9) Other: _____

7. When it comes to recreational resources in Comal County, is there a need for more PARKS for public use?

- ☐ (1) Yes ☐ (2) No

8. When it comes to recreational resources in Comal County, is there a need for more OPEN SPACE for public use?

- ☐ (1) Yes ☐ (2) No

9. When it comes to natural resources in Comal County, is there a need for more NATURAL AREAS for public benefit?

- ☐ (1) Yes ☐ (2) No

10. What would you like to see more of? [Check all that apply.]

- ☐ (1) Unprogrammed open spaces and natural areas
☐ (2) Hiking trails
☐ (3) Mountain bike trails
☐ (4) Programmed park spaces with playgrounds and pavilions
☐ (5) Sports and athletic fields/facilities
☐ (6) None of these

11. How satisfied are you with the following types of existing recreational facilities in Comal County?

How satisfied are you with:		Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Know
1.	Passive recreation spaces (biking, walking, fishing, picnicking, etc.)	5	4	3	2	1	9
2.	Active recreation spaces (playgrounds, splashpads, dog parks, etc.)	5	4	3	2	1	9
3.	Sports/activities (baseball, football, soccer, tennis, etc.)	5	4	3	2	1	9

12. How important is it to you for Comal County to protect (conserve), expand, or improve the following?

How important are the following:		Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Not at All Important	Don't Know
1.	Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone	5	4	3	2	1	9
2.	River corridors (e.g., Guadalupe River)	5	4	3	2	1	9
3.	Open spaces for passive recreation (hiking)	5	4	3	2	1	9
4.	Parks for active recreation (athletic fields)	5	4	3	2	1	9
5.	Wildlife and associated ecological resources	5	4	3	2	1	9
6.	Natural Areas	5	4	3	2	1	9

13. In order to protect (conserve), expand or improve any items listed above in Question 12, do you think Comal County should do any of the following? [Check all that apply.]

- ☐ (1) Acquire land and easements through donations
☐ (2) Partner with government entities/land trusts to purchase land/easements
☐ (3) Establish a program to purchase/transfer development rights
☐ (4) Encourage landowners to preserve their land through federal or state tax incentives, voluntary conservation easements, etc.
☐ (5) Increase taxes to purchase land and easements
☐ (6) None of the above

14. Understanding that most would increase what you currently pay in property taxes to Comal County, please indicate your level of support for the following funding mechanisms which could be used to acquire lands for parks, open spaces and/or natural areas, and support management and ongoing maintenance of the County's system.

How supportive are you of the following:		Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Neutral	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know
1.	User fees	5	4	3	2	1	9
2.	Property tax supported bonds or other debt	5	4	3	2	1	9
3.	Increased property taxes	5	4	3	2	1	9
4.	Grants	5	4	3	2	1	9
5.	Partnerships	5	4	3	2	1	9

15. How important is it for Comal County's Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan to emphasize the following?

How important are the following:	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Not at All Important	Don't Know
1. Conservation and/or preservation of sensitive habitats	5	4	3	2	1	9
2. Preserving undeveloped areas in Comal County	5	4	3	2	1	9
3. Preservation of wildlife habitat and tree canopy	5	4	3	2	1	9
4. Preservation of water quality and aquifer recharge zones	5	4	3	2	1	9
5. Development of more trails and passive recreational opportunities	5	4	3	2	1	9
6. Development of more active recreational opportunities (i.e., playgrounds, splash pads and dog parks)	5	4	3	2	1	9
7. Development of more sports facilities	5	4	3	2	1	9

16. Would you prefer that the Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan focus more on open space and natural resource protection, more on providing outdoor recreation opportunities (including sports and athletics), or a balance of the two? [Select one.]

- ☐ (1) Plan should strongly emphasize open space/natural resource protection over outdoor recreation
☐ (2) Plan should slightly emphasize open space/natural resource protection over outdoor recreation
☐ (3) Plan should equally emphasize open space/natural resource protection and outdoor recreation
☐ (4) Plan should slightly emphasize outdoor recreation over open space/natural resource protection
☐ (5) Plan should strongly emphasize outdoor recreation over open space/natural resource protection

17. What is your age? _____ years

18. Including yourself, how many people in your household are:

Under age 5: _____ Ages 15-19: _____ Ages 35-44: _____ Ages 65-74: _____
 Ages 5-9: _____ Ages 20-24: _____ Ages 45-54: _____ Ages 75+: _____
 Ages 10-14: _____ Ages 25-34: _____ Ages 55-64: _____

19. Approximately how many years have you lived in Comal County? [Write "0" if less than one year.]
 _____ years

20. Which of the following BEST describes your race? [Check all that apply.]

- ☐ (01) Asian or Asian Indian ☐ (05) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
☐ (02) Black or African American ☐ (06) Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x
☐ (03) American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ (99) Other: _____
☐ (04) White

21. Your gender: _____(1) Male _____(2) Female

22. Would you be willing to participate in future surveys sponsored by Comal County?

- ☐ (1) Yes [Please answer Q22a.] ☐ (2) No

22a. Please provide your contact information.

Mobile Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

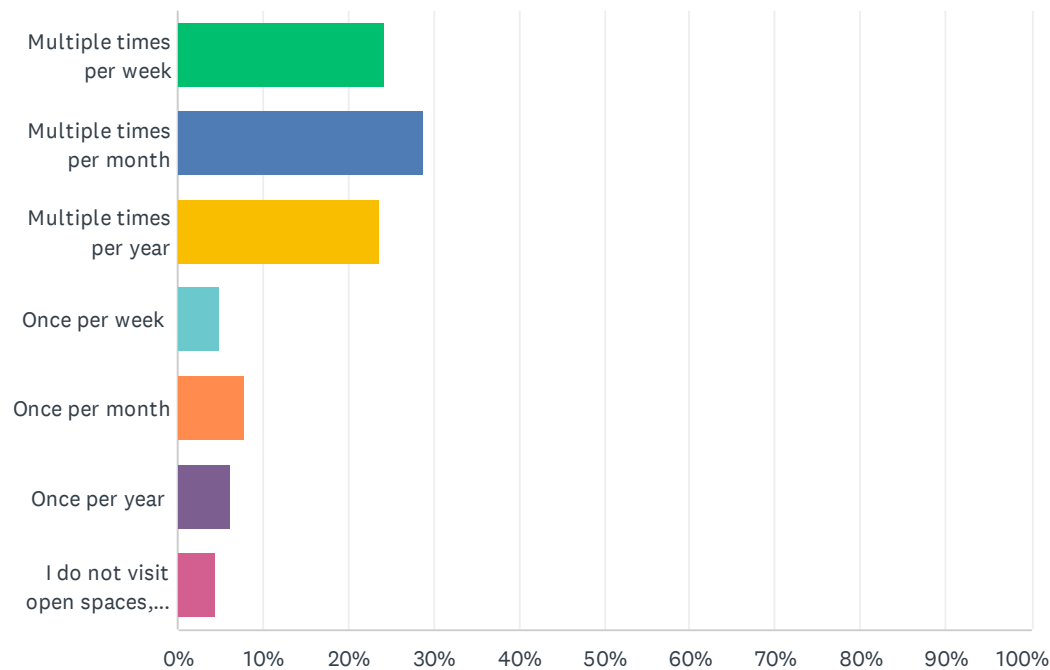
This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time!

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope addressed to:
 ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Q1 How often do you visit any open spaces, parks and/or trails in Comal County (incl. Canyon Lake and Guadalupe River State Park)?

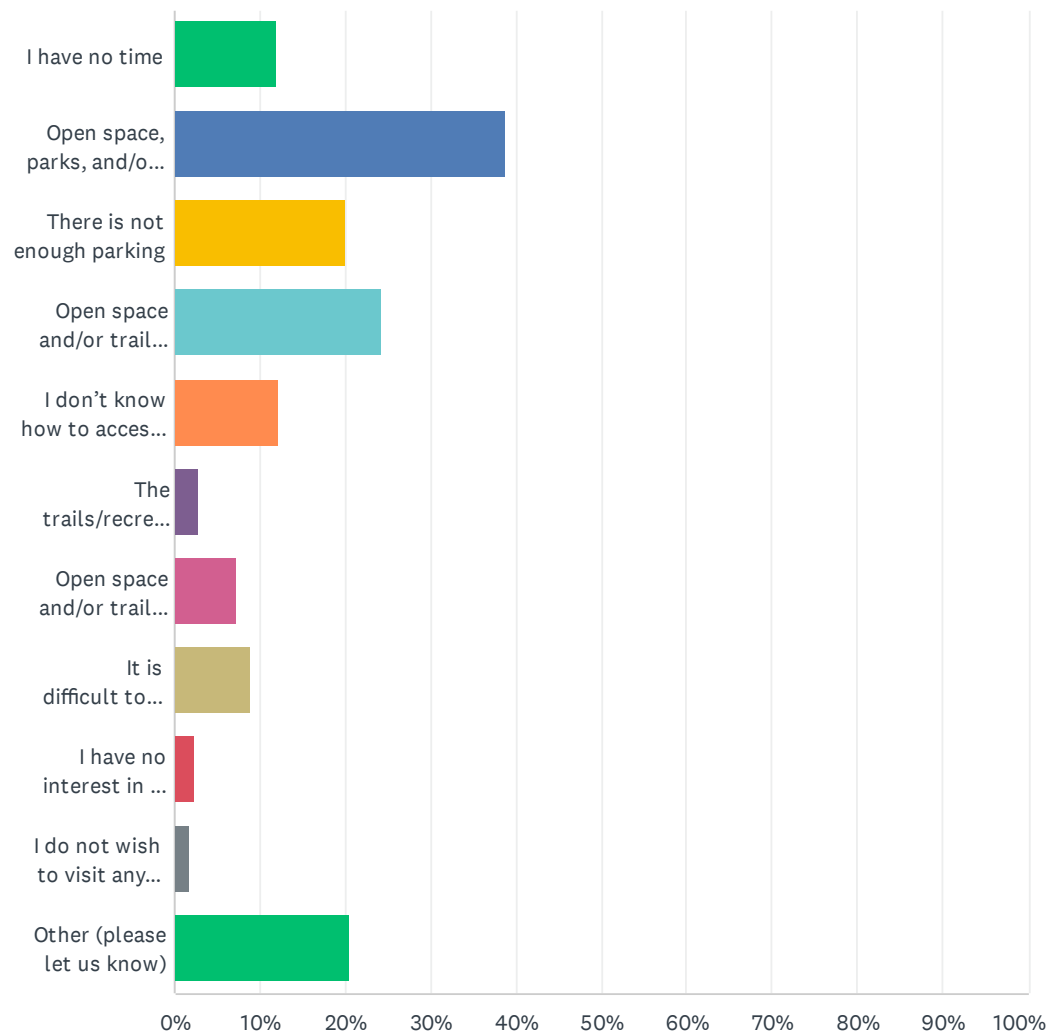
Answered: 1,008 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Multiple times per week	24.31%	245
Multiple times per month	28.77%	290
Multiple times per year	23.61%	238
Once per week	4.86%	49
Once per month	7.84%	79
Once per year	6.15%	62
I do not visit open spaces, parks, or trails in Comal County	4.46%	45
TOTAL		1,008

Q2 If you do not, what prevents you from visiting open space, parks, and/or trails in Comal County?

Answered: 412 Skipped: 602



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I have no time	11.89%	49
Open space, parks, and/or trails are too far from my house	38.83%	160
There is not enough parking	20.15%	83
Open space and/or trails are too crowded	24.27%	100
I don't know how to access open space and/or trails	12.14%	50
The trails/recreational opportunities are too challenging for me	2.67%	11
Open space and/or trails do not accommodate my outdoor activities	7.28%	30
It is difficult to access open space and/or trails	8.98%	37
I have no interest in the types of open spaces, parks and/or trails in Comal County	2.43%	10
I do not wish to visit any of these places	1.70%	7
Other (please let us know)	20.39%	84
Total Respondents: 412		

#	OTHER (PLEASE LET US KNOW)	DATE
1	Too many damn new houses taking up all of nature!	3/31/2023 11:49 AM
2	Need more RV spaces	3/30/2023 2:47 PM
3	Free access open space is limited in Comal County.	3/30/2023 11:05 AM
4	I am disabled and 83 yrs old.	3/27/2023 6:18 PM
5	I have no issues.	3/22/2023 6:31 PM
6	My time prevents me from going more times each month.	3/19/2023 9:52 AM
7	We live on a ranch so have plenty of outdoor space to enjoy	3/18/2023 11:41 AM
8	i dont know where many of these are...or heard of them...	3/18/2023 9:09 AM
9	I own a large ranch and do all my nature/fun activities there.	3/17/2023 9:22 PM
10	I would visit more if there were more to visit nearer to me	3/16/2023 6:29 PM
11	Elderly	3/14/2023 1:07 PM
12	Limited parking affects our use	3/14/2023 10:14 AM
13	N/A	3/10/2023 1:31 PM
14	Currently live in Huntsville, AL. Own Lot 1299, 332 Bentwater Place. r Place. Harley and I, r Pppace. Harley and I, Tana Harben would be supportive f ld lace. Harley and lacelace. Harley and I, Tana lace. lace. Harley and I, Tana Harben lace. We would be in favor of having some areas in Comal C Harley and I, Tana would be supportive of the things listed above. wou	3/8/2023 9:21 PM
15	I live on acreage that satisfies my personal enjoyment of natural spaces and wish others had access to open spaces as well.	3/8/2023 6:19 PM
16	I own 13 natural acres. I would pay tax for public nat. area parks.	3/8/2023 5:54 PM
17	So few parks and natural areas	3/6/2023 5:18 PM
18	Before committing to new endeavors, Comal county needs re-examine its current expenditures with respect to priorities and the efficient use of tax dollars. It is a mistake to assume previously established priorities should remain as they have been. A comprehensive review should include a re-justification of previously established priorities and be competed against	3/5/2023 12:27 PM

other needs. For example, there does not appear to be a single person or budget line item in the county to address the collection of trash and debris that is prevalent throughout Comal county. Roads and easements are replete with accumulated trash and clumps of weeds and grasses filling road side asphalt and concrete cracks. Upon a recent inquiry on this topic the response was a cavalier “well, we have an adopt-the-road program.” The implied suggestion that my wife and I need to sign up and adopt a road and to maintain it in our retirement years is less than polite, and shows a clear lack of understanding of the problem. We applaud developing a ‘Comal County Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan,’ but we do not relish the notion of driving on roads in an obvious state of disrepair, with trash and debris built up in order to visit parks, open spaces and natural areas. We already pay a small fortune in property taxes, and we know many other do so as well. Let’s not assume that the current list of priorities—that doesn’t include basic maintenance of public roads that should be free of litter—is one that should remain as is.

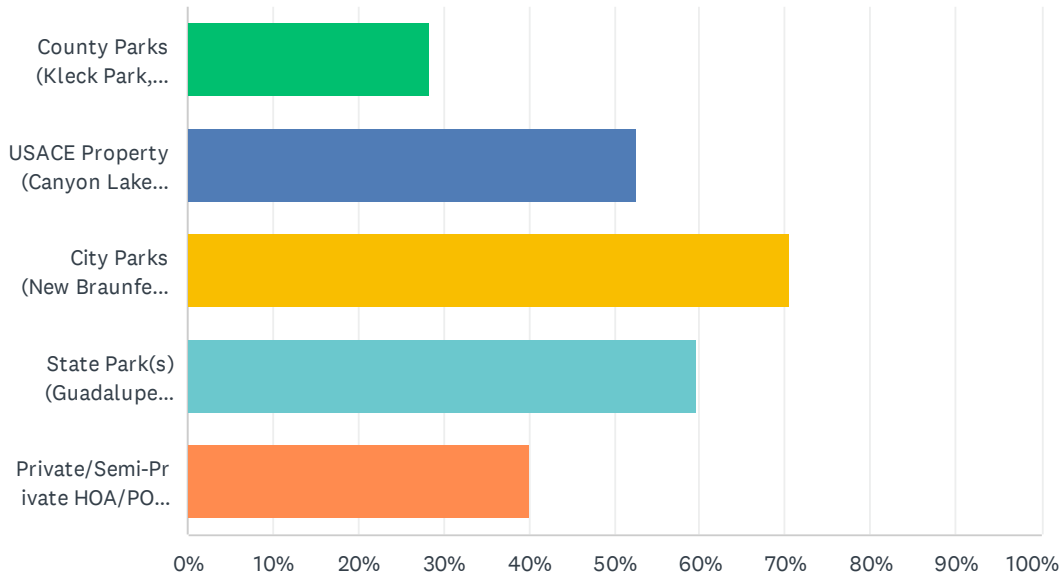
19	I do not wish to encourage the spending of taxpayer money to fund or create any parks, open space, or natural areas. The economy is bad and property taxes are extremely high. Comal County has had so many appraisal objections on property tax that they still have not held hearings or meetings on many of the protests from LAST YEAR! This is absolutely the wrong time to be thinking of spending on such a frivolity. Halff Associates should stop framing the questions of the survey to support a pre-determined outcome driven by environmentalist groups in the community. If Halff really wants to know what residents think, they should do substantial door to door, in person surveys or at least survey average residents at local grocery stores. All the environmentalist, preservation, and conservation groups were invited to the Halff meetings and their group names were prominently displayed on the presentation boards. Then, these groups advertised these meetings primarily to the like-minded members of their groups on their websites. This is DECK-STACKING.	3/2/2023 2:05 AM
20	Would love to have can trails in natural areas. Don't need any more swing-set parks.	3/1/2023 2:21 PM
21	Not convenient to where I live	3/1/2023 8:32 AM
22	Greed has made it impossible to access anything. Every one wants that tourist money.	2/28/2023 9:14 AM
23	Properties in my neighborhood are acreage and we are fortunate to have our own parks and some recreational facilities for the residents.	2/26/2023 3:00 PM
24	Na	2/26/2023 9:32 AM
25	I visit occasionally when they meet the needs of my activities	2/26/2023 7:04 AM
26	Age. I am a caregiver.	2/25/2023 4:00 PM
27	NA	2/24/2023 5:45 PM
28	Retired	2/24/2023 10:25 AM
29	Not enough parks around me	2/24/2023 9:04 AM
30	We are looking for open spaces all the time.	2/24/2023 6:28 AM
31	we purchased a lot in Mystic Shores but have not yet begun to build	2/23/2023 3:36 PM
32	there is not an area park for children or adults with limited mobility	2/21/2023 8:35 PM
33	need more dog parks.	2/21/2023 7:20 PM
34	Not a thing at this point.	2/21/2023 11:13 AM
35	Have a ranch (our own open space)	2/20/2023 10:41 PM
36	Particularly in summer and on holidays	2/19/2023 8:33 AM
37	Age	2/18/2023 11:03 PM
38	I am in a power chair and my husband requires a bench to rest. So far that seems not at all doable. We do spend time at Landa Park and Fischer Park.	2/18/2023 9:47 PM
39	Our county has been ruined. Thank you.	2/18/2023 8:44 PM
40	Some are just too crowded, cater to tourist, residents are snubbed.	2/18/2023 3:51 PM
41	I work at a park and hike everyday. Nothing prevents me from going to a Park except time	2/18/2023 2:26 PM

