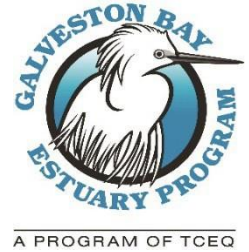


**Galveston Bay Estuary Program**  
**Natural Resource Uses Subcommittee**  
**Fiscal 2026 Project Proposals for Consideration**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Total Request</b>
<a href="#"><u>Salt Lake Native Marsh Shoreline Protection Project</u></a>	Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges	\$30,000.00
<a href="#"><u>FY2024-2025 Conservation Assistance Program</u></a>	Galveston Bay Foundation	\$115,000.00
<a href="#"><u>North Deer Island - Habitat Restoration &amp; Enhancement (Phase 1)</u></a>	National Audubon Society	\$107,904.00
<a href="#"><u>The 10th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through a 4th Acquisition at Middle Tract, Galveston Island, Texas</u></a>	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	\$200,000.00
<a href="#"><u>The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through a 4th Acquisition at Middle Tract, Galveston Island, Texas</u></a>	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	\$200,000.00
<a href="#"><u>Informing ongoing management of environmental water transactions to preserve or enhance tidal bayou function in East Bay.</u></a>	Texas Water Trade	\$163,016.00
<a href="#"><u>UHCL Prairie, Savanna and Wet Prairie Restoration</u></a>	University of Houston-Clear Lake	\$242,600.00
<a href="#"><u><i>From Scat to Conservation: Community-based research of Galveston Bay's ghost wolves (from PPE)</i></u></a>	Michigan Technological University	\$12,600.00
<a href="#"><u><i>Developing Molecular Tools for Demographics and Distribution of Galveston Bay Estuary System Sea Turtles (from M&amp;R)</i></u></a>	Texas A&M University at Galveston	\$99,826.00
<b>NRU Totals</b>		<b>\$1,170,946.00</b>

# Galveston Bay Estuary Program Fiscal 2026 NRU Project Proposal



Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by **August 5, 2024**. No late submittals will be considered for funding.

This Call for Project Proposals complies with 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 14.7, which lays out requirements for a competitive solicitation by TCEQ for grant awards. For convenience, specific citations to 30 TAC § 14.7 are identified in the text.

## SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

**Purpose [required by 30 TAC § 14.7(1)]:** The purpose of the proposed grant from the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), a program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), is to implement *The Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (the Plan), a comprehensive conservation and management plan falling under Section 320, of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1330), for a designated national estuary in the State of Texas.

**Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]:** The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for FY2026 (FY2026 Priority Area Actions) that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for fiscal 2026 at the June 2024 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

**Authority [see 30 TAC § 14.7(2)]:** Grants issued by GBEP under this solicitation are authorized by: the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) § 320 (33 UNITED STATES CODE § 1330), commonly referred to as the National Estuary Program; TEX. WATER CODE § 5.124; and 30 TAC ch. 14.

**Match Requirement [see 30 TAC § 14.7(10) and 30 TAC § 14.7(11)]:** No matching funds are required. Therefore, there is no need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.

**Multiple Awards [see 30 TAC § 14.7(7)]:** GBEP anticipates awarding funds for multiple proposals. GBEP intends to award grants to that combination of proposals which best implements the Plan, factoring in all criteria identified in this Call for Project Proposals, the availability of funds, and the most effective division of funds between awards.

## SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL - GENERAL INFORMATION

**Subcommittee:**

NRU

**Project Name:**

Salt Lake Native Marsh Shoreline Protection Project

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes  No

**Lead Implementer / Categories of Eligible Recipients [see 30 TAC § 14.7(3)]:**

The lead implementer must be in one of the following categories of eligible recipients. Please indicate which category applies to your entity. If the proposing party is not already paired with a lead implementer in one of the categories listed below, the proposing party will need to partner with an eligible recipient in one of these categories to be selected for funding. Please reach out to GBEP staff with any questions.

- Federal, State, or Local Government     Council of Government     Public ISDs or Universities  
 Nonprofit     Other\*

Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges (FOBWR)

**Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:**

AND:

[Redacted]

VIN or Tax ID:

76-0440298

**Contact Information:**

Project Representative Name	Martin Cornell - Grant Administrator
Project Representative Phone	979-235-9886
Project Representative Email	Marty-carole@comcast.net

**Amount Requested from GBEP:**

\$30,000

Federal  State  No Preference

Is the project scalable?

**Amount Requested per year (if applicable):**

FY 2026 (09/01/2025-08/31/2026)	\$30,000.00
FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	\$0.00
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>

**Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2025 - ending no later than May 31, 2028) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:**

Once funds are received, survey and design can begin right away. Project should be done in 1 year or less.

**Project Urgency:**

Salt Lake has experienced some of the worst erosion on the refuge. Since 1995, between 70-180 feet of shoreline has eroded away inward which is estimated to be around 30 acres on the north shoreline of the marsh. If not protected, each year 3-7 feet of marsh will be lost to open water.

**Total Project Cost (including Leveraging Amounts, if any; provide leveraging information where indicated below):**

\$ 30 to 40 thousand

Is this an estimate?

**Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):**

The refuge has an Oil and Gas Account for damages from infrastructure projects. Funds of up to \$30,000 may be used to help design this project if another match or grant can be found. In total, with the GPEP and refuge match, this would total funds to \$60,000. The \$30,000 from GPEP would be for most of the E&D work expense, with the refuge picking up any remaining amount over \$30,000.

**Partners\* and Their Roles:**

The Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges will administer the funds and final documents for the grant process.

Refuge Staff- will coordinate with the contractor for policy/permitting procedures as well as assist with the design of a structure to protect the shoreline.

Contractor- survey area and design/engineer a barrier to protect the north shoreline of Salt Lake.

