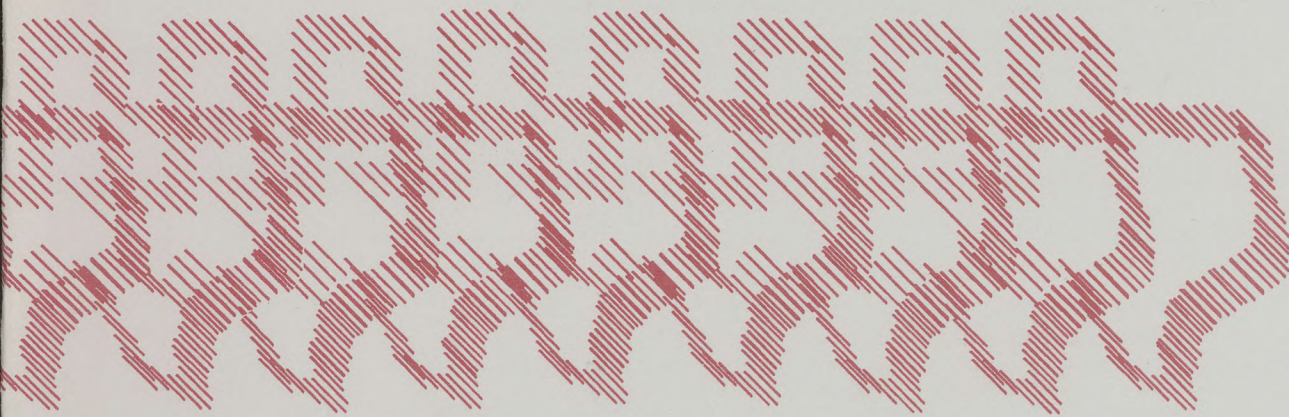


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1988 Action 1989 Program

1985 Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan



TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

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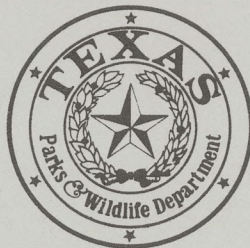
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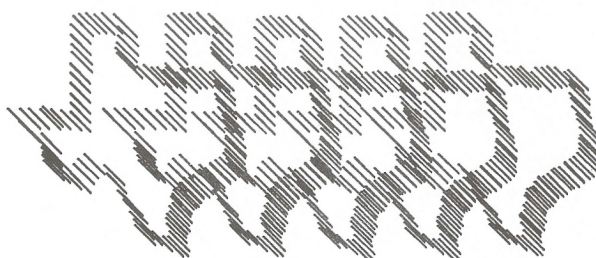
Executive Director

The policy of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is to fully comply with the intent of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI provides that no person in the United States shall, on grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participating in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

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1988 Action 1989 Program

1985 Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan



August, 1988

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744

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STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR.
GOVERNOR

July 25, 1988

Dear Fellow Texan,

We are increasingly challenged to meet the recreation and conservation demands placed on us by rapid growth. How we meet these demands today will affect the citizens of Texas for generations.

To assist in providing more adequate outdoor recreation, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has prepared this Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan 1988-89 Action Program. This program will help enhance fish and wildlife resources, improve the state park system, and expand resource management activities.

Outdoor recreation is a vital part of Texas' quality of life and of our economy, and I hope you will join me in supporting the efforts contained in this document.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W.P. Clements, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

William P. Clements, Jr.
Governor

WPC:RLL/ta/pon

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INTRODUCTION

The Texas Outdoor Recreation Planning Program

The Texas outdoor recreation planning program produces several aids for the public and private sector to meet the outdoor recreation needs of Texas. One of these is the Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan (TORP), which presents an estimate of needs and recommendations to meet those needs. The TORP is published every 5 years.

