



Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function Board of Education Meeting: 09/01/2026

Item Title:	<u>Ratification of the H-E-B Trees for</u>	<u>X</u>	Action
	<u>Texans "For Communities" Grant</u>	<u> </u>	Information
	<u>Agreement</u>	<u> </u>	Discussion

BACKGROUND:

The H-E-B Trees for Texans: For Communities program, created by Texan by Nature and H-E-B, awards \$5,000 to nonprofits, schools, municipalities, and civic groups for tree-planting projects. These projects expand tree canopy, add shade to reduce urban heat, enhance green spaces, and beautify public areas across Texas, creating healthier environments.

Brownsville ISD applied to plant 20 native trees: 10 at Brownsville Academic Center (BAC) and 10 at Gallegos Elementary. With current canopy coverage of 7–13%, these campuses will benefit from added shade, improved environmental conditions, and expanded opportunities for outdoor learning. Depending on the cost of the trees, additional trees may be planted, up to the grant award amount of \$5,000.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of the ratified grant agreement between BISD and H-E-B for the H-E-B Trees for Texans: For Communities grant, supporting the district's reforestation goals at Brownsville Academic Center (BAC) and Gallegos Elementary. The agreement shall be for one year, which includes monitoring and maintenance reports.

Micaela Escobar 
Submitted by: Principal/Program Director

Approved for Submission to Board of Education:

Recommended by: Executive Director

Dr. Nellie Cantu 
Approved by: Assistant Superintendent


Dr. Timothy E. Cliff, Superintendent

8/18/26

When Necessary, Additional Background May Follow This.



Brownsville Independent School District

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Dr. Timothy E. Cuff
Superintendent of Schools

Miguel Salinas
Staff Attorney

TO: Dr. Nellie Cantu, *Assistant Superintendent Operations*

FROM: Miguel Salinas
Staff Attorney

DATE: August 18, 2026

RE: Texan Nature H-E-B Trees for Texans "For Communities" Grant Agreement

Dear Dr. Cantu,

I have reviewed the above agreement and have approved it as to legal form for the Superintendent's signature.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Miguel Salinas".

Miguel Salinas
Staff Attorney
Brownsville I.S.D.



H-E-B Trees for Texans "For Communities" Grant Agreement

Date: Monday, August 17th, 2026

Prepared by:
Texan by Nature
6805 N. Capital of Texas Hwy, #268
Austin, TX 78731

Brownsville ISD
1900 East Price Road
Brownsville, TX 78521

Dear Grantee,

Texan by Nature is pleased to inform you that a grant has been approved in the amount of \$5,000 for the project needs outlined in your application to the H-E-B Trees for Texans program. Funding for this grant opportunity is provided by H-E-B.

This letter and its attachments outline the terms and conditions of accepting this grant. Please read all the terms and conditions carefully, sign, and return no later than **Friday, August 28th, 2026**. After we receive your signed letter of acceptance, a copy of your organization's W9, and a confirmed planting date occurring before March 1st, 2027, we will mail you a check within two weeks.

The funds must be used specifically for the purposes designated in your application by **March 1st, 2027**. Should your project timeline require an extension, you must submit a brief request with an explanation to Texan by Nature, info@texanbynature.org, by January 1st, 2027, for approval.

Upon signing this contract, your organization states that you agree to:

- Notify Texan by Nature *immediately* if there is any change in your public charity status, if applicable, or changes to your approved project.
- Ensure ALL participants sign the provided [Participant Liability / Media Release](#)
 - [QR Code](#) for any last-minute attendees!
- Post the provided [Photography Notification Form](#)
- Submit the final post-project report by the stated deadline
- Submit photos and videos as directed by the Trees for Texans Marketing Kit

This agreement also grants H-E-B and Texan by Nature your permission to use photographs, logos, published/printed information, and any other materials you supply, without further notice, in press releases and/or publications.

Congratulations on this recognition of your important efforts. We look forward to working with you during the coming year.