**\*If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted under the application.**

### **SECTION THREE: GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION IMPLEMENTATION**

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

The FY2026 Priority Area Actions are found at:

<https://gbep.texas.gov/ensure-safe-human-and-aquatic-life-use/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/protect-and-sustain-living-resources/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/engage-communities/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/inform-science-based-decision-making/>

This project directly protects the adjacent marsh habitats and wetlands by reducing erosive wave energy. Once the shoreline can become stable, it will accrete sediment allowing the marsh to revegetate. The refuge includes 45,000 acres of coastal marsh and prairie habitat that supports numerous wildlife species. With nearly 17 miles of intercoastal waterway that goes through the refuge and another 14 miles of north shorelines from adjacent bays, erosion has taken roughly 790 acres of marsh habitat and without intervention these marshes will continue to erode at an alarming rate. The project aims to begin work on protecting the habitat that is left with building a barrier to sustain a living shoreline for decades to come.

#### **Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:**

Plan Priority 2: Protect and Sustain Living Resources

HC-1       HC-2       HC-3

SC-1       SC-2

FWI-1       FWI-2       FWI-3

#### **Plan Priority Area Actions Detail:**

This project will address HC 2 and 3, *Habitat Restoration and Enhancement* because Brazoria NWR has a very high erosion rate with no stabilized shoreline. This project is needed to change that trend. Breakwaters will be installed to help reduce wave action therefore letting sediment build behind the breakwater to allow the marsh to begin to stabilize. Once breakwaters are installed, the project team will plant smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) behind them. These plants will take root and spread, creating a stabilized living shoreline that addresses shoreline loss and provides resources for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.

Also being address is SC-1, *Native Species Management* by protecting native coastal marsh habitat on the National Wildlife Refuge. This area inhabits many terrestrial and aquatic species whose habitats are continually eroding or being used for urban development.

#### **Does the project implement any other *Galveston Bay Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* Priority Area Actions, or the other Subcommittee priorities?**

WSQ (Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use)

PPE (Engage Communities)

M&R (Inform Science-Based Decision Making)

#### **Other Subcommittee Detail:**

This project will address regional and local government goals to support coastal habitat protection and sustainability (SPO 3 and 4). Building breakwaters is beneficial to local communities in times of major storm events because the protected refuge lands act like a sponge to absorb large amounts of water and protect against storm surges. A strong living shoreline inclusive of a breakwater and smooth cordgrass better retains soil and reduces erosion potential during these events.

Also being address will be PEA-3, *K-12 Education Efforts* by continuing to educate the students who come to the refuge on a weekly basis as part of their science curriculum. This project is adjacent to the visitor center on the refuge where the public and local schools get to learn about the refuge. Once this project is completed, speaking about breakwaters to protect the marsh would be a topic of discussion and the students could see the project from a near by boat ramp.

#### **Other Plans Implemented:**

The Texas Coastal Management Plan, Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, Texas Wetland Conservation Plan, and GCJV Conservation Plans all support the protection of natural habitats on the coast. Living shorelines protect the marsh and are vital to the economy and coastal community areas. This project to build a breakwater barrier fits very well into all the plans to enhance birdwatching, fishing, and the many recreational uses for the local and regional community.

Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge identifies the objective of “Managing Landscapes” in their Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), under 4.1 Ecoregional Goal, Objective 1. The project would protect the coastal marsh habitat and increase its resiliency by addressing erosion issues. The refuge CCP also identifies colonial waterbirds (CCP 4.3 Wildlife Goal, Objective 4) and shorebirds (CCP 4.3 Wildlife Goal, Objective 5) as management priorities. Both colonial waterbirds and shorebirds will benefit from this project because it provides foraging areas that are more elevated and resilient against extreme weather and further habitat loss

**SECTION FOUR: SUBCOMMITTEE PRIORITIES / FACTORS TO BE USED TO SELECT AWARDS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(6)]**

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

**NRU Subcommittee Identified Priorities**

*Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.*

- Habitat acquisition.
- Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts.
  - Special emphasis on adaptive management for previously completed projects.
- Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
  - Special emphasis on projects addressing seagrasses, intertidal reef/shell hash, and benthic mapping.
  - Any species monitoring projects should be a collaboration/partnership between subcommittees.
- Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple goal benefits to the subcommittee.
- Takes into consideration the results of the Estuary Resilience Action Plan.
- Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost.

**Subcommittee Priority Detail:**

Protecting coastal habitats is a top priority for the refuge and is shared among numerous other coastal agencies. The number of visitors to the area and economic benefits is very substantial. Salt Lake is a part of the visitor area for the refuge. There is an auto tour loop, visitor information building, hiking trails, and public fishing at Salt Lake. This project when completed would protect the marsh that visitors drive through to see and educate themselves about what the refuge does. The refuge is continually enhancing and restoring habitat lost and that has degraded on the refuge. Building a breakwater barrier would allow the refuge to educate more visitors about the importance of the marsh as we see sea level rise and more major storm events. Breakwaters protect the habitat, and this project would start that process to survey, design, and eventually construct a breakwater.

The benefits are enormous for native fish and wildlife. When the shoreline is stabilized and can accrete sediment, it will be allowed to revegetate. This will increase the resiliency of the marsh. Increased resiliency of this marsh will benefit quantity and quality of habitat for multiple avian species of concern that occupy it, including the federal listed Eastern Black Rail, Yellow Rail, Seaside Sparrow, Nelson’s Sparrow, Eastern Willet, and Mottled Duck. The living shoreline in conjunction with smooth cordgrass will also support aquatic invertebrates that in turn support coastal fish and terrestrial invertebrates. Thus, more habitat for birds and fish to thrive. The refuge supports many plant and animal species and protecting habitat is key to their survival.

**Does the Project work with new, smaller communities/partnerships?**

- Yes
- No

[TBD.]

**SECTION FIVE: PROPOSAL DETAILS**

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.

**Project Summary:**

This project will fund a contract to survey, design, and permit plans to protect Salt Lake Marsh Shoreline.

**Full Project Description (1,000 words or less):**

This project's main goal is to protect the marsh behind the breakwater from future erosion issues for years to come. If awarded funds, FOBWR will work with the Refuge to seek a contract to begin Bathymetric Surveys of the project area. Once surveying is complete, refuge staff will determine which method of breakwater will be used based on the surveyors' report. Project design will begin immediately after and should be completed within a few months to support permit applications. The completed breakwater will protect the marsh by reducing wave action that has caused erosion issues. The cordgrass planting will take place after all construction is complete and will create marsh habitat and a living shoreline to armor the nearly 2 miles of shoreline in Salt Lake.

