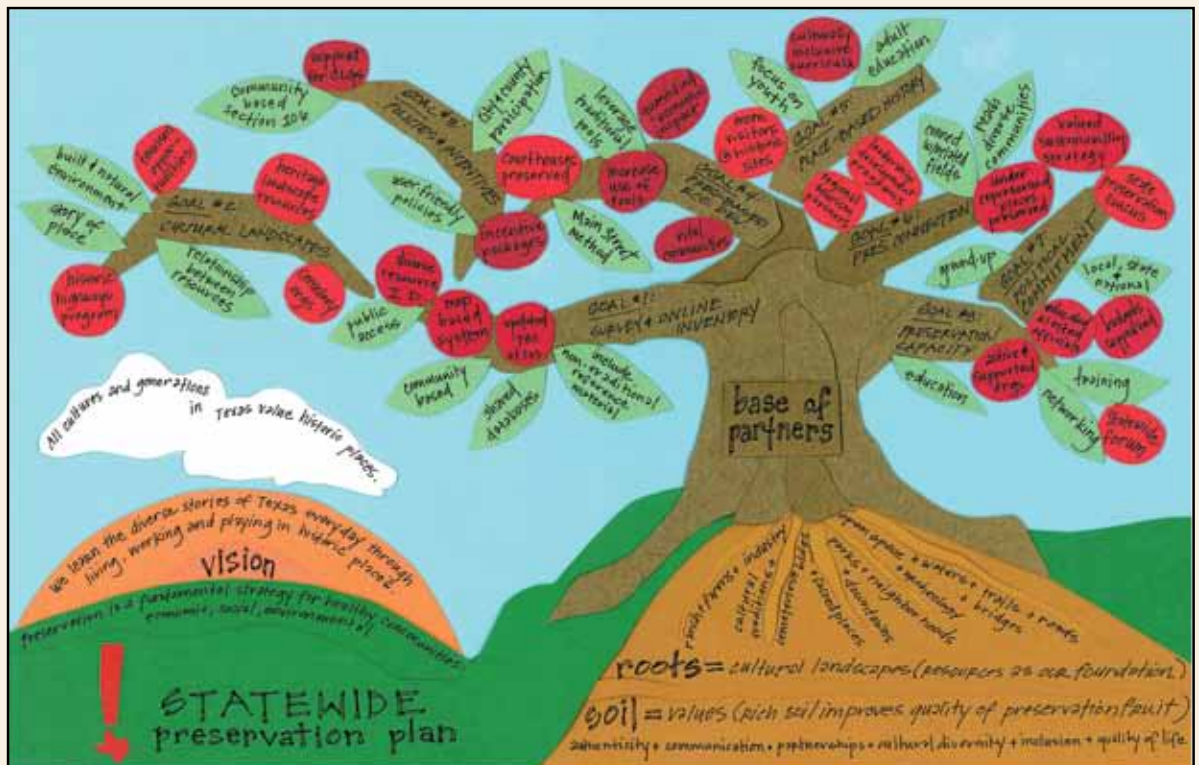


Preservation Connection: Texas Statewide Historic Preservation Plan

Every 10 years, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) develops a Statewide Historic Preservation Plan. It's a collaborative process and one of our key responsibilities as a State Historic Preservation Office under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This new plan as an opportunity to lay a pathway, or perhaps blaze a trail, for Texans to preserve, protect, and leverage our historic and cultural fabric for the betterment of our communities statewide.



The THC's goal is for the 2011-2020 Texas Statewide Historic Preservation Plan to be a living, growing tool for preservation across the state. As a way to communicate this message, we created a visual representation, the Preservation Plan Tree, to facilitate understanding and interacting with the plan's main elements.

Developing the Plan

The THC designed a planning process for preservationists across Texas to develop this plan from the ground up. Stakeholders were offered a variety of ways to be involved and stay informed, including:

- An online public preservation survey in early 2010, which drew 1,089 respondents. The results provided a snapshot of local and statewide preservation strengths, issues, challenges, and opportunities.
- More than 100 people contributed to the vision for preservation.
- Nine communities hosted statewide planning forums during summer 2010. More than 250 stakeholders offered feedback on the plan, shared local success stories, and developed community applications.

The Historic and Cultural Fabric of Texas

Texas embraces a vast collection of historic and cultural resources. A quick glance reveals Hispanic ranches, maritime vessels, bungalow neighborhoods, prehistoric Native American rock art, mid-century hotels, slave cemeteries, farmsteads, iron truss bridges, and urban parks. These are just a few examples of the countless real places that tell the real stories of Texas.

