

# FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 WORK PLAN BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

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**Revision 0.1**

**EPA #4T-02F24301**

**TCEQ Grant #332022**



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**A PROGRAM OF TCEQ**

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**

**P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087**

**February 2024**

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

**Table 1. Abbreviations List**

Name	Abbreviation
American Bird Conservancy	ABC
Armand Bayou Nature Center	ABNC
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law	BIL
Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan	CCMP
Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool	EJ Screen
Fiscal Year	FY
Full-time Equivalent	FTE
Galveston Bay Council	GBC
Galveston Bay Estuary Program	GBEP
Galveston Bay Foundation	GBF
<i>Galveston Bay Plan</i>	<i>GBP</i>
<i>Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition</i>	<i>GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition</i>
Galveston Bay Public Awareness and Education Campaign	Back the Bay
Houston-Galveston Area Council	H-GAC
City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department	HPARD
Monitoring and Research	M&R
Municipal Utility District	MUD
National Estuary Program	NEP
Natural Resource Uses	NRU
Nonpoint Source	NPS
On-Site Sewage Facilities	OSSF
Point Source	PS
Public Participation and Education	PPE
Quality Assurance Project Plan	QAPP
River, Lakes, Bays N' Bayous Trash Bash	Trash Bash
Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines	SPLASh
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	TCEQ
Texas Education Agency	TEA
Texas General Land Office	GLO
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	EPA
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	USFWS
Water and Sediment Quality	WSQ
Watershed Protection Plan	WPP

## SECTION 1: PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Revision 0.1 of Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) work plan for the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) (TCEQ Grant #332022) is to request four years of time and two years of funding with the intent to request another three years of funding for years three, four and five and extend the grant term to seven years total through 8/31/29. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has found this method is most effective for successful operation and coordination of GBEP.

Galveston Bay is the largest and one of the most productive estuaries in Texas. It sits adjacent to one of the most heavily industrialized areas in the nation. The GBEP service area encompasses 5,000 square miles and 232 miles of estuarine shoreline along the upper Texas Coast and incorporates the five-county area bordering Galveston Bay: Liberty, Chambers, Harris, Galveston, and Brazoria counties.

GBEP was established in 1989 to provide comprehensive management of this vital resource. In 1990, GBEP began working with a diverse group of stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan that would receive broad-based support from, and involvement by, federal and state agencies with jurisdiction in Galveston Bay, industries and businesses, local government officials, commercial and recreational fisherman, conservation organizations, and citizens. In 1994, the *Galveston Bay Plan (GBP)*, the comprehensive conservation and management plan (CCMP), was completed, and in 1995 it was approved by the governor of Texas and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator. The initial effort was jointly funded by EPA, the Texas General Land Office (GLO), and TCEQ. The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)* was approved by TCEQ in March 2019.

GBEP and its partners have received 17 national awards for their partnerships and progress in implementing the *GBP* and preserving Galveston Bay.

### *Pre-2008 AWARDS*

- Four awards from Coastal America: one in 1999, Clear Creek Habitat Restoration project, for the beneficial use of dredge material, one in 2002 for Galveston Island State Park habitat restoration, one in 2003 for habitat restoration at Jumbile Cove, and one in 2005 for San Jacinto State Park for beneficial use of dredge material.
- Recognition award from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for Galveston Bay estuary restoration and five years of implementation of the *GBP*.
- National Wetland Conservation Award for the Delehide Cove Protection and Restoration project from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 2006.
- EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Gulf Guardian Partnership Award for the Brays Bayou Urban Wetlands project.
- The Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Partnership award for the cumulative habitat conservation work on the part of the Natural Resource Uses (NRU) subcommittee.
- Two EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Gulf Guardian Awards to GBEP partners, including an award in the non-profit category to SCENIC GALVESTON for the Virginia Point Coastal Preserve in which GBEP played an instrumental role, and an award in the individual category to Dick Benoit, a highly active local citizen.

### *2008-PRESENT AWARDS*

- EPA Gulf of Mexico Program awarded the First Place Gulf Guardian Award in the Partnership category for the East Bay Shoreline Protection project.
- Department of Interior's Collaborative Conservation award for the East Bay Shoreline Protection project.
- EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program Gulf Guardian Partnership Award for the North Deer Island Protection project.
- Coastal America Partnership Award for the North Deer Island Protection project.
- Coastal America Partnership Award for the Savannah Oaks Conservation project.
- TCEQ Texas Environmental Excellence Awards 2014 Finalist: Civic/Community for the Sheldon Lake Restoration project in 2014.
- Keep Houston Beautiful Mayors Proud Partner Award for the Sheldon Lake Restoration project in 2015.
- Houston-Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) Our Great Region Diligence Award for Double Bayou Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) in 2016.
- USFWS Southwest Region Annual "Partnership of the Year" Award for 2016 for Oyster Lake Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration Project.
- H-GAC Our Great Region Award for the Double Bayou WPP in 2017.

- EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program Gulf Guardian Partnership Award for the Plastic Pollution Prevention Partnership in 2017.
- EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program Gulf Guardian Partnership Award for River, Lakes, Bays N' Bayous Trash Bash (Trash Bash) in 2017.
- TCEQ Texas Environmental Excellence Awards 2018 Winner: Civic/Community for Trash Bash.
- EPA 2018 Award for Green Infrastructure & Excellence in Communications/Important Message (Green Infrastructure for Texas - Exploration Green).
- TCEQ Texas Environmental Excellence Award for Trash Bash in 2019.
- EPA Gulf Guardian Award in for Trash Bash 2019.
- City of Houston/Keep Houston Beautiful Mayor's Proud Partner Award in Honor of project excellence and longevity for Trash Bash in 2019.



## SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

GBEP, a non-regulatory program of TCEQ, is a partnership of local governments, business and industry, conservation organizations, bay user groups, and resource agencies. GBEP is charged with implementing the *GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, the CCMP for Galveston Bay. GBEP is part of TCEQ's Office of Water, Water Quality Planning Division. A program manager and staff of seven located in the Houston-Galveston area directly oversee the implementation of the *GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Program staff responsibilities are as follows:

- Acquire, manage, and disperse funds to implement specific actions in the *GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*
- Provide for coordination and communication among state and federal resource agencies for many cross-jurisdictional issues
- Coordinate, monitor, and track implementation activities of Galveston Bay Council (GBC) partners
- Identify and communicate bay improvements to agencies, stakeholders, and the public
- Conduct public outreach and education to increase awareness of Galveston Bay
- Advocate conservation of the estuary (see Figure 1)
- Maintain stakeholder involvement in the decision-making process through the GBC and its subcommittees



**Figure 1. Mixed grassland habitat at the Salt Bayou Project site [photo credit: Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF)]**



## **SECTION 2.1: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

GBEP has the primary responsibility for coordinating and administering the work plan. Program staff and job descriptions are provided below.

**Lisa Marshall, M.S., GBEP Program Manager:** Responsible for the overall implementation of the *GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, including: securing and managing funds to support operations, staff, and projects; fostering stakeholder involvement to facilitate *GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* implementation; managing program staff and operations to ensure efficient use of resources; and representing GBEP on national, state, and local boards and committees and at national and state conferences/events to garner federal and state support. Ms. Marshall also coordinates the GBC and the Budget and Priorities subcommittee.

**Kari Howard, Public Participation and Education (PPE) Coordinator and Community Relations Specialist:** responsible for coordinating the implementation of [stakeholder and partner outreach](#) and [public education and awareness](#) actions in the *GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*; building relationships and developing communication channels and dialogue with local government officials, private sector, and other outside organizations key to implementing the *GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*; facilitating the PPE subcommittee of the GBC; providing information to stakeholders, the public and media; overseeing the Galveston Bay Public Awareness and Education Campaign (Back the Bay); promoting special events and projects; and overseeing the websites of GBEP.

**Lindsey Lippert, NRU Coordinator:** responsible for coordinating the implementation of [habitat conservation](#), [species conservation](#), and [freshwater inflows](#) actions in the *GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*; facilitating the NRU subcommittee of the GBC and the invasive species work group; implementing specific projects to conserve, restore, and enhance coastal habitat and native species populations, and manage and control invasive species; maintaining Legislative Budget Board and EPA Government Performance and Results Act performance measures; serving as a back-up budget liaison and bill analyst for the GBEP office; and researching, evaluating and reporting findings concerning scientific and technical issues impacting *GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* implementation

**Vacant, Monitoring and Research (M&R) Coordinator:** responsible for coordinating the implementation of [monitoring and research](#) and [access to Galveston Bay ecosystem information](#) actions in the *GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*; coordinating the regional monitoring program, including data management/reporting and development and application of environmental indicators; facilitating the M&R subcommittee of the GBC; coordinating CCMP implementation tracking; and researching, evaluating, and reporting findings concerning scientific and technical issues impacting *GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* implementation.

**Christian Rines, M.S., Water and Sediment Quality (WSQ) Coordinator:** responsible for coordinating the implementation of [nonpoint source](#) (NPS), [point source](#) (PS), and [public health and awareness](#) actions in the *GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*; facilitating the WSQ subcommittee of the GBC; implementing specific stormwater, wastewater, septic systems, and seafood safety projects; and researching, evaluating and reporting findings concerning scientific and technical issues impacting *GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* implementation.