42	I do in fact	2/18/2023 1:40 PM
43	I have my own acreage for enjoying nature, in most cases.	2/18/2023 1:34 PM
44	There are not enough open to the public spaces in Comal county	2/18/2023 7:52 AM
45	Visit as often as time allows	2/14/2023 3:46 PM
46	There is not a lot of variety or options of hiking trails within Comal county.	2/13/2023 8:03 PM
47	Finding the time to go	2/12/2023 7:41 AM
48	Medical reasons, use to visit frequently	2/12/2023 12:54 AM
49	Need more Pickleball courts!!	2/10/2023 8:52 AM
50	I have my own land where I walk and can enjoy the outdoors.	2/10/2023 8:49 AM
51	We need smooth bike trails, not just mountain bike trails. It's too dangerous to ride on the roads here.	2/9/2023 7:17 PM
52	I recently moved here so don't know what all is here yet.	2/9/2023 5:41 PM
53	I go to parks very often	2/9/2023 4:13 PM
54	Need Pickleball courts in the area.	2/9/2023 3:48 PM
55	There isn't anywhere along water where I can walk my dog north of the Lake. All parks along water will not allow me to take my dog and I will not leave my dog alone at a picnic site to cool off in the water. He will be stolen.	2/9/2023 3:46 PM
56	We only have those two options. If we had a few more, I could visit them more frequently.	2/9/2023 1:53 PM
57	I don't know where the are or what is available.	2/9/2023 12:26 PM
58	My outdoor activities do not include hiking, etc	2/9/2023 11:52 AM
59	PARKING LOTS ARE USUALLY CLOSED AND UNAVAILABLE TO PUBLIC	2/9/2023 9:28 AM
60	We need pickleball in our parks. Seguin has 9 new outdoor courts. Look at Facebook at the amount of people in our area that are playing pickleball	2/8/2023 8:22 PM
61	There is not enough open space, park and/or trails in Comal County	2/8/2023 7:25 PM
62	We go to Jumbo Evans 3-4 times a week	2/8/2023 7:10 PM
63	farmer have my own open space	2/8/2023 11:36 AM
64	I do visit	2/8/2023 10:32 AM
65	Not enough trails near canyon lake	2/8/2023 10:31 AM
66	They're closed.	2/7/2023 6:47 PM
67	There are not enough.	2/6/2023 6:13 PM
68	Trails in Canyon Lake aren't well marked and usually have lots of trash	2/6/2023 6:11 PM
69	Trails are too short. Not enough diversity on the trails for MTB.	2/6/2023 11:26 AM
70	I go to parks in San Antonio or San Marcos	2/6/2023 10:32 AM
71	Not many good options	2/6/2023 9:46 AM
72	I am fortunate enough to live in a more rural section of the county with access to open space. Still I very much support, and would be willing to pay for, increased open space in the county for a variety of reasons, including water quality and quantity protection and flood mitigation.	2/4/2023 1:28 PM
73	More options in Comal would increase use for us! Very few, really, available in Comal.	2/4/2023 12:43 PM
74	Dry Comal Creek trail hard and dangerous to navigate because of Towne Creek development	2/4/2023 8:02 AM
75	There are too few of them and they're too small	2/4/2023 7:51 AM

76	Life Schedule , but for those other citizens and for the future need to have open spaces for recreation and enlightenment.	2/3/2023 4:02 PM
77	Not sure of all of the open spaces/trails. Have never heard of the parks listed below.	2/3/2023 3:43 PM
78	There isn't a lot of opportunity for outdoor recreation.	2/3/2023 2:42 PM
79	Nor enough of them	2/3/2023 1:32 PM
80	I wish we had access to longer and more challenging routes. The trails are very short here.	2/3/2023 12:33 PM
81	The options are very limited.	2/3/2023 12:17 PM
82	There's just not enough of it. Comal Co. needs what San Marcos has. Lots of space and easy access.	2/3/2023 11:35 AM
83	We live in an unincorporated part of Comal County on acreage, so basically have our own little park.	2/3/2023 7:27 AM
84	Need more walking trails	2/3/2023 6:19 AM

Q3 If you visit any open spaces, parks and/or trails in Comal County, where are those located?

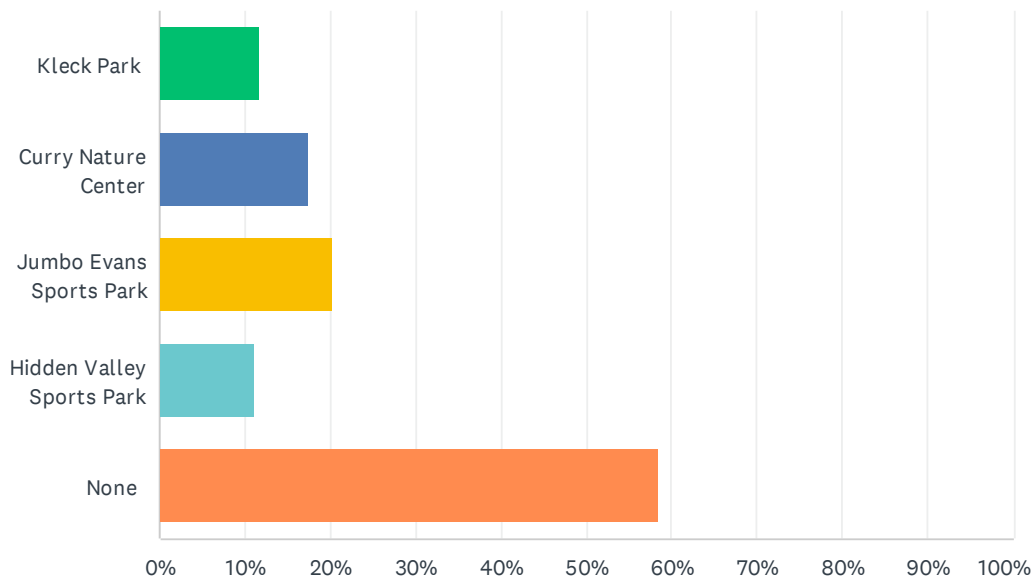
Answered: 978 Skipped: 36



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
County Parks (Kleck Park, Curry Nature Center, Jumbo Evans Sports Park, or Hidden Valley Sports Park)	28.32%	277
USACE Property (Canyon Lake, Comal Park)	52.66%	515
City Parks (New Braunfels, Bulverde, other)	70.55%	690
State Park(s) (Guadalupe River State Park, Honey Creek State Natural Area)	59.71%	584
Private/Semi-Private HOA/POA Parks (Neighborhood Parks)	40.08%	392
Total Respondents: 978		

Q4 What Comal County-owned or operated parks have you visited in the past 12 months? (Select all that apply)

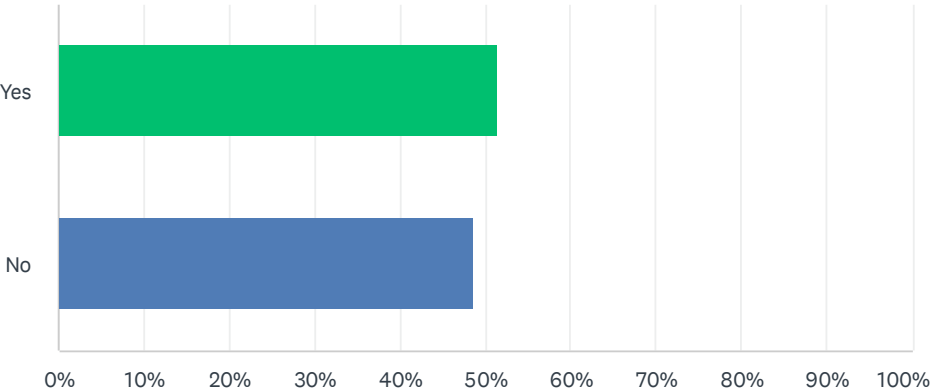
Answered: 938 Skipped: 76



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Kleck Park	11.83%	111
Curry Nature Center	17.48%	164
Jumbo Evans Sports Park	20.26%	190
Hidden Valley Sports Park	11.09%	104
None	58.42%	548
Total Respondents: 938		

Q5 Do you live in a neighborhood that has its own open space, parks, and/or trails?

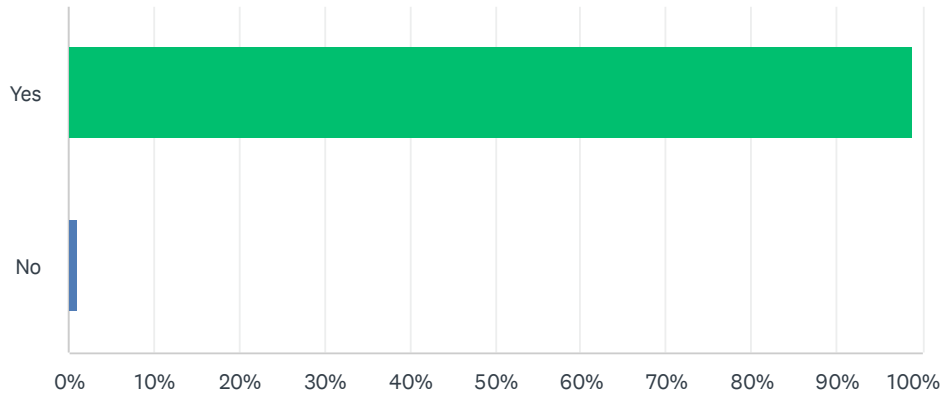
Answered: 1,004 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	51.39%	516
No	48.61%	488
TOTAL		1,004

Q6 Do you think open space, parks, and trails are important for Comal County?

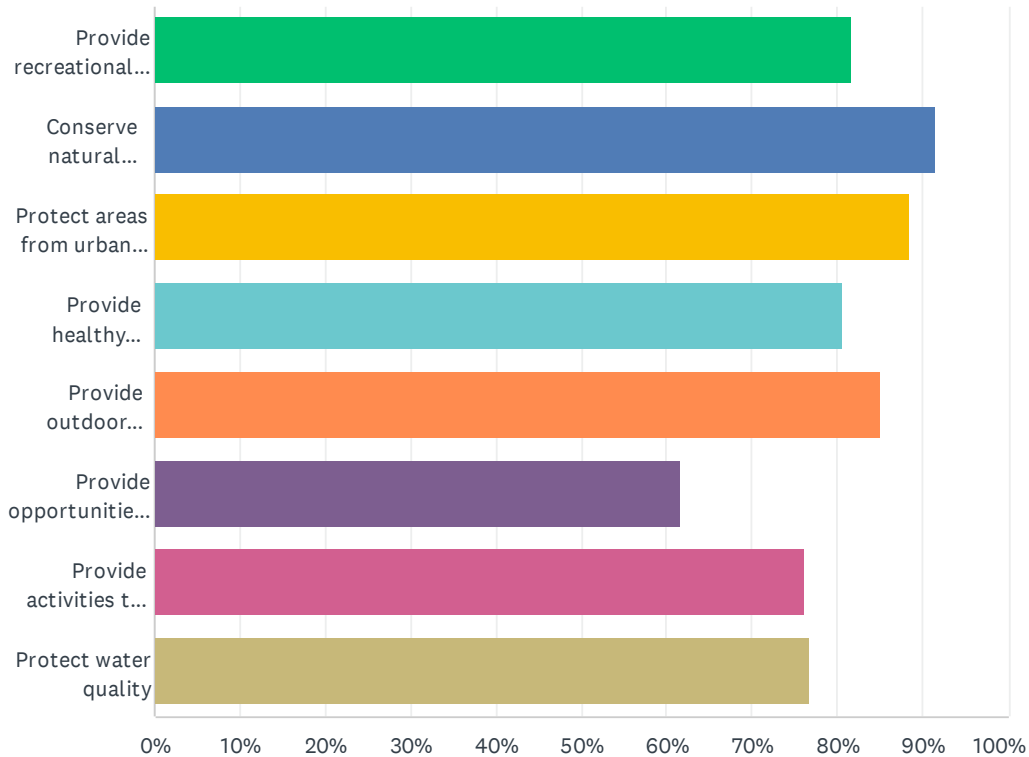
Answered: 1,009 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	99.01%	999
No	0.99%	10
TOTAL		1,009

Q7 If yes, why do you think open space, parks, and trails are important? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 1,001 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Provide recreational opportunities	81.62%	817
Conserve natural habitats (e.g., wildlife habitats)	91.51%	916
Protect areas from urban development	88.41%	885
Provide healthy lifestyle	80.62%	807
Provide outdoor experiences	85.11%	852
Provide opportunities for solitude	61.54%	616
Provide activities to do with friends and family	76.12%	762
Protect water quality	76.72%	768
Total Respondents: 1,001		

#	LET US KNOW ANY OTHER REASONS THINK OPEN SPACE, PARKS, AND TRAILS ARE IMPORTANT, BELOW.	DATE
1	Stop the overdevelopment, it's greed driven and destroying our community	3/31/2023 11:49 AM
2	Development is inevitable. Open space is needed to protect the environment from those who are insensitive to the natural beauty of Comal County (which is what attracts development) An	3/30/2023 11:05 AM

open space ordinance is needed to provide required building and parking lot setbacks along roadways to provide green spaces, restricted green space reserves at subdivision entrances to prevent commercial development closing in and creating traffic congestion and destroying the serenity. Defining specific green space requirements in commercial and large residential developments can go a long way to preserve the environment that will not create a financial burden on the county. Review the requirements of major developments in The Woodlands in Montgomery County (north of Houston) to see what ideas can be applied here to provide and protect green space without a cost burden on the county. Pass this cost to developers. It will not stop them from coming - make them pay for the privilege to develop here.)

3	It helps stop unwanted urban development.	3/23/2023 4:17 PM
4	CONSERVE WATER TABLE	3/18/2023 11:09 AM
5	Conserve natural areas for future generations	3/18/2023 9:59 AM
6	With exponential growth, this has become an urgent priority. There are landowners like Mrs. Krause that is willing to donate their land	3/18/2023 9:09 AM
7	To teach children the importance of the outdoors/agriculture so they do not wish to see everything asphalt	3/17/2023 9:22 PM
8	Maintain aesthetic beauty of landscape	3/16/2023 6:29 PM
9	for community citizens to enjoy.	3/14/2023 9:54 PM
10	Property value and providing healthy environment for residents.	3/14/2023 1:07 PM
11	help limit developments that are depleting our resources rapidly	3/13/2023 5:31 PM
12	Also So development is not stack on top of each other. We do have limited water resources	3/11/2023 12:27 PM
13	Prevent heat islands in cities	3/11/2023 3:20 AM
14	Provides an opportunity for the public to witness wildlife in natural form instead of going to an urban zoo to see a rooster or deer	3/10/2023 11:44 PM
15	Offset human density, mental health, bird and animal habitat preservation, water conservation, TREES.	3/8/2023 5:54 PM
16	It's important to have a balance between development and open areas.	3/8/2023 7:18 AM
17	Prevents overcrowding and saves the natural beauty of TX for others to enjoy	3/7/2023 7:40 AM
18	open spaces, parks & trails are Comal County. As a lifetime resident I love our natural look.	3/6/2023 9:56 AM
19	Protect out mental health	3/5/2023 7:10 PM
20	They are not important other than to serve as an opportunity for government and N.G.O.s to gain control over private lands through manipulation, deception, and theft through exorbitant taxation.	3/2/2023 2:05 AM
21	Benefits mental health to be out in nature	3/1/2023 5:53 PM
22	The Hill country true but only myself, but most of the others year because of it rural open spaces. The pace of life was slower, and it was a phenomenal escape from the "concrete jungle". As much as anything, the plant diversity is part of what defines the hill country, as being lost to housing with carpet grass monoculture lawns.	3/1/2023 2:21 PM
23	Preserve beauty, air quality, retain aquifer.	3/1/2023 12:09 AM
24	Swimming, waterskiing, jet-skiing (all of which are under threat from the hydrilla infestation)	2/28/2023 11:05 AM
25	preserving nature in general. We need nature to survive.	2/28/2023 9:14 AM
26	These are the reasons why the property values are so high, the area is desirable.	2/28/2023 7:47 AM
27	Fosters appreciation for natural surroundings	2/26/2023 2:12 PM
28	Protect the beauty of the Hill Country from development	2/26/2023 11:34 AM
29	Increases quality of life and desirability of living in Comal County over other nearby counties. These factors also help increase property values in Comal..	2/26/2023 10:15 AM

30	Although all of the above are very important, my 2 largest concerns are CLEAN water & wildlife habitats.	2/26/2023 9:53 AM
31	Conservation of nature and water quality	2/26/2023 9:13 AM
32	Outdoor people that enjoy nature cannot afford theme parks, etc.	2/25/2023 8:05 PM
33	Must protect areas for wildlife and recreation for all!!	2/25/2023 4:00 PM
34	We have so few places to go to enjoy the outdoors! Walking roads in canyon lake is not safe!! Most do not have sidewalks... we NEED more areas -Kleck is not very nice at all	2/25/2023 10:05 AM
35	Water conservation	2/24/2023 7:46 PM
36	Enhances mental health	2/24/2023 7:01 PM
37	Beautiful to look at and peace you feel surrounded by nature and quiet space, rarely experienced in the mess created by city's continued growth. It is shameful.	2/24/2023 5:54 PM
38	Provide learning opportunities for children	2/24/2023 5:45 PM
39	The economy of Comal County is invariably linked with it's physical beauty and recreational opportunities provided.	2/24/2023 11:53 AM
40	open space is a huge part of why we are moving there	2/23/2023 3:36 PM
41	Water is going to be the challenge for us in Comal in the near future. Allowing unbridled development threatens our aquifer and lakes.	2/23/2023 10:11 AM
42	Air quality, moderate temperatures, noise reduction and growth management	2/23/2023 2:35 AM
43	Healthy for the soul to be sharing nature. Take only pictures, leave it better than you found it. Respect and learn from nature. Peace.	2/22/2023 11:28 PM
44	Please quit taking away wildlife homes, I did not want to live in big city	2/22/2023 8:45 PM
45	Tourism	2/22/2023 12:05 PM
46	There are no year round parks geared toward families	2/21/2023 8:35 PM
47	we need places for well behaved dogs to enjoy outdoor activities. I think a perfect place for a dog park will be right off 306 at Hunter Rd. at the triangle	2/21/2023 7:20 PM
48	keeping the natural bueaty	2/21/2023 3:55 PM
49	Well being of the people in the area.	2/21/2023 11:13 AM
50	Since so much land is private, many people only enjoy the beauty of Comal County from the roads. Trails, etc allow the possibility of going out to enjoy Comal (biking or walking) without the danger of fast traffic on small, shoulder-less roads.	2/21/2023 10:35 AM
51	Educational opportunities for children.	2/20/2023 10:16 PM
52	Huge concern over having enough eater to meet the demand of growth. Also think we should think about water conservation and capturing for drought times.	2/20/2023 7:58 PM
53	Once the aquifer and watershed are polluted it is too late to preserve our natural areas. Please apply any funds needed such as property tax revenue, to protect our precious water resources and habitat area for many species.	2/20/2023 11:42 AM
54	Provides wildlife a safe place to live and thrive since most of their space is being developed. We must keep a balance between the human race and nature. We depend on nature and plants to survive, otherwise the human race will suffer.	2/19/2023 3:37 PM
55	Urban sprawl ruins what makes Texas Hill Country valuable, historical, and unique.	2/19/2023 3:14 PM
56	Walking out in the open helps my mental health. I also enjoy the night sky looking at stars, constellations, and the Milky Way. I am not able to see the Milky Way at my house in Bulverde anymore. I would like to bring it back into view for all!	2/19/2023 10:31 AM
57	Our county is getting way overbuilt and overpopulated. There is not enough water and infrastructure. All charm if open land is getting taken up with no regard, no zoning and it is	2/19/2023 5:12 AM

