

**Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Recreation Grants Branch**

Draft of 13Jan15

Recreational Trails

Grant Application Form

Revised November 2012

(PWD 1067-P4000)



Deadline: February 1st

**Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Texas Recreational Trails Fund – Grant Application**

Due February 1st

PROJECT NAME Bobcat Woods Trail Extension

SPONSOR NAME Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges

CITY & COUNTY NAME Brazoria, Brazoria County

1. SPONSORING ENTITY

Contact Person: Martin Cornell
(Person TPWD may contact for further information)

Title: Member of the Board of Directors, Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges

Mailing Address: 333 Timbercreek Drive

City: Lake Jackson State: Texas Zip Code: 77566

Email Address: marty-carole@comcast.net

Federal Tax Identification Code: 76-0440298
or 501 (C) (3) or (C) (4) exemption (please include tax number and printout - see page 6)

Area Code & Telephone No: (979) 297-2235 Fax No. _____

December 17, 2014

Authorized Signature

Date

To the best of my knowledge and belief, all documentation in this application is true and correct, the application has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant, and the applicant agrees to comply with all program rules and procedures if grant assistance is awarded.

2. INTENDED USES (Check One)

Motorized Use Non-motorized Use Both

3. TYPES OF USE (Check All That Apply)

Bicycling Mountain Bicycling Hiking/Walking
 Equestrian Jogging/Running Skating/Skateboarding
 Motorcycles Four-wheel Drive Vehicles All Terrain Vehicles
 Wheelchairs Provisions for Disabilities Other Optimized for

birding and viewing other fauna and flora. Venue for student environmental education programs. _____

4. PROJECT LENGTH

New construction 0.5 mile (miles or feet)

Renovation of existing 0.2 mile (miles or feet)

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5. GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED **\$160,000**

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6. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Please provide a clear and concise description of the proposed project in the space below. Include a description of the trail length, width, surfacing, and configuration (loop, linear, network); trailhead and trailside amenities. Detail all work to be performed; any right-of-way or easements to be acquired; the relationship between project and any other work planned or existing; partnerships and/or community involvement; and educational/interpretive aspects of the project. (Limit to 1 page).

Elements of this project include:

- Repair of the existing 1,000-foot trail,
- Extend the trail, creating a 0.65 mile, ADA-complying loop trail,
- Add spurs leading to water features and a butterfly garden,
- Construct an understory observation platform,
- Rehabilitate an old water well,
- Install signage and benches.

It is the intent of this project to repair and extend the trail in the Bobcat Woods on the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge (SBNWR), creating an ADA-complying, six-foot-wide loop trail of about 0.65 miles in length. The existing wood-decked boardwalk trail follows the east side Cacklebur Slough for ~1,000 feet under a hardwood forest canopy, which is a prime location for migrating Neotropical birds and resident passerines. Originally installed in 2002, the wood decking and some of the understructure has deteriorated and needs to be replaced, with the new decking material to be a more durable plastic composite. The current trail has two parking areas, one with a handicap parking section and restrooms.

The project will extend this boardwalk trail section, crossing for ~530 feet over Cacklebur Slough to form the north end of the loop trail. A wetland levy for moist soil units forms the western boundary of these riparian woods. These open wetlands are prime habitat for waterfowl, both for migrating species of duck and geese as well as for resident birds including the native mottled duck, colonial herons, egrets, ibis, the rosette spoonbill, and cormorants. An ADA-complying concrete trail section of about 1,000 feet will extend south along the levy to an existing shelter, and then curve east for about 200 feet along a graveled service road to connect to the south end of the existing boardwalk, completing the loop.

At the shelter, a more heavily reinforced concrete spur of the trail will cross a service road to connect to another new boardwalk section of this project. This section will connect to an existing observation platform situated on the shore of a lake, which is a managed waterfowl habitat. Another spur of the trail will connect to an existing butterfly garden; this section will be made of crushed concrete, topped with granite fines and edged with galvanized steel.