**Ellen Creecy, Ph. D., Technical and Quality Program Coordinator:** responsible for serving as the quality assurance officer; assisting with oversight of contract management, tracking, and execution; serving as budget liaison and grants coordinator for GBEP; coordinating the development and submission of federal reports; identifying and tracking the evolution of issues affecting bay management; and researching policy, technical, and management results that pertain to Galveston Bay in collaboration with the NRU and WSQ coordinators.

**Alejandra Trevino, Administrative Assistant:** responsible for travel coordination, vehicle and equipment maintenance and repairs, mail, correspondence, office safety, and general administrative support for GBEP.

**Matthew Abernathy, M.A., Education and Outreach Coordinator:** responsible for handling GBEP outreach events; conducting educational presentations in schools and at events; assisting with the informational needs of the program; managing contracts; and assisting subcommittee coordinators in implementing habitat and species conservation, water quality, and monitoring projects.

## **PROGRAM COMPETENCY DEMONSTRATION**

The following statements demonstrate GBEP's competency as a Continuing Environmental Program:

- Competency is demonstrated by TCEQ Quality Systems Audits conducted biennially by the TCEQ Quality Assurance Manager.
- Competency is demonstrated through EPA Quality Project and Program Management training taken by TCEQ GBEP staff. GBEP staff that review Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) or manage projects with QAPPs have taken this training and any new staff with QAPP-related responsibilities will be required to take this training. Certificates are available upon request.
- Competency is demonstrated through the EPA approved TCEQ Quality Management Plan (Revision 29 approved December 2023) that GBEP operates under, which provides descriptions of the quality assurance policies, including all the requirements described in the EPA document IT/IM Directive Standard.
- The GBEP Program Manager and staff take many professional development training classes annually which are also available upon request.



## **SECTION 2.2: STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN GOALS TO FOCUS ON IN FY 2022-2023**

- Conserve, restore, and enhance important coastal habitats.
- Reduce NPS and PS pollutant loads.
- Implementation of watershed-based plans to address bacteria impaired contact recreation waters.
- Create a sense of personal ownership and shared responsibility among all cultural components of the community, including the public, industry, and government.
- Ensure that stakeholders receive the knowledge necessary to act on GBEP's priorities in ways that benefit Galveston Bay and the entire community.
- Increase the number of partners actively involved in GBEP initiatives.
- Increase understanding of the Galveston Bay ecosystem.
- Make information available needed by the public, GBC members, and GBEP subcommittee members to support the implementation of the *GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*.

### **FY 2022-2023 EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

- Conserve, restore, and enhance important coastal habitats.
- Provide public access, engagement, and recreation opportunities to underserved communities.
- Provide support for remediating the contributing sources of elevated bacteria in underserved communities of the lower Galveston Bay watershed.
- Increase coordination of marine debris and plastic pollution reduction efforts throughout the region.
- Increase the public's awareness of their connection to and effect on the Galveston Bay ecosystem.
- Increase coordination of environmental education efforts in the region.
- Engage students and teachers in citizen science research and conservation work in the Galveston Bay watershed.
- Improve knowledge of underserved and underrepresented communities that are in need of environmental education opportunities.

### **FY 2022-2023 EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

- Conserve and protect 1,090 acres of habitat.
- Restore and enhance 70 acres of habitat.
- Repair eight and replace 16 on-site sewage facilities (OSSF).
- Educate students, City of Houston communities and the Houston-Galveston region to mitigate the trash and plastic pollution problems.
- Decrease the amount of trash and plastic pollution in Houston waterways with trash clean-up events.
- Continue implementing Back the Bay.
- Communicate Back the Bay and other project messaging to disadvantaged communities.

## FY 2022-2026 EPA STRATEGIC PLAN MEASURES IMPLEMENTED

The projects proposed for fiscal year 2022-2023 implement the objective of one goal identified in the fiscal year 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan, including:

*Goal 5: Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities.*

- Objective 5.2: Protect and Restore Waterbodies and Watersheds.

As Objective 5.2 is the main goal of all National Estuary Programs (NEPs), all of GBEP's projects outlined in this work plan focus on maintaining, restoring, and/or improving water quality through a variety of methods including, but not limited to, land conservation, water quality improvements, and education and outreach.

## NEP BIL PRIORITIES IMPLEMENTED

The projects proposed for fiscal year 2022-2023 implement objectives of all four goals identified in EPA's NEP BIL Implementation Memo as priorities for NEP projects funded through BIL.

