

Protecting Sink Creek

New Applicant - 2018 Spring

City of San Marcos Parks Department

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Application Form

Descriptive Information

Proposal Name*

Protecting Sink Creek

Amount Requested*

Currently, all grants are one-time grants (no multi-year grants), in amounts ranging from \$2,000 to \$50,000.

\$50,000.00

Proposal Description*

Please explain the purpose/need of the program or project. Include any background information that will help us to understand the request and why you believe your proposal will be successful.

The character limit for this question is the maximum our system allows, but please do not take this as an expectation on our part! We want to be accommodating for those proposals that require a longer narrative and more explanation, but are also simultaneously very appreciative of concise writing.

San Marcos is situated in Central Texas, along the I-35 corridor, approximately 20 miles south of Austin. From the banks of the San Marcos and Blanco Rivers, to the gently rolling foothills of the Texas Hill Country in Hays County, San Marcos boasts a variety of topography and landscape features, giving it a distinctive character. With a 2016 population of 62,000, San Marcos and surrounding Hays County consistently rank among the fastest-growing communities in the nation. The San Marcos Parks Department manages over 2,000 acres of greenspace distributed among approximately 50 parks and nature preserves.

The city is atop the recharge zone of the Edwards Aquifer, one of the world's largest underground rivers. One of the greatest outflows from the Edwards Aquifer is the San Marcos Springs. More than 200 springs burst forth from three large fissures and many smaller openings. Early travelers and settlers described the large ones as fountains, gushing water several feet above the surface of the stream they created. Today, the Springs lie at the bottom of Spring Lake and are viewed through the floor of glass-bottomed boats. The Springs and the short 3.8 mile San Marcos River below them have been designated as critical habitat for five endangered species, including the Fountain Darter, the Texas Blind Salamander, the San Marcos Salamander, the San Marcos gambusia, and Texas Wild Rice.

One of the primary sources of water for this section of the Edwards Aquifer is Sink Creek. This 102-acre property acts as a funnel for surface and storm waters into the aquifer, thus supporting water quality and quantity into Spring Lake and the San Marcos River. Centuries-old oak trees stud the rolling meadows and glades of the Sink Creek tract, while limestone cliffs reveal the underlying geologic strata and ancient history of this rugged landscape. As well, the tract's natural channeling of storm waters in America's "flash flood alley" mitigates the potential for disastrous flooding within the city and further downstream.

In order to prevent the threatened sale, subdivision and development of the Sink Creek property, the City of San Marcos and The Trust for Public Land reached an agreement for the Trust to purchase the property, and then convey it to the City at the end of a three-year lease. The City pays a third of the \$1,270,000 purchase price each year. The City's first installment payment of \$423,333 was made in the fall of 2017, and the next payment is due in December 2018. The Mayor and the City Council approved entering into the lease-

purchase agreement based on the expectation that some portion of the purchase price could be raised from private sources to match the commitment of public funds.

Our current goal is to raise \$250,000 in private support for this project. A grant of \$50,000 from the Hershey Foundation would be leveraged by \$200,000 in private support and \$1,020,000 in public funding.

Please see attached "Sink Creek Conservation Values" document for additional information.

For a project?

Check this box if the request is for a project

If this request is for a specific project, please indicate the start and end dates for the project; if the dates are uncertain, make your best estimate.

Project Start Date

10/01/2017

Project End Date

12/31/2019

Foundation area(s) of interest this proposal intersects*

Select all that apply.

Preservation and conservation of habitat

Geographic Area(s) Served*

Please select the region(s) your proposal is intended to impact.

Austin area

Geographic area(s) served, if "Other"

If you marked the "Other" box in the previous question, please indicate the area served here.

Board Roster or Proof of Governmental Status*

If your organization is:

-a nonprofit,

please provide a roster of your current board members - either typed in, below, or uploaded in a file. Also include your advisory board, if you have one.

-a governmental entity,

please upload written proof of status as a government entity (e.g. a letter from an authorized government official, a copy of the legislative act creating the government body, or an IRS government affirmation letter).

San Marcos City Council Agenda.pdf

Please see attached April 17, 2018, City Council agenda to indicate city's active status.

Percent of your board that supports your organization financially*

Please give the percentage of your board members that have donated money to your organization within the past twelve months (please note, we are not asking what *amounts* the board has contributed); in-kind support may not be included in the calculation.

Example: There are ten members of DoGoodOrg's board - nine of them have donated to the organization in the past twelve months, so the percentage of DoGoodOrg's board that supports the organization financially is 90.

If your organization is a governmental entity, enter 0.

0

Budget Information

Project Budget*

Please provide a budget detailing the components and costs for your proposal.

