No natural resource is more important to our future than Water. Water is what we do.
NO NATURAL RESOURCE IS MORE IMPORTANT TO OUR FUTURE THAN WATER

- Water Covers nearly three-quarters of the planet
- 99% of that water is in oceans or glaciers, or is otherwise inaccessible
- All terrestrial life is dependent upon about 1% of world’s water supply
- Where that 1% percent is clean and accessible there is opportunity for commerce, culture, and coexisting human and natural communities
**NO NATURAL RESOURCE IS MORE IMPORTANT TO OUR FUTURE THAN WATER**

- The Urgency of Water
  - Fresh water is a finite resource
  - Pressures rise from agriculture, energy production, industrial uses, and human consumption
  - Some 900 Texas cities may not have enough water by 2050.
  - In Texas, from 2010 to 2060:
    - The population is expected to grow by 82%
    - Water demand is projected to grow by 22%
    - Existing water supplies are projected to drop by 10%
    - Failure to meet water needs could result in more than a million jobs lost and an annual income loss of $115 million
NO NATURAL RESOURCE IS MORE IMPORTANT TO OUR FUTURE THAN WATER

• Water is central to life past, present, and future
• Thus The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, along with leaders the world over, are contemplating a common challenge.
  – How do we manage our water for the health of our communities, the vitality of our commerce and culture, and the sustainability of our environment?
WATER IS WHAT WE DO

• Since 2002, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment’s faculty and staff have brought multidisciplinary expertise to complex, real-world, water-related challenges.
• We are geographers, biologists, engineers, social scientists, urban and regional planners, strategists, and experts in community engagement and public policy.
• We are dedicated to helping our partners find economic, social, cultural, and environmental resilience.
In 2012, The Meadows Foundation contributed a transformational gift to Texas State University.

The Meadows Center is the only organization of its kind in Texas. Our headquarters are located on the site of an environmentally, culturally, and archaeologically significant recourse, Spring Lake, which serves as a living laboratory, a community center, and an irreplaceable educational resource.
WATER IS WHAT WE DO

• Our future depends on water.
• The meadows Center is steadfast in its mission to find and share holistic, multidisciplinary, practical, and science-based solutions to real world challenges. Across Texas and around the world, our work is water. We do that work through research, stewardship, education, and service.
RESEARCH

• Research is the foundation of all we do. It informs our programs in stewardship, education and service. We are renowned for our research into environmental flows and many other crucial topics. Our multi-disciplinary team brings diverse expertise to complex scientific and social questions. Our applied research is crucial for communities who are creating and implementing Watershed Protection Plans. We research the sustainable management of water systems for human prosperity and quality of life and environmental health. We address the balance of economic and environmental sustainability. Our stakeholders rely upon our research as they make critical water-focused decisions across Texas and around the world.
• Unmanned Autonomous Vehicle (UAVs)
  – We put unmanned aircraft to work for projects related to fisheries, wildlife, and watershed management and restoration. The versatility, low cost, instantaneous acquisition, and high-resolution multispectral digital imagery gives the UAV broad applicability.
• Underwater Archaeology Exploration
  – We search for Henry Morgan’s lost fleet. We explore caves in Mexico, shipwrecks elsewhere, and our own Spring Lake. We investigate archaeological sites to preserve an otherwise inaccessible cultural heritage. We learn how our predecessors interacted with water so that we can help shape how we interact with it today.
• International Watershed Studies:
  - We are dedicated to the sustainable management of the world’s freshwater resources. Our team leads multidisciplinary research projects that result in integrated, ecosystem-based management practices that meet human needs and maintain ecological integrity. In doing so, we address scientific, technical, governance, economic, and social issues related to water.
STEWARDSHIP

• Spring Lake gives life to the San Marcos River, to San Marcos and downstream communities, and to The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment. Two hundred springs bubble up to form one of the largest aquifer-driven spring systems in the world. Human history here stretches back 12,000 years—making this possibly the longest continually inhabited settlement in North America. The lake is also home to eight threatened and endangered species, one of which—Texas Wild Rice—is found nowhere else on earth. Meanwhile, Spring Lake is a vibrant center and beloved resource for our community. We are honored to be the entrusted stewards of this place. It is at the heart of all we do. We are dedicated to understanding, protecting, and sharing it.
STEWARDSHIP

• Spring Lake management
  – We oversee the Spring Lake Management Plan, which is designed to protect healthy ecosystems, provide research and educational opportunities, and offer access for service activities. As active partners in the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan, we help ensure minimum continuous spring flows of the Comal and San Marcos Springs.
STEWARDSHIP

• Diving
  – Our diving program partners with select scuba divers to protect and preserve Spring Lake’s abundant natural, historical, and cultural resources. We train citizen scientist divers and, in return, they volunteer their time to one of the most unique habitat restoration projects in the country.
EDUCATION

- The Meadows Center engages more than 125,000 people each year in environmental education and outdoor learning activities at Spring Lake and elsewhere. Our learning programs engage people of all ages, teach them about Spring Lake and the importance of water to all living things, and inspire them to become stewards of our natural resources. Our programs offer access to glass-bottom boats, glass-bottom kayaks, Discovery Hall, Wetlands Walk, a 251-acre Spring Lake Natural Area, scuba open water checkout dives, special events, citizens science training, and more. We are proud to give people from all walks of life access to nature so they may experience the physical, emotional, academic, and social benefits thereof.
• Field Trips & Private Interpretive Tours
  – We have customized field trips to help most any group from pre-school to post-retirement-explore Spring Lake. We make sure these interpretive outings meet each group’s specific goals for experience and learning.
EDUCATION