Our current statewide historic resources inventory contains written information, photographs, and negatives chronicling more than 225,000 sites in Texas. Among these are:

- 3,000 buildings, districts, archeological sites, structures, and objects listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Of these listings, 350 are historic districts

containing more than 30,000 contributing buildings and structures.

- 15,000 Official Texas Historical Markers that interpret and promote history.
- 3,600 Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks.
- 1,400 officially designated Historic Texas Cemeteries.
- 235 historic courthouses that can serve as the focal point of their counties.
- 3,000 State Archeological Landmarks, which apply legal protection in accordance with the Antiquities Code of Texas.

In addition, thousands of historic places are inventoried in the Texas Historic Sites Atlas and at the local level, many of which are designated as community landmarks and historic districts. Countless historic places remain unidentified throughout the state.

Goals

The following eight goals represent the measurable, positive change that we, as a preservation community, want to achieve over the next 10 years. We have provided examples of success stories after each goal that demonstrate how partners across Texas are already accomplishing the plan. Visit our website at www.preservationconnection.com to learn more about these projects and discover additional outcomes, case studies, and local applications.

Goal 1: Survey and Online Inventory

Texans undertake a comprehensive survey of the state's diverse historic and cultural resources resulting in a publicly accessible online inventory.

■ The Austin Historical Web Survey is a collaboration between the University of Texas at Austin and the City of Austin to develop an online interactive tool for volunteer-driven historic resource surveys. It brings together citizens' local knowledge with the expertise of preservation professionals to improve historic survey information.

Goal 2: Emphasize Cultural Landscapes

Communities are active in the identification, protection, and interpretation of cultural landscapes.

■ The San Antonio Conservation Society has spearheaded a survey and educational campaign for historic farms and ranches in Bexar County. Members have documented more than 80 sites and are working with property owners and preservation groups to protect the historic rural character of South Texas and the Hill Country.

Goal 3: Implement Policies and Incentives

Cities, counties, the state, federal agencies, and tribes implement preservation policies and incentives to effectively protect historic and cultural assets.

■ The City of El Paso adopted a vacant buildings ordinance to proactively address neglect in its built

Connect to the Plan Today!

Visit www.preservationconnection.com and help shape the future of preservation in Texas. Here are some easy ways to be a partner on this journey:

- Bookmark this summary for easy reference. Share the plan with members of your organization, family, friends, and colleagues.
- Visit the plan online at www.preservationconnection.com and join the preservation network.
- Share your local success stories that connect to this online plan. These case studies will help build the plan into a dynamic information tool.
- Use the vision and goals of this plan as a framework for your own local preservation planning, and customize strategies for your community or organization.

environment, much of which is historic. The ordinance encourages rehabilitation and requires property owners to register vacant buildings with the city and keep them well maintained.

Goal 4: Leverage Economic Development Tools

Communities leverage preservation-based and traditional economic development tools to revitalize historic areas.

■ The Brewster County Historical Commission, with local partnerships, has used county hotel/motel tax revenue to research, design, and fabricate interpretive signage promoting the story of the county's heritage, culture, and natural attractions.

Goal 5: Learn and Experience History through Place

Texas residents and guests of all ages learn and experience the state's diverse history through formal education, recreation, and everyday interactions with historic places.

■ Brownsville-21, a Preserve America-funded project of the Brownsville Historical Association, includes multimedia materials, bilingual walking and driving tours, information kiosks, and photomurals for historic locations throughout the city.

Goal 6: Connect Preservation to Related Fields

We connect and integrate preservation into related fields and activities, building

a broader, stronger, and more diverse community.

■ Galveston Historical Foundation's Green Revival uses a 19th-century historic home as a model to demonstrate the connection between green and sustainable building practices and historic preservation.

Goal 7: Cultivate Political Commitment

We cultivate political commitment for historic preservation at the state and local level.

■ Tom Green County Historical Commission has developed ongoing positive relationships with its elected officials through consistent communication, engagement in local projects, and connecting with their personal interest in local history.

Goal 8: Build Capacity of the Preservation Community

The existing preservation community develops its organizational capacity to strengthen and expand preservation skills.

■ Preservation Texas hosts a Preservation Summit every two years as a forum to identify issues related to the preservation of the historic built environment, develop strategic approaches and solutions to the issues, and cultivate partnerships across the state. ★