Local and statewide accomplishments for 2023

During the period of this grant, GEAA's staff spearheaded multiple initiatives meant to protect surface and groundwater resources across our service area. Executive Director Annalisa Peace and Technical Director Debbie Reid both served on Regional Flood Planning Groups for the Guadalupe and San Antonio rivers, respectively. Debbie and Annalisa pulled together a state-wide committee to research and advocate the use of green infrastructure to mitigate flooding and worked with Joint Base San Antonio, Edwards Aquifer Authority, the City of San Antonio, and Natural Resource Conservation Service on projects to manage public and private lands for water quality and carbon sequestration on a survey of San Antonio and Department of Defense properties suitable for model project research and completed soil testing in thirty-two San Antonio Parks in collaboration with the City of San Antonio and the National Resource Conservation Service.

Seeking to broaden and strengthen GEAA's efforts in 2023, we hired Assistant Manager Kellie Fichter in January and Policy Director Rachel Hanes in March. In August GEAA published Building a Healthy Soil to Reduce Climate Impact by GEAA Technical Director Deborah Reid and in September GEAA published Rachel's report on *Water Reuse in the Hill Country: Analyzing Opportunities in Comal County, Texas.*

The GEAA Technical team worked on opposing Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits in Comal, Hays, Edwards, Caldwell, Kendall, Bandera, Travis, Williamson, and Blanco counties and worked extensively with the Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape program, heading up the soil subcommittee. Technical Director Nathan Glavy led a research project engaging Texas State University students in production and publication of an interactive map and report in waste water treatment plants within the Edwards and Trinity aquifer regions.

We delivered presentations and hands on trainings for public education and outreach, including advance training for Master Naturalist to learn how to collect soil samples for soil health testing and understanding its importance in carbon sequestration and groundwater infiltration. We met regularly with other agencies and organizations on matters of aquifer protection and promoted best management practices throughout our 21 county service area.