




**COLORADO RIVER
LAND TRUST**

**Water Quality Advisory Committee Meeting
November 13, 2024**



Who We Are



- Private nonprofit governed by Board of Directors.
- Promote voluntary conservation efforts on private lands.
- Protect Texas heritage of farming, ranching, hunting, and fishing.
- Deliver mission through conservation easements.

We believe it is our responsibility as Texans to protect our own backyard and to conserve our most valuable resources – our land, water, and traditions.

A large, faint, light-brown watermark logo is visible in the background on the right side of the slide. It features a large five-pointed star with a banner across its base. The banner contains the words "TEXAS EARNED" in a bold, sans-serif font.

TEXAS EARNED



Protect the Colorado River Watershed.

FROM THE HIGH PLAINS TO THE COAST

More than 800 miles and serving rural communities throughout Texas, the Colorado River's importance to our land, health, economy and outdoor experiences cannot be overstated.

Our focus is to protect the Texas Colorado River and its surrounding lands and waterways that make up this diverse part of our state. Our service area spans from the high plains in west Texas, through the Hill Country, to the productive farmland and coastal fisheries and wetlands near the Gulf of Mexico.

A scenic view of a river flowing through a forested area. The foreground is dominated by several large, flat, grey rocks partially submerged in the water. The river is a deep greenish-brown color. The banks are lined with dense trees, some of which are showing early autumn colors. The sky is a clear blue with scattered white clouds. The text "Private Land Conservation" is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

Private Land Conservation

Conservation Easements

- A real property interest that runs with title to the land.
- Land can still be sold, gifted, or conveyed.
- Each easement is individually tailored to the property and owner.
- Flexibility allows for economic changes
- Protect the viability and productivity of agricultural lands.

A *voluntary* legal agreement, between a landowner and a qualified holder, that allows a *landowner* to permanently limit the type or amount of development on their property in order to protect the property's conservation and agricultural values, while retaining private ownership of the land.

Types of Conservation Easements

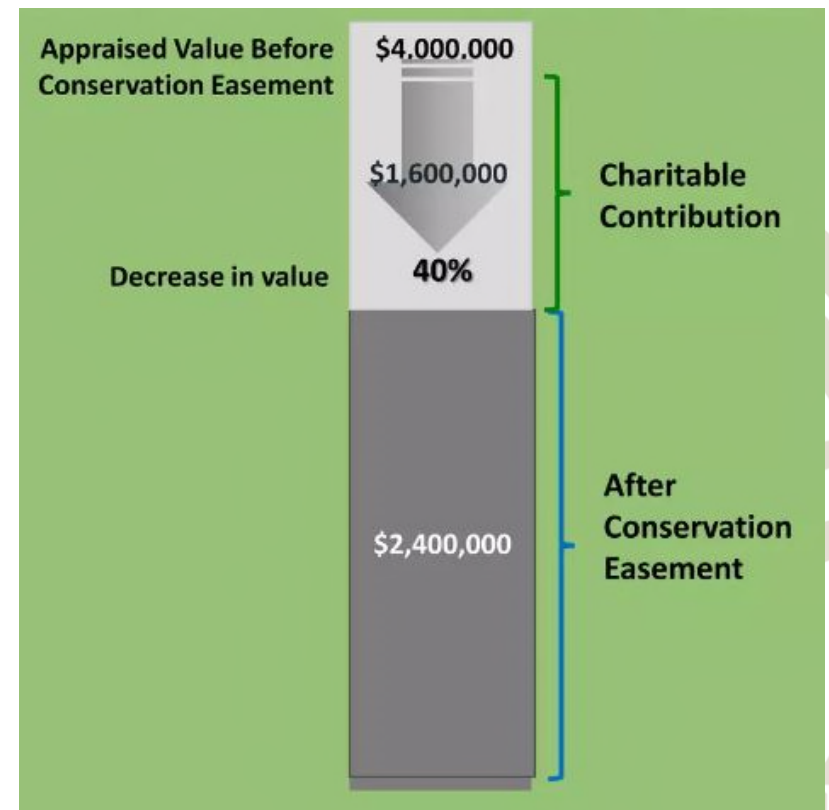
- Donated easements are governed by IRS regulations.
- Purchased easements are governed by the rules of the group funding the purchase.



Donated Conservation Easements

Benefits

- Income tax deduction from charitable donation.
- Estate tax relief due to lower appraised value.
- Facilitates succession planning and relieves pressure on heirs.
- Binds landowner's good intentions to the land.
- Protects agriculture and conservation values of the land while eliminating risk of subdivision.



Purchased Conservation Easements

- Federal program – NRCS – Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
- State program – TPWD – Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program
- Local programs – Certain cities and counties have funding for conservation





Conservation Projects

9E Ranch

- 292 acres of Lost Pines forest habitat in Bastrop County.
- Contains $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of Piney Creek.
- Property remains operated as a small bed and breakfast.



Matagorda Wetlands

- 934 acres of Texas coast in Matagorda County.
- Located next to where the Colorado River empties into the Gulf of Mexico.
- Protected from increasing coastal development.



— Matagorda County

Vacek Family Farm

- 248 acres of productive farmland in Fayette County.
- Farmed by the Vacek family since 1899.
- Conservation allowed family to keep the historic property and use it into the future.





Jeff Crosby
Executive Director
Jeff.Crosby@ColoradoRiverLandTrust.org
918.852.8446