Sincerely,
Kenzie Jost, Membership Manager, Texan by Nature

FOR GRANTEE - ACCEPTED AND AGREED:

Organization Officer (signature & date)



GENERAL GRANT TERMS, CONDITIONS AND UNDERSTANDINGS

In addition to the specific terms and conditions in the grant award letter dated June 26, 2026, to which these General Grant Terms, Conditions, and Understandings are attached, this grant is awarded to you as the Grantee, contingent upon the following:

Expenditure of Funds:

This grant is made for the purpose outlined in the grant award letter and may not be expended for any other purpose without Texan by Nature's prior written approval. Grant funds must be expended in accordance with the grant application. You may not expend any grant funds for any political or lobbying activity or for any purpose other than one specified in section 170(c)(2)(b) of the Code.

No Assignment or Delegation:

You may not assign, or otherwise transfer, your rights or delegate any of your obligations under this grant without prior written approval from Texan by Nature.

Records and Reports:

You are required to keep a record of all receipts and expenditures relating to this grant and to provide Texan by Nature with a written report summarizing the project promptly following the end of the period during which you are to use all grant funds. The number of trees, species of trees, number of volunteers, people impacted, location, and other relevant metrics should be included in the report. Your report should describe your progress in achieving the purposes of the grant and include a detailed accounting of the uses or expenditures of all grant funds. Texan by Nature will provide you with the report form for your submission prior to the end of the grant period with clear deadlines and instructions. You also agree to provide any other information reasonably requested by Texan by Nature. You are required to keep the financial records with respect to this grant, along with copies of any reports submitted to Texan by Nature, for at least four years following the year in which all grant funds are fully expended.

Required Notification:

You are required to provide Texan by Nature with immediate written notification of: (1) any changes in your organization's tax-exempt status, as applicable; (2) your inability to expend the grant for the purposes described in the grant award letter; or (3) any expenditure from this grant made for any purpose other than those for which the grant was intended.

Reasonable Access for Evaluation:

You will permit Texan by Nature and/or H-E-B and its representatives, at its request, to have reasonable access during regular business hours to your files, records, accounts, personnel, and clients or other beneficiaries for the purpose of making such financial audits, verifications or program evaluations as Texan by Nature deems necessary or appropriate concerning this grant award.

Publicity:

You will abide by all parameters in the marketing toolkit. You will allow Texan by Nature to review and approve the text of any proposed publicity concerning this grant prior to its release, including the use of Texan by Nature and H-E-B logos and names. Texan by Nature and H-E-B may include information regarding this grant, including the amount and purpose of the grant, any photographs you may have provided, your logo or trademark, or other information or materials about your organization and its activities, in Texan by Nature's and H-E-B's periodic public reports, newsletters, and news releases.



For each planting event, all participants must:

- Send a signed copy of this grant agreement, along with a current W9 and a confirmed planting date occurring before **March 1st, 2027**.
- Sign the provided [Participant Liability / Media Release](#)
 - [QR Code](#) for any last-minute attendees!
- Event Coordinators must post the provided [Photography Notification Form](#)
- Photographers must submit a [Release of Photography Form](#) for photos submitted in compliance with grant requirements

Right to Modify or Revoke:

Texan by Nature reserves the right to discontinue, modify or withhold any payments to be made under this grant award or to require a total or partial refund of any grant funds if, in Texan by Nature's sole discretion, such action is necessary: (1) because you have not fully complied with the terms and conditions of this grant; (2) to protect the purpose and objectives of the grant or any other charitable activities of Texan by Nature; or (3) to comply with the requirements of any law or regulation applicable to you, Texan by Nature, or this grant.

If Texan by Nature does not receive signed copies of its grant award letter and of these general grant terms within 14 days after the date of Texan by Nature's grant award letter, this grant may be revoked.

The undersigned certify that they are duly elected and authorized officers of the Grantee and that, as such, are authorized to accept this grant on behalf of the Grantee, to obligate the Grantee to observe all of the terms and conditions placed on this grant, and in connection with this grant to make, execute and deliver on behalf of the Grantee all grant agreements, representations, receipts, reports and other instruments of every kind.

ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO:

Organization Name

Organization Officer, Title (typed/printed)

Organization Officer (signature & date)



H-E-B Trees for Texans – For Communities Marketing Toolkit

H-E-B Trees for Texans – For Communities Marketing Toolkit

The marketing toolkit below can be used to generate awareness, solicit volunteers, and share results from H-E-B Trees for Texans – Communities events. Please use the social media copy and graphics below, following the outlined social media plan. In order to maintain standard messaging across the state, awardees are to utilize the following templates describing the Communities program. Please contact karina@texanbynature.org for questions.