	getting junky. Most folks moved here to get out and away but it is turning into a traffic nightmare with too many people.	
58	To protect the aquifer and to stop all this rapid growth until there r enough plans for sanitation, plentiful water, and adequate utilities.	2/18/2023 9:47 PM
59	It's too late traffic lack of infrastructure and transient people especially from California have ruined our county and you folks up there could've done something about it. We don't need all this shit that's happened in the last five years.	2/18/2023 8:44 PM
60	As Comal County grows, I believe it is our duty to preserve this land from overdevelopment. We need to consider pedestrian infrastructure, walkability, and equitable access to outdoor spaces. I also believe the city should install outdoor calisthenics gyms where people can workout and be healthy. We are at a pivotal moment in this county - to do nothing for fear of tax increase will keep us from properly growing and conserving the land around us. I will be more than happy to pay more taxes should these funds be properly used to develop and conserve the public access around us.	2/18/2023 6:19 PM
61	Green spaces and parks are needed to help reduce anxiety and provide calm and peaceful environments.	2/18/2023 6:17 PM
62	Means less cramming houses on small lots, less people, less water usage since we have been on year-round water restrictions for several years and getting worse.	2/18/2023 3:51 PM
63	I do not want to see this beautiful area become a suburban hellscape like my childhood area did. Unfettered development is not sustainable. We need more space set aside for outdoor recreating and habitat preservation	2/18/2023 3:10 PM
64	They're just fun to explore	2/18/2023 3:07 PM
65	The very things many of us moved here for are threatened by developers building on small lots.	2/18/2023 2:41 PM
66	Vegetation absorbs CO2, makes O2...cleaner air, provides for more aborment of rain water, save our Central Texas "forest."	2/18/2023 12:35 PM
67	Edwards aquifer	2/18/2023 9:00 AM
68	New Braunfels has beautiful land "owned" by citizens along the Guadalupe river that has no free access for the people paying taxes. Surely, not all of that land needs to be for business owners. River rd, the most beautiful in the area, is locked up by business owners. I appreciate the river businesses for tourism but keeping it locked away from the community is just sad and a shame. I am not recommending the city take it, just make a business arrangement for some free space for trails.	2/17/2023 7:10 PM
69	Trees, air quality,. Non commercial use. If land. Scenic of it's unique natural beaut EMPHASIS ON ALL OTHER SELECTION!!!!!!y.	2/17/2023 6:01 PM
70	Provide areas for social activities, athletic activities, and can help preserve really unique parts of the county	2/17/2023 10:15 AM
71	PLAY Pickleball! :) The fastest growing sport in America! It builds community!	2/16/2023 8:07 PM
72	I would love to have hiking trails and playgrounds near by	2/16/2023 7:59 PM
73	Nature is to be enjoyed and good for health and happiness.	2/16/2023 1:53 PM
74	Protects TREES! Too many trees are lost in Comal County and it is honestly disgusting. Need better tree ordinances & protected greenspace as development encroaches west.	2/16/2023 9:32 AM
75	I believe having parks and undeveloped areas in the community brings up the value of home by making the area more desirable	2/15/2023 5:52 PM
76	The more outside parks, the better! For nature and the neighborhoods.	2/15/2023 10:34 AM
77	For all of the above.	2/14/2023 10:58 PM
78	Encourage exercise, raise property value, provide safe and appropriate places for teenagers to gather and recreate.	2/13/2023 9:59 PM
79	to get a large group together and play sports	2/13/2023 8:17 PM

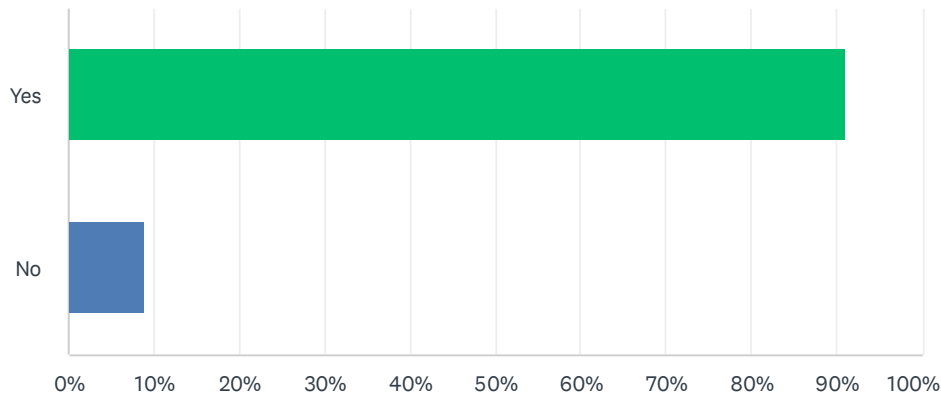
80	Every reason! Natural areas are critical for all of us, everywhere	2/13/2023 6:51 PM
81	Educational opportunities	2/13/2023 4:01 PM
82	Studies show green and blue spaces are also beneficial for mental health	2/12/2023 9:38 PM
83	Walking my dog getting exercise	2/12/2023 7:41 AM
84	We can't get it back after it's all paved.	2/11/2023 3:59 PM
85	The hills are beautiful except when they are developed by houses or other building.	2/11/2023 9:46 AM
86	Need more pickleball courts to accommodate the increasing number of both young and older players.	2/11/2023 9:41 AM
87	I think the landscape is being drastically changed due to rapid development. We must protect our aquifer and unique ecosystems. We need planning protecting historic ranches and the recharge zones. We are never going to look back and say "gee, I wish we had built another strip mall."	2/10/2023 8:00 PM
88	We need more pickle ball courts!!!	2/10/2023 4:34 PM
89	Our area specifically is being developed at record speed. If we do not do something to set aside natural areas NOW the area will not sustain all of this growth.	2/10/2023 9:19 AM
90	Need more Pickleball courts	2/10/2023 8:52 AM
91	protect the environment	2/10/2023 8:15 AM
92	Protect air quality	2/9/2023 10:46 PM
93	Need safe places to ride bicycles.	2/9/2023 7:17 PM
94	For biking, safety.	2/9/2023 6:57 PM
95	Protect the natural beauty of the area. It is all disappearing rapidly due to development. Also need more Pickleball facilities.	2/9/2023 6:52 PM
96	More public acces to canyon lake	2/9/2023 6:48 PM
97	It's nature/natural which seems to be disappearing rapidly in Comal County thanks to urban density developments and county commissioners who do zip about it.	2/9/2023 6:16 PM
98	we need pickleball courts!	2/9/2023 5:38 PM
99	Create a sense of community/belonging	2/9/2023 5:12 PM
100	Open space, parks, and trails greatly improve the general quality of life of a region, and, not incidentally, improve property values!	2/9/2023 4:12 PM
101	I enjoy the peace and quiet of walking a trail with my dog, but only Curry is on the north side of the Lake and my dog and I cannot easily walk up the steep incline back to parking lot. But, it is a lovely quiet space.	2/9/2023 3:46 PM
102	Pickleball ball courts would be wonderful!!	2/9/2023 1:51 PM
103	The existence of this spaces inspires people to do the work in protecting them at home, and abroad.	2/9/2023 12:40 PM
104	They have a significant impact on the quality of life in our community. They also serve as venues for important community events and activities.	2/9/2023 11:00 AM
105	Help moderate temperatures and not create urban hot zones. Texas is hot enough in the summer and power conservation/conversion is not enough to take strain off demand. Please let there be green space within the county/city.	2/9/2023 6:26 AM
106	Protect air quality, improve nearby property values	2/8/2023 7:39 PM
107	We need more pickleball courts. This is becoming so popular and as is growing everyday. This serves all ages and demand is high.	2/8/2023 7:34 PM
108	Encourages Sports.	2/8/2023 6:04 PM

109	Pet activities	2/8/2023 3:54 PM
110	Love trails.	2/8/2023 2:54 PM
111	Protect air quality, protect water quantity, flood control, opportunities to improve mental, emotional health of residents and visitors, allow our children a place to develop a positive relationship with the natural world.	2/8/2023 1:23 PM
112	Increases property values	2/8/2023 1:18 PM
113	Need more bike trails	2/8/2023 1:05 PM
114	conserve open spaces in this county is important to me to stop urban development.	2/8/2023 10:09 AM
115	They are important to sustain the quality of life that we seek by living in rural Comal County. If we want to live amidst unplanned sprawl and ad hoc development, there are plenty of other places that offer that kind of environment which are more convenient and or advantageous. Fundamentally it's the natural beauty of the county draws people here. If we don't preserve it wisely, then it will no longer be an attractive place for any of us.	2/8/2023 9:55 AM
116	Create a sense of community	2/8/2023 9:17 AM
117	Gives wildlife a safe place to live where people can enjoy seeing them	2/8/2023 7:49 AM
118	Quality of life	2/8/2023 7:33 AM
119	Protect air quality and environment	2/7/2023 6:31 PM
120	Sports-Pickleball	2/7/2023 4:54 PM
121	Population growth in Comal county is out of control. We need parks and open spaces to be carved out before there is no space to carve out. Time to get ahead of the game and not play catch up.	2/7/2023 4:48 PM
122	Provides beauty and preserves the heritage of comal county	2/7/2023 4:18 PM
123	I think it is extremely important to protect the open space, parks, and trails because once they are gone, they will be extremely hard, or impossible, to get them back. They are also important to the physical health of the people living here while benefiting many people, not just a few. Also, I feel we have to careful stewards of our earth because it is the only one we have.	2/7/2023 1:21 PM
124	Healthy activities	2/7/2023 8:32 AM
125	Flood mitigation and heat index relief	2/6/2023 6:46 PM
126	Without public spaces eventually the d	2/6/2023 6:24 PM
127	It preserves the natural beauty of the Hill Country and prevents it from becoming close-packed subdivisions	2/6/2023 6:11 PM
128	They provide economic activity.	2/6/2023 5:30 PM
129	They can be a form of transportation infrastructure that will alleviate car traffic. We should make sure all parks are connected to each other by trails, which will enable people to use bikes and E bikes as viable forms of transportation, in order to move about their cities and partake in local economy	2/6/2023 5:21 PM
130	Aesthetics	2/6/2023 2:57 PM
131	Parks and open spaces are important factors in attracting businesses who provide high-wage jobs, and for attracting the people who would work there.	2/6/2023 2:50 PM
132	Provide biodiversity and protection for native plant species	2/6/2023 10:47 AM
133	Preserves the natural charm of our city and what makes our community different than our neighbors	2/6/2023 10:42 AM
134	Quality of life, attractive area to live in.	2/6/2023 9:24 AM
135	Wide open spaces are important to our mental health.	2/6/2023 6:24 AM
136	The community's health (all forms of life) requires nature. Once an area is paved, mined, or otherwise stripped of its natural state in any way, it is extremely hard to reclaim.	2/5/2023 7:04 PM

137	Natural beauty and sound barrier	2/5/2023 8:22 AM
138	Great way to spend quality time outdoors with my kids.	2/4/2023 8:55 PM
139	Also protect water quantity and can be used for flood mitigation. Additionally, out door and recreational opportunities are very important to the county's economy and various studies show that a high priority for higher-end employers and employees is the availability of parks and open space for recreational activities and well-being.	2/4/2023 1:28 PM
140	Protect indigenous animals and vegetation to Comal County.	2/4/2023 1:22 PM
141	Trees and shrubs provide oxygen, and clean the air,	2/4/2023 12:57 PM
142	Especially important for young children as well as seniors.	2/4/2023 12:43 PM
143	The city parks in NB is too crowded. We have to drive to SA or San Marcos to enjoy hiking trails. There are no parks/trails off HWY 46 towards Seguin	2/4/2023 12:06 PM
144	Natural aesthetic, less impervious cover, community building, noise buffer	2/4/2023 8:58 AM
145	green spaces visually more appealing and break up the monotony of building after building after complex, etc	2/4/2023 7:00 AM
146	Hike and bike trails promote a healthy lifestyle and social activities with like minded people.	2/3/2023 4:58 PM
147	Good for the community. They are also good for the economy, they bring people to areas. There simply is not enough outdoor recreation currently.	2/3/2023 2:42 PM
148	It's to preserve what we have before it's over developed. Preserve spaces for wildlife.	2/3/2023 1:32 PM
149	We also need expand mountain bike trails. Additionally the intro to this survey makes it seem like you are trying to discourage feedback by repeatedly mention that it would affect taxes. This may not be intentional, but perhaps reword the intro of the survey so as not to bias responses	2/3/2023 12:48 PM
150	They connect the community and provide better ways to get places other than by car.	2/3/2023 12:31 PM
151	Scenic beauty, increases surrounding property value, protects air quality, better investment and use of space than urban sprawl.	2/3/2023 12:29 PM
152	We live in a Beautiful area....getting to experience it and be out in it is a privilege and priority for me.	2/3/2023 12:21 PM
153	Clean air	2/3/2023 12:17 PM
154	Improved property values for surrounding areas	2/3/2023 12:11 PM
155	Birding	2/3/2023 11:46 AM
156	Exercise pets	2/3/2023 11:19 AM
157	It's so important to be outside in our beautiful county and country. No other way to learn about the beauty of our beautiful New Braunfels. Being in nature renews the soul.	2/3/2023 11:00 AM
158	With all the increase in technology and screens, we must have an outlet for healthy, outdoor activities. Our kids NEED these spaces. So many kids have limited access, so they stay inside on devices.	2/3/2023 9:36 AM
159	The outdoors is vital for overall health and wellbeing!	2/3/2023 8:25 AM
160	Teach our future generations about all of the above	2/3/2023 8:23 AM
161	Stormwater management and groundwater infiltration	2/3/2023 8:04 AM
162	They are important for peace of mind and for an opportunity to recharge your soul through nature.	2/3/2023 7:50 AM
163	Setting aside land keeps Comal County looking like Comal County. Counties around us have set aside much more land than Comal. It is a quality of life issue and having more protected land would be attractive to both residents and visitors. Look at how over-loved Landa and Fischer Parks	2/3/2023 7:37 AM

Q8 When it comes to recreational resources in Comal County, is there a need for more PARKS for public use?

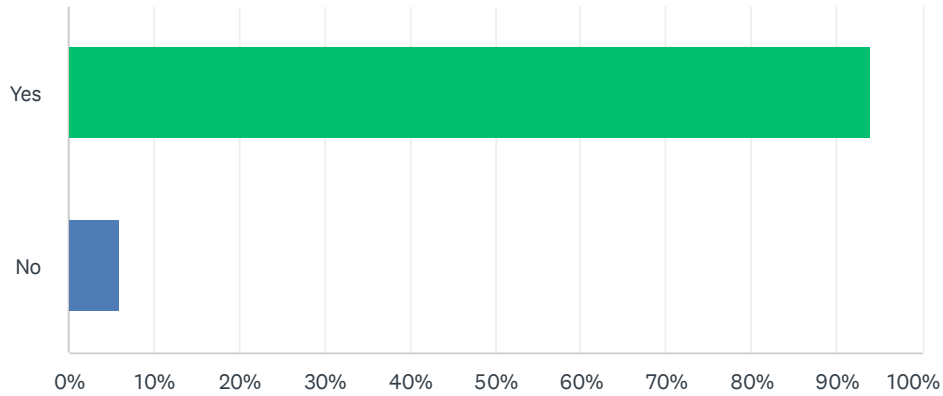
Answered: 953 Skipped: 61



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	91.08%	868
No	8.92%	85
TOTAL		953

Q9 When it comes to recreational resources in Comal County, is there a need for more OPEN SPACE for public use?

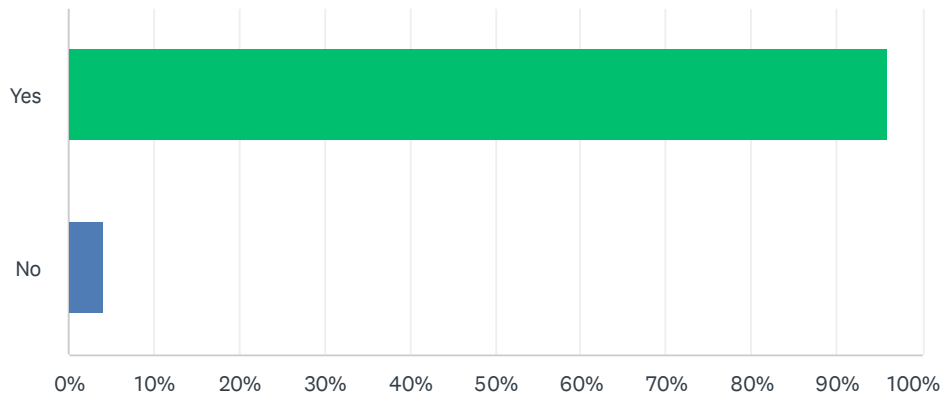
Answered: 954 Skipped: 60



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	94.03%	897
No	5.97%	57
TOTAL		954

Q10 When it comes to natural resources in Comal County, is there a need for more NATURAL AREAS for public benefit?

