FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Partners,



DR. ROBERT E. MACE
Executive Director, Chief Policy Officer & Professor of Practice,
TXST Department of Geography & Environmental Studies

Water challenges are too complex for any one organization to solve alone. The Meadows Center's value lies in bringing people together across sectors to develop practical solutions and keep the conversation focused on what works for every Texan.

This year, nature reminded us why that work matters. Floods, low flows, and other extremes call for planning ahead and preparing together. Finding higher ground is not only about responding to the next event; it's about building the knowledge, relationships, and capacity that help communities face change.

Across our work, collaboration strengthens research and decision-making. Through the Texas Integrated Flooding Framework, we helped state and federal partners and experts from many disciplines turn six years of collaborative science into detailed recommendations for how Texas should address flood risk, while our climate perceptions research helped identify common ground for building resilience. Partnerships also help translate our research into useful tools, including RAINFAL, an online calculator that draws on our research to help users design reliable, drought-resistant rainwater harvesting systems, and graphics that help communities understand complex water systems, from rainwater harvesting to compound flooding.

At Spring Lake, collaboration connects stewardship and education. New habitat-protection measures for the Texas Water Safari and student-designed diver training buoys reflect the care and creativity of people working together to protect this remarkable place. Across Texas, partnerships such as our work in the Blanco-Cypress watershed and with Samsung extended water and land stewardship and strengthened local capacity.

In 2027, the Meadows Center will mark its 25th anniversary. As we look toward that milestone, we will continue bringing people together, translating research into action, and helping Texas prepare for a changing water future.

Thank you to our partners, students, supporters, and staff, both past and present, for being part of this work. Together, we can find higher ground.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Mace, Ph.D., P.G.
Executive Director

HELP US REACH HIGHER GROUND

To contribute or learn how you can help, contact Amy Crowell at acrowell@txstate.edu.



MAKE WAVES WITH US

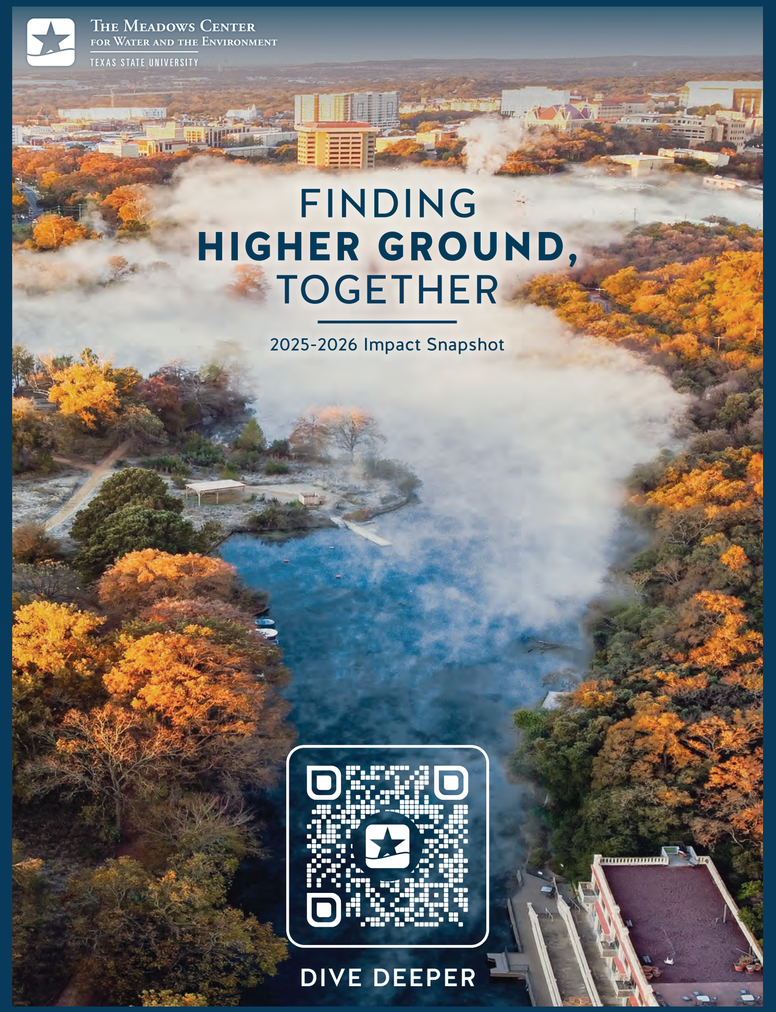
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The Meadows Center
for Water and the Environment
Texas State University