An auxiliary feature will include a platform inside the wooded area, raised to the level of the hardwood tree understory, to enhance the birding and photography experience. Access spurs to the slough will be made at two points, each leading to a platform that will allow students and other visitors to enjoy aquatic wildlife ranging from fresh water invertebrates to alligators and other herptiles. An abandoned well will be re-commissioned to supply water as needed to pools in the slough, thus insuring that students on field trips will be able to conduct pond life experiments during dry seasons. This project also includes the installation of interpretative signs and the stationing of benches along the trail.

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7. ITEMIZED BUDGET

Bobcat Woods Trail Repair & Extension

Bill of Materials

Element	Width, Feet	Length, feet	Depth, inches	Material Description	Cost Basis	\$/foot	Cost
Concrete Trail	6	1300	4	Per spec of Dow Woods trail	Dow Woods trail section plus \$1.50/foot wood grain embossing	\$17.00	\$22,100
Concrete Trail	6	30	6	Per spec of Dow Woods trail, thickened for crossing levy road.	Dow Woods trail section plus additional reinforcement and concrete and \$1.50/foot wood grain embossing	\$22.00	\$660
Concrete stain	6	1330	NA	Direct Colors SSB	Dow Woods trail invoice @ \$1460 per 55 gallon drum, two drums		\$2,960
Crushed concrete trail base	6	320	3	Vulcan materials	Dow Woods trail experience	\$1.97	\$629
Granite topping, crushed concrete trail	6	320	1	Brazos Landscaping Supply	Dow Woods trail experience	\$1.37	\$439
Galvanized edging		640	4		Dow Woods trail section	\$1.80	\$1,153
Resurface existing boardwalk	6	1010	2	TanDek tong-in-groove, 2"X 6"X12' wood grain surface plastic composite decking with 2"X4"X12' composite edging	Dow Woods trail section. The Otter Slough Boardwalk used 2"X6"X16' TanDek for an 8-foot wide span, costing \$61.14 /foot.	\$58.11	\$58,688
Decking surface over raised boardwalk over Cacklebur Slough	6	530	2	TanDek tong-in-groove, 2"X 6"X12' wood grain surface plastic composite decking with 2"X4"X12' composite edging	Dow Woods trail section	\$58.11	\$30,796
Decking surface of ramp to reservoir observation deck.	6	200	2	TanDek tong-in-groove, 2"X 6"X12' wood grain surface plastic composite decking with 2"X4"X12' composite edging	Dow Woods trail section	\$58.11	\$11,621
Railing for raised boardwalk over Cacklebur Slough		<530			Mimic railing for boardwalk at Anahuac NWR headquarters		\$4,000
Railing for one side of ramp to reservoir observation deck.		<200			Mimic railing for boardwalk at Anahuac NWR headquarters		\$1,200
Repair of support structure under existing boardwalk	6	1010	Varies	Replace defective stringers and add stringers for max 16" span. 8" diameter butt tapered, driven timber piles space every ten feet in length, 3" X 10" cross bracing, 2X8 stringers max 16" centers with 2X8 blocking mid-span	Ground contact rated pressure treated pine		\$3,000
Support structure for slough boardwalk	6	530	Varies	Probably 6"X6" inch pilings with 2X6 stringers	Experience from building boardwalk over Otter Slough, Brazoria NWR.		\$10,000
Support structure for ramp to reservoir	6	200	Varies		Depends on elevation on sloping ground		\$5,000
Refurbish water well.					Experience from a nearby well rehab.		\$5,000
Solar pump for well				Set pump and panels. Three-panel system mounted on galv. Steel 4" pole top of pole mount.	3/1//2014 invoice from Blue Water Pump and Well Service		\$5,700