Please provide the budget for the entire project or program, regardless of the requested amount.

If your request is not for a specific project (i.e. it is for general operating support), then please provide your organization's most current financial statements.

City of San Marcos Sink Creek Budget.xlsx

Other funding sources

Please provide a list of other sources of funding for the proposal, and amounts, if appropriate.

\$50,000 Burdine Johnson Foundation (planned)
\$50,000 Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation (planned)
\$100,000 Meadows Foundation (planned)

We are hoping that the Hershey Foundation will be the first funder of this project, which we believe will significantly enhance our prospects of raising funds from the other foundations indicated above.

Optional Uploads

If there are any items that were not requested above that you feel are important in supporting your proposal, upload them here.

Sink Creek Conservation Values.docx

Notes to application

Notes

If you have any notes regarding information supplied in this application, or questions or concerns regarding this application, please include them here. Please allow three business days for a response to any remarks included here.

I wish we could upload a photo or two to document the extremely unusual geologic features of the property, but they exceed the permitted file size.

What to expect next:

You will receive an automated email notice when your application has been received into our online system. If we have any questions or need further info, we'll let you know. Otherwise, the next communication you can expect will be to communicate the Board's decision regarding your request, which you should receive no later than June 15, 2018.

Technical feedback:

Because this online application process is still fairly new to us, we imagine there could be improvements. If you had any difficulties with the process, or found anything to be unclear or confusing, we'd really like to hear from you (email support@jthershey.org, subject "Technical feedback"); please know that any suggestions or comments you make regarding the process will not be seen by our board (the decision makers), and so will have no bearing either way on whether or not your request is funded. Whatever feedback you might supply will be greatly appreciated.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- San Marcos City Council Agenda.pdf
- City of San Marcos Sink Creek Budget.xlsx
- Sink Creek Conservation Values.docx



City of San Marcos

630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Regular Meeting Agenda - Final City Council

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

I. Call To Order

II. Roll Call

III. Invocation

IV. Pledges Of Allegiance - United States And Texas

NOTE: The City Council may adjourn into Executive Session to consider any item listed on this agenda if a matter is raised that is appropriate for Executive Session discussion. An announcement will be made of the basis for the Executive Session discussion. The City Council may also publicly discuss any item listed on the agenda for Executive Session.

1. Consider action, by motion, or provide direction to Staff regarding the following Executive Session item in accordance with Local Government Code Section § 551.071 - Consultation with Attorney: Discuss and Review the latest on the Senate Bill (SB) 4 Ruling.

V. 30 Minute Citizen Comment Period

CONSENT AGENDA

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER ITEMS MAY BE ACTED UPON BY ONE MOTION. NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OR ACTION ON ANY OF THE ITEMS IS NECESSARY UNLESS DESIRED BY A COUNCIL MEMBER OR A CITIZEN, IN WHICH EVENT THE ITEM SHALL BE CONSIDERED IN ITS NORMAL SEQUENCE AFTER THE ITEMS NOT REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION HAVE BEEN ACTED UPON BY A SINGLE MOTION.

2. Consider approval, by motion, of the following meeting Minutes:
 - A) April 3, 2018 - Work Session Minutes
 - B) April 3, 2018 - Regular Meeting Minutes
 - C) March 20, 2018 - Work Session Minutes
 - D) March 26, 2018 - Special Meeting Minutes
3. Consider approval of Ordinance 2018-09, on the second of two readings, updating and amending the Water and Wastewater impact fees to be charged by the City in connection with new land development under Chapter 86, Article 5, Division 4 of the San Marcos City Code and associated land use assumptions; providing a savings clause; providing for the repeal of any conflicting provisions; and providing an effective date.
4. Consider approval of Ordinance 2018-10, on the second of two readings, amending Chapter 86, Article 5, Division 4 to change the methodology by which Water and

Wastewater impact fees are calculated based upon peak flow; providing a savings clause; providing for the repeal of any conflicting provisions; and providing an effective date.

