



Texas

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

#SaveLWCF

America's most important conservation and recreation program will expire in less than a year unless Congress acts. For 52 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has protected national parks and open spaces in every corner of the United States. But in less than 52 weeks, it could be gone forever and along with it, future protection of the places we love.

[LWCF](#) has invested over \$577 million to protect Texas' wildlife refuges, historic sites, trails, and forests, and to increase recreation access. LWCF has protected places like Big Thicket National Preserve, Lower Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge, Sabine National Forest, Lyndon Johnson National Historical Park, McKinney Falls State Park, and Bastrop State Park.

Texas' \$52.6 billion outdoor recreation industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 411,000 jobs which generates \$15.8 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$3.5 billion annually in state and local tax revenue.

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park preserves four Spanish colonial missions built in the early 1700s that, along with Mission Valero (the Alamo), have been named a UNESCO World Heritage site. Located along the upper San Antonio River, the Franciscan missions were established as part of Spain's colonizing efforts to spread the Catholic faith to the Coahuiltecas and other indigenous people. They also served as cultural, agricultural, and community centers. Visitors to the San Antonio Missions NHP can experience the largest collection Spanish Colonial architecture north of the Rio Grande while learning about the complex interactions between missionaries and Native Americans and the lasting impact on cultural heritage in the region today. All four missions also still serve as active catholic parishes, and visitors are welcome to attend services. More than \$8 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been invested in the park since it was established in 1978.



San Antonio Missions Credit: National Trust for Historic Preservation

"Urban parks are crucial assets for every city. The LWCF has provided vital assistance to Fort Worth in acquiring and developing parks that are integral to our city's neighborhoods. As we seek to build healthier communities and encourage more engaged, connected citizens, our urban parks and green spaces are critical to the ultimate success of those efforts." – Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, Co-chair, Mayors for Parks Coalition

Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge

Consisting of approximately 19,000 acres, Balcones Canyonlands NWR plays a significant role in habitat protection in the Southwest, supporting at least 375 species of birds, at least 1,500 plant species, over 120 native tree species, 55 species of mammals, 70 species of reptiles, and 80 species of fish. A boom in population and significant growth in commercial and residential development threatens privately held lands within refuge boundaries. Appropriations received over the last several years have protected these vital habitat lands and consolidated refuge inholdings. Completing the acquisition of these lands ensures the continued protection of this rich natural area.



Golden Cheeked Warbler Credit: USFWS

#SaveLWCF to save the places we love in Texas!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/