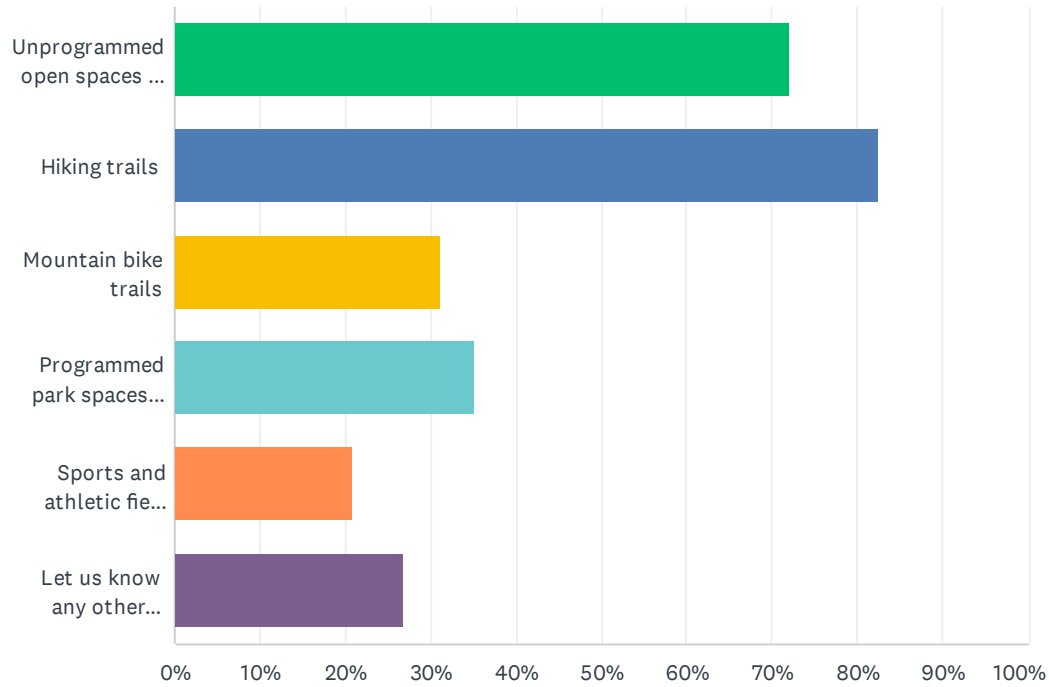
Answered: 948 Skipped: 66



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	95.99%	910
No	4.01%	38
TOTAL		948

Q11 If yes to any above, what would you like to see more of? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 946 Skipped: 68



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Unprogrammed open spaces and natural areas	72.09%	682
Hiking trails	82.56%	781
Mountain bike trails	31.18%	295
Programmed park spaces with playgrounds and pavilions	35.10%	332
Sports and athletic fields / facilities	20.93%	198
Let us know any other facilities you would like to see more of, below.	26.96%	255
Total Respondents: 946		

#	LET US KNOW ANY OTHER FACILITIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE OF, BELOW.	DATE
1	Community pools	4/2/2023 10:56 PM
2	Skating rink	3/31/2023 11:52 AM
3	Ice and roller skating	3/30/2023 5:59 PM
4	Horse trails	3/29/2023 9:09 PM
5	Regular bike trails	3/19/2023 10:15 PM
6	Wildlife and associated ecological resource areas	3/17/2023 9:30 PM
7	Easy bike trails	3/15/2023 3:09 AM

8	Not at taxpayer expense.	3/14/2023 10:02 PM
9	Nature trails	3/14/2023 8:18 PM
10	Places for just locals	3/14/2023 9:22 AM
11	Just undeveloped to keep population down	3/14/2023 8:35 AM
12	Pickle ball courts	3/11/2023 2:00 PM
13	Recreational for motorized/future electric vehicles	3/11/2023 12:32 PM
14	Comal park and all POA's have their own playgrounds. There are a few sports parks. But, there are not any hiking trails with a good distance, say 6-10 miles of trails. For example...Curry Nature Trail is .75 mile loop. I have to walk the loop 4x to get exercise	3/11/2023 12:02 AM
15	Open areas protect wildlife,Every single day I see wildlife hit by cars.	3/8/2023 12:51 PM
16	Outdoor pickle ball!	3/7/2023 9:49 AM
17	Boat ramps	3/7/2023 8:08 AM
18	Would like to see Comal partner with Hays Co. in the former La Cima property/Purgatory Creek Nature Preserve	3/4/2023 11:51 PM
19	Running trails	3/4/2023 11:01 PM
20	Halff Associates has been to enough commissioners court meetings and is aware enough of the news cycle to understand that Comal County citizens are already extremely angry at the continual extravagance and over-spending by the court and the school districts. Comal County taxpayers, in general, do not want or need any additional parks, open space, or natural areas because they do not feel they can afford them. Surely Halff Associates employees have heard the impassioned please of senior citizens who are fighting high tax bills and trying to stay on their land; not be driven off their land by being forced to sell because they can no longer afford the ever-increasing taxes.	3/2/2023 2:14 AM
21	Wildlife habitat sanctuary or nature centers	3/1/2023 12:14 AM
22	Hydrilla-free coves for swimming, waterskiing, jet-skiing, etc.	2/28/2023 11:08 AM
23	Locals only parks. I pay the taxes here and cant even get in a park in my neighbor hood because there are to many tourist	2/28/2023 9:19 AM
24	Golden-cheeked warbler habitat as presented in the Comal County RHCP signed in 2013	2/26/2023 10:21 AM
25	More parking at existing fishing docks, fishing piers and restrooms. Traffic has become a real problem in and out of some public tubing sites. Private owners charging high price to park, extra hours for police (traffic and crossing areas), ems calls for injuries all come out with a cost to comal county.	2/26/2023 9:51 AM
26	Habitat	2/26/2023 9:36 AM
27	nature preserves	2/26/2023 9:18 AM
28	Public access to the Guadalupe River for passive shoreline activities, such as fishing.	2/26/2023 7:11 AM
29	Bird and Wildlife Sanctuaries. The wildlife is being run out with all the building.	2/25/2023 8:10 PM
30	Wide open spaces with access for parking, exploring and rest stops with water and seating	2/25/2023 4:07 PM
31	I would love to see more areas like the south Guadalupe Trail. Curry nature is ok but very hard to walk on because of the rocks. Dry Comal creek was not mentioned but it's not bad! Sports complex there too, something like this... places for kids to play, places to walk your dog on leash. Dam is inaccessible from the south right now, it's a long drive to northern entrance compounding the lack of places to go. More park areas with paths to walk, like Landa. Preserve nature, preserve the land for hiking and enjoyment high priority!!	2/25/2023 10:14 AM
32	Water spaces at river and lake	2/25/2023 10:00 AM
33	Note nature and natural areas	2/25/2023 9:18 AM
34	Do not need more sports and athletic fields to maintain; That should be a private funding	2/25/2023 7:31 AM

35	Natural quiet areas untouched by humans	2/24/2023 5:58 PM
36	Demonstration gardens for native plants and/or landscaping	2/24/2023 5:49 PM
37	Pump track (for bicycles)	2/24/2023 9:18 AM
38	Clay target shooting	2/24/2023 5:33 AM
39	Peaceful places.	2/22/2023 11:33 PM
40	Protected land	2/22/2023 9:17 PM
41	Zipline, Parasailing, Scuba areas...	2/22/2023 6:50 PM
42	Dark Sky / Night Sky Friendly areas. Upgrade the lights at Jumbo Evans and the CCISD sports fields to be IDA Night Sky Approved.	2/22/2023 12:07 PM
43	Green space to protect what we all came here for - the beauty. The new hotel/whatever in Gruene sounds like a nightmare for parking, run off into the river, ability for locals to go support the smaller businesses.	2/22/2023 9:54 AM
44	Dog parks, walking paths in scenic areas, perhaps some picnic areas under controlled situations	2/22/2023 7:39 AM
45	I would like long-term planning to connect green spaces for long walks.	2/21/2023 9:53 PM
46	walking/ running trails similar to wimberly's blue hole park	2/21/2023 8:38 PM
47	Safe caving areas, canoe/kayak launches, connection to Great Springs Project for long distance hike/bike opportunities	2/21/2023 7:25 PM
48	Walking trails	2/21/2023 6:53 PM
49	Any natural area that can provide for native plants, trees, etc. to exist and be enjoyed by the public.	2/21/2023 5:44 PM
50	Biking trails that connect across the county to provide miles of safe distance bicycling (not mountain biking).	2/21/2023 10:39 AM
51	Disc golf courses	2/20/2023 8:22 PM
52	Educational Facilities, open air classrooms designed for schools including universities to research soil, vegetation, geology, wildlife, etc. in order to better understand and develop flood control, vegetation development for our climate, and water use planning for the future. Educational center, events, and guides for conservation and environmental awareness activities, a research park!	2/20/2023 12:39 PM
53	Education kiosks for learning about our natural resources. Little "forrest" huts.	2/20/2023 11:46 AM
54	Boat ramps and more parking spaces	2/20/2023 10:21 AM
55	Protected spaces for wildlife	2/19/2023 3:18 PM
56	Pickle ball and tennis courts that are lighted	2/19/2023 9:22 AM
57	Pickleball courts	2/19/2023 9:20 AM
58	Access to natural waterfront, which is currently overwhelmingly under private ownership.	2/19/2023 8:26 AM
59	Pickle ball courts	2/19/2023 8:20 AM
60	Pickle ball courts covered	2/18/2023 9:58 PM
61	More handicap facilities.	2/18/2023 9:52 PM
62	How about you block some of these people from moving in here slow down the development and cut our goddamn taxes, especially property taxes with the saturation increase in population what our goddamn taxes have to be so high	2/18/2023 8:48 PM
63	Green belt trail systems, hike and bike trails connecting neighborhoods to cities and shopping.	2/18/2023 6:20 PM
64	Outdoor calisthenics gyms in open spaces and along trails.	2/18/2023 6:20 PM

65	Boat ramp parking	2/18/2023 5:15 PM
66	Star gazing areas	2/18/2023 3:10 PM
67	Better access to Canyon Lake shoreline.	2/18/2023 2:43 PM
68	Dog parks in Canyon lake,Frisbee Golf Areas	2/18/2023 2:32 PM
69	Pickleball courts	2/18/2023 12:40 PM
70	need more public tennis courts	2/18/2023 12:04 PM
71	Pickle ball courts	2/18/2023 11:59 AM
72	Local only spaces.	2/18/2023 10:00 AM
73	Camping, Dark Skies	2/17/2023 8:28 PM
74	Non commercial non entertainment. Less obstruction n of streams, rivers, views, etc. By new huge and high rise venues..!!!!	2/17/2023 6:07 PM
75	Rec center and soccer fields on the east side of 35 north and south of the Guadalupe river.	2/17/2023 1:36 PM
76	Please build paths that connect neighborhoods that don't require being on FM 3009	2/17/2023 10:13 AM
77	There is a SEVERE shortage of athletic fields to support our growing community!	2/17/2023 9:44 AM
78	PICKLEBALL courts please! :)	2/16/2023 8:10 PM
79	Native Gardens, Dark Sky Areas	2/16/2023 4:46 PM
80	Easier lake and Guadalupe River access	2/16/2023 1:41 PM
81	Dog parks, Outdoor public pool on east side of I35	2/15/2023 5:57 PM
82	Playgrounds and water play areas for kids	2/14/2023 11:01 PM
83	More Boat ramp parking	2/14/2023 9:25 AM
84	Fishing	2/14/2023 8:55 AM
85	Equestrian trails	2/14/2023 8:46 AM
86	Facilities for cultural events/ entertainment	2/13/2023 10:07 PM
87	Covered areas for play grounds	2/13/2023 8:52 PM
88	pickle ball courts	2/13/2023 8:20 PM
89	Swimming pools	2/13/2023 8:19 PM
90	Bike trails that are completely separate from roadways so people can ride their bikes safely	2/13/2023 8:18 PM
91	Amphitheater	2/13/2023 7:07 PM
92	Dog park	2/13/2023 7:01 PM
93	Natural playground and/or wild space for exploring	2/13/2023 6:53 PM
94	Natatorium it's so needed!	2/13/2023 6:51 PM
95	Tennis and pickleball	2/13/2023 6:34 PM
96	Trails along the Guadalupe and Comal Rivers	2/13/2023 11:53 AM
97	Bicycle trails	2/13/2023 10:12 AM
98	Easily walkable trails	2/13/2023 9:11 AM
99	Pickleball courts	2/12/2023 7:44 AM
100	areas for family camping	2/12/2023 12:59 AM
101	Skate park for teens	2/11/2023 6:56 PM
102	Pickleball courts	2/11/2023 11:45 AM

103	Pickieball courts to fill increasing number of players.	2/11/2023 9:57 AM
104	Bird watching, wild life watching ect.	2/11/2023 9:53 AM
105	Need more parks with swimming beach access. In my opinion, this is needed the most.	2/11/2023 8:55 AM
106	It would be so great to have a few miles or more of smooth paving for rollerblading, biking. Much like the Velloway in Austin. Also, the 45 path is good too. But both are too far away. There isn't anywhere to rollerblade/inline skating.	2/11/2023 7:10 AM
107	I like protected ecosystems for research as well as historic sites.	2/10/2023 8:02 PM
108	We need pickleball at all parks and Need a public swimming pool on the Bulverde side of the county	2/10/2023 6:18 PM
109	More pickleball courts!	2/10/2023 4:36 PM
110	Pickleball specific courts	2/10/2023 4:28 PM
111	Flat, safe walking paths	2/10/2023 1:13 PM
112	Pickle ball courts	2/10/2023 11:52 AM
113	Pickleball courts	2/10/2023 10:11 AM
114	Pickle ball courts	2/10/2023 9:37 AM
115	As a society we are becoming more and more disconnected from nature. Without some protection, there is no hope for life as we know it in Comal County.	2/10/2023 9:23 AM
116	Pickleball courts	2/10/2023 8:54 AM
117	Pickleball courts	2/10/2023 8:35 AM
118	Pickleball courts	2/10/2023 8:31 AM
119	Pickleball courts!!	2/10/2023 8:21 AM
120	Specifically pickle ball courts.	2/10/2023 8:08 AM
121	Horseback riding trails, areas for research for preservation (caves/aquifers) dye tracing. Air monitoring stations. All available for public to see and get educated as to why this preservation is necessary. Universities may actually go in on this with the county! .	2/10/2023 6:50 AM
122	Pickleball courts	2/10/2023 6:48 AM
123	Pickleball courts	2/9/2023 10:23 PM
124	Pickleball	2/9/2023 10:17 PM
125	Pickle ball courts	2/9/2023 8:03 PM
126	Bicycle Trails, paved or smooth crushed rock.	2/9/2023 7:20 PM
127	Pickleball courts	2/9/2023 7:03 PM
128	Trails for bicycles other than mountain bikes!	2/9/2023 7:01 PM
129	Undeveloped Green Space and undeveloped hillsides are disappearing. Negatively impacts wildlife and the asthetics of the area.	2/9/2023 6:52 PM
130	Pickleball Courts	2/9/2023 6:25 PM
131	Specifically PickleBall. NOT more tennis.	2/9/2023 6:18 PM
132	Dog park	2/9/2023 6:16 PM
133	Pickleball courts	2/9/2023 6:05 PM
134	pickleball courts	2/9/2023 6:00 PM
135	Pickleball courts!	2/9/2023 5:45 PM
136	pickleball areas	2/9/2023 5:40 PM

137	Pickleball courts	2/9/2023 5:06 PM
138	Pickelball	2/9/2023 5:02 PM
139	Pickleball courts	2/9/2023 4:49 PM
140	Pickleball courts	2/9/2023 4:39 PM
141	Pickleball courts	2/9/2023 4:23 PM
142	Pickleball courts	2/9/2023 4:18 PM
143	Pickle ball courts	2/9/2023 4:11 PM
144	Pickleball courts	2/9/2023 4:09 PM
145	Conservation easements	2/9/2023 3:57 PM
146	Outdoor Pickleball courts	2/9/2023 3:52 PM
147	PICKLEBALL COURTS	2/9/2023 3:51 PM
148	Somewhere with water that I can bring my dog to in the road, but we cannot do that anymore.	2/9/2023 3:49 PM
149	Pickleball Courts	2/9/2023 3:43 PM
150	Pickleball Courts	2/9/2023 3:25 PM
151	Covered Pickleball Courts. The cover is important for limiting sun exposure and increasing use. Off Road trails for ATVs. Dedicated Bike Trails with reasonable grades for all ages.	2/9/2023 3:25 PM
152	Pickleball courts	2/9/2023 3:23 PM
153	Pickleball Courts	2/9/2023 2:40 PM
154	Pickleball courts	2/9/2023 2:30 PM
155	Pickleball	2/9/2023 2:16 PM
156	Water access, river specifically	2/9/2023 2:05 PM
157	Pickleball courts	2/9/2023 1:54 PM
158	Paddler access along the Guadalupe River	2/9/2023 12:43 PM
159	Pickleball courts	2/9/2023 12:30 PM
160	Dedicated pickleball courts. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport.	2/9/2023 12:01 PM
161	We need an area to play pickleball	2/9/2023 11:55 AM
162	Would absolutely love to have pickleball courts!!	2/9/2023 11:38 AM
163	Pickle ball courts	2/9/2023 11:30 AM
164	Performing arts spaces. A community the size of ours should provide more spaces for the performing arts.	2/9/2023 11:04 AM
165	Lots of open space around Devils Backbone that is sensitive and needs protection/preservation.	2/9/2023 10:47 AM
166	Pickleball Courts	2/9/2023 10:46 AM
167	Pickleball courts	2/9/2023 8:47 AM
168	Pickleball courts	2/9/2023 8:08 AM
169	Public swimming beaches on Canyon Lake	2/9/2023 8:07 AM
170	Dedicated pickleball courts	2/8/2023 10:04 PM
171	Skateboarding, skating, scooter, and bmx pump track (concrete)	2/8/2023 9:57 PM
172	Pickle ball courts	2/8/2023 8:36 PM
173	Pickleball especially in Comal county garden ridge area we don't have any county resources	2/8/2023 8:22 PM

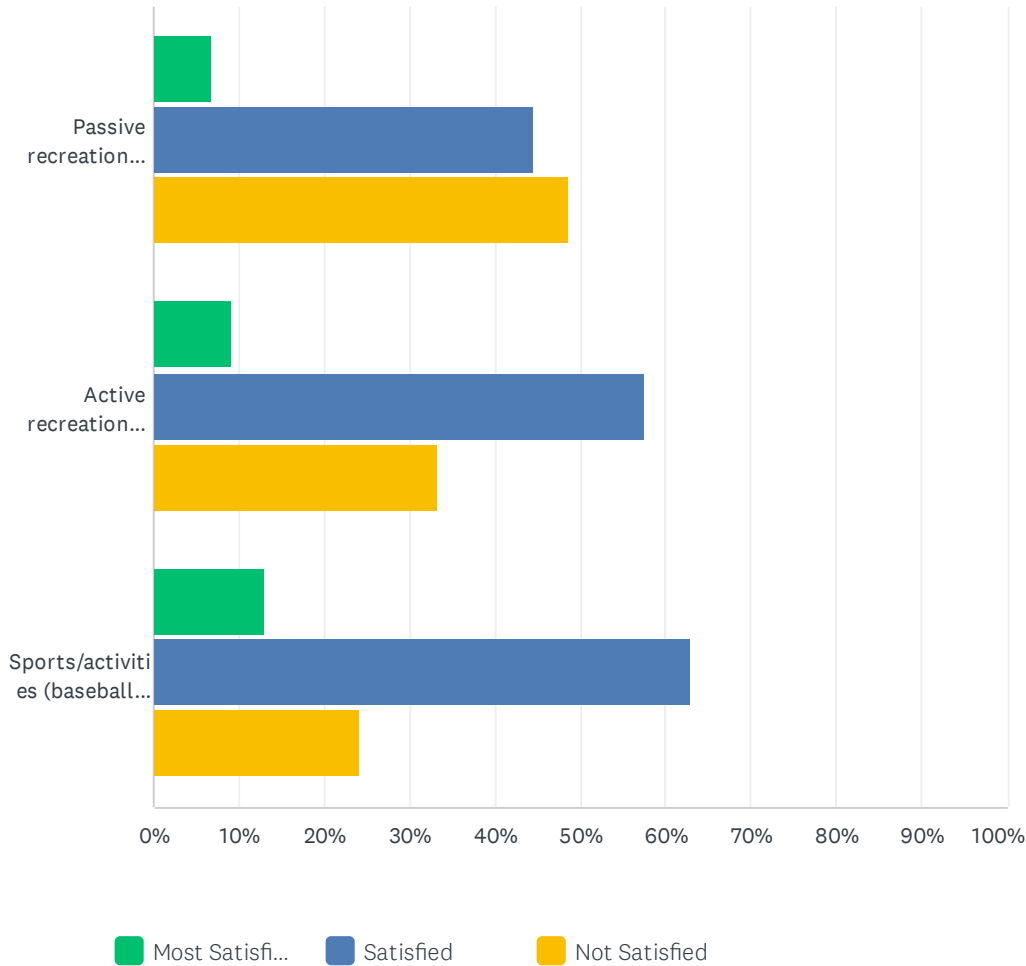
174	Would like to see more Pickleball courts	2/8/2023 8:22 PM
175	Nature education centers, very large open spaces/natural areas	2/8/2023 7:43 PM
176	Pickleball courts	2/8/2023 7:39 PM
177	Pickleball courts as above noted.	2/8/2023 7:35 PM
178	Pickleball courts	2/8/2023 7:30 PM
179	Green belts that connect multiple hiking/bicycling trails for a longer miles experience. I'd like to see Open Space development in Canyon Lake, as there are so few here in comparison to the other cities in Comal County.	2/8/2023 7:28 PM
180	Off-road bike trails that are not technical and allow for safe cycling	2/8/2023 7:26 PM
181	Would LOVE to see a frisbee golf course! Great family activity.	2/8/2023 7:09 PM
182	Dedicated pickleball courts	2/8/2023 6:53 PM
183	Improve Baseball facilities, Turf field and Cover Bleachers	2/8/2023 6:09 PM
184	Water/river access	2/8/2023 5:16 PM
185	Guadalupe River protected spaces (less homes on the river) and river access	2/8/2023 1:22 PM
186	Dog parks. New braunfels only has one	2/8/2023 12:14 PM
187	Dog parks please!	2/8/2023 11:18 AM
188	Trail for Equestrians	2/8/2023 10:45 AM
189	Natural parks with trails where people can enjoy the wild life that lives in the area	2/8/2023 7:57 AM
190	Accessible facilities. Like swings that will hold wheelchairs.	2/7/2023 9:29 PM
191	Lake access year round and increased access in summer	2/7/2023 6:50 PM
192	Pickleball courts	2/7/2023 4:57 PM
193	More requirements for green spaces in businesses - like parking lots for big stores, shopping malls, residential builders, companies. Require more trees, plants, grass to be planted for a set amount of concrete or paving put down. Also set standards that prevents builders from coming in and tearing out every tree on a piece of property to build something - either through restrictions or monetary incentives.	2/7/2023 1:36 PM
194	Pickleball courts	2/7/2023 8:35 AM
195	Picnic spaces, campsites	2/6/2023 9:37 PM
196	Water recreation access. Put in/take out for personal watercraft.	2/6/2023 7:57 PM
197	public outdoor pickleball courts	2/6/2023 7:47 PM
198	Natural surface running trails (smoother than many hiking trails), similar to the natural surface trails in McAllister Park.	2/6/2023 7:35 PM
199	Natural sciences education,	2/6/2023 6:50 PM
200	Nature trails with signposts about local flora and fauna	2/6/2023 6:13 PM
201	Connecting hike/bike trails between parks and open spaces.	2/6/2023 5:33 PM
202	Bike trails that connect all parks within the county	2/6/2023 5:23 PM
203	Rock climbing facility indoors	2/6/2023 4:19 PM
204	Walking paths	2/6/2023 3:47 PM
205	Any greenway trails similar to those in San Antonio would be great - paved or unpaved	2/6/2023 3:01 PM
206	More river access for all	2/6/2023 10:33 AM
207	Trails	2/6/2023 9:36 AM