5. Consider approval of Resolution 2018-52R, adopting Guiding Principles for the 2018 City of San Marcos Federal Program Activities; and declaring an effective date.
6. Consider approval of Resolution 2018-53R, granting consent to an assignment of the Master Development Agreement and Conference Center Lease Agreement for operation of the City's Conference Center adjoining the Embassy Suites Hotel from JQH-San Marcos Development, LLC, also known as John Q. Hammons Hotels and Resorts, to JDHQ Hotels LLC, commonly known as Atrium Hospitality; authorizing the City Manager to execute the consent to assignment on behalf of the City; and declaring an effective date.
7. Consider approval of Resolution 2018-54R, approving the award of a contract for San Marcos Electric Utility Substation Maintenance Services (IFB 218-199) to Pike Electric, LLC in the estimated amount of \$39,384.00; authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute the appropriate documents related to the renewal of this agreement; and declaring an effective date.
8. Consider approval of Resolution 2018-55R, approving the award of a contract to LJ Power, Inc for maintenance, repair, and parts for San Marcos Water and Wastewater Facilities Generators (IFB 218-201) in the estimated amount of \$37,735.00; authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute the appropriate documents related to the renewal of this agreement; and declaring an effective date.
9. Consider approval of Resolution 2018-56R, approving the award of a contract to Texas Utility Engineering, Inc. for the Annual Utility Pole Loading and Structural Soundness Survey (IFB 218-213) in the estimated amount of \$31,250.00; authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute the appropriate documents related to the renewal of this agreement; and declaring an effective date.
10. Consider approval of Resolution 2018-57R, approving an Agreement of Sale with the Trust for Public Land for the City to purchase approximately 151 acres of land for the third and final acquisition out of the Wildenthal Tract at a cost neutral amount of \$2,265,368, subject to the award to the City of Federal Grant Funds from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for such purchase; authorizing the extension of any federal grant restrictions to the abutting approximately 52 acres acquired in phase two; authorizing the City Manager to execute said agreement and related closing documents on behalf of the City; and declaring an effective date.
11. Consider approval of Resolution 2018-58R, approving the purchase of ten (10) 2018 Dodge Charger Police vehicles for the Police Department in the total purchase amount of \$221,766.00 from Cowboy Motor Company, LC, through the Texas Local Government Purchasing Cooperative Buyboard Contract for vehicles, heavy duty trucks, police motorcycles, parts, and service labor (Buyboard Contract #521-16); authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute the appropriate purchase documents on behalf of the City and declaring an effective date.
12. Consider approval of Resolution 2018-59R, approving the purchase of the Parking

Mobility Software Application, including training and support, in the total purchase amount of \$38,000.00 annually from Access Empowerment, a Texas-Based 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization; authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute the appropriate purchase documents on behalf of the City and declaring an effective date.

13. Consider approval of Resolution 2018-60R, approving the terms and conditions of two subordination agreements between the City of San Marcos, Compass Bank and Berry Aviation, Inc. to secure Compass Bank's lien as superior in regards to aircraft and aircraft components purchased with loan proceeds and located in two separate hangars at the San Marcos Regional Airport; authorizing the city manager to execute the subordination agreements; and declaring an effective date.

NON-CONSENT AGENDA

14. Consider the following ordinances on second reading:

A. Ordinance 2018-02, adopting a new San Marcos Development Code ("CodeSMTX"), including appendices (the "Design Manual"), under Subpart B of the San Marcos City Code to replace both the current Land Development Code under Subpart B and the San Marcos Smartcode under Subpart C of the San Marcos City Code; approving other technical references to be used by City Staff in administering the new San Marcos Development Code; providing for penalties; providing a savings clause; providing for the repeal of any conflicting provisions; and providing an effective date; and consider approval of Ordinance 2018-02, on the first of two readings.

B. Ordinance 2018-03, amending the City's Comprehensive Plan, Vision San Marcos: A River runs Through Us, by amending various sections for consistency with the goals of the City's new Development Code ("CodeSMTX"), including providing updated descriptions of and visions for identified Development Zones, establishing existing Neighborhood Areas or Land Preservation Areas as two types of areas of stability, providing new descriptions for types of Development Corridors, and amending the boundaries of Activity Nodes, Employment Centers and Intensity Zones described in the Preferred Scenario Map; providing a savings clause; providing for the repeal of any conflicting provisions; and providing an effective date; and consider approval of Ordinance 2018-02, on the first of two readings.

C. Ordinance 2018-04, amending various sections of the San Marcos City Code for consistency with, or to complement the concurrent adoption of the new San Marcos Development Code ("CodeSMTX"); providing a savings clause; providing for the repeal of any conflicting provisions; and providing an effective date; and consider approval of Ordinance 2018-04, on the first of two readings.

15. Consider approval of Resolution 2018-61R, approving an Action Plan that outlines further measures to be taken to implement or enhance the purposes and objectives of the newly adopted San Marcos Development Code ("Code SMTX") and associated changes to the City's Comprehensive Plan; authorizing City Staff to undertake such efforts as are necessary to implement such measures; and declaring an effective date.

VI. Question and Answer Session with Press and Public.

This is an opportunity for the Press and Public to ask questions related to items on this agenda.