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Floating platform on slough for pond life exercise			\$2,000
Raised platform for forest understory observation			\$25,000
Miscellaneous hardware		Dow Woods Trail experience	\$300
Interpretive signs		Guesstimate 6 @ \$500 each	\$3,000
Trail benches	Outdoor bench, 3 at \$271 each	Barco Products catalog	\$813
		Dow Woods trail cost \$150 each, assume one bid for concrete and a second bid for composite decking	\$300
Bid solicitations in The Facts			
Contingency			\$5,639
		Total Estimated Grant Expense	\$200,000

Material cost estimates are based on the experience of elements of two recent trail construction projects; The Dow Woods Trail (build with a Texas Recreational Trails Grant awarded in 2009) and a boardwalk over Otter Slough on the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. All labor on this project is either volunteer or in-kind supplied by staff of the local national wildlife refuges. Heavy equipment needed for construction will be provided as in-kind from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or as part of a bid contract (i.e. the concrete trail sections).

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8. PROJECT COSTS AND REQUESTED FUNDS

Total Itemized Project Costs (from item 7 on previous page)	\$200,000
Federal Funds Requested (80% or less of above line)	\$160,000
Local Match Required (at least 20% of top line)	\$40,000

9. PROPOSED METHOD OF FINANCING SPONSOR'S SHARE

Please describe in the space below the source of funds, donations, or in-kind contributions that will make up the sponsor's match (at least 20%). You may include government appropriations; private donations of land, easement, cash, labor, materials, and equipment; or in-house labor, equipment, and materials.

The matching requirement will be exceeded through a combination of existing general funds in the Friends account, funds from a special Friends fundraising event (*A Taste for Nature*) in the fall of 2015, volunteer work details to build or rebuild the boardwalks and the canopy observation platform, and the use of refuge personal and equipment as needed.

Equipment "In-Kind" rental value from the US Fish and Wildlife Service	\$5,000	
Labor "In-Kind" value from the US Fish and Wildlife Service	\$5,000	
Volunteer "In-Kind" Labor	\$5,000	
Cash funds from Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges (Cash reserves and <i>A Taste for Nature</i> fundraiser)	<u>\$25,000</u>	<i>Nature</i>
Total Sponsor Financing	\$40,000	

In-kind sponsor share estimates are based on the experience of the Dow Woods Trail project.

As of December 31, 2014, the uncommitted cash reserves of the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges includes a \$10,000 gift from Kathrine McGovern made on December 22nd for projects at the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge (Please see the letter from Mrs. McGovern in the Supplemental Documents).

Our first *A Taste for Nature* fundraiser, held in 2013, netted \$15,000 for environmental education projects. This money remains in our uncommitted reserve funds and could be used to support the construction of the Bobcat Woods Trail should this grant be awarded.

Public demand is high for a repeat of *A Taste for Nature*, scheduled for the fall of 2015, and, with the position of honorary chairman filled by Earl Shipp, Vice President US Gulf Coast Operations of the Dow Chemical Company, we expect participation to be high. Dow Chemical is the largest employer in Brazoria County and employees 11,000 in its Gulf Coast operations. Please see the Supplemental Documents for the acknowledgement from Mr. Shipp of his support of our fundraising event.

The revitalization and expansion of the Bobcat Woods Trail will be highlighted as the targeted objective for the proceeds from the 2015 *A Taste for Nature* fundraising event. Our intent is to recruit several significant sponsors from our local business and philanthropic communities, and thereby heighten awareness and support for our wildlife refuges and our environmental education activities.

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10. MAINTENANCE

In the space below, briefly describe the identified commitment to continued operation and maintenance of the project. Please indicate who will be responsible for which tasks and who will finance them.

Maintenance and repair duties will be performed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with periodic support from volunteers, who currently maintain the butterfly garden at one entrance to the Bobcat Woods Trail. Maintenance by refuge personal includes routine trash clean-up and sign cleaning, mowing, brush trimming, and parking lot maintenance.