Another aid is this TORP Action Program, which describes activities that will be attempted to meet some of the recommendations of the TORP. The "Actions" identified under each "Issue" in the Action Program are primarily the responsibility of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. They are not intended to be all-inclusive, but are illustrative of the type of activities and programs which are to be carried out to work on state level issues in outdoor recreation. Target dates are indicated for each "Action". The Action Program is required every 2 years for Texas to retain eligibility to receive and allocate Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund monies apportioned to the State.

The "Issues" in the 1988-89 Action Program are obtained from pages 7 through 25 of Chapter 1 of the State Summary portion of the 1985 TORP document. "Actions" were developed from various surveys, reviews, and public meetings conducted to develop the 1985 TORP and Action Program over the last several years. One of the most significant of these events was a public workshop held by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on January 4-5, 1984, in Austin. Over 500 public agencies and private organizations were invited to this workshop to comment on the contents of the first draft of the 1984-85 Action Program.

More than 150 individuals representing over 100 governmental and private groups participated in the workshop. These included federal, state, and regional government bodies, municipalities and counties, and representatives of private sector interest groups.

Other input was obtained from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department FY 88 and 89 Operational Plan and informal interviews with government officials obtained by TORP staff in 1986, 1987 and 1988. Another event in developing the 1988-89 edition of the Action Program was the Texas Review and Comment System (TRACS) review. This was conducted by the Governor's Budget and Planning Office in May and in June 1988. Notice of the review and availability of the document for public review was also published in the Texas Register (13 Tex. Reg. 2855).

Final review and approval was obtained from the Governor and National Park Service on June 30 and July 25, 1988, respectively.

1988-1989 ACTION PROGRAM

Note: Page numbers in parentheses after each ISSUE are references to the 1985 TORP document.

I. ISSUE: LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT OUTDOOR RECREATION BENEFITS (Page 7, 1985 TORP)

The social and economic benefits of recreation and parks are not fully recognized by all citizens and decision makers across the state. The basic process to address this issue, which should involve all parks and recreation practitioners and researchers, is to assess and promote the relationship between recreation and other social and economic issues and to improve the information transfer to citizens and decision makers.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1. Provide <u>Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan</u> (TORP) based guidance to federal, state, and local agencies in planning, locating, and implementing all types of recreation projects or projects affecting recreation resources through meetings, correspondence, and the Texas Review and Comment System.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
2. Complete the evaluation of a voluntary survey of fishing guides and other interested fishermen and determine if this program provides information useful to management.	Aug., 1989
3. Prepare a TPW Magazine article(s) on the importance of coastal and inland marshes and wetlands.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
4. Conduct a Wetlands Workshop on Hardwood Bottomlands.	Feb., 1989
5. Explore feasibility of doing a television documentary about wetland values.	Feb., 1989
6. Coordinate with Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and other agencies in fisheries management issues.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
7. Coordinate with other governmental agencies and universities through contractual agreements, cooperative agreements or informal transfer to stimulate research and management activities on wetlands.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989

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| 8. Participate with the Texas Water Commission and General Land Office in the National Estuarine Program to determine research priorities, conduct research and develop a comprehensive management plan for identified estuaries. | June, 1988 - Dec., 1989 |
| 9. Participate with the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the General Land Office, the Texas Water Commission, the Texas Antiquities Committee, the Governor's Budget and Planning Office, etc., to define needs for research on wetlands and mitigation of Gulf Intracoastal Waterway maintenance impacts. | June, 1988 - Dec., 1989 |
| 10. Exchange wetlands information through scientific publications, reports and presentations. | June, 1988 - Dec., 1989 |

II. ISSUE: POPULATION IMPACTS ON OUTDOOR RECREATION
(Page 9, 1985 TORP)

High rates of population growth often exceed efforts to meet demand. This growth has placed pressure on all public services. All recreation providers should accelerate the provision of parks, develop park system management plans, develop strategies to distribute heavy parks use to lesser used parks and to periods of light use, etc.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1. Publish articles in Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine featuring less visited State park system units.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
2. Investigate sites for potential as units of the State Park System.	50 Annually
3. Acquire recreational, natural area, and historic site units of the State Park System.	2 Annually
4. Prepare master development, resource management and project plans and programs for units of the State park system.	4 Annually
5. Stock fresh and saltwater fishes for management purposes.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989