• Glass bottom Boats & Kayaks
  – Since 1946, people have come from across the country to explore Spring Lake on a glass-bottom boat. These historic boats are ever the visitor favorite and are integral to the Spring Lake tradition. Our glass-bottom kayaks also honor that tradition.
EDUCATION

• Trib + Water
  – Published every two weeks by The Texas Tribune and The Meadows Center, the Trib + Water online newsletter provides timely and insightful information about one of the most important issues of our time: water.
The Meadows Center is proud to share our culture of service with communities and organizations across Texas and around the world. The need of a stakeholder determines our approach, but we serve in many ways. We operate one of the largest, longest running, and most successful water quality citizen science programs in the country: Texas Stream Team. We serve on a range of relevant boards of directors, in steering committees, and in leadership roles for local, national and international organizations. Stakeholders also have access to our collective expertise and resources through our Watershed Services initiative. In each instance, we bring a multi-disciplinary perspective, science-based solutions, and a dedication to the sustainability of our water resources.
• Texas Stream Team
  – Since 1991, Texas Stream Team has trained 8,000 citizen scientist who monitor some 450 sites along 83,000 miles of waterways in partnership with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
We offer research, stakeholder facilitation, water quality monitoring, watershed modeling, GIS, planning, environmental assessments, and more. We help communities develop Watershed Protection Plans and partner on private sector corporate social responsibility and research and development projects.

The following books are among those we have sponsored or were written by our faculty and staff:
OUR PEOPLE. OUR BOOKS.

- Canoeing and Kayaking Houston Waterways by Natalie Weist
- Exploring the Brazos: From beginning to end by Jim Kimmel
- Flash Floods in Texas by Jonathan Burnett
- Freshwater Fishes of Texas by Chad Thomas, Tom Bonner & Bobby Whiteside
- Green in Gridlock: Common goals, common sense, and compromise by Paul Hansen
- Hillingdon Ranch: Four seasons, six generations by David Langford & Lorie Cantu
- Money for the Cause: A complete guide to event fundraising by Rudy Rosen
- Neches River Users Guide by Gina Donovan, Richard Lange & Adrian van Dellen
- On Politics and Parks by George Bristol
- Paddling the Guadalupe by Wayne McAlister
- Paddling the Wild Neches by Richard Donovan
- Paddling Texas by Shane Townsend
- River of Contrasts: The Texas Colorado by Margie Crisp
- Southern Plains Bison: Resurrection of the lost herd by Andrew Sansom
- Texas Riparian Areas, edited by Dr. Thomas B. Hardy and Nicole Davis
- Texas Water Atlas by Lawrence Estaville & Richard Earl
- The Living Waters of Texas by Ken Kramer, David Langford, Dianne Wassenich, Myron Hess, Janice Bezanson, Mary Whitworth, Susan Kaderka, Ben Vaughn, Mary Kelly & Ann Hamilton
- The San Marcos: A river story by Jim Kimmel
- Water in Texas: An introduction by Andrew Sansom
WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR WATER?

Explore Spring Lake | Join Us | Partner Up | Sponsor a Project | Put Us to Work

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THANK YOU

• We offer our sincerest gratitude to The Meadows Foundation and the many other individuals and institutions who support our work for water and share in our success therewith. They include:

Acer Water Tanks
Amarillo Independent School District
Andover Group, Inc.
Angelina & Neches River Authority
Ark-Tex Council of Governments
Austin Canoe & Kayak
Burdine Johnson Foundation
City of Bryan
City of College Station
City of Dallas
City of Denton
City of Grand Prairie
City of Irving
City of San Marcos
City of Wimberley
Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program
Collins Academy
Communities Foundation of Texas
Coypu Foundation
Dan Pearson
David & Becky Gochman
Edwards Aquifer Authority
Edwards Aquifer Research & Data Center
Global Environment Facility
Greater Lake Palestine Council
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
Gutter Pros 4U
Harte Research Institute Foundation
Hoblitzelle Foundation
Houston Endowment
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Instituto Mexicano de Tecnología del Agua
Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation
James A. “Buddy” Davidson Charitable Foundation
James M. Schultz
John Bunker Sands Wetland Center
Lavaca Navidad River Authority
LBG-Guyton Associates
Lower Colorado River Authority
Lower Neches Valley Authority
Magnolia Charitable Trust
Matt & Peggy Winkler
Michael & Pamela Reese
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin L. Cox
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Park Service
National Wildlife Federation
One Texas Water
Organization of American States
Oshman Foundation
Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society
Public Strategies, Inc.
Rainwater Tanks 4U, Inc.
REI
River Legacy Foundation
Sabine River Authority of Texas
San Marcos Convention & Visitor Bureau
San Marcos River Foundation
Sul Ross State University
Student Conservation Association
T.L.L. Temple Foundation
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Texas Commission on the Arts
Texas Department of Transportation
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department-River Studies Program
Texas Water Development Board
Texas Water Resources Institute
The Association of Water Board Directors
The Bass Foundation
The Clayton Foundation
The Colorado River Watch Network
The Cynthia & George Mitchell Foundation
The Meadows Foundation
The National Science Foundation’s Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST) program
The Nature Conservancy
The Reese Foundation
The Texas Tribune
The Trull Foundation
Tim and Karen Hixon – The Tim and Karen Hixon Foundation
Town of Flower Mound
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Geological Survey
Universidad Nacional Autonóma de México
Walter Umphrey
Peter and Mary Faye Way
Way Family Foundation
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