Please see the Supplemental Documents for the support letter from Jennifer Sanchez, Project Leader, Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

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11. PROJECT USE AND BENEFITS

Provide in the space below a brief description of the benefits of the proposed project in terms of the project's quality, geographic scope, recreational needs that are to be met and expected amount of trail use or population to be served.

The wooded corridor along Cocklebur Slough, which is part of the Columbia Bottomlands riparian forest, is a haven for resident and migrating birds, as well as for numerous herptiles and mammals common to Brazoria County. The adjoining Wolfweed Wetland Complex supports abundant native and migrating waterfowl. For the past two years, the Bobcat Woods Trail has seen over 1,500 visitors per year, which is roughly seven percent of the total visitors to the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. The trail is well known and used by experienced birders.

By improving and extending this trail, we expect that a larger number of visitors with more diverse interests will be attracted to explore the varied habitat along its length. Bobcat Woods is just an hour drive from the greater Houston area with a population exceeding five million people. By adding access to the slough and an auxiliary source of water, we will enhance this venue both as a place to hold field trips for students of local schools, and as a feature of the refuge's annual Migration Celebration, which annually attracts over 1,600 visitors during an April weekend of docent-guided activities. The hard-surfaced, ADA-complying trail will facilitate use by the less amble, such as senior citizens on group outings.

The San Bernard National Wildlife Refuges intends to highlight the Bobcat Woods Trail as a premier feature of the public access portion of the refuge, using this trail to educate the public on the significant role that the refuge contributes to the wellbeing of native and migrating wildlife.

12. TRAIL CORRIDOR INFORMATION

Describe below the ownership of the trail corridor. If the land is currently in public hands, identify the name of the public land. If the land is not in the sponsor's ownership, include a statement of permission to construct trail project from the landowner. If land, easement, or other property interest will be acquired, describe how this will be accomplished. If acquisition in fee, include a statement of why easement was not possible.

The Bobcat Woods Trail is totally within the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge.

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13. PROJECT LOCATION

A. City: Brazoria County: Brazoria

B. State Legislative District Numbers: (www.senate.state.tx.us Go to Senators/Who Represents Me?). Type in the project site address to locate your Texas Senate District, Texas House Representative District and U.S. Congressional District number. Please print out the page from your computer that indicates the project location numbers and attach to this application. Do not leave these three district numbers blank. There can only be one district number for each of these categories listed below. Please fill in completely.

- 1. Texas Senate District No. 17
- 2. Texas House Representative District No. 25
- 3. Congressional District No. 14

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT PRINTOUT for the Project Site

<http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/address.aspx?Address1=6801+county+road+306&City=Brazoria&ZipCode=77422&DistrictType=ALL&Submit1=Find+Rep%21>

Who Represents Me? Districts By Address

[Find District](#) | [Member Information](#) | [District Information](#)

[U.S. Senators](#) | [U.S. Representatives](#) | [State Senators](#) | [State Representatives](#) | [SBOE](#)

6801 County Road 306
Brazoria, TX
77422-7896
Brazoria

Texas U.S. Senators

U.S. Senators represent the entire state. Texas' current U.S. Senators are [Senator John Cornyn](#) and [Senator Ted Cruz](#). See their websites for current contact information.

Texas U.S. Representative

Congressional District 14--Congressman Randy Weber
[Texas Congressional Member Websites](#)

Texas State Senator

Texas State Senate District 17--[Senator Joan Huffman](#)
Capitol Office: CAP 3E.2
Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0117
Capitol Address: P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711
District Address: P.O. Box 541774
Houston TX 77254
Phone: (281) 980-3500
[State District Offices](#)