**Latitude/Longitude (Optional):**

95°15'38"W, 29°2'40"N

**Location:**

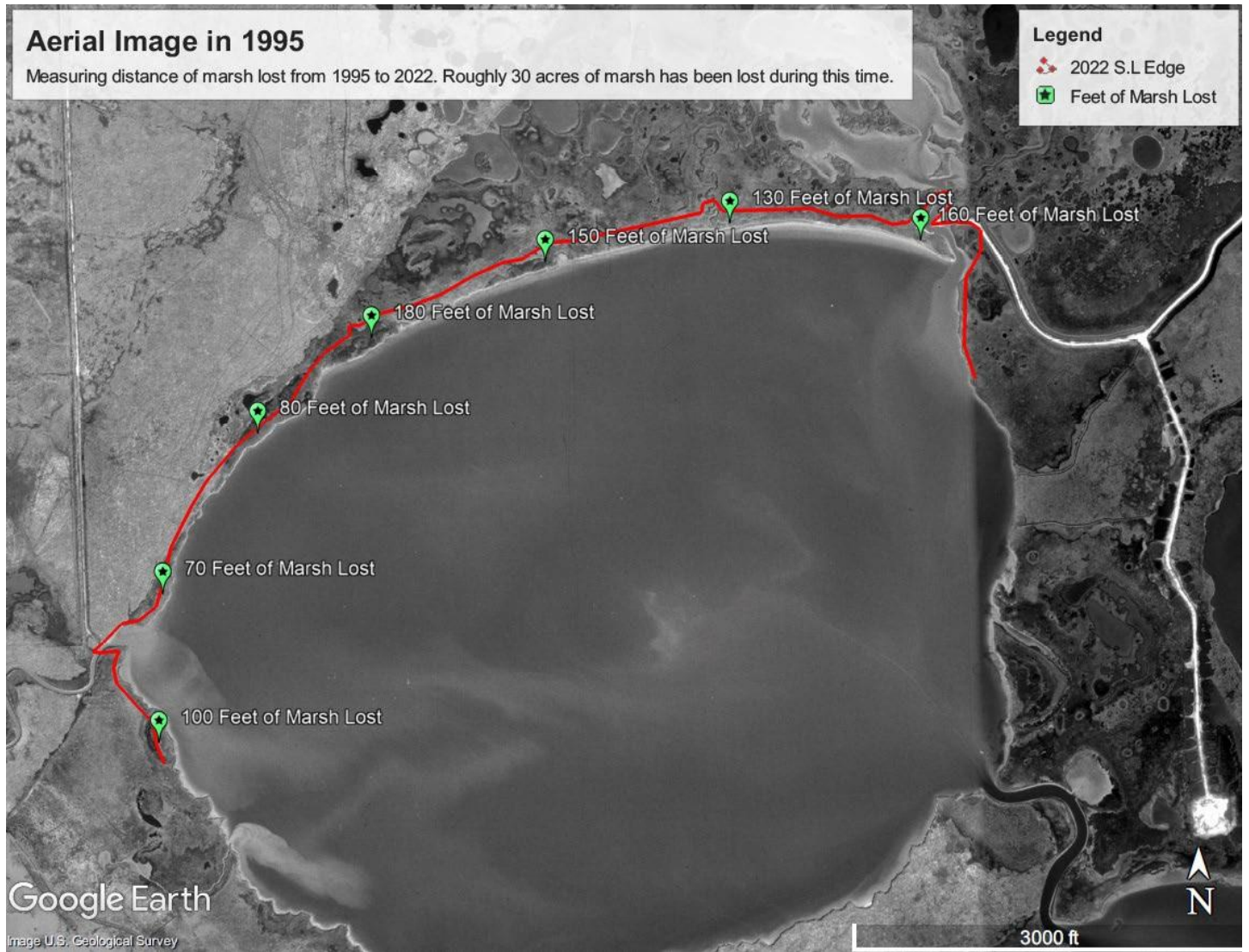
Austin/Bastrop Bayou Watershed

Projects Map





**Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):**





**SECTION SIX: BUDGET DETAILS**

**Grant Payments [see 30 TAC § 14.7(12)]:** All grant payments will be made on the basis of reimbursement for allowable costs (as defined in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E). All payments for awarded proposals will be reimbursements of allowable costs incurred after both parties have entered (signed) a grant agreement for the project.

**Budget.** Authorized budgeted expenditures for work performed are as follows:

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>Cost for Work to be Performed</b>
Salary / Wages	\$0.00
Fringe Benefits (%) <sup>1</sup>	\$0.00
Travel	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$28,800
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
<b>Total Direct Cost</b>	<b>\$28,800</b>
Indirect Costs (Admin)	\$1,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

**Indirect Cost Agreement**

Please note: If using a rate different from your entity Indirect Cost Agreement; a letter of exemption from the appropriate authority must be provided with the application, or a statement must be included certifying that the recipient has elected to be reimbursed for an amount less than its total indirect costs, that unreimbursed indirect costs are part of the recipient’s contribution to the success of the project, and that the recipient will pay for all unreimbursed indirect costs using funds available to it for that purpose.

[Insert Indirect Cost Agreement or Attach as an Appendix if Applicable]

**Indirect Cost Reimbursable Rate.** The reimbursable rate for this Contract is 4% of (check one):

- Salary and fringe benefits
- Modified total direct costs
- Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

This rate is less than or equal to (check one):

- Predetermined Rate**— an indirect rate that is negotiated between the Performing Party and its federal cognizant agency and supported by a current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) letter. A Predetermined Rate is not subject to adjustment except as provided by 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 200.411.
- De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of ten percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) in lieu of determining the actual indirect costs of the service. Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs.

---

<sup>1</sup> If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.

**Provisional Rate**— an experienced-based rate agreed to by Performing Party and TCEQ in the absence of a NICRA rate negotiated with the applicable federal cognizant agency.