208	Comal Trails Alliance Expansion	2/6/2023 9:36 AM
209	It feels like there are really only two parks for general adult walking/recreation with dogs, Fisher Park (which has no shade) and Landa Park (which is regularly crowded) would like just better walkable areas around town in general. The only hiking IN town is Panther Canyon. The fields are out of the way and usually booked far in advance.	2/6/2023 9:01 AM
210	Pickle Ball Courts	2/6/2023 8:44 AM
211	Lands that help support wildlife.	2/6/2023 6:26 AM
212	more public tennis courts	2/6/2023 5:51 AM
213	No clear cutting trees and natural habitats	2/5/2023 7:49 PM
214	New Braunfels' population is rapidly becoming over urbanized with huge apartment complexes in many parts of the city and wider roads. People will continue to need outdoor space for physical activity and good mental health. I live near Landa Park, and on any nice day our beautiful park is over crowded, even with the other, newre park and pocket parks in our city.	2/5/2023 7:14 PM
215	Regular biking trails to get people off the roads. Texas is VERY lacking in resources for recreational biking.	2/5/2023 7:02 PM
216	Large open fields for trained dog exercise and training in a location which is dirt or sod, a CLEAN water supply and none of the stupid rules or enforcement. At your own risk for TRAINED dogs.	2/5/2023 8:28 AM
217	A place to wander in nature without much urban noise	2/4/2023 9:29 PM
218	We definitely need more sports complexes around here. We have outgrown the fields. It would also be great to have additional places to mountain bike and hike!	2/4/2023 8:59 PM
219	we need green space for native species and for the aquifer....Totally empty	2/4/2023 8:57 PM
220	Easy walking paths & pet parks	2/4/2023 6:22 PM
221	Protection of the Dry Comal Creek, Dry Bear Creek and other waterways upstream of the Guadalupe and Comal Rivers.	2/4/2023 1:27 PM
222	Accomodate use for those wanting to sit in an area, photo, bird watch & more.	2/4/2023 12:50 PM
223	Walking trails	2/4/2023 12:38 PM
224	River launches and take outs	2/4/2023 7:53 AM
225	Paved 2 lane cycling trails	2/4/2023 7:32 AM
226	another dog park near 306 side of town	2/4/2023 7:13 AM
227	Running trails please, I usually run on the streets.	2/4/2023 5:49 AM
228	Nature preserves	2/3/2023 8:45 PM
229	Comal County is a beautiful natural area that is quickly being gobbled up by unchecked growth to the great detriment of the community	2/3/2023 4:54 PM
230	I would really like more biking shared use trails. and specifically natural surface single track mountain biking trails.	2/3/2023 2:44 PM
231	Pickle ball	2/3/2023 2:30 PM
232	public access river facilities	2/3/2023 1:41 PM
233	The county has dropped the ball when it comes to preservation and buying land to protect. Counties around us have and Comal has failed and yet they have surveys to ask obvious questions. Of course we need more parks and trails. And no we don't need anymore money wasted on sports fields.	2/3/2023 1:36 PM
234	Quality Dog parks	2/3/2023 1:04 PM
235	Kayak access	2/3/2023 12:45 PM
236	Nature parks	2/3/2023 12:39 PM

237	Greenbelt	2/3/2023 12:35 PM
238	Comprehensive bike paths, bike lanes, not just nursing biking but walking and running trails with bike access.	2/3/2023 12:20 PM
239	Open spaces that are dog friendly	2/3/2023 12:16 PM
240	public outdoor track	2/3/2023 11:58 AM
241	Nature centers	2/3/2023 11:54 AM
242	Outdoor teaching spaces and opportunities	2/3/2023 11:39 AM
243	Long and interconnected hiking, mtn biking trails. See San Antonio, for example.	2/3/2023 11:38 AM
244	More outdoor programming. LESS HOME AND RETAIL DEVELOPMENT	2/3/2023 11:06 AM
245	Community gardens	2/3/2023 11:00 AM
246	Black land Prairie and Edwards Plateau native areas with all of the invasive species removed.	2/3/2023 9:36 AM
247	More man made ponds, streams and waterfalls where springs aren't present	2/3/2023 9:20 AM
248	We have one of the largest Trout Unlimited Chapters in the country and no river access or parking options.	2/3/2023 8:29 AM
249	Bird blinds for viewing our amazing Texas and migratory birds	2/3/2023 8:26 AM
250	Protected areas around our water sources, i.e. Comal Springs	2/3/2023 8:14 AM
251	There is a need for an indoor dog park that can be accessed through out the year, especially in the summer when it's too hot to take you dog to an outdoor park. Treat like a gym membership with a monthly fee. People will pay. North Texas has several indoor dog parks. Contact me for more info: Eric Langenhahn 830-730-7625 langenhahn61@gmail.com	2/3/2023 8:09 AM
252	Bird blinds for birdwatching	2/3/2023 8:08 AM
253	Bird blinds, water sports opportunities	2/3/2023 7:53 AM
254	We need more natural areas open to the public which also include identifying plaques for selected plants, shrubs and trees.	2/3/2023 7:30 AM
255	Conservation easements	2/3/2023 6:41 AM

Q12 How satisfied are you with the existing recreational facilities, with regard to the following:

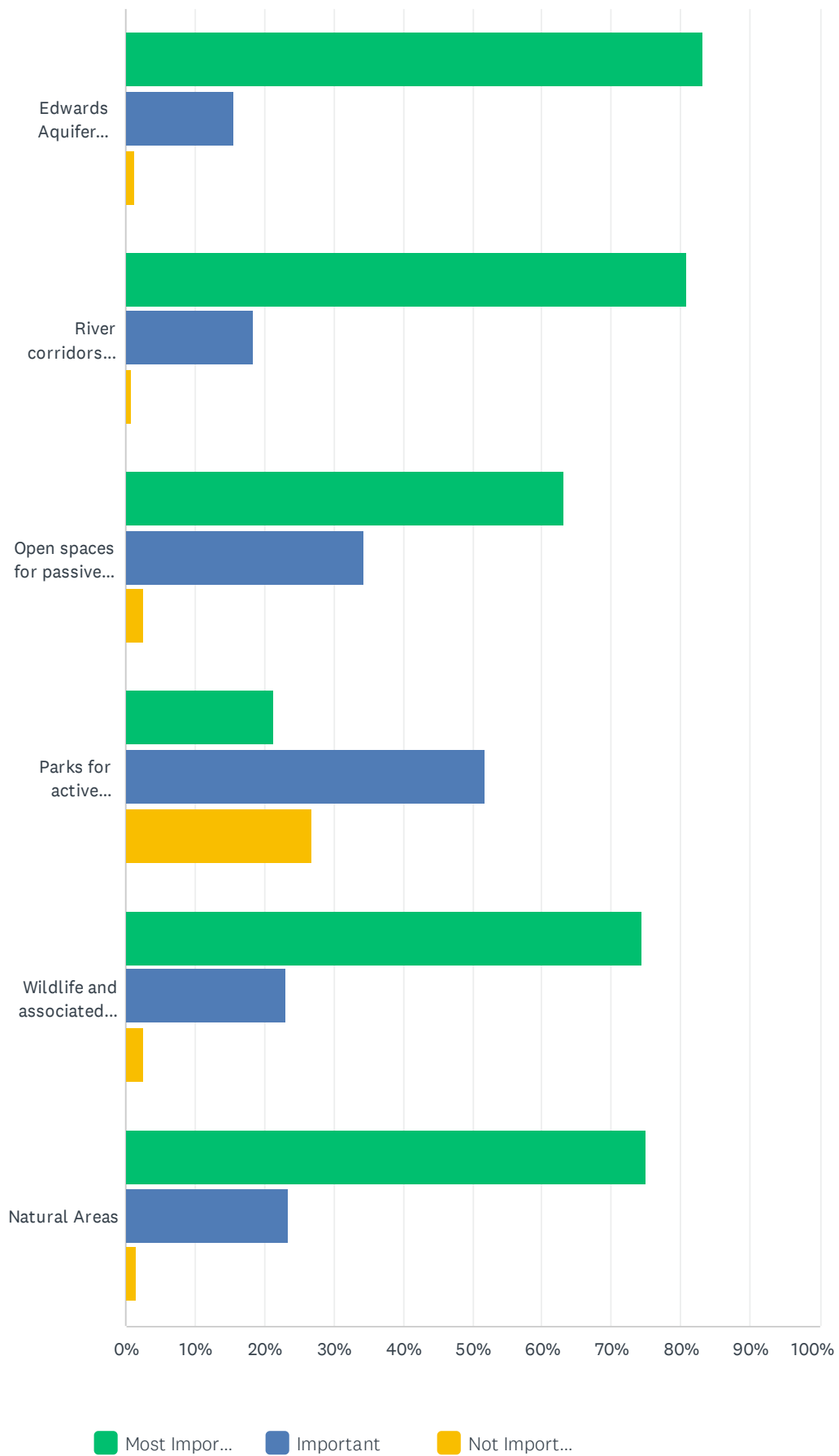
Answered: 941 Skipped: 73



	MOST SATISFIED	SATISFIED	NOT SATISFIED	TOTAL
Passive recreation spaces (i.e., biking, walking, fishing, picnicking, etc.)	6.75% 63	44.65% 417	48.61% 454	934
Active recreation spaces (i.e., playgrounds, splashpads, dog parks, etc.)	9.17% 84	57.53% 527	33.30% 305	916
Sports/activities (baseball, football, soccer, tennis)	12.99% 116	62.82% 561	24.19% 216	893

Q13 How important is it to you for Comal County to protect (conserve), expand, or improve:

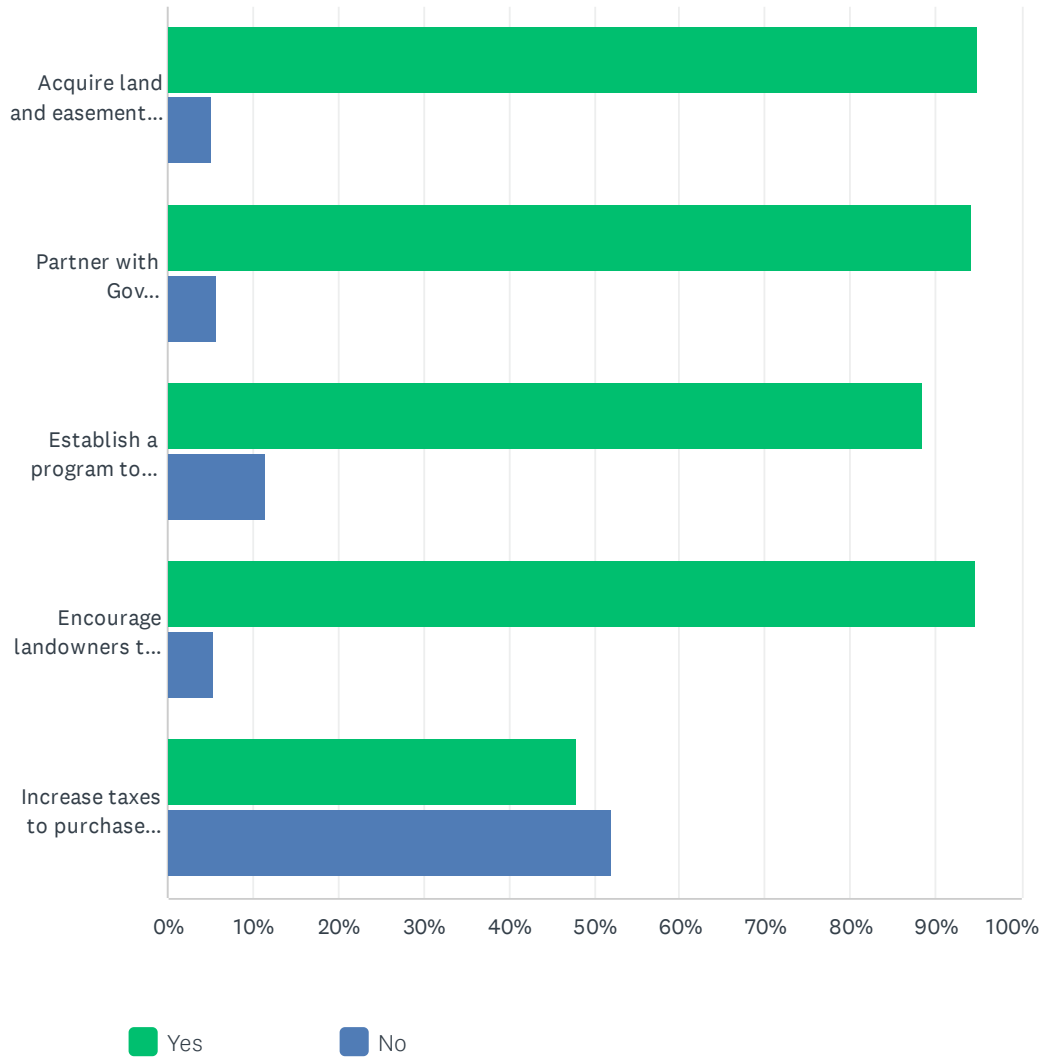
Answered: 958 Skipped: 56



	MOST IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone	83.09% 791	15.65% 149	1.26% 12	952
River corridors (e.g., Guadalupe River)	80.82% 771	18.24% 174	0.94% 9	954
Open spaces for passive recreation (hiking)	63.05% 599	34.32% 326	2.63% 25	950
Parks for active recreation (athletic fields)	21.25% 197	51.78% 480	26.97% 250	927
Wildlife and associated ecological resources	74.42% 707	23.05% 219	2.53% 24	950
Natural Areas	75.03% 712	23.39% 222	1.58% 15	949

Q14 In order to protect (conserve), expand or improve any of the above, do you think Comal County should:

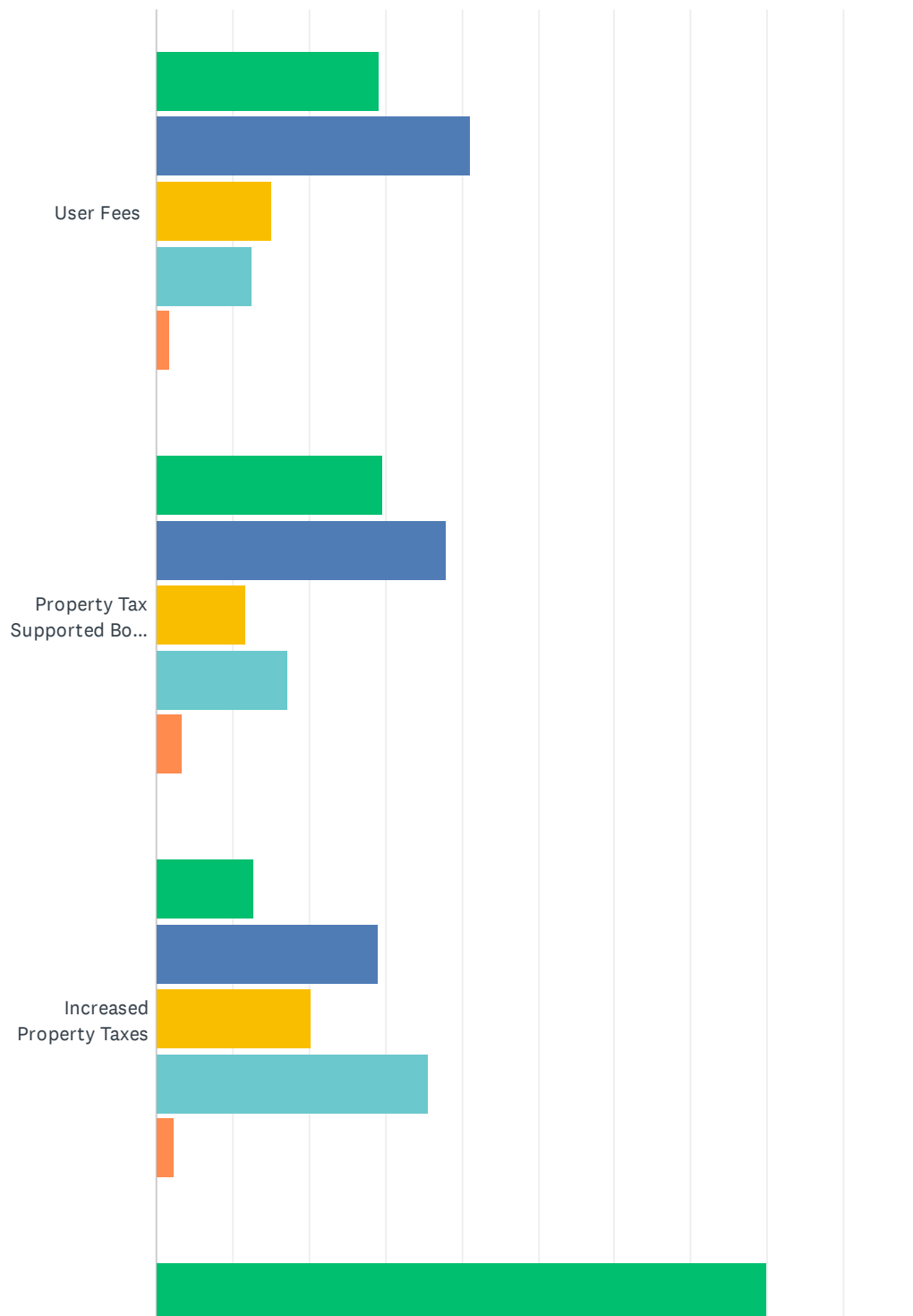
Answered: 951 Skipped: 63

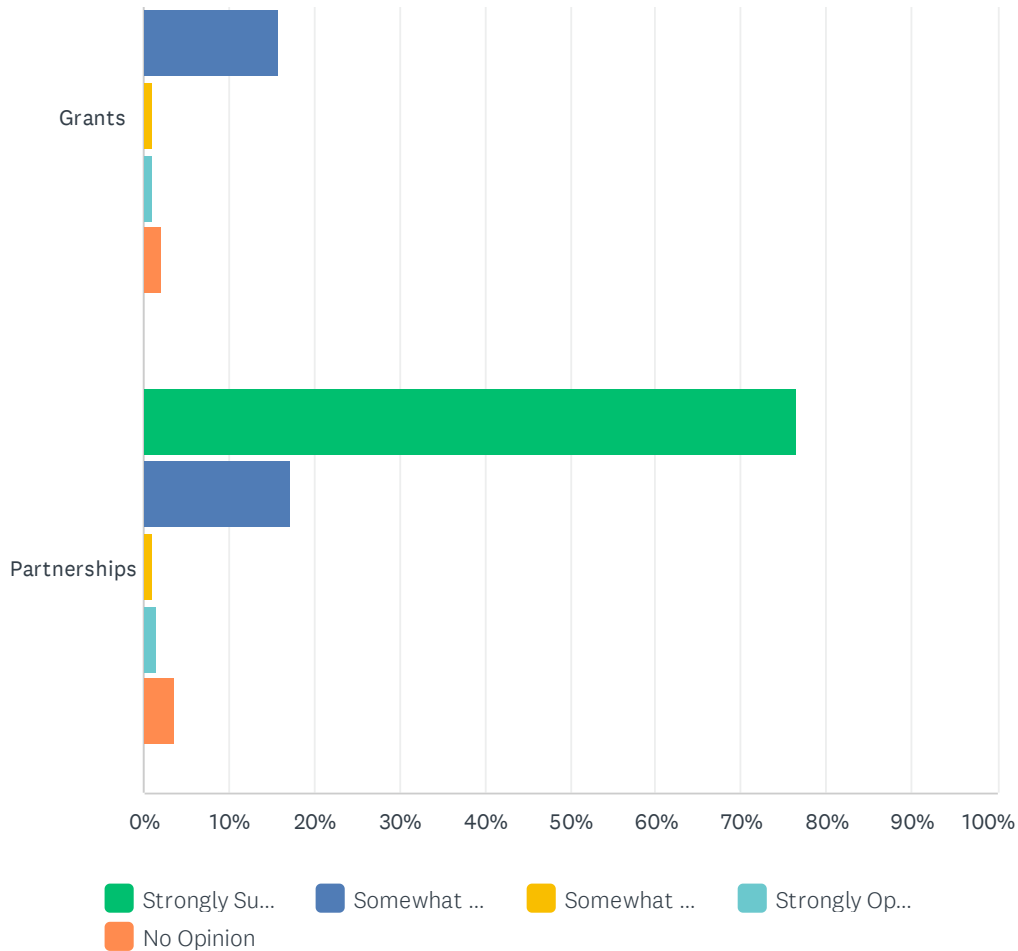


	YES	NO	TOTAL
Acquire land and easements through donations	94.95% 884	5.05% 47	931
Partner with Gov Entities/land trusts to purchase land/easements	94.14% 867	5.86% 54	921
Establish a program to purchase/transfer development rights	88.57% 783	11.43% 101	884
Encourage landowners to preserve their land through federal or state tax incentives, voluntary conservation easements, etc.	94.73% 880	5.27% 49	929
Increase taxes to purchase land and easements	47.94% 431	52.06% 468	899

Q15 Understanding that most all would increase what you currently pay in property taxes to Comal County, please indicate your level of support for the following funding mechanisms which could be used for acquisition of lands for parks, open spaces and/or natural areas, and support management and ongoing maintenance of the County's system.

Answered: 954 Skipped: 60

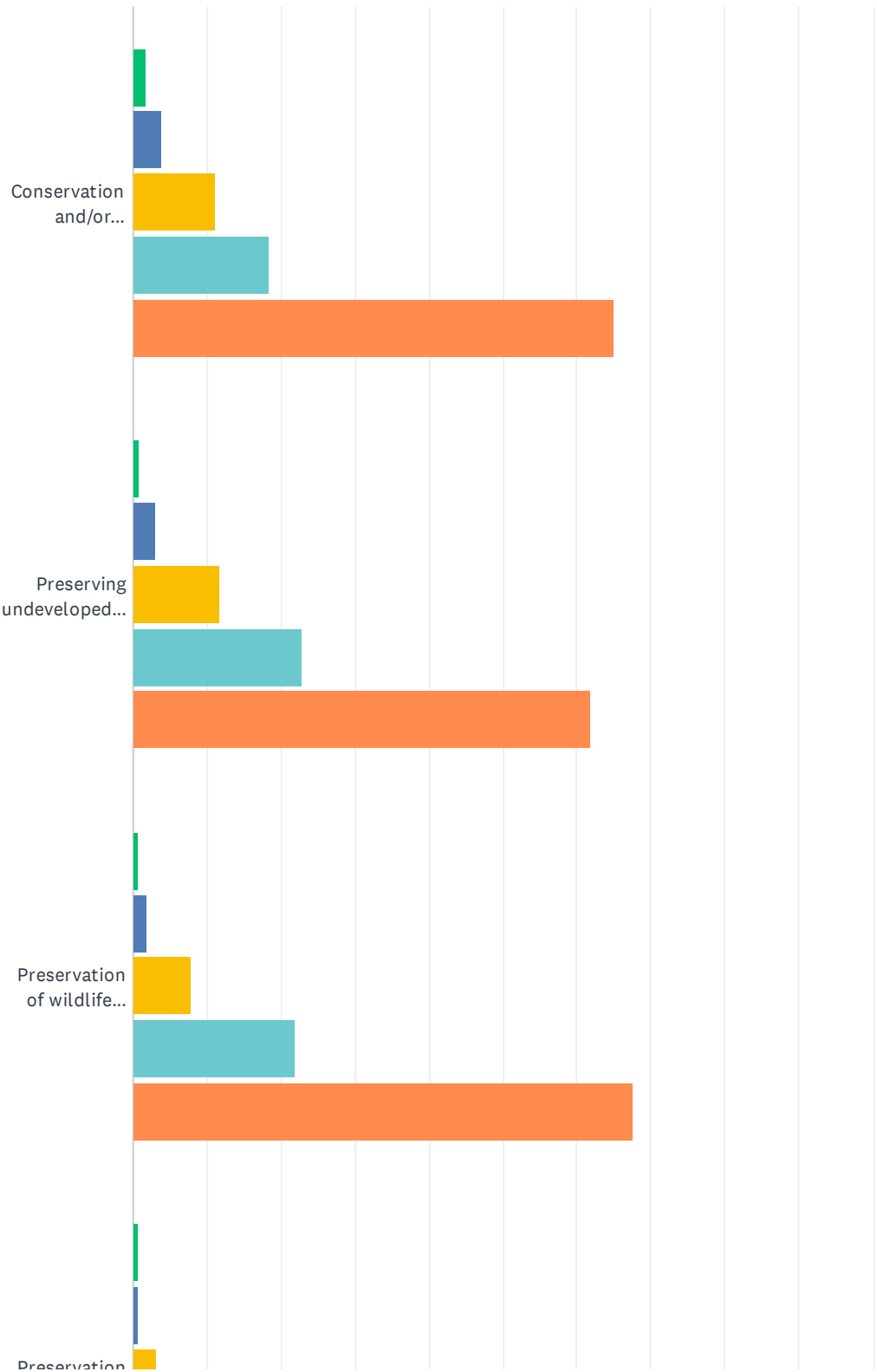


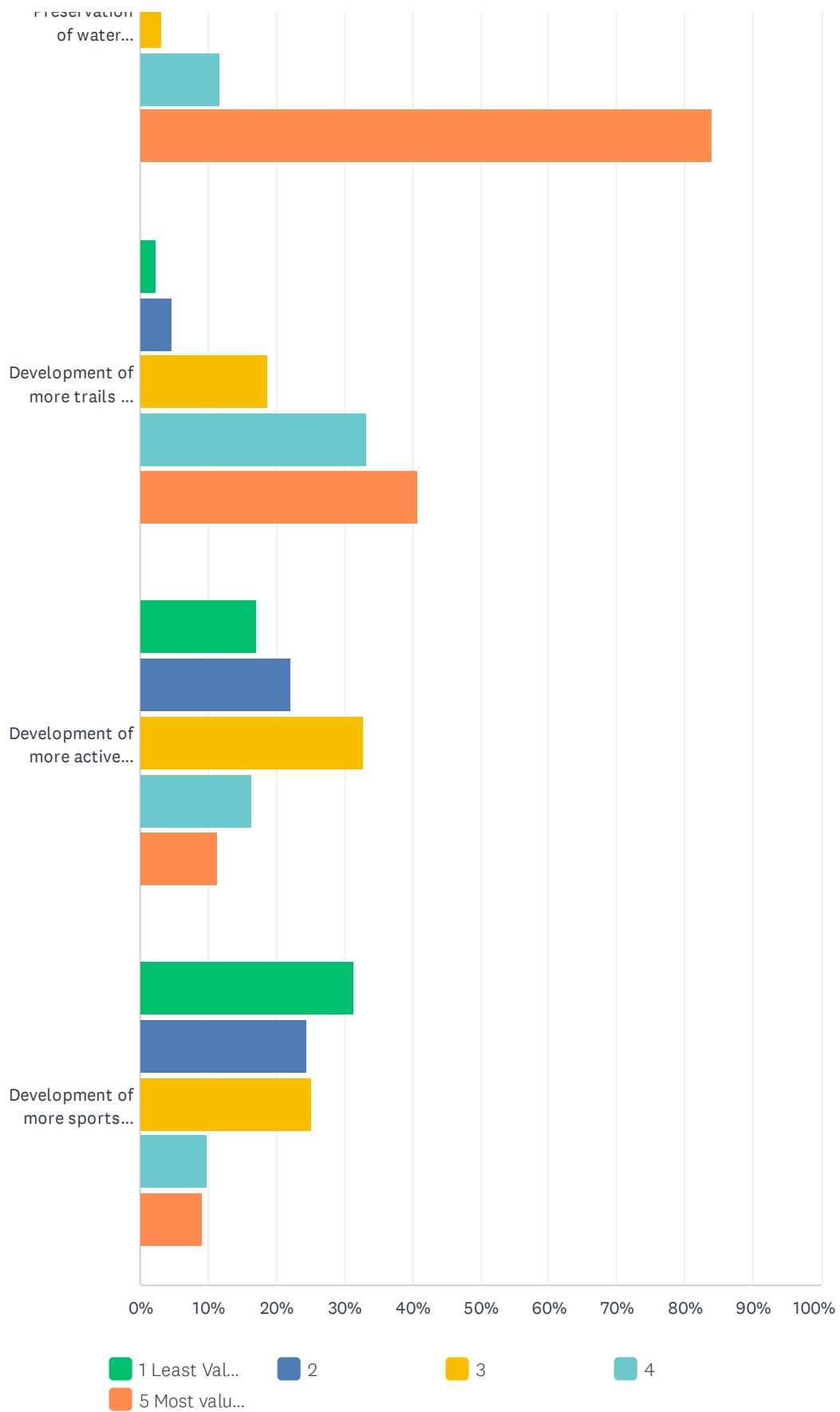


	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	NO OPINION	TOTAL
User Fees	29.29% 275	41.21% 387	15.12% 142	12.57% 118	1.81% 17	939
Property Tax Supported Bonds or Other Debt	29.62% 279	38.00% 358	11.68% 110	17.20% 162	3.50% 33	942
Increased Property Taxes	12.74% 120	29.09% 274	20.17% 190	35.56% 335	2.44% 23	942
Grants	79.87% 758	15.70% 149	1.16% 11	1.16% 11	2.11% 20	949
Partnerships	76.61% 727	17.18% 163	1.05% 10	1.48% 14	3.69% 35	949

Q16 What aspects of Comal County’s open spaces do you hope to see the County emphasize as it develops its Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan? 1 (least valuable) - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 (most valuable)

Answered: 918 Skipped: 96

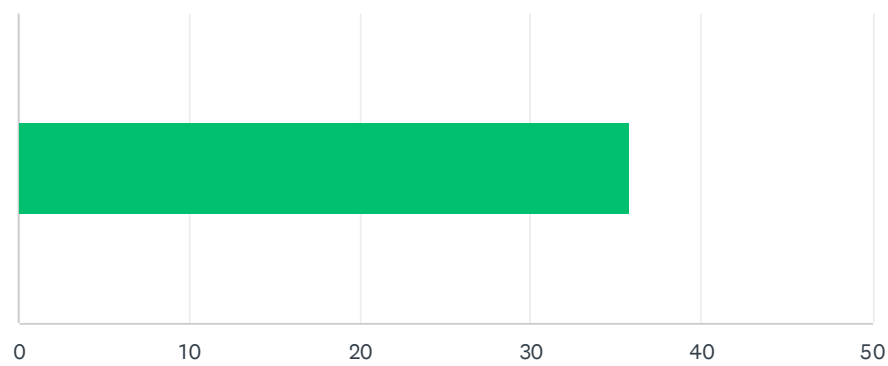




	1 LEAST VALUABLE	2	3	4	5 MOST VALUABLE	TOTAL
Conservation and/or preservation of sensitive habitats	1.66% 15	3.86% 35	11.15% 101	18.32% 166	65.01% 589	906
Preserving undeveloped areas in Comal County	0.88% 8	2.97% 27	11.65% 106	22.75% 207	61.76% 562	910
Preservation of wildlife habitat and tree canopy	0.66% 6	1.87% 17	7.90% 72	22.06% 201	67.51% 615	911
Preservation of water quality and aquifer recharge zones	0.55% 5	0.55% 5	3.17% 29	11.79% 108	83.95% 769	916
Development of more trails and passive recreational opportunities	2.41% 22	4.71% 43	18.84% 172	33.30% 304	40.74% 372	913
Development of more active recreational opportunities (i.e. playgrounds, splashpads and dog parks)	17.07% 155	22.25% 202	32.82% 298	16.52% 150	11.34% 103	908
Development of more sports facilities	31.24% 284	24.42% 222	25.19% 229	9.90% 90	9.24% 84	909

Q17 Would you prefer that the Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan focus more on open space and natural resource protection, providing outdoor recreation opportunities (including sports and athletics), or a balance of the two? (Use the sliding-bar to tell us)

Answered: 858 Skipped: 156



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	36	30,742	858
Total Respondents: 858			

#		DATE
1	55	4/2/2023 10:58 PM
2	0	3/31/2023 10:33 AM
3	49	3/31/2023 8:20 AM
4	54	3/30/2023 6:01 PM
5	51	3/30/2023 2:56 PM
6	0	3/30/2023 11:15 AM
7	33	3/29/2023 11:20 PM
8	10	3/29/2023 10:31 PM
9	51	3/29/2023 9:10 PM
10	19	3/29/2023 5:23 PM
11	51	3/29/2023 3:51 PM
12	9	3/29/2023 2:32 PM
13	34	3/29/2023 2:15 PM
14	4	3/29/2023 1:11 PM
15	50	3/29/2023 1:03 PM
16	31	3/29/2023 11:02 AM
17	0	3/24/2023 9:41 AM

18	3	3/23/2023 4:21 PM
19	53	3/22/2023 7:07 PM
20	51	3/22/2023 6:35 PM
21	22	3/19/2023 10:17 PM
22	59	3/19/2023 9:56 AM
23	14	3/18/2023 7:18 PM
24	0	3/18/2023 11:45 AM
25	0	3/18/2023 11:13 AM
26	0	3/18/2023 10:46 AM
27	31	3/18/2023 10:05 AM
28	41	3/18/2023 9:14 AM
29	1	3/17/2023 9:33 PM
30	36	3/17/2023 5:24 PM
31	55	3/17/2023 12:34 PM
32	49	3/17/2023 12:02 PM
33	0	3/16/2023 6:33 PM
34	4	3/16/2023 3:44 PM
35	34	3/15/2023 7:50 AM
36	25	3/15/2023 3:11 AM
37	35	3/14/2023 8:23 PM
38	30	3/14/2023 5:31 PM
39	20	3/14/2023 1:20 PM
40	43	3/14/2023 12:48 PM
41	7	3/14/2023 10:26 AM
42	53	3/14/2023 9:33 AM
43	0	3/14/2023 8:56 AM
44	7	3/14/2023 8:43 AM
45	15	3/14/2023 8:36 AM
46	35	3/14/2023 8:06 AM
47	0	3/13/2023 5:39 PM
48	56	3/13/2023 4:45 PM
49	100	3/13/2023 1:38 PM
50	0	3/13/2023 9:48 AM
51	20	3/13/2023 8:25 AM
52	34	3/13/2023 6:28 AM
53	12	3/12/2023 8:07 AM
54	49	3/11/2023 2:01 PM
55	47	3/11/2023 12:35 PM

56	50	3/11/2023 9:10 AM
57	45	3/11/2023 6:34 AM
58	50	3/11/2023 3:25 AM
59	1	3/11/2023 12:05 AM
60	16	3/10/2023 1:35 PM
61	36	3/10/2023 11:24 AM
62	13	3/10/2023 10:09 AM
63	39	3/10/2023 12:06 AM
64	8	3/8/2023 6:27 PM
65	0	3/8/2023 6:08 PM
66	3	3/8/2023 6:07 PM
67	0	3/8/2023 3:27 PM
68	14	3/8/2023 12:53 PM
69	31	3/8/2023 7:24 AM
70	39	3/7/2023 10:04 AM
71	41	3/7/2023 8:10 AM
72	13	3/7/2023 7:42 AM
73	44	3/7/2023 7:24 AM
74	0	3/6/2023 5:20 PM
75	2	3/6/2023 10:01 AM
76	2	3/5/2023 8:37 PM
77	39	3/5/2023 7:16 PM
78	51	3/5/2023 6:18 PM
79	40	3/5/2023 2:30 PM
80	48	3/5/2023 12:32 PM
81	26	3/5/2023 7:50 AM
82	49	3/5/2023 6:57 AM
83	4	3/4/2023 11:53 PM
84	4	3/4/2023 10:33 PM
85	36	3/4/2023 10:28 PM
86	49	3/4/2023 9:56 PM
87	35	3/4/2023 9:41 AM
88	38	3/4/2023 9:16 AM
89	49	3/4/2023 8:00 AM
90	84	3/4/2023 7:00 AM
91	49	3/3/2023 9:40 PM
92	27	3/3/2023 9:06 PM
93	4	3/3/2023 5:24 PM