III. ISSUE: FUNDING PROBLEMS IN PARKS AND RECREATION
(Page 10, 1985 TORP)

Revenue sources for expansion and operation of public recreation and park systems are either stable or declining. Few are increasing. Federal and state grant programs were reduced during the early 1980s. Many agencies report declining proportions of funds allocated to parks and recreation. There is a particular lack of funds to acquire significant natural areas. Parks and recreation professionals must take greater responsibility for reversing the trend of low budget priorities for parks and recreation.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1. Continue the allocation of Land and Water Conservation and Local Park Fund monies to local government projects according to the <u>1985 Local Government Project Review Procedures Addendum of the 1985 TORP</u> , or its successor.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
2. Seek continuing implementation of a habitat acquisition program.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
3. Provide artificial reefs in public water for fisheries management purposes.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
4. Seek full or increased funding levels for the Texas Local Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Fund.	June, 1988 - Jul., 1989
5. Seek funding to renovate TPWD fish hatcheries.	June, 1988 - Jul., 1989
6. Review Local Government Project Review Procedures to determine if alternatives are necessary.	Apr., 1989 - Dec., 1989
7. Coordinate with TNRIS to seek funding of improved database information on wetlands.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
8. Seek appropriations for acquisition of wetlands.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
9. Seek funding for improved wetlands management activities.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989

IV. ISSUE: LOSS OF NATURAL RESOURCES WITH RECREATION POTENTIAL
(Page 12, 1985 TORP)

Development can damage land and water resources with substantial recreation potential. Dedicated recreation land and water areas are also impacted. To preserve natural resources for future generations, government policy makers must provide stronger guidelines to protect land and water for recreation.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1. Monitor the status of significant natural areas for possible inclusion in the state park system.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
2. Explore ways for conserving non-game species, especially rare and endangered species.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
3. Incorporate urban wildlife management in the Wildlife Technical Guidance Program.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
4. Seek implementation of wildlife strategic plans.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
5. Promote the Texas non-game and endangered species conservation fund and program.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
6. Continue development of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department ecosystem-based wildlife planning unit database development program and make results available to interested users.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
7. Evaluate and comment on approximately 180 water rights, 1500 waste water and hazardous waste, 1500 "404," and 30 geophysical exploration project permit applications for their impact on fisheries, wildlife, and park resources.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
8. Determine selenium and other contaminant levels in fish, from lignite fired power plant water bodies.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
9. Participate in Acid Rain Interagency Planning Group to coordinate research in Texas.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
10. Participate in State interagency working group to coordinate protection of natural resources in Texas.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
11. Provide technical assistance for wetland management on public and private lands, including waterfowl habitats.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989

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| 12. Document impacts and mitigation of wetlands affected by regulated activities. | June, 1988 - Dec., 1989 |
| 13. Establish a system to monitor coastal wetlands. | June, 1988 - Dec., 1989 |
| 14. Establish a system to monitor terrestrial habitat. | June, 1988 - Dec., 1989 |
| 15. Establish a system to determine and monitor river flow requirements to maintain bottom-land hardwoods. | June, 1988 - Dec., 1989 |
| 16. Continue seeking mitigation of losses to wildlife and fisheries habitat, including wetlands. | June, 1988 - Dec., 1989 |
| 17. Seek mitigation policy and legislation for improved protection and conservation of wetlands. | June, 1988 - Dec., 1989 |
| 18. Continue the 7 Ducks Unlimited MARSH projects underway to develop waterfowl habitat on department lands. | June, 1988 - Dec., 1989 |