**Partial Reimbursement Rate**— a reimbursement rate agreed to between TCEQ and Performing Party that is less than the rate authorized under TxGMS or, where applicable, 2 CFR Part 200. Performing Party contributes all of its unreimbursed indirect costs to the successful performance of the project or projects funded under this Contract, in accordance with Article 9 of this section.

**Other:**

**Other.** If Budget Category “Other” is greater than \$25,000 or more than 10% of total Contract budget, identify the main constituents:

**SECTION SEVEN: CONTRACT REQUIREMENT [see 30 TAC § 14.7(15)]:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if you become a successful grant recipient selected for a grant award, you must enter into a signed grant agreement or contract with TCEQ following the announcement of that award.

**SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Please read and understand the following:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that information on how grant payments will be made is contained in the Budget Details section describing direct and possibly indirect costs. You further acknowledge that grant payments will be reimbursements on the basis of allowable costs incurred and that selected recipients will receive contract documents addressing allowable costs, unallowable costs, and reimbursement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge your understanding that Project Proposals do not require matching funds and that a TCEQ director does not need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if GBEP elects to hold a pre-submittal meeting relating to this Project Proposal, GBEP will notify you of the meeting’s time and location indicating whether attendance is mandatory.

**SECTION NINE: QUESTIONS AND PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETINGS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13) and 30 TAC § 14.7(14)]:**

- There are no pre-submittal meetings scheduled.
- For requests for additional, pre-submittal information [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13)], please contact the corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page.

**SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS**

In submitting your Project Proposal, please refer and adhere to the following instructions and guidelines concerning materials and information required to be submitted by potential grant recipients:

- GBEP intends to accept only complete Projected Proposals in a layout and format constituting a filled version of this proposal document with all applicable sections therein addressed; however, GBEP may, in its sole discretion, consider and accept nonconforming Project Proposals in the best interest of the state.
- Unless otherwise specified by GBEP, formal signatures are not required on Project Proposals.
- Unless otherwise communicated or implied, GBEP requires 1 (one) completed copy of your Project Proposal per corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator.
- Project Proposals must be received electronically, through the email address of the relevant Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page, by the deadline listed on both this page and the first page of this Project Proposal document.

**Submittal Process and Deadline [see 30 TAC § 14.7(8) and 30 TAC § 14.7(9)]:**

**Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by August 5, 2024 to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:**

WSQ Subcommittee

[Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov)

NRU Subcommittee

[Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov)

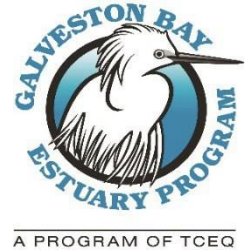
PPE Subcommittee

[Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov) and [Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov)

M&R Subcommittee

[Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov)

# Galveston Bay Estuary Program Fiscal 2026 NRU Project Proposal



Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by **August 5, 2024**. No late submittals will be considered for funding.

This Call for Project Proposals complies with 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 14.7, which lays out requirements for a competitive solicitation by TCEQ for grant awards. For convenience, specific citations to 30 TAC § 14.7 are identified in the text.

## SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

**Purpose [required by 30 TAC § 14.7(1)]:** The purpose of the proposed grant from the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), a program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), is to implement *The Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (the Plan), a comprehensive conservation and management plan falling under Section 320, of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1330), for a designated national estuary in the State of Texas.

**Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]:** The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for FY2026 (FY2026 Priority Area Actions) that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for fiscal 2026 at the June 2024 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

**Authority [see 30 TAC § 14.7(2)]:** Grants issued by GBEP under this solicitation are authorized by: the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) § 320 (33 UNITED STATES CODE § 1330), commonly referred to as the National Estuary Program; TEX. WATER CODE § 5.124; and 30 TAC ch. 14.

**Match Requirement [see 30 TAC § 14.7(10) and 30 TAC § 14.7(11)]:** No matching funds are required. Therefore, there is no need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.

**Multiple Awards [see 30 TAC § 14.7(7)]:** GBEP anticipates awarding funds for multiple proposals. GBEP intends to award grants to that combination of proposals which best implements the Plan, factoring in all criteria identified in this Call for Project Proposals, the availability of funds, and the most effective division of funds between awards.

## SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL - GENERAL INFORMATION

### Subcommittee:

Natural Resource Uses (NRU)

### Project Name:

Conservation Assistance Program

Project Previously Funded by GBEP?      Yes       No

### Lead Implementer / Categories of Eligible Recipients [see 30 TAC § 14.7(3)]:

The lead implementer must be in one of the following categories of eligible recipients. Please indicate which category applies to your entity. If the proposing party is not already paired with a lead implementer in one of the categories listed below, the proposing party will need to partner with an eligible recipient in one of these categories to be selected for funding. Please reach out to GBEP staff with any questions.

- Federal, State, or Local Government       Council of Government       Public ISDs or Universities  
 Nonprofit       Other\*

The lead implementer will be the Galveston Bay Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:

AND:

WQMNK4LCT9N6

76-0279876

**VIN or Tax ID:**

**Contact Information:**

Project Representative Name	Matthew Singer
Project Representative Phone	281-332-3381
Project Representative Email	<a href="mailto:msinger@galvbay.org">msinger@galvbay.org</a>

**Amount Requested from GBEP:**

\$115,000

Federal  State  No Preference

Is the project scalable?

**Amount Requested per year (if applicable):**

FY 2026 (09/01/2025-08/31/2026)	\$115,000.00
FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	\$0.00
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	\$0.00

**Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2025 - ending no later than May 31, 2028) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:**

September 1, 2025 - August 30, 2026 (could be extended if desirable for flexibility)

**Project Urgency:**

Growth and development rates in the lower Galveston Bay watershed remain elevated as land use changes from traditional open space, agricultural, and recreational uses to residential and commercial uses. This trend threatens the health of our ecosystems surrounding Galveston Bay and associated waterways by reducing parcel sizes and permanently altering the landscape of region. Additionally, land prices continue to rise as the availability of land is reduced and demand increases. Identifying and protecting ecologically significant parcels of land at today’s prices will help us maximize the availability of federal and state conservation funding sources.

**Total Project Cost (including Leveraging Amounts, if any; provide leveraging information where indicated below):**

\$115,000

Is this an estimate?

**Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):**

State, federal, and private funding for land acquisition projects and associated due diligence will be secured as part of the grant deliverables. Primary targets for land acquisition funding include Deepwater Horizon related funds, NAWCA, CWPPRA (NCWCGP - USFWS), Texas Farm and Ranchlands (TPWD), Coastal Management Program, GOMESA, NRCS Agricultural Land Easements and RCPP, and various other state, federal, and private sources. These funds leverage hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of state and federal grants each year as part of various land protection projects throughout the region.

**Partners\* and Their Roles:**

Land Conservation organizations within the GBEP service area include: GBF, Artist Boat, Houston Audubon, Coastal Prairie Conservancy, Bayou Land Conservancy, Armand Bayou Nature Center, The Nature Conservancy, TPWD, USFWS Refuge System, and others. Partner organizations participate in a workgroup to determine regional priorities and approve conservation projects for CAP support.

**\*If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted under the application.**

### **SECTION THREE: GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION IMPLEMENTATION**

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

The FY2026 Priority Area Actions are found at:

<https://gbep.texas.gov/ensure-safe-human-and-aquatic-life-use/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/protect-and-sustain-living-resources/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/engage-communities/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/inform-science-based-decision-making/>

Water quality is one of the primary ecosystem services provided by perpetually conserved lands. By reducing the potential for future development and land use changes within priority watersheds in the region, this project will contribute to the overall health of water resources of Galveston Bay and its tributaries. This helps to promote GBEP's priority action of ensuring safe human and aquatic uses.

Land conservation efforts throughout the watershed are targeting the most ecologically productive and sensitive habitats remaining throughout the bay and its immediate watershed. Funding utilized under this grant agreement directly protects and sustains the living resources most important to GBEP. Once protected, habitat restoration and management actions are often carried out by project partners that lead to enhanced ecological benefits to native fish, wildlife, and plant resources.

The CAP platform does encourage partnerships with local communities, landowners, government agencies, and local municipalities to share information about the benefits of conservation of land and open space throughout the region. Outreach opportunities range from small groups of concerned citizens to presentations at state and national conferences. Over the course of this program, we have seen great success in presenting the idea of land conservation as a tool to help local communities and individual landowners achieve their goals and objectives.

### **Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:**

Plan Priority 2: Protect and Sustain Living Resources

HC-1       HC-2       HC-3

SC-1       SC-2

FWI-1       FWI-2       FWI-3

### **Plan Priority Area Actions Detail:**



Funding this project will accelerate the pace of land acquisition (HC-1) throughout the Galveston Bay watershed. Primary actions and deliverables are specifically related to developing and implementing land conservation projects.

Additionally, land acquisition funding is often accompanied by funding for habitat restoration and enhancement activities that affect the desired conservation values of the preserved tract (HC-2 and HC-3). Acquired tracts of land are also owned, managed, or protected by a natural resource agency or an NGO with a conservation mission.

Land conservation targets are prioritized by a workgroup of local stakeholders based on criteria that include wildlife habitat type and other watershed priorities. Since there is limited funding available for purchasing conservation tracts, each tract targeted with CAP resources will promote and sustain native populations of plants and animals (SC-1) and promote the control of invasive plant species within the protected areas (SC-2). Acquiring land for conservation purposes provides new opportunities for habitat restoration and wildlife management.

**Does the project implement any other *Galveston Bay Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* Priority Area Actions, or the other Subcommittee priorities?**

- WSQ (Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use)
- PPE (Engage Communities)
- M&R (Inform Science-Based Decision Making)

**Other Subcommittee Detail:**

N/A

**Other Plans Implemented:**

- North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP)
- Partners in Flight - Gulf Coast Prairie Bird Conservation Region 37
- Partners in Flight - North American Landbird Conservation Plan
- US Shorebird Conservation Plan (USSCP)
- North American Waterbird Conservation Plan (NAWCP)
- Southeast United States Regional Waterbird Conservation Plan (SUSRWCP)
- Galveston Bay Plan (Galveston Bay Estuary Plan)
- Nature Conservancy Gulf Coast Prairies & Marshes Plan
- West Galveston Bay Conservation Initiative
- Galveston Bay Habitat Conservation Blueprint
- Texas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
- Texas Wetlands Conservation Plan and
- TPWD Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan
- Gulf Coast Joint Venture Plans
- Texas Coastal Resilience
- Texas Coastal Management Plan

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

**NRU Subcommittee Identified Priorities**

*Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.*

- Habitat acquisition.
- Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts.
  - Special emphasis on adaptive management for previously completed projects.
- Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
  - Special emphasis on projects addressing seagrasses, intertidal reef/shell hash, and benthic mapping.
  - Any species monitoring projects should be a collaboration/partnership between subcommittees.
- Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple goal benefits to the subcommittee.
- Takes into consideration the results of the Estuary Resilience Action Plan.
- Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost.

**Subcommittee Priority Detail:**

- The CAP is primarily focused on acquisition of high-quality habitat and natural resources within the Galveston Bay system
- The CAP is a long-term conservation effort to perpetually protect land within the Galveston Bay system. The program is designed to help existing and ongoing land conservation efforts succeed.
- The CAP’s priority conservation targets include habitat for native fish, wildlife, and plant communities. This includes listed species and SGCN.
- CAP projects attract large sums of state and federal conservation dollars to the Galveston Bay Watershed.
- Land conversion rate in the greater Houston area remains high and does not appear to be slowing soon. As land becomes less available, prices become inflated. It is important to permanently protect the remaining quality habitats around the bay at today’s land prices.

**Does the Project work with new, smaller communities/partnerships?**

- Yes
- No

GBF is currently working to partner with local municipalities such as the City of Pasadena Parks Department to purchase land. Previous land transactions have included Chambers-Liberty Counties Navigation District and the City of Texas City. Other communities or municipalities will be approached with partnership opportunities when available.

**SECTION FIVE: PROPOSAL DETAILS**

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.

**Project Summary:**

The Conservation Assistance Program (CAP) was initiated in 2011 and has been reauthorized in several phases through FY2025. This proposal includes funding to continue the program and build upon successful land conservation efforts in the Galveston Bay Watershed and complete the ongoing projects underway.