SOCIAL MEDIA DO'S & DON'TS

Do:

- Craft at least one post featuring the H-E-B Trees for Texans – For Communities copy created by Texan by Nature. Guidelines, Copy Samples, Graphics, & Social Media Timelines are outlined below. When posting, remember to:
- Tag H-E-B and Texan by Nature: Include social media handles, "H-E-B", "Texan by Nature" on Facebook and LinkedIn, and "@Heb", "@TexanbyNature" on Instagram and Twitter.
- Include Hashtags: #TreesforTexans #TreesforCommunities #OurTexasOurFuture
- Link to Website: texanbynature.org/projects/heb-trees-for-texans/

Don't:

- We kindly remind you that H-E-B and Texan by Nature are politically neutral and do not share or take a stance on legislative topics or issues. We ask that you do not promote or associate the H-E-B and Texan by Nature brands with political, policy, or controversial topics and issues.
- Do not use the H-E-B logos without prior review and approval from Texan by Nature, and do not alter the logos in any manner.
- ***Please note that we reserve the right to require that inaccurate or misleading content be deleted or modified.*

IMPORTANT EVENT METRICS TO CAPTURE

Please capture the following metrics from your event and [submit them to this form](#).

- **Please select grant type of "For Communities"**
- Total number of volunteers
- Total hours volunteered
- Total trees planted
- Tree species planted
- Event location

EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY FORMS

To ensure we have proper permission to use photos in the future, we request that participants sign the following releases. Download and use the forms below to capture photography during the event.

- [Photographer on Premises Form](#) **(FORM MUST BE POSTED & VISIBLE AT ALL EVENTS)**
- [Volunteer/Attendee Photo & Liability Release Form](#) - Add this link to your volunteer registration wherever possible. If there are day-of registrations, [use this QR code](#) to gather signatures quickly!
- [Photographer Release Form](#) (For the release of photos taken at the event for H-E-B and TxN use)

PHOTOGRAPHY SHOT LIST

Please take wide shots for the photos (landscape) during the event. We request at least 5-10 quality images from your event. The list below offers some ideas for great content. E-mail your photos to karina@texanbynature.org

1. [A panoramic view](#) of the event site, capturing the atmosphere and community energy.
2. [A group photo](#) of all the volunteers and organizers.
3. [Before and after](#) shots of an area that has been transformed by tree planting.
4. [Fun photo](#) of volunteers doing high-fives, showcasing your organization's brand, or enjoying the event.
5. [Community photo](#) featuring H-E-B employee, Partner, and Community member holding shovels next to a tree

VIDEO SHOT LIST

Please take long shots for the videos (portrait) during the event. Suggestions for shots include:

1. **Community Engagement:** Record footage of volunteers and partners planting trees, highlighting the community-building aspect of the event. (5-10 seconds per shot)
2. **Volunteer Interviews:** "Tell me why you're planting trees today in ONE WORD!" Capture volunteer answers in short 5-10 second videos.
3. **Celebrating the Places We Call Home:** Record footage of volunteers smiling, laughing, and engaging with the H-E-B team. (5-10 seconds per shot)

PRESS RELEASE

If you decide to send out a press release, we request that you use this [press release template](#) with the included boilerplates for H-E-B and Texan by Nature. **All press releases must be shared with Texan by Nature for approval before release.**

MEDIA SOUND BITES & PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

When speaking to the press, please use the following program descriptors to discuss Trees for Texans – For Communities.

What is H-E-B Trees for Texans?

H-E-B Trees for Texans enriches the places we call home by planting trees that create healthier environments for schools, communities, and our future.

What is the For Communities program?

For Communities is connecting communities to nature with opportunities for hands-on conservation.

What does this \$5,000 H-E-B Trees for Texans grant mean for your organization?

We're grateful to receive this \$5,000 H-E-B Trees for Texans grant. This investment helps us bring more native trees to our community while creating opportunities for people to connect with nature and environmental stewardship.

Why Communities?

