



**Project Priority Scoring System  
Texas Recreation & Parks Account  
Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant Program  
(Effective May 1, 2014)**

### **Applicant Eligibility**

All previously completed Recreation Grant Projects must be in compliance with all program guidelines and all terms of the Project Agreement under which they received assistance.

For active grants, all required project documentation must be complete and have been received on schedule.

All active projects which are at least two years old must be reimbursed for a minimum of 50% of the approved grant amount at the time of application.

The total of approved grant funds which have not been reimbursed may not exceed \$2 million for all active grant projects at the time of application.

### **1. Master Plan**

Total Range: 0-15 points

Applicant has a current department-endorsed master plan or other comprehensive plan on file with the department at the time of application. (5 points); **and**

- Project meets 3 of the top 5 priority needs identified in the plan (10 points) **or**;
- Project meets 2 of the top 5 priority needs identified in the plan (6 points) **or**;
- Project meets 1 of the top 5 priority needs identified in the plan (3 points)

### **2. Recreation Diversity**

Total Range: 0-10 points

Project will provide diversity of park and recreation facilities. One point will be awarded for each type of significant and diverse recreation facility.

Each facility must be identified as a need in the applicant's locally adopted park, recreation and open space master plan or, if the applicant does not have an adopted master plan, by a documented public input process. (0-10 points)

### 3. Water Based Recreation

Total Range: 0-4 points

The project will expand access to water-based recreation opportunities along existing natural water bodies, provide desirable habitat conditions for fish and wildlife, and will not degrade the resource. Scoring shall be as follows:

- Project expands access to water-based recreation on an existing wetland, river, continuous flow stream, pond, lake, gulf, bay, or estuary (1 point); **and**
- Project preserves, restores, or improves habitat conditions for fish and wildlife (1 point); **and/or**
- Project is provided in an area that currently has limited public access to water-based recreation along existing natural water bodies (1 point); **and/or**
- Project provides a link to existing natural water bodies that support water-based recreation opportunities (1 point)

### 4. Geographic Distribution

Total Range: 0-10 points

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

- Project provides the first public park in the applicant's jurisdiction or intended service area (10 points); **or**
- Project provides significantly new and different park and recreation opportunities (other than school facilities) at the project site. Points for this item shall be awarded only if specific recreation elements are identified as a need in a locally adopted park, recreation, and open space master plan or, if the applicant does not have an adopted master plan, by a documented public input process. Point awards shall be calculated as follows: new and different facility costs, divided by total construction costs, multiplied by 10. (0-10 points)

### 5. Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation/Conservation vs. Support Costs

Total Range: 0-20 points

Project maximizes the use of development funds for outdoor recreation and conservation opportunities determined by dividing the direct recreational and conservation costs by the total construction costs and multiplying the result by 20. (0-20 points)

## 6. Underserved Populations

Total Range: 0-12 points

- Project improves opportunities for low-income citizens based on economic and demographic data for the service area from the most recent federal census data; determined by multiplying the percentage of population qualifying as low-income by 5. (0-5 points); **and/or**
- Project improves opportunities for ethnic minority citizens, based on economic and demographic data for the service area from the most recent census data; determined by multiplying the percentage of population qualifying as minority by 5.(0- 5 points); **and/or**
- Project provides park and recreation opportunities for physically/mentally challenged citizens, which exceed the federal and state required accessibility standards. (2 points)

## 7. Local Resources and Partnerships

Total Range: 0-20 points

The project involves local resources or documented cooperation between the applicant and other public or private entities to provide park and recreation opportunities at the project site.

- Project involves the contribution of resources from sources other than the applicant, including publicly owned non-parkland, which serves as all or part of the applicant's matching share of funds. Points shall be awarded on a percentage basis, determined by dividing the total outside contribution value by the total match and multiplying the result by 15. (0-15 points); **and/or**
- Project includes documented contributions via the applicant or outside resources above the 50% required match. Points will be awarded based on the following criteria:  
(Additional Contribution Amount / Required Match) X 5 = (0-5 points)

## 8. Land Acquisition

Total Range: 0-25 points

Project provides for the acquisition and conservation of park and recreation lands, including publicly owned non-parkland, which consist of natural resources or provides desirable open space or needed parkland.

- Project provides for the acquisition and conservation of a government- identified natural area which is recognized in an acceptable, published planning document for having valuable or vulnerable natural resources, ecological processes, or rare, threatened, or endangered species of vegetation or wildlife. Points based on acreage and/or quality (0-25points); **or**
- Project provides for the acquisition and conservation of natural open space that is two acres or larger in size, relatively free of man-made structures and which is identified in an acceptable and adopted local, jurisdiction-wide open space plan or master plan. Points based on acreage and/or quality (0-15 points); **or**

- Project provides for the acquisition of needed parkland. Points awarded based on the quality, size and how well the narrative justifies need. (0-5 points)

## **9. Renovation and Adaptive Reuse**

Total Range: 0-25 points

Project provides for the renovation or adaptive reuse of an existing obsolete facility, determined by dividing the renovation cost by the total construction cost and multiplying the result by 25. (0-25 points)

## **10. Sustainable Park Design**

Total Range: 0-10 points

Project promotes sustainable park design. Points for this category will be awarded based on how the overall project embraces sustainable techniques in the design and construction of the park, including but not limited to the diversity, innovative nature and/or cost of the project elements. (0-10 points)

## **11. Linkage**

Total Range: 0-3 points

Project provides linkage via trail to other public park and conservation areas. Points shall be awarded based on the significance of the linkage. (0-3 points)

## **12. TPWD Goals**

Total Range: 0-5 points

Project supports the department's Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan. Applicant must address how the project meets the goals of the Plan in the proposal narrative. (0-5 points)

## **13. Compliance**

Total Points Deducted: (-5 points)

Applicant is in compliance with previously funded projects. If applicant is not in compliance with existing grant obligations, 5 points will be deducted from the project score. (-5 points)

## **14. Application Materials**

Total Points Available: (5 points)

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