

Alliance Name:

Comal County Conservation Alliance (CCCA)

Mission Statement:

Advocating for land, water and wildlife conservation in Comal County.

How We Work:

We will support land preservation in Comal County through:

- **Promoting public awareness and education** about public and private land preservation opportunities;
- **Encouraging county-wide planning efforts** to identify areas of natural beauty, cultural importance, and environmental significance in order to protect them for future generations, and;
- **Providing a platform for individuals and organizations** to share resources, knowledge, and skills in a coordinated effort for land preservation.

Why is our coalition necessary now?

- Comal County has been among the top 10 fastest growing counties in the United States for the past 5 years and is expected to remain so for the foreseeable future.
- This growth brings enormous opportunity to our community--but also puts pressure on our water resources, wildlife habitat, rural landscape, and quality of life--the things that brought many of us here in the first place.
- Comal County has many unique features that make it a particularly special and sensitive place, from the headwaters springs of the Comal River and the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone, to the endemic and endangered species found in our rural lands, to the tourism and recreation opportunities offered by Canyon Lake and the Blanco and Guadalupe Rivers.
- Open spaces and ranch lands provide clean water to our aquifers, creeks, rivers, and lakes; clean air for our residents; clear views of our starry night skies; preservation of Comal County's unique scenic beauty and rural character; habitat for our county's endangered and endemic species and other wildlife; and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.
- Once land is developed into a residential neighborhood, shopping center, or quarry, it cannot be returned to its natural state. Therefore, to maintain the natural resources and rural beauty that are the bedrock of Comal County's desirability as a place to live or do business, we must preserve open space while there are still open spaces to preserve.
- We plan for roadways, schools, sidewalks, and water pipelines to accommodate our growing population. Shouldn't we also plan for open spaces, parks, and preserves?
- There are already several efforts for open space preservation in our county. This coalition recognizes that these efforts will be made more effective if they are coordinated and mutually reinforcing through a county-wide coalition.
- There has been a recent uptick in quarrying and other industrial activity in our County. Since the County possesses no authority to direct this activity away from our most treasured open lands, we must take a proactive approach as a community to protect these places.
- There are organizations, examples, and efforts throughout the Hill Country that can serve as models for how we can accomplish this work in Comal County. Most importantly, the solutions to our rapid growth must be driven by members of our own community.