94	12	3/2/2023 9:19 PM
95	100	3/2/2023 2:19 AM
96	58	3/1/2023 7:54 PM
97	66	3/1/2023 6:18 PM
98	36	3/1/2023 6:10 PM
99	31	3/1/2023 5:59 PM
100	0	3/1/2023 2:23 PM
101	31	3/1/2023 12:19 PM
102	52	3/1/2023 10:44 AM
103	30	3/1/2023 10:43 AM
104	24	3/1/2023 9:48 AM
105	13	3/1/2023 8:38 AM
106	33	3/1/2023 8:04 AM
107	48	3/1/2023 7:16 AM
108	18	3/1/2023 12:17 AM
109	23	2/28/2023 11:09 AM
110	30	2/28/2023 7:50 AM
111	19	2/28/2023 7:42 AM
112	24	2/28/2023 7:07 AM
113	70	2/27/2023 7:21 PM
114	9	2/27/2023 5:04 PM
115	16	2/27/2023 2:28 PM
116	0	2/27/2023 2:14 PM
117	32	2/27/2023 1:05 PM
118	35	2/27/2023 12:39 PM
119	42	2/27/2023 9:17 AM
120	0	2/27/2023 8:33 AM
121	13	2/27/2023 7:32 AM
122	12	2/27/2023 7:09 AM
123	17	2/27/2023 12:24 AM
124	2	2/26/2023 10:18 PM
125	11	2/26/2023 9:37 PM
126	26	2/26/2023 9:03 PM
127	36	2/26/2023 5:47 PM
128	1	2/26/2023 5:31 PM
129	60	2/26/2023 3:55 PM
130	29	2/26/2023 3:24 PM
131	51	2/26/2023 2:47 PM

132	50	2/26/2023 2:18 PM
133	29	2/26/2023 11:51 AM
134	30	2/26/2023 11:47 AM
135	17	2/26/2023 11:42 AM
136	23	2/26/2023 10:50 AM
137	0	2/26/2023 10:43 AM
138	26	2/26/2023 10:00 AM
139	48	2/26/2023 9:55 AM
140	50	2/26/2023 9:49 AM
141	0	2/26/2023 9:37 AM
142	2	2/26/2023 9:20 AM
143	32	2/26/2023 9:03 AM
144	49	2/26/2023 8:35 AM
145	22	2/26/2023 7:29 AM
146	100	2/26/2023 7:14 AM
147	48	2/26/2023 1:56 AM
148	25	2/25/2023 11:32 PM
149	31	2/25/2023 8:28 PM
150	23	2/25/2023 8:12 PM
151	36	2/25/2023 7:58 PM
152	26	2/25/2023 6:17 PM
153	59	2/25/2023 6:11 PM
154	9	2/25/2023 4:08 PM
155	21	2/25/2023 2:15 PM
156	48	2/25/2023 12:48 PM
157	20	2/25/2023 11:10 AM
158	14	2/25/2023 10:16 AM
159	57	2/25/2023 10:01 AM
160	14	2/25/2023 9:19 AM
161	0	2/25/2023 7:32 AM
162	4	2/24/2023 7:51 PM
163	47	2/24/2023 7:10 PM
164	17	2/24/2023 7:03 PM
165	0	2/24/2023 6:00 PM
166	39	2/24/2023 5:50 PM
167	11	2/24/2023 3:41 PM
168	8	2/24/2023 3:33 PM
169	50	2/24/2023 3:04 PM

170	46	2/24/2023 2:22 PM
171	79	2/24/2023 2:14 PM
172	0	2/24/2023 1:32 PM
173	47	2/24/2023 1:22 PM
174	48	2/24/2023 1:21 PM
175	50	2/24/2023 12:47 PM
176	38	2/24/2023 12:29 PM
177	25	2/24/2023 11:56 AM
178	52	2/24/2023 11:46 AM
179	48	2/24/2023 11:40 AM
180	41	2/24/2023 11:25 AM
181	16	2/24/2023 11:21 AM
182	49	2/24/2023 11:02 AM
183	1	2/24/2023 10:46 AM
184	0	2/24/2023 10:30 AM
185	51	2/24/2023 10:15 AM
186	50	2/24/2023 9:58 AM
187	32	2/24/2023 9:24 AM
188	0	2/24/2023 9:23 AM
189	50	2/24/2023 9:21 AM
190	95	2/24/2023 9:20 AM
191	40	2/24/2023 9:09 AM
192	4	2/24/2023 8:52 AM
193	19	2/24/2023 8:27 AM
194	50	2/24/2023 8:24 AM
195	0	2/24/2023 8:02 AM
196	6	2/24/2023 7:56 AM
197	36	2/24/2023 7:51 AM
198	28	2/24/2023 7:45 AM
199	0	2/24/2023 7:27 AM
200	21	2/24/2023 5:34 AM
201	42	2/24/2023 5:29 AM
202	0	2/23/2023 8:51 PM
203	29	2/23/2023 6:28 PM
204	48	2/23/2023 4:53 PM
205	46	2/23/2023 2:11 PM
206	43	2/23/2023 10:56 AM
207	6	2/23/2023 10:16 AM

208	33	2/23/2023 9:06 AM
209	13	2/23/2023 8:05 AM
210	11	2/22/2023 11:36 PM
211	0	2/22/2023 9:18 PM
212	31	2/22/2023 8:19 PM
213	82	2/22/2023 6:52 PM
214	10	2/22/2023 3:59 PM
215	92	2/22/2023 3:45 PM
216	52	2/22/2023 11:15 AM
217	1	2/22/2023 11:11 AM
218	45	2/22/2023 10:55 AM
219	9	2/22/2023 9:55 AM
220	30	2/22/2023 7:40 AM
221	49	2/22/2023 6:07 AM
222	52	2/21/2023 9:55 PM
223	50	2/21/2023 9:53 PM
224	69	2/21/2023 9:14 PM
225	15	2/21/2023 8:53 PM
226	50	2/21/2023 8:40 PM
227	52	2/21/2023 7:28 PM
228	3	2/21/2023 7:22 PM
229	35	2/21/2023 6:57 PM
230	15	2/21/2023 6:17 PM
231	29	2/21/2023 5:46 PM
232	40	2/21/2023 5:18 PM
233	28	2/21/2023 4:22 PM
234	50	2/21/2023 4:00 PM
235	24	2/21/2023 3:31 PM
236	3	2/21/2023 12:51 PM
237	1	2/21/2023 12:36 PM
238	27	2/21/2023 11:56 AM
239	3	2/21/2023 11:26 AM
240	50	2/21/2023 11:19 AM
241	0	2/21/2023 11:12 AM
242	49	2/21/2023 11:10 AM
243	66	2/21/2023 10:44 AM
244	51	2/21/2023 10:41 AM
245	17	2/21/2023 10:29 AM

246	36	2/21/2023 9:13 AM
247	35	2/21/2023 9:00 AM
248	24	2/21/2023 6:07 AM
249	6	2/21/2023 5:12 AM
250	17	2/20/2023 11:24 PM
251	35	2/20/2023 10:46 PM
252	5	2/20/2023 10:21 PM
253	55	2/20/2023 9:49 PM
254	51	2/20/2023 9:18 PM
255	50	2/20/2023 8:30 PM
256	64	2/20/2023 8:24 PM
257	54	2/20/2023 6:43 PM
258	16	2/20/2023 6:42 PM
259	6	2/20/2023 6:16 PM
260	33	2/20/2023 3:19 PM
261	53	2/20/2023 2:44 PM
262	14	2/20/2023 2:09 PM
263	51	2/20/2023 1:02 PM
264	20	2/20/2023 12:40 PM
265	0	2/20/2023 11:48 AM
266	0	2/20/2023 10:22 AM
267	30	2/20/2023 9:38 AM
268	27	2/20/2023 9:14 AM
269	25	2/20/2023 9:10 AM
270	27	2/20/2023 8:47 AM
271	31	2/20/2023 7:21 AM
272	48	2/20/2023 6:55 AM
273	65	2/19/2023 11:08 PM
274	35	2/19/2023 10:11 PM
275	13	2/19/2023 9:40 PM
276	47	2/19/2023 9:06 PM
277	49	2/19/2023 8:21 PM
278	42	2/19/2023 7:57 PM
279	54	2/19/2023 6:13 PM
280	51	2/19/2023 6:09 PM
281	46	2/19/2023 5:30 PM
282	51	2/19/2023 3:42 PM
283	0	2/19/2023 3:19 PM

284	27	2/19/2023 2:54 PM
285	49	2/19/2023 1:26 PM
286	21	2/19/2023 10:49 AM
287	68	2/19/2023 10:28 AM
288	34	2/19/2023 10:20 AM
289	5	2/19/2023 10:12 AM
290	0	2/19/2023 9:50 AM
291	26	2/19/2023 9:28 AM
292	0	2/19/2023 9:26 AM
293	100	2/19/2023 9:24 AM
294	68	2/19/2023 9:21 AM
295	46	2/19/2023 9:10 AM
296	26	2/19/2023 8:37 AM
297	35	2/19/2023 8:27 AM
298	48	2/19/2023 8:22 AM
299	52	2/19/2023 8:21 AM
300	50	2/19/2023 6:10 AM
301	2	2/19/2023 5:21 AM
302	51	2/19/2023 3:41 AM
303	39	2/19/2023 12:13 AM
304	29	2/18/2023 11:58 PM
305	9	2/18/2023 11:29 PM
306	53	2/18/2023 11:08 PM
307	58	2/18/2023 9:59 PM
308	53	2/18/2023 9:54 PM
309	57	2/18/2023 9:14 PM
310	12	2/18/2023 8:51 PM
311	18	2/18/2023 8:40 PM
312	32	2/18/2023 8:18 PM
313	48	2/18/2023 8:05 PM
314	0	2/18/2023 7:21 PM
315	5	2/18/2023 7:12 PM
316	22	2/18/2023 7:08 PM
317	0	2/18/2023 7:07 PM
318	25	2/18/2023 6:41 PM
319	28	2/18/2023 6:21 PM
320	10	2/18/2023 6:21 PM
321	26	2/18/2023 6:01 PM

322	33	2/18/2023 5:44 PM
323	40	2/18/2023 5:43 PM
324	67	2/18/2023 5:21 PM
325	69	2/18/2023 5:16 PM
326	33	2/18/2023 5:12 PM
327	49	2/18/2023 3:59 PM
328	50	2/18/2023 3:57 PM
329	0	2/18/2023 3:13 PM
330	49	2/18/2023 3:13 PM
331	36	2/18/2023 2:45 PM
332	38	2/18/2023 2:35 PM
333	40	2/18/2023 1:39 PM
334	45	2/18/2023 12:42 PM
335	49	2/18/2023 12:38 PM
336	11	2/18/2023 12:08 PM
337	73	2/18/2023 12:01 PM
338	50	2/18/2023 11:41 AM
339	50	2/18/2023 11:19 AM
340	15	2/18/2023 11:05 AM
341	27	2/18/2023 10:24 AM
342	0	2/18/2023 10:01 AM
343	14	2/18/2023 9:37 AM
344	52	2/18/2023 9:22 AM
345	1	2/18/2023 9:14 AM
346	0	2/18/2023 9:04 AM
347	37	2/18/2023 8:29 AM
348	16	2/18/2023 8:18 AM
349	50	2/18/2023 7:58 AM
350	43	2/18/2023 7:56 AM
351	29	2/18/2023 7:51 AM
352	14	2/18/2023 7:23 AM
353	52	2/18/2023 6:47 AM
354	27	2/18/2023 5:55 AM
355	21	2/18/2023 12:21 AM
356	0	2/17/2023 11:30 PM
357	23	2/17/2023 9:37 PM
358	34	2/17/2023 9:21 PM
359	39	2/17/2023 9:15 PM

360	23	2/17/2023 8:56 PM
361	17	2/17/2023 8:52 PM
362	1	2/17/2023 8:48 PM
363	13	2/17/2023 8:45 PM
364	26	2/17/2023 8:29 PM
365	24	2/17/2023 7:35 PM
366	53	2/17/2023 7:34 PM
367	2	2/17/2023 7:15 PM
368	16	2/17/2023 7:05 PM
369	83	2/17/2023 6:53 PM
370	33	2/17/2023 6:18 PM
371	23	2/17/2023 6:11 PM
372	21	2/17/2023 5:49 PM
373	24	2/17/2023 3:51 PM
374	45	2/17/2023 1:47 PM
375	49	2/17/2023 1:38 PM
376	48	2/17/2023 10:23 AM
377	21	2/17/2023 10:14 AM
378	53	2/17/2023 9:45 AM
379	9	2/17/2023 2:09 AM
380	52	2/16/2023 8:33 PM
381	50	2/16/2023 8:12 PM
382	12	2/16/2023 8:03 PM
383	2	2/16/2023 5:01 PM
384	27	2/16/2023 4:48 PM
385	28	2/16/2023 3:58 PM
386	44	2/16/2023 2:21 PM
387	45	2/16/2023 2:11 PM
388	4	2/16/2023 1:59 PM
389	50	2/16/2023 1:43 PM
390	32	2/16/2023 10:27 AM
391	3	2/16/2023 9:33 AM
392	50	2/16/2023 8:43 AM
393	50	2/15/2023 11:08 PM
394	52	2/15/2023 10:06 PM
395	3	2/15/2023 7:26 PM
396	48	2/15/2023 5:59 PM
397	0	2/15/2023 4:51 PM

398	52	2/15/2023 10:38 AM
399	51	2/15/2023 8:30 AM
400	56	2/14/2023 11:59 PM
401	52	2/14/2023 11:02 PM
402	81	2/14/2023 9:58 PM
403	50	2/14/2023 9:22 PM
404	0	2/14/2023 8:34 PM
405	0	2/14/2023 6:08 PM
406	13	2/14/2023 5:50 PM
407	50	2/14/2023 3:54 PM
408	24	2/14/2023 1:44 PM
409	32	2/14/2023 12:18 PM
410	52	2/14/2023 11:46 AM
411	67	2/14/2023 11:41 AM
412	53	2/14/2023 11:40 AM
413	54	2/14/2023 10:57 AM
414	52	2/14/2023 10:15 AM
415	49	2/14/2023 9:46 AM
416	31	2/14/2023 9:33 AM
417	45	2/14/2023 9:27 AM
418	70	2/14/2023 8:57 AM
419	55	2/14/2023 8:47 AM
420	24	2/14/2023 8:44 AM
421	52	2/14/2023 8:31 AM
422	48	2/14/2023 8:18 AM
423	16	2/14/2023 8:12 AM
424	52	2/14/2023 8:03 AM
425	33	2/14/2023 7:25 AM
426	85	2/14/2023 6:25 AM
427	7	2/14/2023 6:07 AM
428	34	2/14/2023 4:44 AM
429	52	2/13/2023 10:09 PM
430	51	2/13/2023 9:55 PM
431	58	2/13/2023 8:52 PM
432	48	2/13/2023 8:39 PM
433	52	2/13/2023 8:22 PM
434	49	2/13/2023 8:21 PM
435	35	2/13/2023 8:19 PM

436	51	2/13/2023 8:06 PM
437	43	2/13/2023 7:59 PM
438	53	2/13/2023 7:58 PM
439	54	2/13/2023 7:49 PM
440	7	2/13/2023 7:42 PM
441	99	2/13/2023 7:09 PM
442	35	2/13/2023 7:04 PM
443	0	2/13/2023 6:56 PM
444	50	2/13/2023 6:54 PM
445	53	2/13/2023 6:54 PM
446	49	2/13/2023 6:53 PM
447	39	2/13/2023 6:44 PM
448	45	2/13/2023 6:40 PM
449	50	2/13/2023 6:40 PM
450	23	2/13/2023 6:39 PM
451	50	2/13/2023 6:35 PM
452	14	2/13/2023 6:28 PM
453	37	2/13/2023 6:24 PM
454	48	2/13/2023 6:16 PM
455	50	2/13/2023 6:03 PM
456	53	2/13/2023 5:47 PM
457	34	2/13/2023 5:46 PM
458	50	2/13/2023 5:44 PM
459	61	2/13/2023 5:22 PM
460	55	2/13/2023 5:21 PM
461	49	2/13/2023 5:00 PM
462	35	2/13/2023 4:48 PM
463	35	2/13/2023 4:27 PM
464	52	2/13/2023 4:04 PM
465	29	2/13/2023 3:46 PM
466	0	2/13/2023 2:51 PM
467	12	2/13/2023 1:30 PM
468	48	2/13/2023 11:55 AM
469	56	2/13/2023 10:14 AM
470	16	2/13/2023 9:13 AM
471	13	2/13/2023 7:43 AM
472	31	2/12/2023 9:45 PM
473	51	2/12/2023 7:46 AM

474	50	2/12/2023 3:01 AM
475	38	2/11/2023 10:12 PM
476	0	2/11/2023 7:52 PM
477	32	2/11/2023 6:57 PM
478	23	2/11/2023 4:04 PM
479	36	2/11/2023 1:03 PM
480	50	2/11/2023 10:49 AM
481	49	2/11/2023 10:36 AM
482	99	2/11/2023 10:06 AM
483	98	2/11/2023 9:56 AM
484	51	2/11/2023 8:57 AM
485	47	2/11/2023 7:57 AM
486	18	2/11/2023 7:46 AM
487	11	2/11/2023 7:11 AM
488	27	2/11/2023 7:11 AM
489	100	2/11/2023 1:47 AM
490	42	2/10/2023 8:11 PM
491	37	2/10/2023 8:04 PM
492	52	2/10/2023 7:51 PM
493	60	2/10/2023 6:20 PM
494	61	2/10/2023 4:30 PM
495	46	2/10/2023 3:46 PM
496	52	2/10/2023 2:24 PM
497	51	2/10/2023 2:24 PM
498	18	2/10/2023 2:12 PM
499	16	2/10/2023 2:07 PM
500	15	2/10/2023 1:31 PM
501	100	2/10/2023 1:19 PM
502	38	2/10/2023 1:15 PM
503	38	2/10/2023 11:54 AM
504	26	2/10/2023 10:25 AM
505	82	2/10/2023 10:13 AM
506	52	2/10/2023 9:39 AM
507	19	2/10/2023 9:26 AM
508	4	2/10/2023 8:56 AM
509	42	2/10/2023 8:37 AM
510	59	2/10/2023 8:33 AM
511	54	2/10/2023 8:23 AM

512	0	2/10/2023 8:18 AM
513	69	2/10/2023 8:10 AM
514	7	2/10/2023 8:02 AM
515	37	2/10/2023 7:46 AM
516	15	2/10/2023 6:52 AM
517	65	2/10/2023 6:50 AM
518	6	2/10/2023 5:46 AM
519	51	2/10/2023 1:11 AM
520	50	2/9/2023 10:25 PM
521	80	2/9/2023 10:19 PM
522	28	2/9/2023 8:18 PM
523	53	2/9/2023 8:05 PM
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525	50	2/9/2023 7:04 PM
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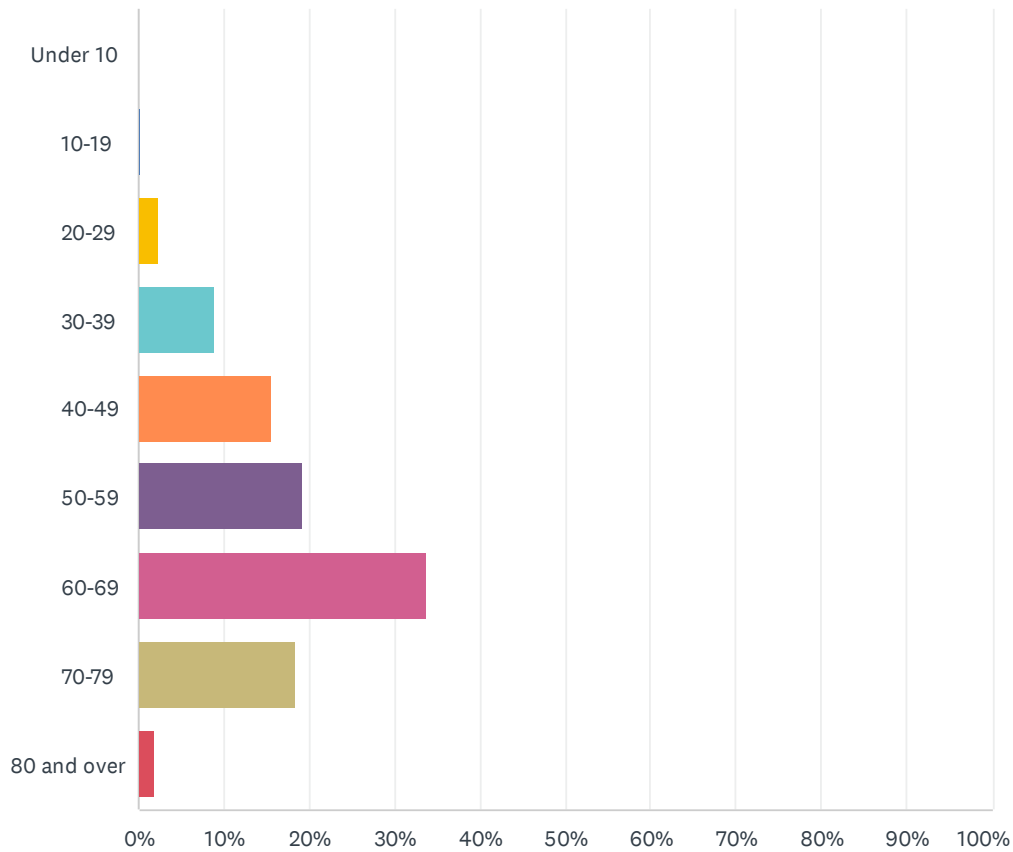
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813	52	2/3/2023 12:22 PM
814	73	2/3/2023 12:21 PM
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Q18 What is your age?

