
LCRA BOARD POLICY

403 – PARKS, EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION

June 18, 2025

403.10 PURPOSE

This policy establishes guidelines for LCRA staff in developing and carrying out LCRA activities related to its parks, education and conservation.

403.20 POLICY

Under the provisions of the LCRA enabling legislation and other applicable laws and regulations, LCRA will develop and manage parks, recreational facilities and natural science centers and laboratories; preserve adequate open space for conservation and public recreation; promote the preservation of fish and wildlife; and promote soil and water conservation within its 10-county statutory district and Lampasas County.

In recognition of LCRA's stewardship role, to promote recreational and conservation use on LCRA lands and waters, and to promote an appreciation and awareness of the value of water resources, LCRA may acquire land rights for such purposes within its 10-county statutory district and Lampasas County.

403.30 DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

Park. Nonutility land that LCRA may open to the public for recreation and educational programs. A park may have natural science centers and recreational facilities; offer improved amenities, such as boat ramps, fishing docks, swim areas, trails, playgrounds, picnic pavilions, RV and tent sites, accommodations, improved restrooms, or showers; and offer basic infrastructure and trail systems.

Natural Resource Area. An area open to the public on a limited basis or are accessible only to LCRA. Some tracts are either open for limited use or seasonally. Others are generally designated as preserves due to endangered species habitat or the presence of distinct or rare cultural, historical, geological or ecological features.

403.40 COST RECOVERY

Park operations will have a cost-recovery goal to promote efficient operations and continually challenge existing procedures. Funding sources counting toward this goal

include all park-related sources of income used to pay for park expenses, including but not limited to user fees, sales and revenues from contractual agreements.

403.50 LOCATION OF LCRA PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS

LCRA may provide recreational access to its nonutility lands and waters. LCRA has a unique responsibility in the state in its stewardship of the Colorado River and associated tributaries and properties. In keeping with this responsibility, LCRA's parks and natural resource areas will be located in its statutory district adjacent to or in the vicinity of the Highland Lakes, the Colorado River, its tributaries, associated bays and estuaries, or its power plant reservoirs, unless decided otherwise by action of the Board. LCRA may consider trades of its existing lands, in accordance with its policies on land disposition, to acquire park lands and natural resource areas adjacent to or in the vicinity of such water bodies.

403.60 NATURAL SCIENCE EDUCATION

LCRA's natural science programming will include an improved understanding of the natural sciences as they relate to LCRA's mission and resources under LCRA's stewardship and care.

403.70 AGREEMENTS AND PROGRAMS WITH OTHERS

403.701 Participation with Other Entities. LCRA may participate with other state and local governments to develop parks and maintain natural resources areas within the LCRA 10-county statutory district and Lampasas County wherever feasible for the public benefit. Consistent with Chapter 152 of the Texas Water Code, LCRA may participate in education and recreation projects outside of the 10-county district but within the electric and water service area.

403.702 Agreements with the Private Sector. LCRA may enter into contractual arrangements with private, public and nonprofit entities for the development, use, operation and management of its parks, natural resource areas and natural science laboratories.

403.703 Soil and Water Conservation Programs on Private Lands. When funding is available, LCRA will implement programs to educate and encourage private landowners within its 10-county statutory district and Lampasas County to implement best management practices related to conserving soil and water resources. Such programs may include participating in voluntary cost-sharing grant programs, like the Creekside Conservation Program.

403.80 AUTHORITY

Texas Water Code, Chapter 152

LCRA enabling legislation, Chapter 8503, Texas Special District Local Laws Code

Texas Water Code, Section 49.226

Texas Constitution, Article XVI, Section 59 and Article I, Section 17

Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 25

EFFECTIVE: Nov. 17, 2004. Amended Jan. 21, 2009; Sept. 21, 2016; and June 18, 2025.