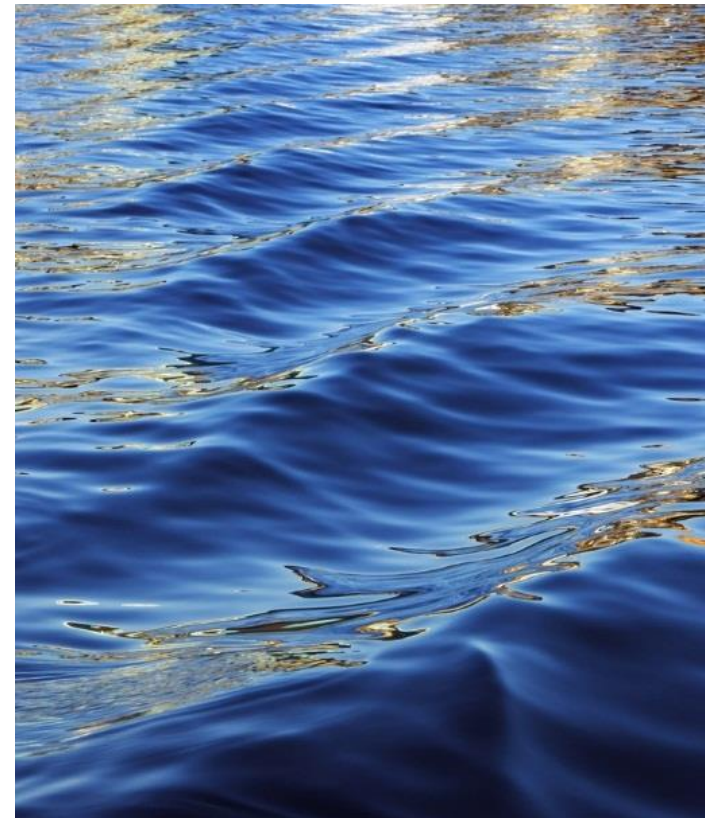




Travis County Conservation Easement Bond Program

Sustainable Food Policy Board Meeting
2014 August 11 *Street Jones Building, 11th St. Austin TX



TC CEBP Background

November 2011	\$8.3 million bond funds approved by Travis County voters Portion of this total available each year through 2018
May 2012	Travis County Commissioners Court approved Land Conservation Program Guidelines, Conservation Easement Application, and Resolution to Conserve Natural and Cultural Resources
2012-2013	528 acres protected
2014	618 acres in the works ... plus 360?
2015	852 acres potentially completed
2016	Potentially \$2MM remaining for new applications

TC CEBP Elements



LANDOWNER	Willing - partnership mindset, long term commitment, community value-oriented; real property; and legal ability
LAND TRUST	Mission aligned with TC criteria, good relationships with interested & willing landowners, committed to process and costs, cooperative agreement with NRCS, “qualified organization”
NRCS	Farm Bill , good relationships with landowners & land trust, cooperative agreement with land trust
TRAVIS COUNTY	Bond funding backed by active and understanding Commissioners’ Court; good relationships with landowners, land trust and NRCS

TC CEBP Criteria



TC CEBP Criteria

Protect natural, scenic, cultural or open-space values of real property

Assure property available for agricultural, recreational or open-space use in perpetuity