- *Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs:* The significant and multi-year expansion of funds through the BIL provides an opportunity for NEPs to execute long-term projects within the communities they serve, leverage additional resources, and work with their management conferences and other key stakeholders to advance a wide range of projects identified in CCMPs.
- *Ensure that benefits reach disadvantaged communities:* The BIL is a transformational opportunity to ensure that the benefits of federal investments are shared equitably by communities benefiting from estuary program projects. In identifying priority actions, management conferences should prioritize projects with benefits that flow to historically disadvantaged communities. Specifically, the NEP BIL funds are covered under the Justice40 Initiative, and the national program, as a whole, has a target of ensuring that at least 40% of the benefits from the BIL flow to disadvantaged communities. Each estuary program will be required to develop an equity strategy (see section 4 of this memorandum) that will outline the approach it will take to contribute to the nationwide NEP Justice40 target.
- *Build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities:* NEPs have long been at the forefront of efforts to address climate change impacts in their watersheds, working with federal, state, and local partners, often using green infrastructure and nature-based solutions. NEPs should use BIL resources to continue to expand on their climate change adaptation, hazard mitigation, and resilience activities, where appropriate, including protection and restoration of key habitats that increase resiliency and carbon sequestration. In identifying priority actions, NEPs should select projects that advance the climate resilience of ecosystems and communities and deliver climate emissions mitigation co-benefits. Moving forward, NEPs' reporting on BIL funding will include metrics addressing climate benefits. Where possible and aligned with the priorities identified in their CCMPs, NEPs should engage and educate the public and private sectors on key climate-related vulnerabilities and solutions and provide technical and financial assistance to accelerate progress in response to a changing climate. NEPs should elevate climate efforts through BIL implementation including, but not limited to:
  - Assessment and planning projects that involve climate change vulnerability assessments, community resilience and adaptation plans, or hazard mitigation plans
  - Restoration, water infrastructure, green infrastructure, stormwater management, and nonpoint source projects that prioritize innovative climate adaptation, hazard mitigation, and resilience solutions
  - Projects focused on climate-related research, including those that measure, monitor, and increase carbon sequestration
  - Projects focused on climate-related outreach and education
- *Leverage additional resources:* The NEPs have a history of significantly leveraging and supporting program implementation with additional federal and non-federal resources. As NEPs select BIL projects, EPA expects programs to collaborate with other federal agencies and new partners and identify opportunities to leverage other EPA and federal agencies' funds (including other BIL funds), as well as state, local, and nongovernmental organization funds as available and appropriate.

## FY 2022-2023 FEDERAL FUNDING

This request is for funding in the amount of \$1,819,600. The match requirement has been waived for fiscal year 2022-2023. There are no full-time (FTE) equivalents for the BIL grant. Tables 1 and 2 provide funding and budget details.

**Table 1. FY 2022-2023 Funding and FTE Summary**

Program Element	Division	BIL	State Match	Total	FTEs
GBEP Program Implementation	Water Quality Planning	\$1,819,600	\$0	\$1,819,600	0
Total		\$1,819,600	\$0	\$1,819,600	0

**Table 2. FY 2022-2023 Budget Detail**

Budget Detail - see also FY 2022-2023 Projects	Amount (\$)
Salaries (includes Fringe and Indirect)	\$0
Travel	\$0
Capital	\$0
Supplies	\$0
Contracts	\$0
Other	\$1,819,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,819,600</b>

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

The execution of the tasks associated with this work plan will occur over a four-year period, which is anticipated to begin September 1, 2023, and end August 31, 2026. The exact start date of the work plan and all due dates for deliverables are contingent upon the actual date the grant funds are awarded and contracts are executed.

The projects outlined in this work plan were developed by the GBEP stakeholders, balanced by the Budget and Priorities subcommittee, and submitted to the GBC for approval in October 2022. The GBC approved the projects listed in this work plan at the October 19, 2022, quarterly meeting.

The project scopes of work will be submitted to the TCEQ Quality Assurance Officer to determine which projects in the work plan will require a QAPP. Under the authority granted by EPA to TCEQ to approve QAPPs for GBEP, GBEP staff and their project partners will develop QAPPs for projects determined by TCEQ and EPA to require QAPPs. QAPPs will be developed in accordance with EPA QAPP requirements, EPA document IT/IM Directive Standard.

**SECTION 3: FY 2022-2023 PROJECTS**

**SECTION 3.1: FY 2022-2023 BIL PROJECTS - SUMMARY**

<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>BIL FUNDS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
1. Galveston Bay Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy*	2022 - 2023	\$56,000.00	New
2. Repair and Replacement of Failing On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) for Homeowners in Disadvantaged Communities with Vulnerable Populations	2022 - 2023	\$365,000.00	New
3. Middle Armand Bayou Protection Project	2022 - 2023	\$390,000.00	New
4. Salt Bayou Acquisition and Restoration Project	2022 - 2023	\$390,000.00	New
5. Coastal Savannah and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project	2022 - 2023	\$140,000.00	New
6. Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASh) in Houston's Bayous and Beyond and	2022 - 2023	\$353,600.00	New
7. H-GAC-TV Community Outreach	2022 - 2023	\$125,000.00	New
<b>FUNDING REQUEST GRANT TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,819,600.00</b>	

## SECTION 3.2: FY 2022-2023 BIL PROJECTS – DETAIL

### **GALVESTON BAY LONG-TERM PLAN AND EQUITY STRATEGY**

**CCMP Actions Implemented:** All

**EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented:** N/A

**Justice 40 Parameters Implemented:** N/A

**EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJ Screen) Parameters Implemented:** N/A

**BIL Priorities Implemented:** Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs and ensure that benefits reach disadvantaged communities.

