

CMP GRANTS PROGRAM
Grant Cycle #18
Final Application Checklist

- 1. Application (Project Description, Project Tasks, Project Budget (Narrative), and Project Budget (Tabular))
- 2. Location Map (Maps in Appendix E may be used for §306 projects)
- 3. Letters of Support - Letters of support should describe the relevance/impact that the project will have on the area and should be signed by an executive of the entity
- 4. Financial Audit Information
- 5. Approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
- 6. Commitment Letters for In-kind Donations/Services - Applicants budgeting in-kind donations/services must submit letters of commitment from third-party donors.
- 7. Nomination Letter (Required for nonprofit organizations only.)

- 8. Additional Requirements for §306A Projects (Construction and Acquisition Projects Only)
 - USGS Map
 - Project Site Plan
 - Photos of the Proposed Project Site
 - Attorney Title Opinion
 - Certificate of Consistency
 - §306A Project Checklist

**CMP GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION
GRANT CYCLE #18**

The pre-proposal deadline is **June 20, 2012**, and the final application deadline is **September 26, 2012**, with a proposed project start date of **October 2013**. The pre-proposal application is five pages long and is only required if you would like written comments on your pre-proposal.

Pre-Proposal Final Application

Project Title Hilltop Nature Park Enhancements

Type of Project Nonconstruction Construction Land Acquisition Research

County or Counties that the project is located in or affects Nueces

CMP Funds Requested \$60,000.00

Local Match Contributed \$40,000.00

Third Party Contributed \$0.00

Total Project Cost \$100,000.00

Ranking _____
(Place project in order of priority if submitting more than one grant application.)

Funding Category Under Which the Project Should Be Considered

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Natural Hazards Response | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterfront Revitalization and Ecotourism Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Critical Areas Enhancement | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Permit Streamlining/Assistance and
Governmental Coordination and Local
Government Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Sediment Quantity and Quality Improvement |

Name of Applicant Nueces County

Type of Applicant County government within coastal zone boundary

Project Manager Roxana H Sandoval Title Grants Administrator
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Authorizing Official Samuel L. Neal Title County Judge
First MI Last

Physical Mailing Address 901 Leopard Street, Room 303

City Corpus Christi State TX Zip 78401

Telephone (361) 888-0444 Fax Number (361) 888-0445

Electronic Mail Address claudia.lobell@co.nueces.tx.us

Project Description (10 points) 4000 Character Limit

The project description should be concise and flow smoothly. It should include a description of the issues that CMP funding will address, the steps to accomplish the project and how success will be measured.

Applicants submitting land acquisition projects should provide sufficient detail for the CMP review team to evaluate the likelihood of a successful transaction within the time frame of the grant. These details should include, but are not limited to: a description of the tract of land, and indication of the willingness of the seller, and the length of time the willing seller is committed to holding the property.

Applicants submitting education and outreach projects should include information about the target audience and why the audience was selected. The uniqueness and significance of the project benefit and need should be clearly demonstrated.

Applicants submitting research projects should describe the project's objectives in laymen's terms with emphasis on research applications, relevance, and value to coastal managers/general public. In addition, information should be included describing coordination efforts with local, state and federal agencies in the sought for future phases of the project. The uniqueness and significance of the study should be clearly described to set it apart from other ongoing research.

For 10 consecutive years, Corpus Christi has been named America's Birdiest City. This is the result of both nature's bounty and an impressive effort to preserve, observe and document the unique birding habitats located in this coastal area. Hilltop Nature Park, situated in the northwest part of Corpus Christi (western Nueces County), is located on the Great Texas Birding Trail about 1 mile south of the Nueces River. The park, with its flowing creek and native brush habitat, is home to many migratory and resident birds such as the Groove-billed Ani, Pyrrhuloxia, Olive Sparrow, White-eyed Vireo and many varieties of sparrows. Hilltop is also home to a diversity of wildlife including foxes, javelinas, skunks, raccoons and varieties of fish, reptiles and amphibians.

