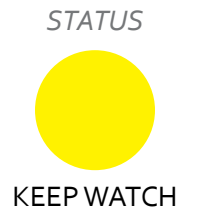


# Public Open Space



## CURRENT STATE

Renewed creativity in securing open space for public and non-public access will be needed to keep pace with population growth.

## IDEAL STATE

Central Texas parks and public green spaces provide affordable public recreational opportunities to a growing population while protecting wildlife habitats and environmental quality.

## CONTEXT

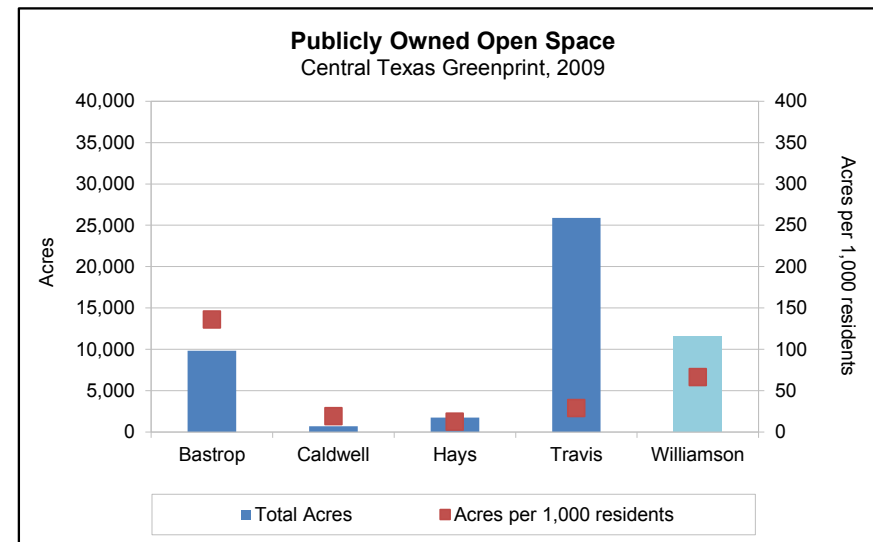
The planning and construction of parks and other public open spaces is known to be a crucial factor in maintaining societal and personal health as well as contributing to the quality of life and economic development potential of a region. Ensuring an adequate, if not equal, distribution of public open spaces is often difficult.

Publicly owned lands, and private, are increasingly viewed as "green infrastructure" - as necessary a system to maintain a region as any other type of investment.

## SOURCES

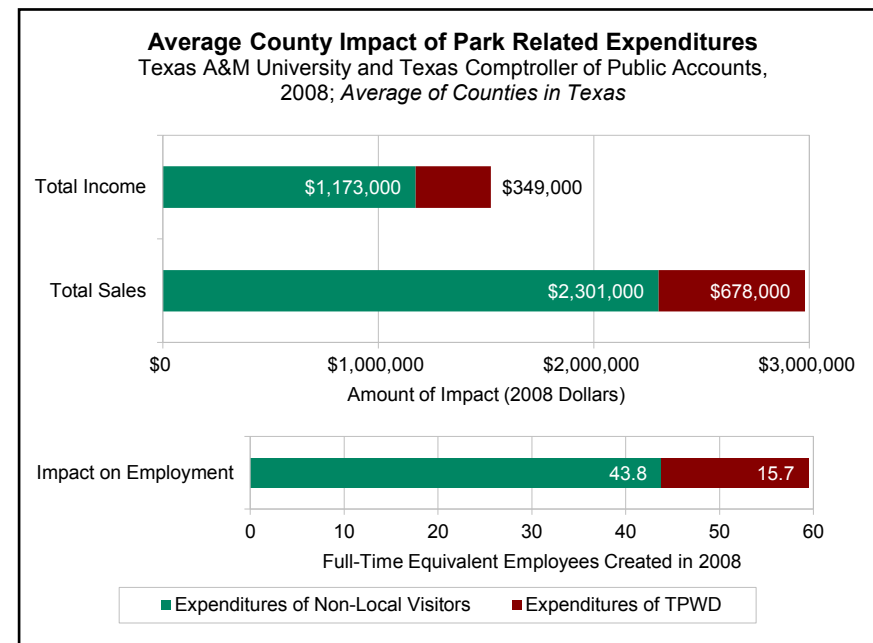
### Public Open Space

- Caldwell and Hays Counties have little public open space and parks relative to their more urban neighbors. Hays County has a considerable amount of preserve lands with limited or no public access.
- Bastrop has considerable open space per capita, attributable to Bastrop and Buescher State Parks.



### Economic Impact of Texas State Parks

- Communities benefit economically from parks directly from tourist and visitor spending at area businesses, such as restaurants, retail stores, and hotels.



### Open Space

- The map displays dedicated open space and parkland and its spatial relationship with resident distribution in Central Texas. The map highlights that public open space is concentrated along the western part of Central Texas and is not evenly distributed throughout the counties, leaving some populated areas underserved.