**Grantee/Contractor:** Moriah Lynn Consulting, LLC through Houston Advanced Research Center

**FY 2022-2023 Budget:** \$56,000.00

**Total Project Budget:** \$56,000.00 (FY 2022-2023 \$56,000.00)

**Milestones:** Monthly coordination meetings and landscape plan results outlined in monthly meeting; stakeholder engagement summary and disadvantaged communities definition included in the Equity Strategy.

**Project period:** January 2023 – February 2024

**Status:** New Project

**Objective(s):** The goal of this project is to develop the Galveston Bay Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy in accordance with EPA guidance documents.

**Project Description:** Through this project, the grantee will partner with GBEP and stakeholders to develop the Galveston Bay Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy to inform implementation for future rounds of BIL funding and the *GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*.

**Partners and Their Role(s):** The grantee will provide project management, oversight of stakeholder involvement (as applicable), and development of the equity strategy.

#### **Outputs/Deliverables:**

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28
- Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy due June 2023

**Long-term Outcomes:** To improve equity in implementation of the *GBP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*.

### **REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF FAILING ON-SITE SEWAGE FACILITIES (OSSFS) FOR HOMEOWNERS IN DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

**CCMP Actions Implemented:** NPS-1, NPS-2, NPS-3, NPS-4, PS-2, PHA-3, SPO-2, SPO-4, PEA-1, PEA-2, PEA-3

**EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented:** Reduction in Nutrient Pollution, Water Reuse and Conservation

**Justice 40 Parameters Implemented:** Discrete targets not yet established so Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CJEST) currently not applicable

**EJ Screen Parameters Implemented:** Discrete targets not yet established/formally secured so EJ Screen currently not applicable

**BIL Priorities Implemented:** Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs; ensure that benefits reach disadvantaged communities; and build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities.

**Grantee/Contractor:** H-GAC

**FY 2022-2023 Budget:** \$365,000.00

**Total Project Budget:** \$365,000.00 (FY 2022-2023 \$365,000.00)

**Milestones:** Coordination/orientation meeting anticipated in September 2023. Project Work Plan anticipated in October 2023. The identification of targeted communities and qualifying recipients will be outlined in the Project Work Plan.

**Project period:** March 2024 – August 2026

**Status:** New Project



**Objective(s):** The goal of this project is to repair and replace decentralized OSSFs/septic tanks for qualifying homeowners located in underrepresented and disadvantaged communities as identified in H-GAC’s fiscal year 2023 GBEP funded project, “Water Quality Outreach Implementation for Vulnerable Rural Populations.”

**Project Description:** Through this project, H-GAC will:

- Identify target communities and qualifying recipients for OSSF repair or replacement
- Coordinate with authorized agents and local officials
- Coordinate with and implementation of watershed-based plans
- Repair or replace failing OSSFs
- Conduct homeowner education and outreach on the operation and maintenance of OSSFs

As part of the “Water Quality Outreach Implementation for Vulnerable Rural Populations” project, H-GAC will use interactive tools and regional water quality data to identify and generate a list of vulnerable populations. A stakeholder group will then review and provide input on final vulnerable populations identified. GBEP will work with H-GAC to try and select communities above the 80th percentile of demographics identified in the EJ Screen tool. Communities for this project will be selected from the previously developed list.

Failing OSSFs can allow inadequately treated wastewater to enter surface groundwater resulting in numerous water quality and human health concerns. The repair or replacement of failing OSSFs results in an improved effluent quality and a reduction in the amount of nutrients entering the environment.

**Partners and Their Role(s):** H-GAC will lead this project through their existing Homeowner Wastewater Assistance Program. This program is funded by a TCEQ Supplemental Environmental Project, the Harris County District Attorney’s Office, and industrial partners in Brazoria County.

**Outputs/Deliverables:**

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28
- Final report due August 2026

**Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:**

- List of identified communities eligible for OSSF repair or replacement projects due August 2024
- Conduct workshops in communities to educate homeowners on the operation and maintenance of OSSF systems over a four-year period
- Repair eight and replace 16 OSSF systems over a four-year period

**Long-term Outcomes:** To improve the water quality through the combination of repair and replacement of failing OSSF systems and educating homeowners about proper operation and maintenance of their systems. Low-income and underrepresented communities typically lack access to municipal sewer services. A reliance on failing OSSFs leaves these communities at risk for human health and water quality issues. The repair and replacement of OSSFs and targeted outreach in these communities will help to address these concerns.