Prime Farmland

Maintain or enhance air or water quality

Conserve water quantity or quality

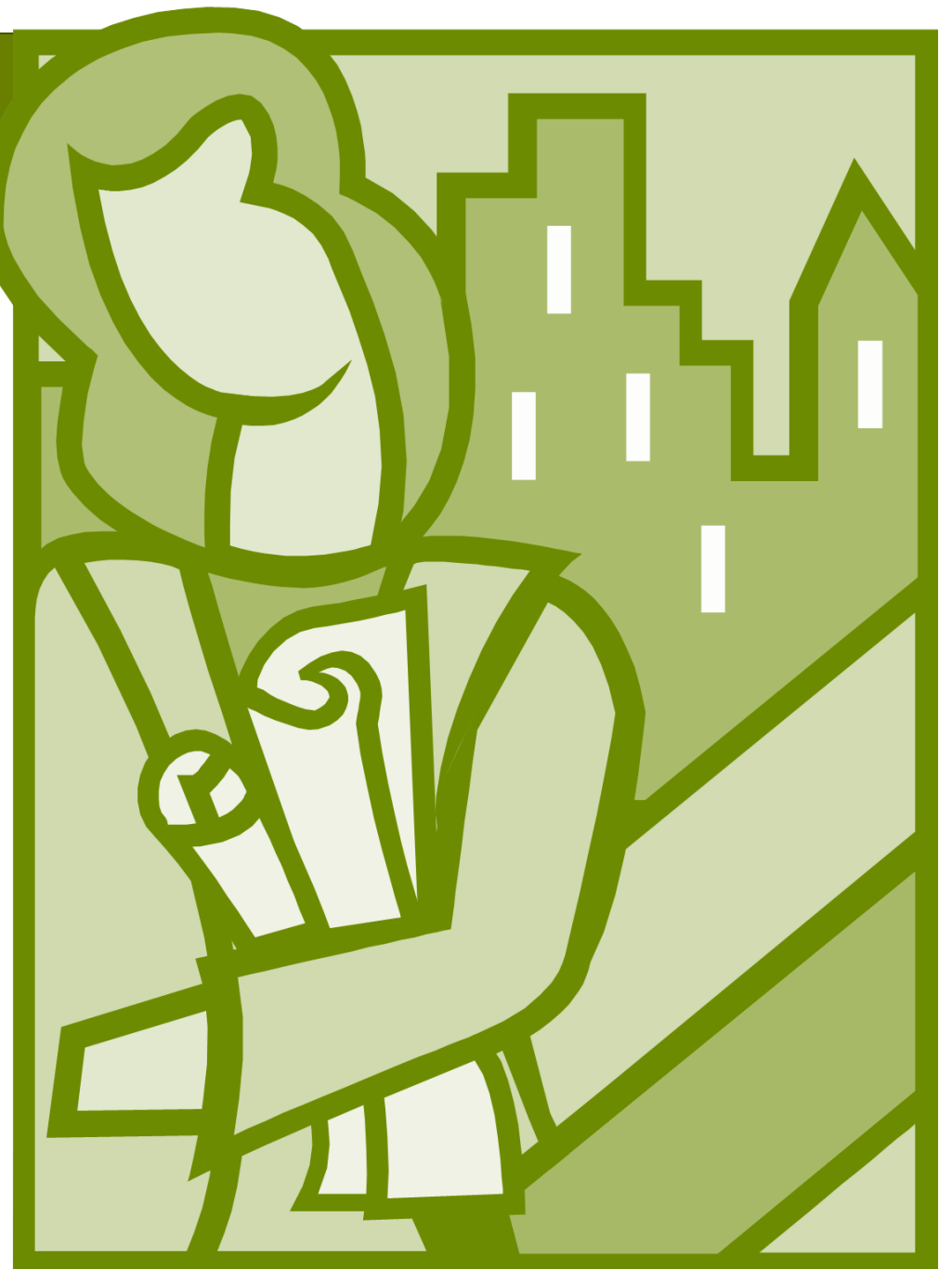
Critical Environmental Features (CEFs)

Considerations

- desired conservation purpose
- property uniqueness
- benefits to Travis County
- cost effectiveness
- degree of development threat
- controlled public access (research and education)
- Buffer/adjacency to existing conservation land + planning priority

TC Planning Priorities

- Travis County Parks and Natural Areas Master Plan
- Travis County Conservation Development Ordinance
- Colorado River Corridor Plan
- Travis County Land, Water and Transportation Plan (to be completed 2015)
- Southwest Travis County Growth Dialogue, Advisory Panel Final Report
- Trust for Public Land's *Travis County Greenprint for Growth*
- *Imagine Austin*
- *CAMPO 2040 Regional Transportation Plan*
- *Other relevant plans and policies as developed, considered and approved*





Questions?

Jon White

512.854.7212

jon.white@co.travis.tx.us

Travis County Natural Resources Program

https://www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/conservation_easement_program/