The overall goal of the CAP is to support GBEP and its partners' efforts to preserve wetlands, prairies, and other important coastal habitats to protect the long-term health and productivity of Galveston Bay. CAP will continue to accomplish these goals by:

- Identifying priority conservation properties with the help and consensus of conservation partners
- Building funding strategies through grant identification, grant writing, and fundraising
- Working with willing sellers to negotiate fee simple or conservation easement transactions
- Carrying out legal, title, and other due diligence transaction support
- Finalizing the sale and transfer of title to a third-party organization or government entity

**Full Project Description (1,000 words or less):**

The objectives of the CAP for conservation include:

1. Preserve coastal wetlands and natural areas that:

- Possess unique conservation value, such as wetlands, bottomland hardwood forests, floodplains, and associated habitats;
- Have a direct link to coastal riparian areas, coastal prairies, or Galveston Bay
- Provide public access, where applicable, to Galveston Bay and its coastal tributaries
- Reduce or prevent nonpoint source pollution by providing storm water abatement.

2. Facilitate a conservation workgroup of local stakeholders for project input and build sustaining support for open space conservation that meets the goals of this program.

3. Provide technical, legal, and grant writing assistance for coastal habitat conservation projects in the Lower Galveston Bay watershed (including identifying a conservation property; negotiating terms of a sale; managing funding sources; completing surveys; preparing legal, title and closing paperwork; finalizing sale(s); and transferring title to a third party.

Efforts will be prioritized within the West Galveston Bay Conservation Initiative and the East Galveston Bay Conservation Initiative Areas in order to maximize return on investment. Land parcels within these two priority areas will help protect habitats critical to the sustainability of native plant and animal populations, protect regional biodiversity, and maintain local water quality.

**Latitude/Longitude (Optional):**

N/A - projects are located throughout the lower Galveston Bay Watershed

**Location:**

Work conducted under this grant will be solely within the lower Galveston Bay Watershed. Primarily, the actions will take place in Chambers, Harris, Galveston, and Brazoria Counties, with emphasis on the West Bay and East Bay Conservation Initiative areas, depicted in the map below.

**Project Map**



**Grant Payments [see 30 TAC § 14.7(12)]:** All grant payments will be made on the basis of reimbursement for allowable costs (as defined in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E). All payments for awarded proposals will be reimbursements of allowable costs incurred after both parties have entered (signed) a grant agreement for the project.

**Budget.** Authorized budgeted expenditures for work performed are as follows:

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	\$60,000.00
Fringe Benefits (15%) <sup>1</sup>	\$9,000.00
Travel	\$3,850.00
Supplies	\$250.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$35,000.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
<b>Total Direct Cost</b>	<b>\$108,100.00</b>
Indirect Costs	\$6,900.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$115,000.00</b>

**Indirect Cost Agreement**

Please note: If using a rate different from your entity Indirect Cost Agreement; a letter of exemption from the appropriate authority must be provided with the application, or a statement must be included certifying that the recipient has elected to be reimbursed for an amount less than its total indirect costs, that unreimbursed indirect costs are part of the recipient’s contribution to the success of the project, and that the recipient will pay for all unreimbursed indirect costs using funds available to it for that purpose.

The performing party will collect indirect costs at 10% of the total salary and fringe categories. This rate is less than the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement held by GBF.

**Indirect Cost Reimbursable Rate.** The reimbursable rate for this Contract is 10% of (check one):

- Salary and fringe benefits
- Modified total direct costs
- Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

This rate is less than or equal to (check one):

**Predetermined Rate**— an indirect rate that is negotiated between the Performing Party and its federal cognizant agency and supported by a current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) letter. A Predetermined Rate is not subject to adjustment except as provided by 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 200.411.

**De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of ten percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) in lieu of determining the actual indirect costs of the service. Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs.

---

<sup>1</sup> If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.

**Provisional Rate**— an experienced-based rate agreed to by Performing Party and TCEQ in the absence of a NICRA rate negotiated with the applicable federal cognizant agency.

**Partial Reimbursement Rate**— a reimbursement rate agreed to between TCEQ and Performing Party that is less than the rate authorized under TxGMS or, where applicable, 2 CFR Part 200. Performing Party contributes all of its unreimbursed indirect costs to the successful performance of the project or projects funded under this Contract, in accordance with Article 9 of this section.

**Other:**

**Other.** If Budget Category “Other” is greater than \$25,000 or more than 10% of total Contract budget, identify the main constituents:

N/A
-----

**SECTION SEVEN: CONTRACT REQUIREMENT [see 30 TAC § 14.7(15)]:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if you become a successful grant recipient selected for a grant award, you must enter into a signed grant agreement or contract with TCEQ following the announcement of that award.

**SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Please read and understand the following:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that information on how grant payments will be made is contained in the Budget Details section describing direct and possibly indirect costs. You further acknowledge that grant payments will be reimbursements on the basis of allowable costs incurred and that selected recipients will receive contract documents addressing allowable costs, unallowable costs, and reimbursement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge your understanding that Project Proposals do not require matching funds and that a TCEQ director does not need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if GBEP elects to hold a pre-submittal meeting relating to this Project Proposal, GBEP will notify you of the meeting’s time and location indicating whether attendance is mandatory.

**SECTION NINE: QUESTIONS AND PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETINGS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13) and 30 TAC § 14.7(14)]:**

- There are no pre-submittal meetings scheduled.
- For requests for additional, pre-submittal information [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13)], please contact the corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page.
- 

**SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS**

In submitting your Project Proposal, please refer and adhere to the following instructions and guidelines concerning materials and information required to be submitted by potential grant recipients:

- GBEP intends to accept only complete Projected Proposals in a layout and format constituting a filled version of this proposal document with all applicable sections therein addressed; however, GBEP may, in its sole discretion, consider and accept nonconforming Project Proposals in the best interest of the state.
- Unless otherwise specified by GBEP, formal signatures are not required on Project Proposals.
- Unless otherwise communicated or implied, GBEP requires 1 (one) completed copy of your Project Proposal per corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator.
- Project Proposals must be received electronically, through the email address of the relevant Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page, by the deadline listed on both this page and the first page of this Project Proposal document.