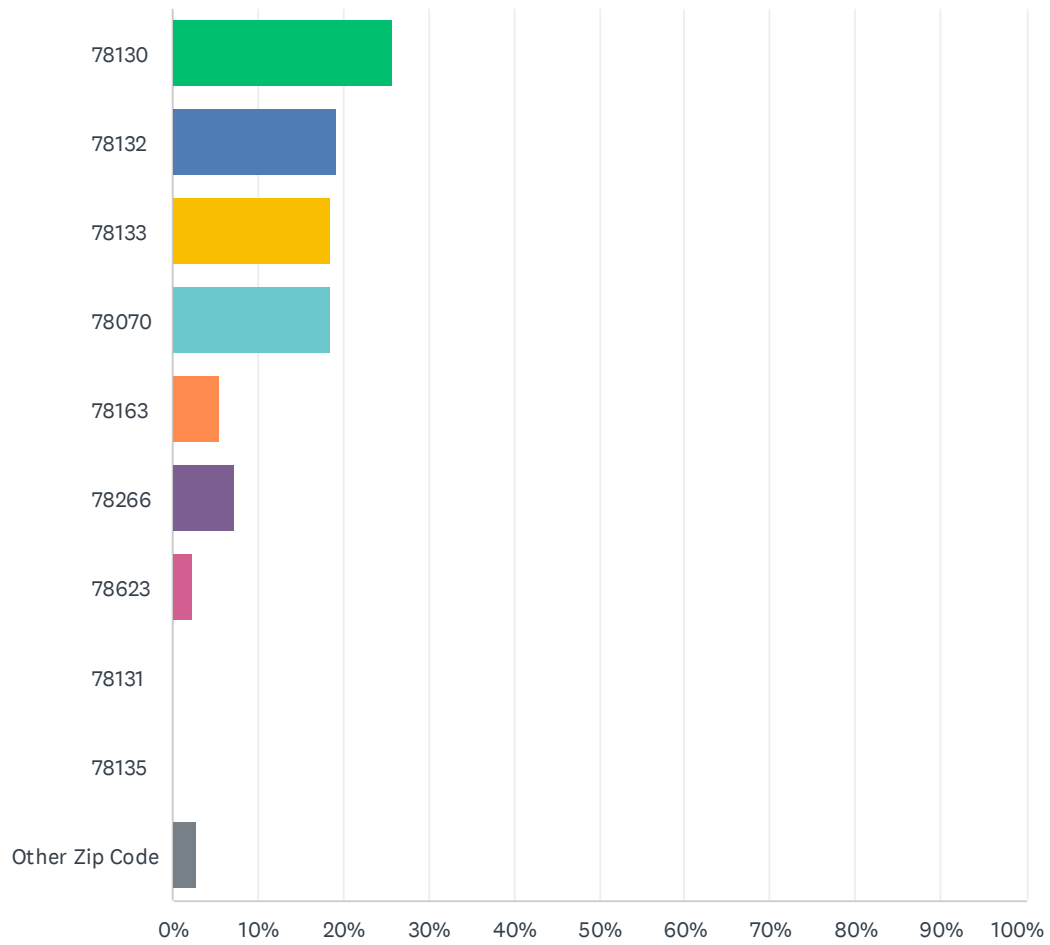
Answered: 923 Skipped: 91



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 10	0.00%	0
10-19	0.22%	2
20-29	2.28%	21
30-39	8.99%	83
40-49	15.60%	144
50-59	19.18%	177
60-69	33.59%	310
70-79	18.31%	169
80 and over	1.84%	17
TOTAL		923

Q19 What is your zip code?

Answered: 925 Skipped: 89



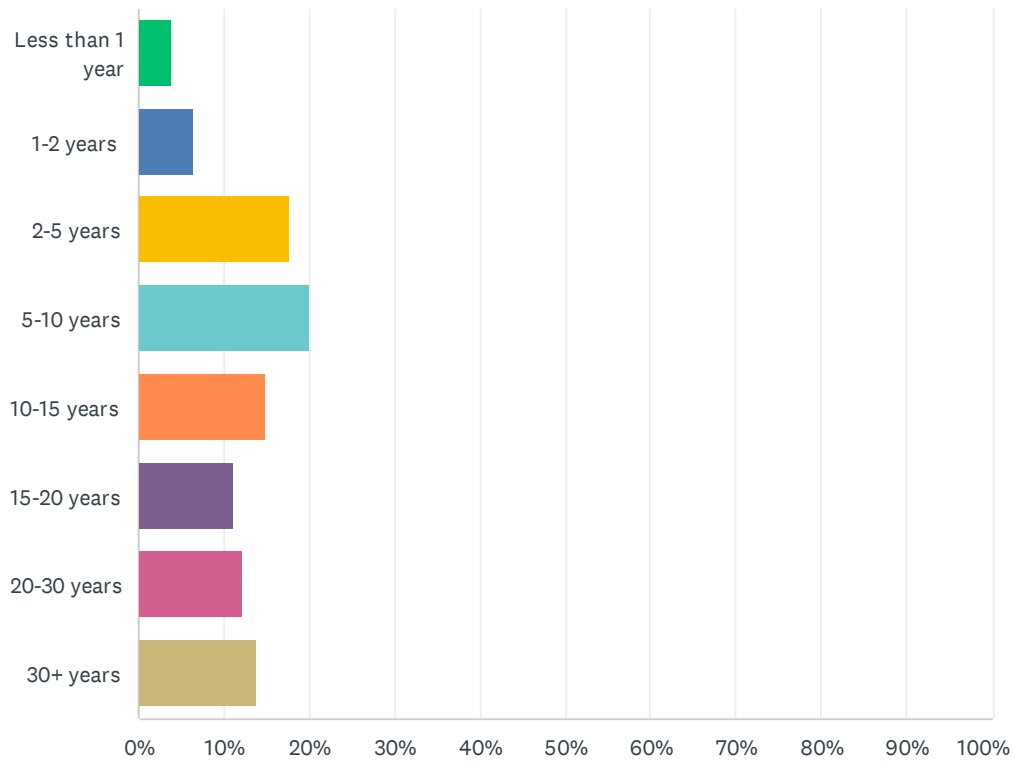
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
78130	25.73%	238
78132	19.14%	177
78133	18.59%	172
78070	18.59%	172
78163	5.62%	52
78266	7.24%	67
78623	2.27%	21
78131	0.00%	0
78135	0.00%	0
Other Zip Code	2.81%	26
TOTAL		925

#	OTHER ZIP CODE	DATE
1	78163	3/7/2023 7:24 AM
2	78209	2/27/2023 2:14 PM
3	78108	2/26/2023 10:00 AM
4	75077	2/25/2023 9:19 AM
5	78027	2/24/2023 12:47 PM
6	78070	2/21/2023 8:40 PM
7	78230	2/20/2023 2:09 PM
8	78133	2/18/2023 3:13 PM
9	78006	2/18/2023 9:14 AM
10	78006	2/18/2023 5:55 AM
11	78006	2/18/2023 5:48 AM
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19	78148	2/10/2023 7:51 PM
20	78676	2/10/2023 8:33 AM
21	78070	2/10/2023 8:23 AM
22	I live near Fischer, TX.	2/9/2023 3:51 PM
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24	78666	2/6/2023 11:33 AM
25	78666	2/4/2023 1:33 PM
26	78108	2/4/2023 6:14 AM

Q20 How long have you lived in Comal County?

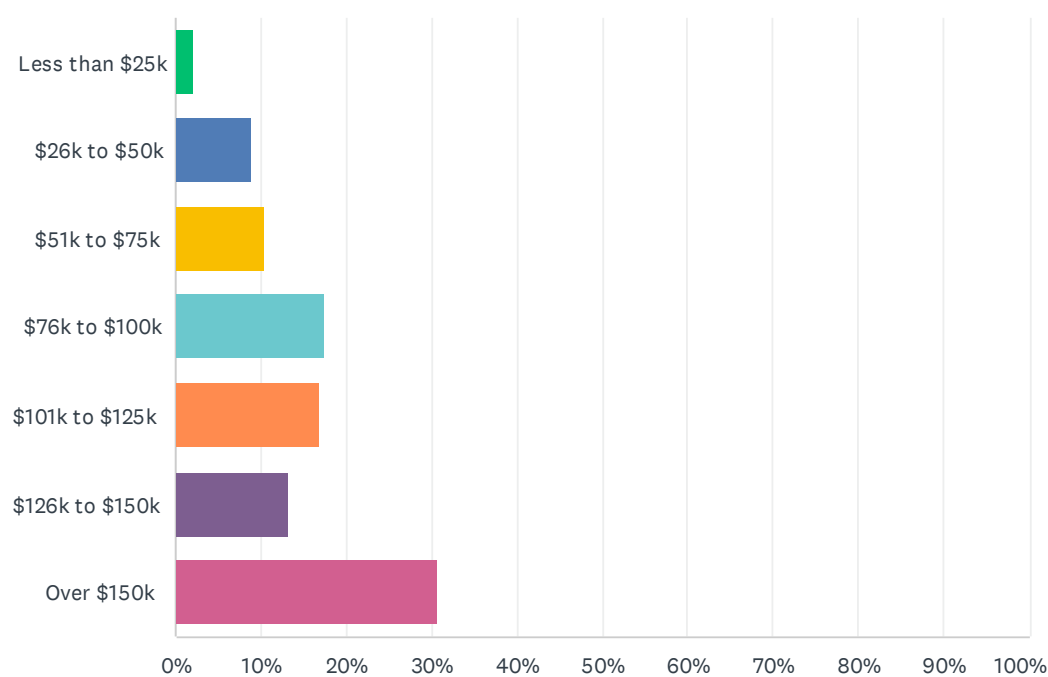
Answered: 919 Skipped: 95



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 year	3.81%	35
1-2 years	6.42%	59
2-5 years	17.63%	162
5-10 years	20.02%	184
10-15 years	15.02%	138
15-20 years	11.10%	102
20-30 years	12.19%	112
30+ years	13.82%	127
TOTAL		919

Q21 (Optional) What is your annual household income?

Answered: 741 Skipped: 273



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than \$25k	2.16%	16
\$26k to \$50k	9.04%	67
\$51k to \$75k	10.39%	77
\$76k to \$100k	17.54%	130
\$101k to \$125k	16.87%	125
\$126k to \$150k	13.23%	98
Over \$150k	30.77%	228
TOTAL		741

STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONS

Comal County Parks and Open Space Master Plan

Stakeholder Questions

1. What is your organization's mission and purpose?
2. Does your organization currently work with Comal County? If so, in what capacity? Are you open to (expanded) partnerships and relationships?
3. What projects (e.g., trails, land acquisition, conservation easements, etc.) are you currently working on in Comal County?
4. What do you see as the critical issues and challenges facing the County, in relation to parks and open space? Is the preservation and management of rural character important to you and your organization?
5. What do you feel is the County's role in 1) providing recreational opportunities, 2) maintaining open space, and 3) preserving the County's rural character? In what way can your organization assist in advancing these issues?
6. What past solutions have been proven to be successful?
7. What past actions have been proven to be problematic or could be improved for the future?
8. What, if any, organizational limitations currently exist within Comal County? How can the County be more effective in preserving / managing open space resources?
9. Has your organization worked with counties in proximity to Comal County, on similar projects and initiatives? What has been your experience working with other counties compared to working with Comal County?
10. What would you like this Master Plan to achieve?
11. What do you think will make a successful Master Plan for Comal County?
12. We are preparing a map depicting environmental, open space, and recreational resources in Comal County. Would you be willing to share any GIS shapefiles which depict the locations of organizational assets, projects and initiatives?

SPORTS LEAGUE QUESTIONS

SPORTS LEAGUES AND ATHLETIC FACILITIES

Comal County, Texas

QUESTIONS

On behalf of Comal County, Halff Associates is preparing a Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan which will, in part, assess sports and athletic facilities conditions, service, distribution, and needs; and will provide recommendations for parks, recreation, and natural spaces within Comal County. Below are five questions aimed at further understanding specific needs and existing conditions of sports complexes and sports operations. Your responses will assist in formulating strategies, recommendations, and actions the County and third-party entities can implement to achieve sports-related goals and objectives.

1. What are major operational issues and challenges facing your League?
2. What athletic facilities do you utilize for practice and for games (i.e., county, city, school and/or private facilities)?
3. Please estimate the number of youth participants who currently cannot participate in sports and athletics programs due to limited capacity.
4. Are there specific improvements to existing sports and athletic facilities which would increase capacity and usability? (i.e., lighting, parking, signage, field improvements, etc.) What would these improvements enable you to achieve?
5. What is your preferred vision for sports and athletic programs (and facilities) in Comal County?
6. Is there demand for particular sports programs that currently are not offered due to the lack of facilities?

SPORTS LEAGUE PARTICIPATION

Comal County and its consultants would like to gain a better understanding of the level of participation in sports programs currently offered. This information will be helpful in mapping the distribution of sports league participants and proximity to sports and athletic facilities. We respect the privacy of league participants, and the specific information you provide will not be shared or published.

Please provide the following information for each League participant:

- Sports League
- Sports and athletic facilities utilized (for practice and games)
- Age Group
- Street Address
- City and/or County
- Zip Code

FUTURE PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES

The Master Planning process will provide multiple opportunities for public outreach. Conversations with the County and Stakeholders are currently ongoing. An online public community survey will be launched on January 09, 2023 and will be available for approximately six weeks. The survey will cover several questions regarding sports and athletic program / facilities improvements, parks development, and open space conservation.

During the week of January 09, 2023 four Public Open Houses will be convened at public institutions throughout the County. Meeting dates, times and locations will be forthcoming. Your participation will show the County how important parks, recreation, open spaces, and sports facilities are to you!

Please stay tuned and thanks for your information.

COMMUNITY MEETING FLYER

COMAL COUNTY Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan



COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSES FEBRUARY 6th to 9th, 2023

What?

Comal County is currently creating a Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan. This Master Plan will be a document that assists with short- and long-term decision making by elected officials on such things as potential capital expenditures, potential partnerships and management strategies. These open houses are your opportunity to provide input regarding the future of parks, open space, and natural areas in your community!

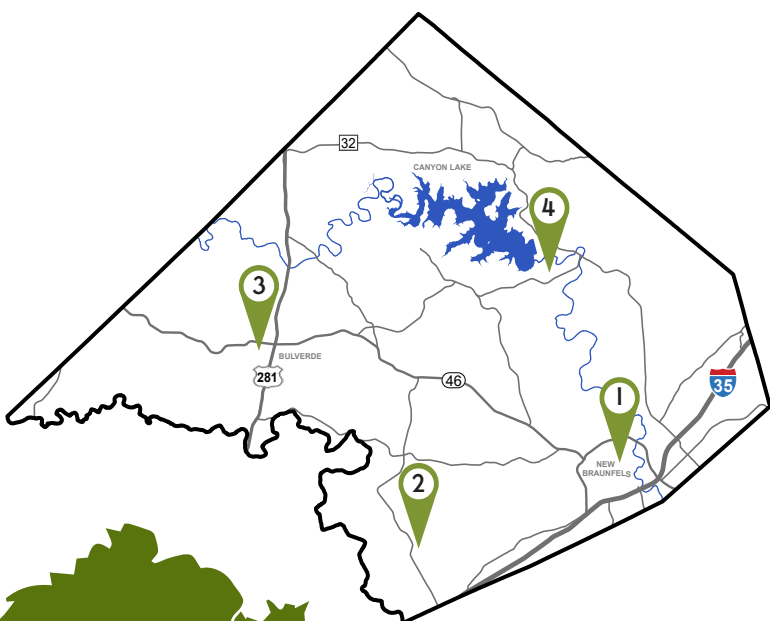
Why?

The Master Plan will help Comal County develop a preferred vision for parks, open space, and natural areas and identify opportunities for such that exist within your community. This can only be accomplished through measuring community preferences for parks, open space and natural areas as well as the willingness to pay for those.

Where and When?

- 1 February 6th, Mon., 5:45pm - 7:45pm
Comal County Courthouse
100 N. Seguin Ave, New Braunfels, TX 78130
- 2 February 7th, Tues., 5:45pm - 7:45pm
Davenport High School (Garden Ridge)
23255 FM 3009, San Antonio, TX 78266
- 3 February 8th, Wed., 5:00pm - 6:30pm
Mammen Family Public Library
131 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde, TX 78163
- 4 February 9th, Thurs., 5:45pm - 7:45pm
Tye Preston Memorial Library
16311 S. Access Rd, Canyon Lake, TX 78133

There will be four public community open houses throughout Comal County from February 6th to 9th, 2023.



COMAL COUNTY Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan

COMMUNITY ONLINE SURVEY

Comal County is currently creating a Parks, Open Space, and Natural Areas Master Plan. This Master Plan will be a document that assists with short- and long-term decision making by elected officials on such things as potential capital expenditures, potential partnerships and management strategies. This survey is your opportunity to provide input regarding the future of parks, open space, and natural areas in your community!

**Scan the QR Code to
take the quick survey!**

or visit:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/ComalParksPlan