Just like our communities, Texas landscapes are diverse. Native trees are uniquely adapted to local conditions and play an important role in supporting wildlife, improving air quality, and creating vibrant places for people to live and enjoy.

SOCIAL MEDIA PLAN

Please use the social posts below to generate awareness before and after your #TreesforTexans event.

Pre-event	1 month out	2 weeks out	1 week out
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During Event	Beginning	Mid day	End of day
Post-event	Within 1 week	2 weeks after	1 month after

PRE-EVENT

[Download General Graphics and Logos Here](#)

[Download Graphics Here](#)

Announcement Copy:

We're thrilled to announce that we've partnered with @heb and @texanbynature to plant #TreesforTexans in our community! 🌳 With this partnership, we're connecting communities to nature with opportunities for hands-on conservation. That means WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! 🙋 If you're interested in joining us for a community tree planting alongside H-E-B partners in [CITY] tag three friends you'd like to volunteer with!

#OurTexasOurFuture

[Download Graphics Here](#)

Native Trees Copy:

🌳 Chances are you recognize a [NATIVE TREE SPECIES] in [ECOREGION] when you see one! Native trees like the [NATIVE TREE SPECIES] are a key piece of our community and our ecosystems. This tree has adapted to our unique climate, soil, and local wildlife making it a resilient, long-term resident of the [ECOREGION]!

We've partnered with @heb and @texanbynature to plant #TreesforTexans in our community! As part of our commitment to [ECO REGION] we are planting native trees alongside H-E-B partners and the community of [CITY]. Can we count you in? #OurTexasOurFuture

[Download Graphics Here](#)

Save the date Copy:

📅 SAVE THE DATE: [DATE ie. NOVEMBER 3] 🌳

We're counting down the days because we have partnered with @heb and @texanbynature to plant #TreesforTexans in our community! 🌳 With this partnership, we're connecting communities to nature with opportunities for hands-on conservation.

We want to see you there! Join us on [DATE] at [TIME] in [LOCATION] as we plant native trees alongside H-E-B partners and the [CITY] community. #OurTexasOurFuture

DURING EVENT

[Download Graphics Here](#)

Event Day Copy:

TODAY'S THE DAY 🌱

We're planting #TreesforTexans in partnership with @heb and @texanbynature today at [TIME & LOCATION]. STOP BY to connect with nature. The trees we plant today will provide shade and habitat for local wildlife and clean air for our community for years to come.

If you're already here, make sure you snap a selfie, tag us and use the hashtag #TreesforTexans!

#OurTexasOurFuture

Use event day photo

Event Day Copy:

Our volunteers are looking great out here! 🌱 We're in [CITY] planting [TREE SPECIES] to help increase native biodiversity, provide shade, cooling and clean air for our community! #TreesforTexans @heb @texanbynature #OurTexasOurFuture

[Download Graphics Here](#)

Event Day Copy

🌱 THANK YOU, [CITY]! 🌱 We are amazed at our volunteers for taking some time to connect with nature and helping us plant #TreesforTexans. All trees planted today have a post-planting care plan to make sure they continue to grow and provide clean air for generations of Texans in [CITY] to come!

#OurTexasOurFuture

AFTER EVENT

Your photos from tree planting

Post Event Copy

🌱 We had [NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS] incredible volunteers come out to [CITY] for our #TreesforTexans community tree-planting! With our community's help, we planted [NUMBER OF TREES] native trees alongside @heb partners. By providing opportunities for hands-on conservation, we can connect more Texans to nature and build a sustainable future for the places we call home! @heb @texanbynature #TreesforTexans #OurTexasOurFuture

Your photos from tree planting

Post Event Copy

We ❤️ Texas. Our communities love Texas, too! 2 weeks ago we partnered with @heb and @texanbynature to plant #TreesforTexans with our community in [CITY]. We planted [# OF TREES] native [TREE SPECIES] Every tree we planted comes with a post-planting care plan which will help the tree grow and provide habitat for wildlife, shade and clean air for our community for generations to come!