In an effort to preserve the unique ecosystems encompassing Hilltop Nature Park, Nueces County began an initiative to enhance and preserve the park's natural resources. Although it had enhanced the park in 2005 with various botanical and recreational amenities, Nueces County would like to further promote ecotourism and showcase the vibrant birding, wildlife and native vegetative environment inhabiting the park. In 2005, Nueces County gained additional natural park space (2.68 acres) and although this area is directly adjacent to the current park, it has never been improved and is currently inaccessible. A creek also traverses through the western section of the park and significant rain events have resulted in a palustrine emergent wetland. Consequently, heavy rain events have also caused erosion in certain areas of the habitat.

Nueces County would like to enhance and provide public access to this unreachable addition of parkland by constructing a fifteen hundred (1,500) linear foot nature trail connecting the addition to the rest of Hilltop Nature Park. The County would also like to create a 100 cubic yard (6 ft deep) pond adjacent to the existing creek with an ADA crossover 20 x 5 foot timber boardwalk connecting to the proposed nature trail. This pond would create an attractive wetland environment for the wildlife and further promote natural habitation. A second, 3,000 cubic yard (8 ft deep) pond is proposed to be constructed upstream to serve as a wetlands/detention pond and sediment filter basin for stormwater control.

Nueces County has also recently constructed a timber bulkhead along a section of the creek due to flooding and erosive undercutting of an existing walking trail. Nueces County proposes to further enhance this area by creating a 70 x 10 foot ADA nature overlook timber structure to encourage and perpetuate the observation of wildlife.

In addition, these environmental improvements will provide an enhanced ecological awareness component to the park allowing citizens to become familiar with native plant and animal species. Interpretive signage (migrant and resident birds/animals, native plants) will be placed at the proposed overlook, along the new nature trail, and existing walking trail throughout the park in an effort to educate patrons promoting conservation awareness.

Any short-term negative impacts will be limited to minor construction related soil disturbance, construction equipment, related noise, and potential dust from work area erosion. These minor impacts are considered minimal and best management practices will be utilized

to control area run-off during construction. The improvements to the park and rivulet corridor habitat will create positive long-term impacts with the construction of the 2 freshwater ponds providing a more conducive environment, sediment retention and added stormwater control. The construction of these permanent ponding areas will allow wetland vegetation to establish and remain viable.

Nueces County will also place a permanent sign promoting park as #76 on the Great Texas Birding Trail as well as conduct public service announcements for the grand opening of this new area and added park features.

**Project Budget
Tabular**

	CMP \$	Local \$***	Third Party \$***	Total \$
Salaries	\$0.00	\$26,248.94	\$0.00	\$26,248.94
Fringe Benefits*	\$0.00	\$4,751.06	\$0.00	\$4,751.06
Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contractual¹	\$60,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	\$69,000.00
Other²	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Direct Costs	\$60,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
Indirect Costs**	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Project Costs	\$60,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00

In-kind Donations/Services are not reimbursable. However, the value of these donations/services can be used to meet the match requirement up to 40% of total project costs.

Commitment Letters for In-kind Donations/Services - Applicants budgeting in-kind donations/services must submit letters of commitment from third-party donors.

* The Council will limit fringe benefit costs to no more than 35% of salaries and/or wages.

** The Council will limit indirect costs up to 15% of direct costs as a cost to be billed to the grant, or as either local or third-party match, provided the applicant or third-party has a negotiated indirect cost rate with its cognizant federal agency. This 15% threshold can only be based on direct costs as identified in the applicant or third-party's respective negotiated agreements. The Council will prohibit reimbursement of administrative costs and equipment usage costs if accounted for in the negotiated indirect cost rate agreement. If an applicant or third party's indirect cost rate is higher than 15%, the difference cannot be used to match the grant.

*** No federal funds, whether received directly or as passed-through funds from a state agency, may be used as match support for a CMP grant.

1 Includes Consultant Permitting costs.

2 Includes In-House Permitting costs.

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Check For Errors