

NATURAL RESOURCE USES (NRU) SUBCOMMITTEE

GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL  
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

22 March 2023

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| <b>SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR</b><br>Philip Smith, GBF  | <b>SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIR</b><br>Scott Alford, USDA-NRCS |
| <b>NRU COORDINATOR</b><br>Lindsey Lippert, GBEP |   |

**Members/Participants Present**

Philip Smith (GBF), Scott Alford (USDA-NRCS), Celina Gauthier-Lowry (AgriLife), Dianna Ramirez (GLO), Cassidy Kempf (HPARD), Matt Singer (GBF), Savannah Horton (TPWD), Lindsey Savage (TPWD), Suzanne Simpson (GBF), Derek Thompson (ABNC), George Guillen (UHCL-EIH)

GBEP Staff: Lindsey Lippert, Matt Abernathy, Christian Rines, Kari Howard, Cassandra Taylor

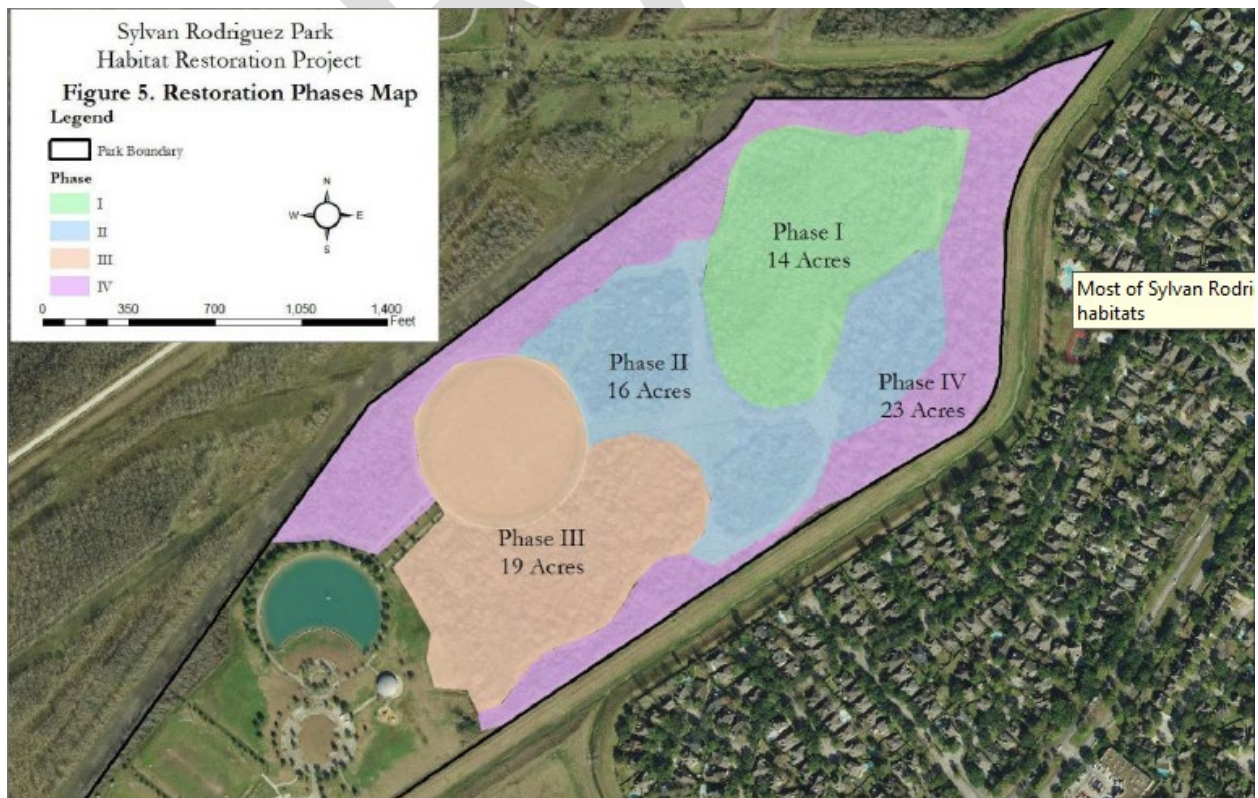
**Members/Participants via TEAMS**

Evelyn Merz (UH), Grant Moss (BPA), Chris Smith (ABNC), Adriana Leiva (USFWS), Moriah Johnson, Kelli Ondracek (HPARD), Charrish Stevens (NOAA-NMFS), Marissa Llosa (Houston Parks Board), Erin Kinney (HARC), Stephen Benigno (Houston Arboretum), Karla Klay (Artist Boat)

**Sylvan Rodriguez Park Habitat Restoration and Enhancement**

Cassidy Kempf/Kelli Ondracek, Houston Parks and Recreation Department

Houston Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation on the history of Sylvan Rodriguez Park and the restoration work being completed.



\*Slide presentation and video recording of the meeting is available upon request.

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## **BIL Priority Recommendations for FFY 24**

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The majority of the meeting was spent discussing the priorities that we would like to see as a subcommittee in the next Bipartisan Infrastructure Law project planning process. The following recommendations were made to the Budget and Priorities Subcommittee:

- Habitat Protection and Enhancement
- Project Assessments (ex. Mapping Gaps, Pre/Post construction (including habitat/species) monitoring, events, general function, species use/benefit
- Adaptive Management (ex. Follow up on existing projects and continued maintenance.

\*Video recording of the meeting is available upon request.

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## **Updates from the Estuary Program**

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### **Staff Updates**

As of March, GBEP is fully staffed, and Lindsey introduced new staff. We are also solidifying the ability to grant directly to nonprofits.

### **NRU Project Updates**

\*Spreadsheet available on request.

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## **Other**

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### **Selection of A Presenter for Next Meeting - Deferred**

#### **Roundtable**

Amanda Hackney mentioned for Oystercatcher Working Group they are going forward with an online database for restoration through Georgia DNR. In addition, the Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium is coming up on April 5, 2023.

Matt Abernathy encouraged everyone to participate in Trash Bash at a local site on March 25, 2023.

Suzanne Simpson encouraged everyone to participate in the City Nature Challenge March 28-30, 2023.

Haille Leija mentioned the GBF native plant sale in partnership with the Native Plant Society on April 15, 2023 and Earth Day Festival April 22, 2023.

Philip Smith provided an update on the West Bay seagrass issues we've been talking about the past few meetings. Local guides are indicating that seagrasses are coming back and are keeping him in the loop. Anybody doing bird counts could also reach out to Philip. For West Bay Bird Island, local guides are saying the mangroves are not coming back, so restoration may be needed. Amanda mentioned a researcher working on these issues at TAMUG.

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## Adjourn

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### Future Meetings

Quarterly NRU Meeting(s)

- June 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
- September 20, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
- December 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Invasive Species Workgroup Meeting - TBD

Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting - TBD

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