

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Philanthropic Grants Enhance State Parks across Texas

Thanks to a competitive grant opportunity made possible by funding from the Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation, 17 state parks across Texas will soon be providing enhanced visitor experiences or improved habitat to benefit wildlife. Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (TPWF) matched the funding, providing a total of more than \$52,000 for projects across the state.

The winning grants will fund efforts ranging from a monarch butterfly project at Brazos Bend State Park, to restoring a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) pavilion at Garner State Park, to a shower for sand removal at Monahans Sandhills State Park. All the projects are aimed at providing a higher quality visit for state park visitors. Engaging volunteer labor to provide a match for the requested funds is one criteria of the competitive grant.

“Projects that make the outdoors a better place to be is a priority for us,” said Adelaide Leavens, president of Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation in Fort Worth. “We’re pleased to support these outstanding projects at state parks across Texas, and we’re thrilled to see these dollars leveraged by Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and fueled by volunteer support.”

The projects that are funded in the 2016 grant cycle are:

STATE PARK	COUNTY	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Blanco	Blanco	Wildlife viewing station	\$5,000
Brazos Bend	Fort Bend	Monarch butterfly project	\$2,500
Cleburne	Johnson	Fish habitat enhancement	\$2,460
Colorado Bend	San Saba	Kayak storage system	\$2,000
Daingerfield	Morris	Bird houses and turtle habitat	\$1,000
Davis Mountains	Jeff Davis	Amphitheatre renovation	\$4,000
Enchanted Rock	Gillespie	Re-sign trail system	\$5,000
Garner	Uvalde	Restore historic CCC pavilion	\$4,000

Goose Island	Aransas	Wildlife viewing deck	\$4,000
Kickapoo Cavern	Kinney	Wildlife water systems	\$2,000
Lake Bob Sandlin	Camp	Canoe/kayak launch	\$4,200
Mission Tejas	Houston	Telescope for night sky program	\$1,761
Monahans Sandhills	Ward	Shower for sand removal	\$4,816
Old Tunnel	Kendall	Bat viewing and research cameras	\$4,217
Ray Roberts- Johnson Branch	Cooke	Pilot wildflower planting program	\$2,500
Seminole Canyon	Val Verde	Bird blind	\$1,100
Sheldon Lake	Harris	Scope for birding	\$1,500

TPWF will administer two more rounds of these grants in 2017 and 2018.

“These are the types of projects that can really enhance the quality of the visitor experience in our parks,” said Brent Leisure, Texas State Parks director. “Thanks to legislation passed during the last legislative session, there has been an increase in dedicated funding for state park facility repairs, including replacing bathrooms and visitor centers. However, funding for smaller enhancement projects such as the ones funded through these competitive grants is not always available within the state park budget. We sincerely appreciate this philanthropic partnership that provides these extras for park visitors.”

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Since 1991, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (TPWF) has leveraged public funds with private philanthropy to advance Texas’ proud outdoor traditions and conserve our state’s wildlife, habitat, recreational areas, and natural resources. Since its inception, TPWF has raised more than \$125 million to help ensure that all Texans, today and in the future, can enjoy the wild things and wild places in Texas.

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