



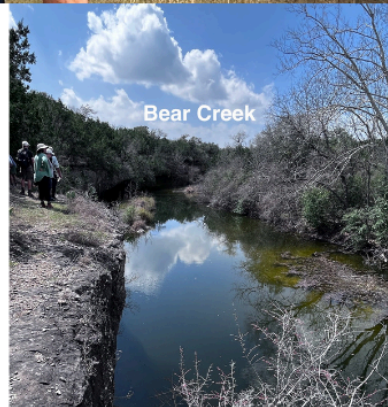
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Hays Residents



**For Land and
Water Protection**



This month, we spotlight our member group, Hays Residents For Land and Water Protection

Mission

Our purpose is the preservation, protection, conservation, and restoration of the quality and quantity of our limited natural resources, including but not limited to land and water, in areas within and around Hays County, Texas, or otherwise impacting Hays County. Our activities include the assurance that humans work with our limited natural resources sustainably in a manner that:

- prevents surface and groundwater pollution;
- protects air quality;
- protects the land from any form of pollution;
- protects public health and well being;
- protects land from overdevelopment; and
- preserves land that is critical to vital ecosystem services, including water quality and quantity

History and Progress

Hays Residents For Land and Water Protection (HRFLWP) was officially founded in June of 2025 by a group of neighbors concerned about the impacts of a proposed subdivision over the Barton Springs portion of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone (EARZ). What began as conversations in living rooms more than five years ago has expanded to supporters outside of our neighborhood to protect the recharge zone where we get our drinking water.

We have partnered with other nonprofits, landowners, businesses, governmental leaders, and communities to ensure the protection of the large swath of land across Hays County that is the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. As we continue to add more supporters, education is vital to understanding the importance of the recharge zone as we provide information to landowners and government leaders to ensure we have drinking water for future generations.

HRFLWP's focus has been primarily on preventing a proposed subdivision (Hays Commons)

that would encompass portions of northern Hays and southern Travis counties.

Approximately 95% of this environmentally sensitive swath of land in the Little Bear Creek watershed is over the EARZ. These are the successes we have had:

- May 2, 2023—our actions prompted the denial of a Development Application to Hays County.
- September 3, 2023—our collaboration with the City of Hays lead to their decision to not pursue the extension of a 2013 Development Agreement.
- January 24, 2025—our efforts kept the City of Austin from initiating an SOS Ordinance amendment allowing an increase in impervious cover from 15% to 25%.
- June 9, 2026—our voices resulted in the cancellation of a flawed Development Agreement with Hays County which would have permitted a variance for extremely small lot sizes over the EARZ.

Additionally our ongoing opposition includes:

- Appealing approval of a TCEQ MUD application.
- A contested case hearing for a TCEQ Wastewater permit application scheduled for Dec 2026.
- An active campaign to reject a MUD application submitted to the City of Austin in May 2024.

Beyond our actions to prevent the proposed subdivision, we are proactively monitoring city and county work on roads as well as providing input on revisions of regulations regarding development over the recharge zone.

We are thankful for the growing support of our neighbors across central Texas, including GEAA.

**For more information as well as ways to follow and support Hays
Residents For Land and Water Protection, find us at
protecthayslandandwater.org**