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OUR **MISSION & VISION**

The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment inspires research, innovation, and leadership that ensures clean, abundant water for the environment and all humanity. **We envision a world where all people understand and embrace the value of water and stewardship.**

WATER IS **WHAT WE DO**

The Meadows Center is powered by a team of 33 dedicated staff and 90 student employees on their way to becoming the next generation of conservation leaders. **Our work begins at the headwaters of the San Marcos River and ripples outward across Texas and beyond.**

As a service organization, the Meadows Center is sought out for expertise in:

- specialized expertise in Texas groundwater and surface water science and management
- innovative policy analysis
- water quality research and monitoring
- nature-based K–12 education
- community-powered conservation planning
- hands-on citizen science
- river restoration and ecology
- science translation for decision-makers
- One Water resilience planning

FISCAL YEAR 2026 **IN NUMBERS**

17
research grants awarded to Meadows Center Principal Investigators, programs, and projects

8,204
volunteer hours dedicated to conservation

78
university students supported by research and education projects

109,745
visitors engaged in outdoor learning at Spring Lake

5,473
people reached by speaking engagements in Texas and beyond

604
new community scientists trained to monitor water quality across Texas

2025-2026 **HIGHLIGHTS**



We're partnering with Samsung Austin Semiconductor to bring independent science to quantify and validate innovative approaches to water conservation.



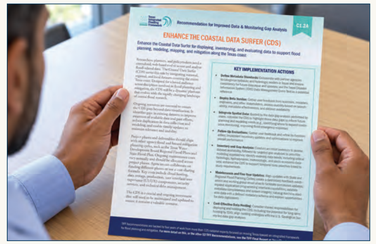
Our study of Texas water professionals revealed common ground despite large differences in beliefs about climate change: shared concerns about water supply.



After 14 years of tedious, root-by-root restoration, our biologists achieved functional eradication of invasive hydrilla along a key stretch of the San Marcos River.



We're sharing policy and practice insights to help Texans implement One Water — explore our new case study and regulatory research tools for practitioners.



We helped flood experts integrate six years of research into 53 recommendations to strengthen Texas flood planning and science.



Our educators are advancing the science of how families learn together through water, art, and play.

Scan for a deeper dive into our work!

OUR **NEXT INVESTMENTS**

In Fiscal Year 2027, we're prioritizing projects that **expand access to environmental education and help Texas communities make better use of every drop.**

Opening Spring Lake to All

More than 100,000 people visit Spring Lake annually, including thousands of students who participate in glass-bottom boat tours and environmental education programs. The Access for All campaign is making these learning opportunities available to people of all abilities.

With restroom and ticket kiosk improvements completed and a trail project underway, we're raising funds for the campaign's final phase: **building an accessible glass-bottom boat and dock** so that individuals of all abilities can experience one of Texas' most treasured environmental education experiences.

The Meadows Foundation generously contributed the first $200,000, and an additional **$220,000 is needed to begin construction**.

Diving Deeper into One Water

One Water is an integrated approach to managing drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and greywater as one interconnected resource. Through the Texas One Water Initiative, we're helping communities conserve and reuse water while making the most of local supplies.

In Fiscal Year 2026, private support helped us turn research into resources communities can use, from the Texas One Water Hub to a rainwater calculator.

As the initiative enters its third year, we're seeking sustained annual funding of **$175,000 to hire a One Water Coordinator, expand research on rainwater and other harvested supplies, and provide community consultations and collaborative workshops**.







