



The Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) recognizes the difficult task of the 82nd Legislature balancing the State budget. Our TRAPS position supports the Legislative Appropriation Request (LAR) submitted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) as fair and equitable. TPWD'S LAR should be adopted as part of the State budget as submitted, so that Texas residents can depend on the quality parks and open spaces they so richly deserve and need for healthy living and higher land values. However, TRAPS is realistic in our position that every Texan must sacrifice something to balance the upcoming State budget.

TRAPS position as a Professional Park Society, in response to the Legislative Budget Board's Legislative Appropriation Request is respectfully submitted as follows:

- **Fund the Texas Recreation and Urban Parks Accounts (TRPA)** in Article VI, allowing \$3 million per year of the dedicated sporting good sales tax to be appropriated, funding local park acquisition and development grants plus fully staff the Texas Parks and Wildlife Recreation Grants Branch. By allowing \$3 million State dollars each year working in the accounts, the TRPA remains as a vital and necessary fund for investing tax dollars back to communities for needed parks, open space, and recreation as it has since 1979. Studies have found that for every dollar that Texas spends on local parks acquisition and development, the State sees a return of 7 to 1 in various forms of economic development attractors, higher land values, and tourism.
- **Allow Texas to receive pass through Federal Funding** to local communities from the U.S. Department of the Interior Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Sport Fish Restoration Boat Access program, and the U.S. Department of Transportation Recreation Trails program.
- **Keep all State Parks Open and Operational.** Each of these parks are economic engines and proven to bring new money into Texas in the form of tourism. Closing any State Parks will only send a message that Texas is "closed" because we can not afford to provide services for its citizens and tourist guests.