Additional Hashtags to Consider

#TreesforTexans #TreesforCommunities #TreesforSchools #TreesforFuture

#OurTexasOurFuture #SustainableTexans #TexasParksandWildlife #TexasNature #TexasConservation

#TexasTrees #TexasNativePlants

H-E-B Trees for Texans - Grant Application

Program Details: Applicants from across Texas are invited to apply for a \$5,000 grant for projects that increase tree canopy, reduce heat island effect, increase available greenspace, and beautify public spaces. Projects must be publicly accessible and include a care and maintenance plan for post-project longevity. While project types are not strictly prescribed, projects must generate verifiable impact. (ie: community seedling giveaways are highly unlikely to be selected). The goal of this program is to utilize funding from the H-E-B Trees for Texans program to generate measurable positive impact on natural resources across the state of Texas, improving the communities in which H-E-B employees and customers live, work, and play.

Award Amount: \$5,000

Grant Funder: H-E-B Trees for Texans program

Application Submission Period: January 1, 2026 - May 1, 2026

Notification of Award: July 2026

Project Completion Deadline: At this time, funding will be awarded for plantings occurring in the 2026-2027 planting season (October 2026-March 2027). Please note in your application if your project will not be complete by this time.

Application Materials: Applicants must complete the application form in its entirety for their application to be considered submitted and eligible for consideration. If you would like to work on your application prior to submission (the form will not let you save progress) you may download a Word version [HERE: Application - Word Version](#). Please note, the Word version is for your personal use only - applications **MUST** be submitted via this form!

Eligible Organizations: Nonprofit organizations, government organizations, and municipalities are eligible to apply for this program.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Organizations must maintain a valid 501c3 nonprofit status as designated by the IRS in order to receive donations from the H-E-B Trees for Texans program OR be a valid municipality or governmental organization. Schools are also eligible to apply. Community organizations wishing to take part must partner with one of these types of organizations to be eligible. Individual landowners on private lands and for-profit corporations are not eligible.
- Application for support must be received via the online application form within the designated application period in order to be considered for the relevant granting cycle.
- Regardless of previous grant awards, organizations must reapply online every year if they wish to be considered for funding.
- H-E-B Trees for Texans does not support funding for advertising, individuals, general operating expenses, school trips, sports events, teams, political events, or third-party fundraisers.
- All applicants must provide a care plan for their project for post-planting care and maintenance. Funding from the grant may be spent on irrigation/care as needed.

- All selected projects must fill out a post-project report detailing the final impact of the project. Projects are to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Project Area: Projects must be located within one of the following regions. City lists are not all-inclusive, but provide a general geographic area. If you have an H-E-B in your community, you are eligible for this grant.

Austin/Central Texas Region

Austin, Bastrop, Buda, Burnet, Dripping Springs, Elgin, Georgetown, Kingsland, Kyle, Lampasas, Leander, Marble Falls, Round Rock, San Marcos, Taylor.

Border Region

Alamo, Brownsville, Carrizo Springs, Crystal City, Del Rio, Donna, Eagle Pass, Edinburg, Elsa, Harlingen, Hondo, Laredo, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Palmview, Pearsall, Pharr, Port Isabel, Raymondville, Rio Grande City, San Benito, San Juan, Uvalde, Weslaco.

Gulf Coast Region

Alice, Aransas Pass, Bay City, Beeville, Corpus Christi, Cuero, Edna, El Campo, Falfurrias, Gonzales, Ingleside, Kenedy, Kingsville, Mathis, Port Lavaca, Portland, Refugio, Robstown, Rockport, Sinton, Victoria, Wharton, Yoakum.

Houston Region

Alvin, Beaumont, Bellaire, Brenham, Bryan, Clear Lake, College Station, Columbus, Conroe, Crockett, Deer Park, Ellis, Groves, Houston, Huntsville, Katy, Kingwood, Lake Jackson, League City, Livingston, Lufkin, Lumberton, Missouri City, Orange, Pasadena, Pearland, Port Arthur, Santa Fe, Spring, Sugarland, Texas City, The Woodlands, Tomball.

North/West Region

Abilene, Allen, Bellmead, Belton, Big Spring, Burleson, Cleburne, Copperas Cove, Corsicana, Ennis, Forney, Fort Worth, Frisco, Gatesville, Granbury, Harker Heights, Hudson Oaks, Killeen, Lubbock, Mansfield, Marlin, McKinney, Melissa, Mexia, Midland, Odessa, Plano, Prosper, Rockwall, San Angelo, Stephenville, Temple, Waco, Waxahachie, Woodway.