VII. Adjournment.**POSTED ON MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2018 AT 5:00PM****JAMIE LEE CASE, CITY CLERK****Notice of Assistance at the Public Meetings**

The City of San Marcos does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to its services, programs, or activities. Individuals who require auxiliary aids and services for this meeting should contact the City of San Marcos ADA Coordinator at 512-393-8000 (voice) or call Texas Relay Service (TRS) by dialing 7-1-1. Requests can also be faxed to 855-461-6674 or sent by e-mail to ADArequest@sanmarcostx.gov

Sink Creek Project Budget

Lease-purchase payment:

December 2017	\$423,333
December 2018	\$423,333
December 2019	\$423,333
Total	<u>\$1,270,000</u>

CONSERVATION VALUES SUMMARY

SINK CREEK PROPERTY, HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS

The Sink Creek Property is approximately 102 acres and located within the Balcones Canyonlands region of the Edwards Plateau, on the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau and the Texas Hill Country. The Balcones Canyonlands region is characterized by deep and sharply-cut canyons created by the erosive force of water flowing over shallow, stony soils and exposed bedrock. Porous limestone bedrock underlays much of the Balcones Canyonlands, which channels water downward through its many caves and passages to recharge the area's springs and aquifers. Biological diversity is high in the rugged terrain of the Balcones Canyonlands, both above and below ground, and many unique and rare species occur in this region.

Located within one of the fastest growing regions in the Nation, the Sink Creek Property's location over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone and inclusion of a large segment of the upper reach of Sink Creek provides a unique opportunity by which its conservation and protection directly contributes to local, regional, and landscape-scale initiatives centered around water quality and endangered species conservation and protection.

The Edwards Aquifer is one of the most important water resources in Texas. As one of the largest, most prolific artesian aquifers in the world, it serves as the primary source of drinking water for nearly two million Central Texans, including every resident of San Antonio—Texas' second largest city — and much of the surrounding Hill Country. Its waters feed springs, rivers and lakes and sustain diverse plant and animal life, including rare and endangered species. The Edwards Aquifer is the source of the two largest springs remaining in Texas -- the San Marcos and the Comal springs. These springs are the headwaters of the San Marcos and Comal rivers, which are tributaries to the Guadalupe River.

Eight federally-listed, endemic species depend directly on water in or discharged from the Edwards Aquifer. These species include fountain darter (*Etheostoma fonticola*), San Marcos salamander (*Eurycea nana*), San Marcos gambusia (*Gambusia georgei*), Texas blind salamander (*Eurycea rathbuni*), Peck's cave amphipod (*Stygobromus pecki*), Comal Springs dryopid beetle (*Stygoparnus comalensis*), Comal Springs riffle beetle (*Heterelmis comalensis*), and Texas wild rice (*Zizania texana*). The primary threat to these Aquifer-dependent species is the intermittent loss of habitat from reduced springflows. Springflow loss is the combined result of naturally fluctuating rainfall patterns, natural discharges at other springs, and regional pumping and drawdown of the Edwards Aquifer. The aquifer supports agricultural, industrial and recreational activities that not only sustain Texas' economy, but also contribute immeasurably to its culture and heritage.

The Sink Creek Property occurs within Sink Creek Watershed, an ecologically sensitive area deemed important for conserving the terrestrial, subterranean, and aquatic biodiversity of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone and Upper San Marcos River. The Property lies at a geological and climatic confluence that has produced a wide variety of habitats and ecoregions. The unusual diversity of plants and animals, and the long history of human settlement in the region, creates an exciting opportunity for responsible collaboration between man and nature.

Major shifts in land use and land cover continues throughout the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone and Sink Creek Watershed. Decreases in aquifer levels and increase in human development on or along aquifer recharge sites is leading to decreased water quality through an increased reliance on surface water inputs and non-point source pollution inputs associated with runoff from disturbed lands. Recent research and analysis shows that land conservation measures are the most important and most urgent management strategies for

maintaining and improving the water quality of Spring Lake and the Upper San Marcos for Spring Lake – Sink Creek Watershed.

A mosaic of ecological communities occurs within the Property, and directly contribute to the overall unique biodiversity and diverse assemblage of wildlife and plant species found on the Property and surrounding vicinity. Over 5,600 linear feet of Sink Creek occurs within the Property. The riparian corridor surrounding Sink Creek is dominated by old growth oak-elm gallery woodlands, and transition to oak-dominated woodlands intermixed with open areas and oak savannah within the surrounding uplands. These areas provide habitat for the federally endangered golden-cheeked warbler (*Setophagia chrysoparia*).

JENNY BLAIR, CWB
PRINCIPAL

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