

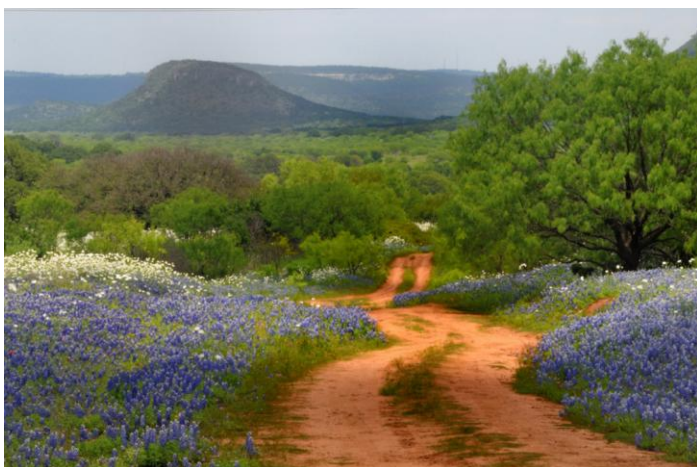


Issues and Actions: Hill Country Population Growth

Our Hill Country counties are growing rapidly.

Over the past decade, we've added nearly 700,000 people - and not just in San Antonio or Austin. Suburban areas like Comal, Bandera, Hays, and Kendall counties experienced huge population gains between 2000 and 2010. We are rapidly losing farms and ranches to housing developments and shopping malls. We are draining our water resources and we are struggling with numerous infrastructure, financial and social challenges that accompany such rapid growth.

The Hill Country is projected to add another 2 million people over the next four decades. Some counties, including Bandera, Comal, Hays, and Kendall, are expected to more than double in population by 2050*. Our 18 counties will grow to a population greater than all of Colorado (projected 5,044,930 in 2050), squeezed in a region just a little bigger than the entire State of Maryland



County	County Size (Ac)	Population 2000	Population 2010	2000-10 Percentage Increase	Projected Population 2050	2010-50 Projected Population Increase
Bandera	510,107	17,645	20,485	16.10%	56,642	176.50%
Bexar	804,045	1,392,931	1,714,773	23.11%	2,369,950	38.21%
Blanco	456,498	8,418	10,497	24.70%	16,641	58.53%
Burnet	652,665	34,147	42,750	25.19%	78,981	84.75%
Comal	367,818	78,021	108,472	39.03%	278,626	156.86%
Edwards	1,356,643	2,162	2,002	-7.40%	2,264	13.09%
Gillespie	678,784	20,814	24,837	19.33%	30,861	24.25%
Hays	434,065	97,589	157,107	60.99%	436,388	177.76%
Kendall	423,970	23,743	33,410	40.72%	89,312	167.32%
Kerr	708,100	43,653	49,625	13.68%	61,204	23.33%
Kimble	799,456	4,468	4,607	3.11%	4,702	2.06%
Llano	618,056	17,044	19,301	13.24%	24,393	26.38%
Mason	597,060	3,738	4,012	7.33%	3,891	-3.02%
Medina	855,074	39,304	46,006	17.05%	75,370	63.83%
Real	447,657	3,047	3,309	8.60%	3,070	-7.22%
Travis	655,606	812,280	1,024,266	26.10%	1,770,347	72.84%
Uvalde	999,896	25,926	26,405	1.85%	36,876	39.66%
Total	11,365,501	2,624,930	3,291,864	25.41%	5,339,518	62.20%

Acres	11,365,501
2000 Population:	2,624,930
2010 Population:	3,291,864
2050 Population:	5,339,518
2010-50 Increase:	62.20%

Population density is an often reported and commonly compared statistic for places around the world. The Hill Country region's population density is currently 185 people per square mile growing to 300 people per square mile by the year 2050. In comparison, the entire US currently has an overall population density of 76 people per square mile.

We need to think carefully about how we grow and how we sustain our natural resources. Our economy depends on it and more importantly, our children depend on us to get it right.

*These 2050 population projections are from the Texas Water Development Board. Many western Hill Country communities including Uvalde County consider these projections to be lower than what is actually anticipated.