San Antonio Region

Boerne, Bulverde, Floresville, Fredericksburg, Kerrville, La Vernia, Leon Springs, Lytle, New Braunfels, Pleasanton, San Antonio, Seguin.

Email *

micaela@bisd.us

Applicant Information

Organization Name *

Brownsville Independent School District

Organization Address *

1900 East Price Road, Brownsville, Texas 78521

Contact Name *

Micaela Escobar

Contact Email *

micaela@bisd.us

Contact Phone *

956-698-2159

Please select your organization classification: *

- ☐ Non-Profit
- ☐ Governmental / Municipal
- ☒ Other: School District

Organization Mission *

In collaboration with our families and community, Brownsville ISD provides a safe, healthy, and nurturing learning environment. We offer specialized supports and equitable resources to implement high-quality curricula, student-centered instruction, and exemplary programs.

Organization Website *

www.bisd.us

Organization Mailing Address *

1900 East Price Road, Brownsville, Texas 78521

Organization Social Media *

Please share links to your Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, or other relevant channels

<https://www.facebook.com/BrownsvilleISD>, <https://x.com/BrownsvilleISD>, <https://www.instagram.com/brownsvilleisd/?hl=en>, <https://www.linkedin.com/company/brownsvilleisd/>, <https://vimeo.com/user241940785>

How did you learn about the Trees for Texans program? *

Last school year, BISD was awarded the Trees for Texans Grant for two elementary schools: Burns and Del Castillo-Morningside.

Project Information

Project Name

*

If the project doesn't have a formal name that is okay, please provide a descriptive title of efforts - i.e. X park's restoration efforts, etc.

26-27 Brownsville ISD Reforestation Project

Project Website (if applicable) *

n/a

Project Location

*

County, City, or full address of the planting event.

Brownsville, Texas

Which region does your project area fall within?

*

Please see the above eligibility requirements for a complete list of eligible counties listed in each region.

☐ Austin/Central Texas Region

☐ Border Region

☐ Gulf Coast Region

☐ Houston Region

☒ North/West Region

☐ San Antonio Region

Project History & Background

*

How did the project start? What was the catalyst? If this is a new initiative, what lead to its formation?

The 26-27 Brownsville Reforestation Project will continue the districtwide effort to plant trees at all schools. Since the 22-23 school year, 394 trees have been planted across 20 campuses. The project is addressing the need for more shade, improve student wellness, and create healthier outdoor learning environments. This effort became even more important with the adoption of the recess policy, which provides elementary students time for free play during the school day. Teachers also incorporated caring for the trees as a way to teach students responsibility and respect for nature. In addition, the reforestation project supports the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) from kindergarten through 8th grade and in select high school science courses.

Project Goals & Objectives

★

What is the purpose of the project? What needs are being met? What are the goals? How are you achieving them?

The purpose of the Brownsville Reforestation Project is to create healthier, safer, and more welcoming outdoor spaces for students while teaching students about the responsibility and care for the environment through hands-on experiences. The project meets important needs by providing much needed shade, reducing heat, improving air quality, and creating better spaces for outdoor learning and play. Planting trees also helps the surrounding neighborhood by lowering temperatures, improving air quality, and making the area greener and more pleasant.

The main goals of the project are to plant more trees, improve outdoor comfort and safety for students, and teach students the importance of caring for the environment. These goals are achieved by planting trees at schools, scheduling planting in November to align with Texas Arbor Day, involving students and staff in caring for the trees, and connecting the project to classroom learning and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Through these efforts, the project supports student health, learning, and environmental responsibility while also benefiting the surrounding community.

Project Need

★

Please explain the need for this project, using data where possible, to demonstrate the necessity and effectiveness of your proposed solution.