## MIDDLE ARMAND BAYOU PROTECTION PROJECT

**CCMP Actions Implemented:** HC-1, SC-1

**EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented:** Green Infrastructure and Resiliency

**Justice 40 Parameters Implemented:** (Census tracts: 48201340203-48201341400) None

**EJ Screen Parameters Implemented:** >80% Unemployed

**BIL Priorities Implemented:** Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs; ensure that benefits reach disadvantaged communities; build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities; and leverage additional resources.

**Grantee/Contractor:** Armand Bayou Nature Center (ABNC)

**FY 2022 – 2023 Budget:** \$390,000.00

**Total Project Budget:** \$390,000.00 (FY 2022-2023 \$390,000.00)

**Milestones:** Coordination/orientation meeting anticipated in September 2023. Project Work Plan anticipated in October 2023. Land surveys and appraisals will be outlined in the Project Work Plan.

**Project period:** March 2024 – May 2026

**Status:** New Project

**Objective(s):** The goal of this project is the acquisition of 1,065 acres of habitat along Armand Bayou north of

the ABNC's 2,500 acre preserve.

**Project Description:** The Middle Armand Bayou Protection Project is focused on preserving 1,065 acres of coastal habitat through fee-simple acquisition in Harris County, Texas. The targeted tract contains habitats that are representative of the Texas Gulf Coast: wetland forest, coastal tall grass prairie, and the non-channelized estuarine Armand Bayou and its surrounding wetlands. The survival of these vulnerable ecosystems is vital for the 370 species of wildlife that depend upon them, for people seeking the wonder and comforts of nature, and for the range of ecosystem services they provide, including storm water retention, flood abatement and water quality improvement.

**Partners and Their Role(s):** ABNC will provide project management and oversight to coordinate the acquisition of the tract in partnership with Harris County Flood Control District, who will administer other external sources of funding.

**Outputs/Deliverables:**

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28
- Final report due May 2026

**Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:**

- Project Work Plan within 30 days of contract execution

**Long-term Outcomes:** The permanent conservation of coastal habitat and preservation of important hydrologic and water quality functions in lower Galveston Bay.

**SALT BAYOU ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION PROJECT**

**CCMP Actions Implemented:** HC-1, HC-2, HC-3, SC-1, SC-2

**Justice 40 Parameters Implemented:** (Census tract: 48167721800) Climate Change, Health Burdens, Workforce Development

**EJ Screen Parameters Implemented:** >80% Linguistically Isolated, >80% Low Life Expectancy

**EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented:** Reduction in Nutrient Pollution, Green Infrastructure and Resiliency

**BIL Priorities Implemented:** Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs; ensure that benefits reach disadvantaged communities; and build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities.

**Grantee/Contractor:** GBF

**FY 2022 - 2023 Budget:** \$390,000.00

**Total Project Budget:** \$390,000.00 (FY 2022-2023 \$390,000.00)

**Milestones:** Coordination/orientation meeting anticipated in September 2023. Project Work Plan anticipated in October 2023. Land surveys and appraisals will be outlined in the Project Work Plan.

**Project period:** March 2024 - May 2026

**Status:** New Project

**Objective(s):** The goal of this project is the acquisition and restoration of 25 acres of remnant coastal prairie and create public access opportunities for the community of San Leon, Texas.

**Project Description:** The Salt Bayou Acquisition and Restoration Project is focused on preserving approximately 25 acres of coastal habitat through fee-simple acquisition in Galveston County, Texas. GBF will coordinate with local partners to acquire, restore, and enhance approximately 25 acres of coastal prairie in the underserved community of San Leon, Texas. The goals of this proposal are 1) acquire 25 acres of coastal prairie; 2) conduct treatment of invasive plant species; and 3) create public access opportunities which may include a natural-surface walking path and/or interpretive signage. The acquisition will kickstart the project, which is a multi-faceted initiative utilizing land conservation, public access, and green infrastructure to create a natural preserve to provide wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

**Partners and Their Role(s):** GBF will provide project management and oversight to coordinate the acquisition and restoration of the tract in partnership with Galveston County and San Leon Municipal Utility District.

**Outputs/Deliverables:**

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28
- Final report due May 2026

### **Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:**

- Project Work Plan within 30 days of contract execution

**Long-term Outcomes:** The permanent conservation of coastal habitat and preservation of important hydrologic and water quality functions in lower Galveston Bay. Continued restoration of the habitat and incorporation of public access and recreation opportunities including walking trails, interpretive signage, and open greenspace.

