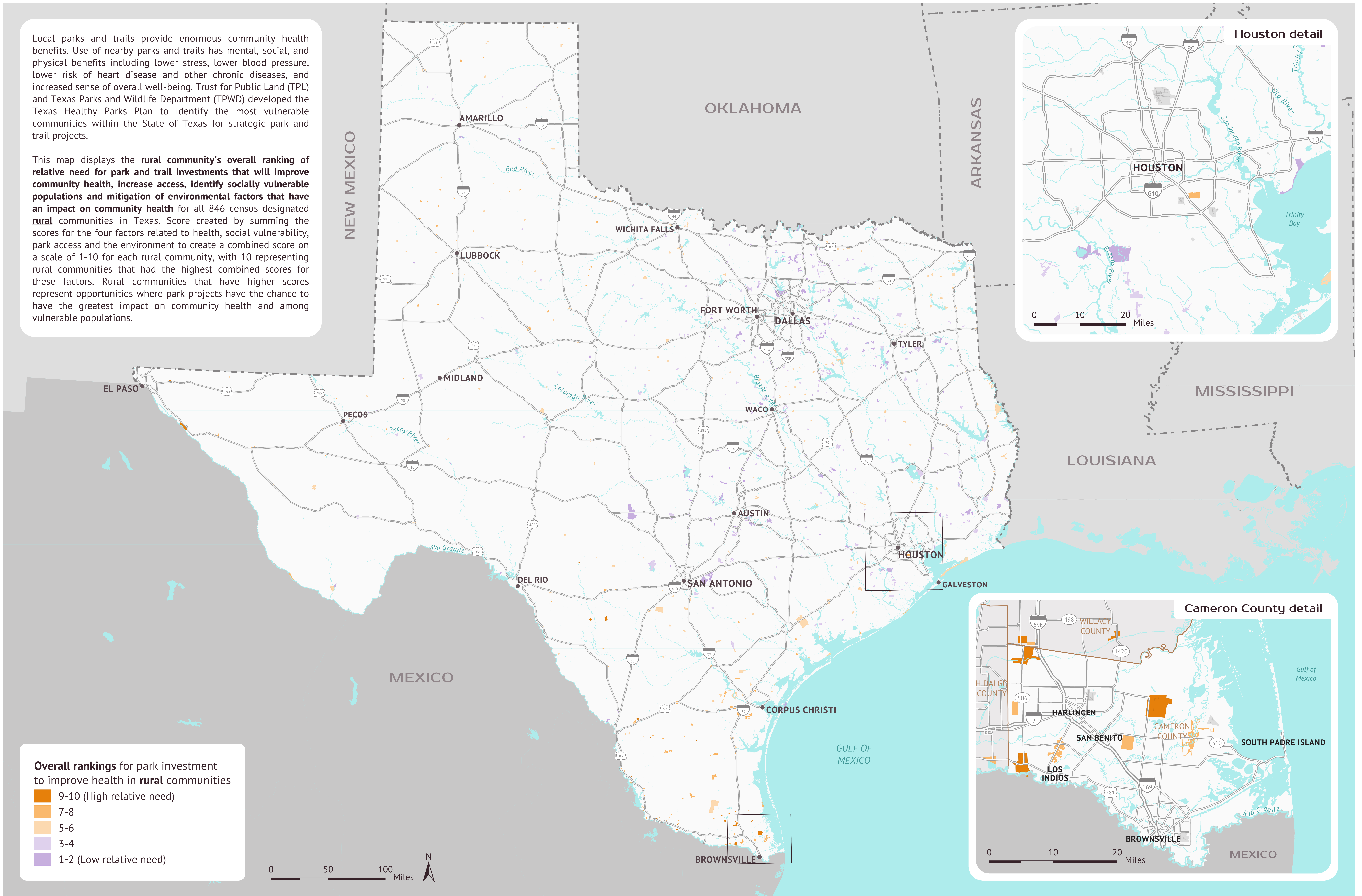


Local parks and trails provide enormous community health benefits. Use of nearby parks and trails has mental, social, and physical benefits including lower stress, lower blood pressure, lower risk of heart disease and other chronic diseases, and increased sense of overall well-being. Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) developed the Texas Healthy Parks Plan to identify the most vulnerable communities within the State of Texas for strategic park and trail projects.

This map displays the **rural community's overall ranking of relative need for park and trail investments that will improve community health, increase access, identify socially vulnerable populations and mitigation of environmental factors that have an impact on community health** for all 846 census designated rural communities in Texas. Score created by summing the scores for the four factors related to health, social vulnerability, park access and the environment to create a combined score on a scale of 1-10 for each rural community, with 10 representing rural communities that had the highest combined scores for these factors. Rural communities that have higher scores represent opportunities where park projects have the chance to have the greatest impact on community health and among vulnerable populations.



Overall Rankings for Park Investment to Improve Health in Rural Communities

TEXAS HEALTHY PARKS PLAN

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