The Brownsville Reforestation Project is needed because almost all BISD schools have limited tree canopy and experience high temperatures, which affects the desire for outdoor learning and play. Trees provide shade, help lower temperatures, improve air quality, and create safer and more comfortable outdoor spaces for students and the surrounding community. Furthermore, data from the Tree Equity Score National Explorer shows that the **Brownsville Academic Center currently has a Tree Equity Score of 69, with a priority level listed as "highest" for Brownsville. Gallegos Elementary also has a Tree Equity Score of 69 and is listed with the same "highest" priority.** These scores indicate a strong need to increase tree canopy in these areas to improve environmental conditions and community health. By continuing to plant and care for trees, the project addresses heat, improves the school environment, and supports student well-being while creating long-term benefits for schools and nearby neighborhoods. (Attaching maps with tree scores.)

Planting Date *

Provide a date for your tree planting. PLEASE NOTE: If you do not have a firm date yet, please note that if selected, you will need to be able to provide a date within 2 weeks of your official notification.

The proposed tree planting dates are Friday, November 6 and possibly Friday, November 13.

Project Impacts

Project Impact - Does this project increase tourism or provide other economic incentives? *

Please provide data where possible.

The main goal of this project is to improve student health and campus conditions, while also providing broader community and economic benefits. Increasing tree canopy helps lower temperatures and reduce heat-related costs, enhances neighborhood appearance, and contributes to healthier, more welcoming spaces. Greener environments can also support long-term community value and stability. In Brownsville, ongoing regional growth driven by industries such as SpaceX and LNG has brought jobs, infrastructure investment, tourism interest, and business development, further highlighting the importance of maintaining attractive, sustainable, and resilient neighborhoods / communities.

Project Impact - Does this project provide ecosystem services? *

Please provide data where possible. Data based on figures from general literature review is acceptable.

This project provides important ecosystem services that benefit both the school and the surrounding community. Research shows that trees can lower air temperatures by about 2-9° F, helping reduce heat and cooling costs. Trees also improve air quality by removing pollutants, which supports better health.

Trees help manage stormwater by catching rainfall and allowing more water to soak into the ground, which can reduce runoff and flooding. Studies show that one mature tree can absorb hundreds to thousands of gallons of rainwater each year and capture about 48 pounds of carbon dioxide annually. By planting and caring for trees, this project helps reduce heat, improve air and water quality, and create a healthier and more resilient environment for students and the community.

What other natural resources are benefited by the project? *

Examples include types of plants, wildlife, waterways, habitat areas, etc.

In addition to improving tree canopy, this project benefits several important natural resources, including native plants, soil, water, and local wildlife. Planting trees supports the growth of other vegetation such as grasses and pollinator-friendly plants, which strengthens the overall plant ecosystem. Trees also improve soil health by reducing erosion, adding organic matter, and helping the soil retain moisture.

This project also enhances habitat areas by providing shelter, nesting spaces, and food sources for birds, pollinators, and small wildlife. By increasing green space and vegetation, the project supports local biodiversity and helps create a healthier, more balanced natural environment for both the school community and surrounding area.

One of the greatest benefits related to plants, wildlife, waterways, and habitat areas is that students gain hands-on learning opportunities in these areas.

Project Impact - Does this project help the community save money? If so, how? *

Please provide data where possible.

This project can help the community save money through indirect cost savings. Increasing tree canopy provides natural shade that can lower surrounding temperatures and reduce energy use for cooling, which may help decrease electricity expenses over time. Trees also help manage stormwater by absorbing rainfall, which can reduce runoff and lessen strain on drainage systems and related maintenance costs. In addition, improved air quality and cooler outdoor spaces can support better public health, which may help lower heat- and pollution-related expenses. By creating greener, healthier environments, the project contributes to long-term community savings and sustainability.

Are there community or employee volunteer opportunities for this project? *

If yes, please share details.

☒ Yes

☐ No

If you answered yes above, How many volunteers are needed?

20

Estimated # of hours to complete the project

*

Include hours from any anticipated staff and volunteers (ex: 3 staff + 5 volunteers x 4 hours each = 32 total hours)

40

Outline the total number of people participating in the initiative:

*

Please answer numerically, to include staff, partners, volunteers, and any other participants.

40

Outline the total number of people benefitting, such as populations served, and/or people involved * that are positively impacted by the project/program.

Please answer numerically (ex: 23 students, 1,000-1,500 residents, etc.)