### **COASTAL SAVANNAH AND RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT**

**CCMP Actions Implemented:** NPS-3, HC-3, SC-1, SC-2, SPO-1

**Justice 40 Parameters Implemented:** (Census tracts: 48201334100-48201334100-48201330800-48201330900) Climate Change, Legacy Pollution

**EJ Screen Parameters Implemented:** >80% Unemployed, >80% Low Life Expectancy

**EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented:** Reduction in Nutrient Pollution, Green Infrastructure and Resiliency

**BIL Priorities Implemented:** Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs; ensure that benefits reach disadvantaged communities; build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities; and leverage additional resources.

**Grantee/Contractor:** Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD)

**FY 2022 – 2023 Budget:** \$140,000.00

**Total Project Budget:** \$140,000.00 (FY 2022-2023 \$140,000.00)

**Milestones:** Coordination/orientation meeting anticipated in September 2023. Project Work Plan anticipated in October 2023. Invasive species management bids and native plantings will be outlined in the Project Work Plan.

**Project period:** March 2024 – May 2026

**Status:** New Project

**Objective(s):** The goal of this project is the restoration of 45.5 acres of coastal prairie, riparian, wetland, and savannah habitat in Houston, Texas.

**Project Description:** The Coastal Savannah and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project will restore 24.5 acres of coastal prairie, wetland, and savannah habitat in E.R. and Ann Taylor Park and 21 acres of riparian forest in Furman Greenspace in Harris County, Texas. Houston Parks and Recreation Department's Natural Resources Management Program will restore four kinds of key habitats that have been lost throughout the Houston Region: riparian forest, savannah, prairie, and wetland ecosystems. The restoration projects will provide ecosystem and community resilience by restoring and enhancing vital ecosystems, increasing rainwater capture through infiltration, and trapping and filtering nonpoint source pollutants as runoff from adjacent urban development. Community and volunteer planting projects will allow citizens to be involved in the creation of these critically endangered ecosystems.

**Partners and Their Role(s):** HPARD will provide project management and oversight of management and volunteer activities.

### **Outputs/Deliverables:**

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28
- Final report due May 2026

### **Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:**

- Project Work Plan within 30 days of contract execution

**Long-term Outcomes:** The restoration of degraded habitats to improve the ecosystem health and tangent wildlife and recreation benefits to approximately 45 acres of habitat in Houston parks.

### **STOPPING PLASTICS AND LITTER ALONG SHORELINES (SPLASH) IN HOUSTON'S BAYOUS AND BEYOND**

**CCMP Actions Implemented:** NPS-2, HC-2, SPO-1, SPO-2, SPO-3, PEA-1, PEA-2, PEA-3, RES-3, ACS-2

**Justice 40 Parameters Implemented:** (Census Tracts: multiple) Climate Change, Workforce Development, Health Burdens, Sustainable Housing

**EJ Screen Parameters Implemented:** >80% Linguistically Isolated, >80% Less than High School Education, >80% Low Life Expectancy

**EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented:** Marine Litter Reduction

**BIL Priorities Implemented:** Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs; ensure that benefits reach disadvantaged communities; build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities; and leverage additional resources.

**Grantee/Contractor:** American Bird Conservancy (ABC)

**FY 2022 - 2023 Budget:** \$353,600

**Total Project Budget:** \$353,600 (FY 2022-2023 \$353,600.00)

**Milestones:** Coordination/orientation meeting anticipated in September 2023. Project Work Plan anticipated in October 2023. Educational target areas, clean-up sites, and marketing details will be outlined in the Project Work Plan.

**Project period:** February 2024 - August 2026

**Status:** New Project

**Objective(s):** The goal of this project is to foster a sense of stewardship and community pride in City of Houston residents and decrease the amount of trash and plastic pollution in Houston waterways which in turn will decrease the amount of pollution in the Greater Galveston Bay watershed.

**Project Description:** In conjunction with GBEP and partners ABC's Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASH) program will target Texas Education Agency (TEA) Region 4 students, City of Houston communities, and the greater Houston-Galveston region in order to mitigate the trash and plastic pollution problems that threaten the health of humans and wildlife in the greater Galveston Bay Watershed. Through community outreach, educational programming, and trash clean-up events focused in the City of Houston with an emphasis on the areas surrounding Sims and Brays Bayous, the project's goal is to foster a sense of stewardship and community pride in City of Houston residents and decrease the amount of trash and plastic pollution in Houston waterways which in turn will decrease the amount of pollution in the Greater Galveston Bay watershed.

**Partners and Their Role(s):** ABC will coordinate with partners to identify clean-up locations throughout the City of Houston and conduct the trash clean-ups and education programs with schools, libraries, nature centers, and visitor centers.