V. ISSUE: RECREATIONAL OVERUSE CAUSES DEGRADATION OF RESOURCES
(Page 14, 1985 TORP)

The overcrowding and increased use of recreational areas has led to the destruction of ground cover, increased erosion, and deterioration of natural resources. All government agencies must improve their natural resource management practices.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1. Seek start-up of the Texas Trails System authorized by Chapter 25 of the Parks and Wildlife Code.	June, 1988 - Jul., 1989
2. Increase interpretive programming in all TPWD Wildlife Management areas.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
3. Participate in state anti-litter programs.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989

VI. ISSUE: LIMITED PUBLIC ACCESS TO RIVERS, LAKES, AND THE COAST
(Page 16, 1985 TORP)

Many man-made and natural water bodies provide few public recreation opportunities and potential users are unable to gain physical access to these resources. Governments and private landowners should cooperate to accommodate needs to reach public waters.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1. Continue housekeeping for 120 existing state boat ramps.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
2. Seek adequate funding levels for the State Boat Ramps Construction Program.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989

VII. ISSUE: ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN RECREATION AREAS

(Page 18, 1985 TORP)

Illegal activities occurring in recreation areas include defacement or destruction of recreational facilities through acts of vandalism, littering, vehicle damage, and the illegal taking of wildlife, fish, plants, and archeological materials. Other illegal activities in parks range from minor infractions to fatal assaults. Parks and recreation providers must emphasize prevention in solving crime and vandalism problems.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1. Increase the provision of full-time Park Peace Officers to attain full-time law enforcement in 25 state parks.	June, 1988 - Jul., 1989
2. Provide advice on anti-vandalism techniques as requested.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989

VIII. ISSUE: DEFICITS OF RECREATION LAND AND FACILITIES

(Page 20, 1985 TORP)

Widespread deficiencies of recreation resources exist throughout Texas, in spite of expansion efforts. Expansion of parkland and recreation facilities should be a priority of all government entities and commercial enterprises.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1. Operate the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Local Park Planning Assistance Program for small communities. Provide assistance to approximately 20 communities per year.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
2. Operate and maintain 139,340 acres in 14 Type I wildlife management areas currently owned, leased or licensed by the Department with an additional 707,500 acres in numerous Type II wildlife management areas.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
3. Implement the Type II WMA concept offering spontaneous public hunting under an annual permit with minimal supervision and administrative costs, on existing Type I WMAs in a manner compatible with preservation of the wildlife resource.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
4. Stock white-tailed deer, mule deer, antelope, javelina, pheasant, and Eastern and Rio Grande Turkey where necessary and appropriate.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989
5. Continue to use Texas Waterfowl Stamp funds and Pittman-Robertson Act funds to acquire 6000 acres of waterfowl habitat annually.	June, 1988 - Dec., 1989

IX. ISSUE: **PARK MAINTENANCE BURDENS INCREASE**
(Page 22, 1985 TORP)

Maintenance and care of many public parks has declined. The consequences of neglect are becoming apparent. Design of low maintenance facilities and preventive maintenance are the priority.

Action

Schedule

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| 1. Administer the State Gulf Beach Cleaning Program and seek increased funding levels to better assist coastal local governments. | June, 1988 - Dec., 1989 |
| 2. Provide technical assistance concerning park design and maintenance techniques. | June, 1988 - Dec., 1989 |

X. ISSUE: **VISITOR IMPACTS ON RECREATION RESOURCES AND FACILITIES**
(Page 24, 1985 TORP)

Visitors sometimes impose financial burdens on local governments by using recreational resources without paying taxes that support the resources.

Action

Schedule

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| 1. Provide weekly lake fishing advisory. | June, 1988 - Dec., 1989 |
| 2. Continue distribution of Texas Parks and Wildlife and other agency fees and charges technical assistance publications to assist requestors in enhancing capabilities. | June, 1988 - Dec., 1989 |