732

Demographics

Please answer numerically without the % symbol

Demographics: What percentage of beneficiaries are - Hispanic (non-white)? *

98.3

Demographics: What percentage of beneficiaries are - Black / Caribbean / African-American? *

.1

Demographics: What percentage of beneficiaries are - Asian / Pacific Islander? *

0.2

Demographics: What percentage of beneficiaries are - Native American? *

1

Demographics: What percentage of beneficiaries are - Caucasian? *

1.3

Demographics: What percentage of beneficiaries are - multi-racial / other? *

1

Socioeconomic Breakdown: What percentage of beneficiaries are below the federal poverty line? *

89.1

Socioeconomic Breakdown: What percentage of beneficiaries are on free/reduced lunch? *

If not perfectly relevant, what percentage of the local school district is on free/reduced lunch?

100

Project Details - Natural Resources

Project Size

★

Provide impact area in acres, if possible. Close approximations are acceptable - please share details. 1 acre = 43,560sq ft

1

How many trees will be planted? *

20

What species of trees will be planted? *

All native trees: Ebony, Cypress, Mesquite, Mexican Olive and Western Soapberry

What is the post-project care plan for the trees to ensure their success? *

To include: watering and fertilizing plans, parties responsible for tracking health/status of the trees, etc. You may also submit as a separate document at the end of this application. There are no strict requirements, as we understand different locations have different needs, this is simply to confirm that post-planting care is thought through and accounted for!

BISD has a dedicated department responsible for ensuring schools follow proper tree care practices. Their staff visits schools weekly during the first year and bimonthly thereafter, with non-compliance addressed with the campus principal and area superintendent. Schools are responsible for watering, while the district maintenance department manages mulching, pruning, and aerating the soil to maintain tree health. Additionally, the district curriculum department integrates tree education into lesson plans, promoting sustainability and environmental awareness among students.

Estimated Investment in project to date

*

Estimated funds you have spent to date. Please answer numerically without the \$ symbol

85000

If awarded, how will the funding be spent? *

Please provide a detailed breakdown of anticipated spending, such as trees purchased, mulch, equipment rentals, etc. **Funding may be spent on items other than trees to ensure project completion.** You may also share a budget document at the end of the application if you already have one prepared.

If awarded, the funding will be used to purchase trees for the 25-26 Brownsville ISD Reforestation Project. With an average cost of \$250 per tree, the project will allow for 20 trees to be purchased. If BISD secures a better price, more trees will be purchased. The district will cover the cost of mulch, water hoses, and other necessary materials. BISD will also handle site preparation and maintenance to support the trees' survival to maturity.

Recognition & Documentation

How will this grant be recognized?

Please share plans for social media, press release, or other marketing methods. Texan by Nature will also share a press and social media tool kit with all awardees to assist with announcements.

BISD will recognize this grant by hosting tree planting ceremonies at each elementary school and announcing the project across district media outlets, including social media, the district website, and newsletters. The press will be invited to cover the event, highlighting the project's impact. BISD will also use the press and social media toolkit from Texan by Nature to share the announcement and engage the community.

Please send the following supporting documents to programs@texanbynature.org, using the subject line "H-E-B Trees for Texans Grant - Supporting Documentation":

*

- Current 990
- IRS Determination Letter (501c3)
- Project Budget (if not included above)
- Post-Project Maintenance Plan (if not included above)
- Any photos of the project area ("Before photos," with "after" photos to be collected after project completion)
- Any other supporting documentation

*****NOTE: IF THESE DOCUMENTS ARE NOT RECEIVED VIA EMAIL, YOUR GRANT APPLICATION WILL BE MARKED AS INCOMPLETE**

☐ Acknowledged

Is there anything else you would like to share?

Disclosure regarding the requested demographic information: both Multi-racial/Other and Native American are 0%; however, the system would not allow a zero response.

Under the total number of people benefitting, approximately 494 students, approximately 41 campus staff members, and over 197 families. This is a conservative estimate, as data is not currently available on the number of residents living in the surrounding neighborhoods of the two schools.

Brownsville ISD is not a 501c3 and does not file a Form 990. BISD files the 941 form. BISD is a political subdivision of the state.

Personal quote: In my limited experience in sustainability, I have learned that once students have hands-on experience with planting trees, it ignites a love for nature. I have witnessed how this passion often extends to their families. Having said this, the best place to plant trees is in schools.

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