Texas State Representative

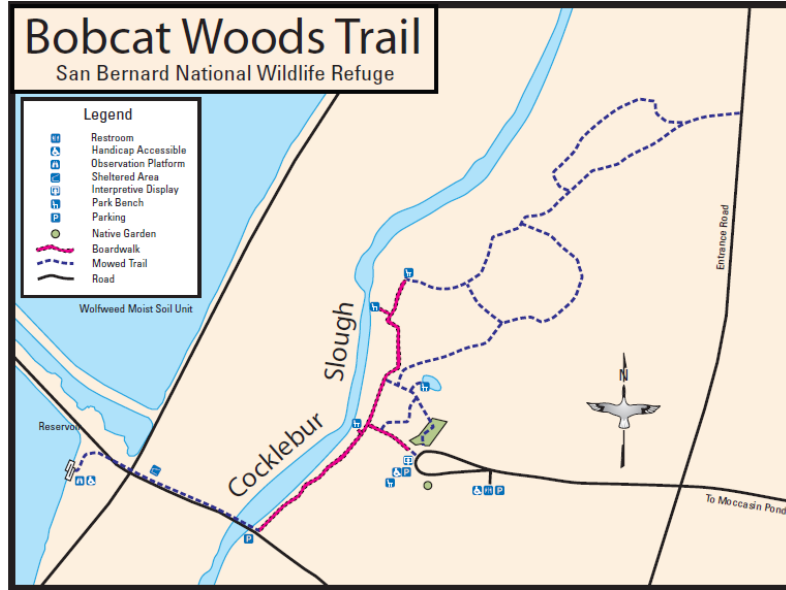
Texas State House District 25--[Representative Dennis Bonnen](#)
Capitol Office: CAP 1W.6
Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0564
Capitol Address: P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
District Address: 122 East Myrtle
Angleton TX 77515
Phone: (979) 848-1770

Select District Type: | No District Shading

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SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS

SITE MAP



Existing trail

Planned loop trail.

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Site of boardwalk crossing of Cocklebur Slough

Example of boardwalk construction methods over water.

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Northwest corner of proposed trail

South section of proposed concrete trail

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KATHRINE G. McGOVERN

2211 NORFOLK, SUITE 900
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77098-4044
(713) 524-5255 FAX (713) 524-5112

December 22, 2014

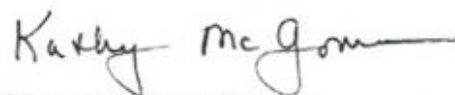
Ed Barrios
President
Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges
P.O. Box 505
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

Dear Mr. Barrios:

Please find enclosed my personal check in the amount of \$35,000.00 as a donation to Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges. The funds are to be used for the following: \$25,000.00 for the Brazoria Wildlife Refuge; and \$10,000.00 for the San Bernard Wildlife Refuge.

With all best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,



Kathrine G. McGovern

KGMcG/j

Enclosure

**Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
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CHECKLIST FOR SUBMISSION

One original and 12 copies of the completed application package (please do not include the application instructions) must be postmarked by February 1st and must be submitted to:

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Recreational Trails Program
4200 Smith School Rd.
Austin, Texas 78744**

All applications should include the following supplemental documents:

1. Site map locating the trail for orientation purposes. The trail drawn on a park map or city map will do.
2. A U.S.G.S. topographic map (7.5 minute series) with the trail location drawn on map. We only need one of these, not 12 copies. An 8.5 x 11 inch copy of the portion of the map on which the project is located will suffice, but write the name of the quadrangle on the copy.
3. Photographs of the site
4. A legislative district printout (from the (www.senate.state.tx.us website) that corresponds to the sponsor location district number requested in 13.B of page 5 of this application.

If relevant to the specific project:

- Statement of (public or private) land owner's willingness to allow the trail project, if not on sponsor's land
- Statement of property owner's willingness to negotiate for a transfer, if property is proposed for acquisition
- Statement that new trail construction on federal land is consistent with federal agency's land management plan for the impacted area

Please limit the answers to application questions within the space provided and be concise. Do not submit application instructions, applications with binders, covers, or folders as they are removed for review.