**Outputs/Deliverables:**

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28
- Final report due August 2026

**Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:**

- Project Work Plan within 30 days of contract execution
- Provide 10 educational programs per year to TEA Region 4 K-12 schools
- Provide educational materials to eight city of Houston libraries, nature centers, and visitor centers by June 1, 2024
- Conduct six clean-up events per year
- Host one large-scale clean-up event in communities along Sims and Brays Bayous per year

**Long-term Outcomes:** Through community outreach, educational programming, and trash clean-up events focused in the City of Houston, the project's goal is to foster a sense of stewardship and community pride in City of Houston residents and decrease the amount of trash and plastic pollution in Houston waterways which in turn will decrease the amount of pollution in the Greater Galveston Bay watershed.

## **H-GAC TV COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**CCMP Actions Implemented:** SPO-1, SPO-2, SPO-3, SPO-4

**EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented:** N/A

**Justice 40 Parameters Implemented:** Discrete targets not yet established so CJEST currently not applicable

**EJ Screen Parameters Implemented:** Discrete targets not yet established/formally secured so EJ screen currently not applicable

**BIL Priorities Implemented:** Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs; ensure that benefits reach disadvantaged communities; and build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities.

**Grantee/Contractor:** KPRC-TV through H-GAC

**FY 2022 - 2023 Budget:** \$125,000.00

**Total Project Budget:** \$125,000.00 (FY 2022-2023 \$125,000.00)

**Milestones:** Coordination/orientation meeting anticipated in February 2024. Project Work Plan anticipated in March 2024. Marketing plan and targeted communities will be outlined in the Project Work Plan.

**Project period:** February 2024 - May 2025

**Status:** New Project

**Objective(s):** Using KPRC-TV's broadcasting and marketing, this project will help to spread awareness about Galveston Bay and the stakeholders that support the health and wellbeing of the ecosystem.

**Project Description:** In conjunction with GBEP, H-GAC, and partners, KPRC-TV, will use the reach of their broadcast signal to communicate Back the Bay and other project messaging on a grand scale to the Houston Designated Market Area (DMA) and simultaneously communicate targeted messaging on behalf of stakeholders within underserved/underrepresented communities. As an environmental marketing partner, KPRC-TV will be able to provide extensive reach for messaging that benefits the entire DMA, while strategically building customized plans for the stakeholders.

**Partners and Their Role(s):** H-GAC will provide project management and oversight of the project. KPRC-TV will provide marketing and communication expertise to GBEP and their stakeholders to find the most effective means to reach local communities. Other stakeholders will work with KPRC-TV to receive assistance in broadcasting their messages to the region.

**Outputs/Deliverables:**

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28
- Final report due May 2025

**Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:**

- Project Work Plan within 30 days of contract execution

**Long-term Outcomes:** Through targeted marketing and community outreach, the goal of this project is to help foster a greater connection between local communities and the Galveston Bay estuary and watershed. This connection will help to build a sense of stewardship and community pride through efforts supporting Galveston Bay.



**SECTION 3.3: FY 2022-2023 BIL GRANT BUDGET SPREADSHEETS**

**3.3A - FY 2022-2023 GRANT BUDGET BY CATEGORY - SUMMARY**

<b>FY 2022-2023 IJA Budget Totals</b>	<b>Total Costs</b>
Project #	TBD
Salaries	\$0
Contracts	\$0
Travel	\$0
Other	\$1,819,600
Supplies	\$0
Equipment	\$0
Construction	\$0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$1,819,600</b>
Fringe 36.83%	\$0
Indirect 33.30%	\$0
<b>FY 2022-2023 GRANT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,819,600</b>

**3.3B - FY 2022-2023 GRANT BUDGET BY CATEGORY - DETAIL**

<b>FY 2022-2023 GBEP BIL Budget Summary by Grant Budget Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Salaries</b>	<b>\$0</b>
None	\$0
<b>Contracts</b>	<b>\$0</b>
None	\$0
<b>Travel</b>	<b>\$0</b>
None	\$0
<b>Other</b>	<b>\$1,819,600</b>
Galveston Bay Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy	\$56,000
Repair and Replacement of Failing On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) for Homeowners in Disadvantaged Communities with Vulnerable Populations	\$365,000
Middle Armand Bayou Protection Project	\$390,000
Salt Bayou Acquisition and Restoration Project	\$390,000
Coastal Savannah and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project	\$140,000
Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASH) in Houston's Bayous and Beyond	\$353,600
KPRC-TV Community Outreach	\$125,000
<b>Supplies</b>	<b>\$0</b>
None	\$0
<b>Fringe and Indirect</b>	<b>\$0</b>
None	\$0
<b>FY 2022-2023 GRANT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,819,600</b>