**Submittal Process and Deadline [see 30 TAC § 14.7(8) and 30 TAC § 14.7(9)]:  
Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by**



**August 5, 2024 to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:**

WSQ Subcommittee

[Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov)

NRU Subcommittee

[Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov)

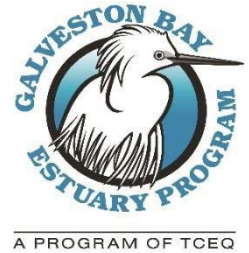
PPE Subcommittee

[Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov) and [Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov)

M&R Subcommittee

[Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov)

# Galveston Bay Estuary Program Fiscal 2026 NRU Project Proposal



Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by August 5, 2024. No late submittals will be considered for funding.

This Call for Project Proposals complies with 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 14.7, which lays out requirements for a competitive solicitation by TCEQ for grant awards. For convenience, specific citations to 30 TAC § 14.7 are identified in the text.

## SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

**Purpose [required by 30 TAC § 14.7(1)]:** The purpose of the proposed grant from the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), a program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), is to implement *The Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (the Plan), a comprehensive conservation and management plan falling under Section 320, of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1330), for a designated national estuary in the State of Texas.

**Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]:** The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for FY2026 (FY2026 Priority Area Actions) that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for fiscal 2026 at the June 2024 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

**Authority [see 30 TAC § 14.7(2)]:** Grants issued by GBEP under this solicitation are authorized by: the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) § 320 (33 UNITED STATES CODE § 1330), commonly referred to as the National Estuary Program; TEX. WATER CODE § 5.124; and 30 TAC ch. 14.

**Match Requirement [see 30 TAC § 14.7(10) and 30 TAC § 14.7(11)]:** No matching funds are required. Therefore, there is no need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.

**Multiple Awards [see 30 TAC § 14.7(7)]:** GBEP anticipates awarding funds for multiple proposals. GBEP intends to award grants to that combination of proposals which best implements the Plan, factoring in all criteria identified in this Call for Project Proposals, the availability of funds, and the most effective division of funds between awards.

## SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL - GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Subcommittee:**

Natural Resource Uses

### **Project Name:**

North Deer Island - Habitat Restoration & Enhancement (Phase 1)

Project Previously Funded by GBEP?                      Yes                       No

### **Lead Implementer / Categories of Eligible Recipients [see 30 TAC § 14.7(3)]:**

The lead implementer must be in one of the following categories of eligible recipients. Please indicate which category applies to your entity. If the proposing party is not already paired with a lead implementer in one of the categories listed below, the proposing party will need to partner with an eligible recipient in one of these categories to be selected for funding. Please reach out to GBEP staff with any questions.

- Federal, State, or Local Government       Council of Government                       Public ISDs or Universities  
 Nonprofit     Other\*

National Audubon Society

**Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:**

**AND:**

**VIN or Tax ID:**

LLGWLB7MFAC1

13-1624102

**Contact Information:**

Project Representative Name	Alexis Baldera
Project Representative Phone	512-967-8116
Project Representative Email	alexis.baldera@audubon.org

**Amount Requested from GBEP:**

\$107,904

Federal  State  No Preference

Is the project scalable? Y

**Amount Requested per year (if applicable):**

FY 2026 (09/01/2025-08/31/2026)	\$107,904.00
FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	\$0.00
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	\$107,904.00

**Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2025 - ending no later than May 31, 2028) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:**

September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026

**Project Urgency:**

The shoreline of North Deer Island is continually eroding on the northern shoreline because of breached rock groins. This project is needed to restore the jetties, stop the erosion, and protect the bird rookery island.

**Total Project Cost (including Leveraging Amounts, if any; provide leveraging information where indicated below):**

The total project cost for Phase I of work is \$248,815. This cost includes the deliverables described in this project and the coastal restoration and management work Audubon Texas plans to do on leased bird islands during the project timeframe.

Is this an estimate?

**Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):**

**[Please indicate source, amount, and status (secured, potential, etc.)]**

This project leverages a \$139,911 investment by the National Audubon Society to manage coastal bird islands. These are the coastal islands that Audubon either partially owns or leases from the Texas General Land Office.

**Partners\* and Their Roles:**

Audubon Texas - property owner, project manager, technical advisor, permit preparation, partner correspondence  
Houston Audubon - property owner, technical advisor, preconstruction monitoring  
Ducks Unlimited - engineering and design, surveys, restoration plan

**\*If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted under the application.**

**SECTION THREE: GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION IMPLEMENTATION**

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

The FY2026 Priority Area Actions are found at:

<https://gbep.texas.gov/ensure-safe-human-and-aquatic-life-use/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/protect-and-sustain-living-resources/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/engage-communities/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/inform-science-based-decision-making/>

This Project supports the *Protect and Sustain Living Resources Action Plans* of the Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition; specifically, the Habitat Conservation Action Plan (HC) and the Species Conservation Plan (SC).

Under the HC Action Plan, the project will implement actions to improve the overall function of Galveston Bay by restoring and enhancing habitats lost and degraded due to sea level rise and coastal shoreline erosion.

- **HC-2 Habitat Restoration:** The project will repair rock groins and add fill to increase the footprint and elevation of degraded portions of North Deer Island.
- **HC-3 Habitat Enhancement:** The project will improve nesting and forage habitats on North Deer Island including, estuarine intertidal emergent wetlands, scrub-shrub habitat, and bare ground nesting habitat used by nesting colonial waterbirds and other native taxa.

Under the SC Action Plan, the project will implement actions to sustain and restore native species populations that utilize Galveston Bay coastal habitats.

- **SC-1 Native Species Management:** The project will support the restoration and maintenance of native species populations including those identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) under the 2023 Texas State Wildlife Action Plan: American Oystercatcher (S2), Reddish Egret (S2B), Brown Pelican (S3B), White-faced Ibis (S4B), Tricolored Heron (S5B), Snowy Egret (S5B), Little Blue Heron (S5B), and Texas Diamondback Terrapin (S2). The project will also support other native species including: Neotropic Cormorant, Roseate Spoonbill, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Laughing Gull, and other neotropical, migratory and wintering bird species.

**Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:**

Plan Priority 2: Protect and Sustain Living Resources

HC-1       HC-2       HC-3

SC-1       SC-2

FWI-1       FWI-2       FWI-3

**Plan Priority Area Actions Detail:**

Implementing HC-2 Habitat Restoration, HC-3 Habitat Enhancement, and SC-1 Native Species Management action plans of the Galveston Bay Plan, this project constitutes the first phase of work required to restore the form and function of estuarine intertidal emergent wetlands, scrub-shrub habitat, and bare ground nesting habitat used by nesting colonial waterbirds and other native taxa at North Deer Island where these habitats have been lost or degraded due to continued erosion.

In addition, the project will support enhancement of nearby oyster reefs to slow waves and currents before they reach the shoreline which will prevent future erosion of the repaired groins. Enhancing the nearby oyster reefs will also provide essential fish habitat to the nearby estuarine ecosystem.

Phase 1 Project outputs will include:

- Bathymetric and geotechnical surveys and engineering and design documents to develop a Phase 1 Restoration Plan.
- Completion of a Phase 1 Restoration Plan
- Permit applications to the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct the restoration actions identified in the Phase 1 Restoration Plan.

The first phase of work is expected to be completed in 12 months. Upon completion of Phase 1, the partners will seek Phase 2 funding to implement the actions outlined in the Phase 1 Restoration Plan.

**Does the project implement any other *Galveston Bay Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* Priority Area Actions, or the other Subcommittee priorities?**

- WSQ (Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use)
- PPE (Engage Communities)
- M&R (Inform Science-Based Decision Making)

**Other Subcommittee Detail:**

[Please explain in detail how project addresses other Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions (be specific; NPS-1, SPO-3, etc.) or subcommittee priorities.]

**Other Plans Implemented:**

This project partially implements the Tier 1 Project “Project 21: Galveston Bay Rookery Island Restoration (Project 21),” identified in the Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan. (Citation: 2023 Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas. 355 pp.)

By protecting North Deer Island, this project will protect a Priority Reddish Egret Site as identified by the Gulf Coast Joint Venture in their “Gulf Coast Joint Venture Conservation Planning for Reddish Egret” (Citation: Vermillion, W.G., and B.C. Wilson. 2009. Gulf Coast Joint Venture Conservation Planning for Reddish Egret. Gulf Coast Joint Venture, Lafayette, LA. 18pp.)

This project supports the 2023 Texas State Wildlife Action Plan by restoring and enhancing habitat for recognized SGCN’s: American Oystercatcher (S2), Reddish Egret (S2B), Brown Pelican (S3B), White-faced Ibis (S4B), Tricolored Heron (S5B), Snowy Egret (S5B), Little Blue Heron (S5B), and Texas Diamondback Terrapin (S2). (Citation: Birdsong, T. W., G. P. Garrett, M. G. Bean, P. T. Bean, S. Curtis, P. Fleming, A. Grubh, D. Lutz Carrillo, K. B. Mayes, C. Robertson, S. Robertson, J. W. Schlechte, and N. G. Smith. 2020. Conservation of Texas freshwater fish diversity: selection of Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. PWD RP T3200-2780 (10/20). Austin, Texas.)

**SECTION FOUR: SUBCOMMITTEE PRIORITIES / FACTORS TO BE USED TO SELECT AWARDS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(6)]**

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

**NRU Subcommittee Identified Priorities**

*Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.*

- Habitat acquisition.
- Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts.
  - Special emphasis on adaptive management for previously completed projects.
- Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
  - Special emphasis on projects addressing seagrasses, intertidal reef/shell hash, and benthic mapping.
  - Any species monitoring projects should be a collaboration/partnership between subcommittees.
- Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple goal benefits to the subcommittee.
- Takes into consideration the results of the Estuary Resilience Action Plan.
- Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost.

**Subcommittee Priority Detail:**

[Please explain in detail how project addresses priorities selected. Attachments may be submitted via email in conjunction with this application.]

The following coastal bird species (Species of Greatest Conservation Need noted) nest on the island and will benefit from this habitat enhancement and restoration project:  
American Oystercatcher (S2), Reddish Egret (S2B), Brown Pelican (S3B), White-faced Ibis (S4B), Tricolored Heron (S5B), Snowy Egret (S5B), Little Blue Heron (S5B), Neotropic Cormorant, Roseate Spoonbill, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Laughing Gull. In addition, this project will protect important stopover habitat for migrating and wintering birds.

Texas Diamondback Terrapin (S2) have also been documented on North Deer Island and will benefit from the protection and enhancement of this site.

Restoration of oyster reef will create habitat in support of native species of finfish and shellfish including the Eastern Oyster.

This project addresses the following stressors identified in the 2023 Galveston Bay Estuary Resilience Action Plan through habitat restoration and native habitat enhancement actions:

- Extreme events leading to loss of habitat;
- Sea level rise and subsidence leading to changing spatial extent of available habitat;
- Sea level rise and subsidence leading to loss of restored and enhanced habitat due to drowning.

**Does the Project work with new, smaller communities/partnerships?**

- Yes
- No

[TBD.]



## **SECTION FIVE: PROPOSAL DETAILS**

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.

### **Project Summary:**

The goal of this project is to restore the erosion control measures constructed in a past project to protect nesting habitat on North Deer Island, one of the most productive waterbird colonies in Galveston Bay. This is a two-phase project, and the first phase will complete a restoration plan and the permit applications needed to begin restoration of erosion control structures on the island.

### **Full Project Description (1,000 words or less):**

North Deer Island is the largest natural island in Galveston Bay. It is a 144-acre island, with fifty-five acres of upland habitat used as nesting sites for waterbirds and eighty-nine acres of high-quality salt marsh, important nursery habitat for shrimp, crabs and fish. North Deer Island is the most productive colonial waterbird nesting island in Galveston Bay with 5,000-25,000 pairs of birds nesting on the island annually. Eighteen species of coastal birds are known to nest on North Deer Island.

The goal of this proposed project is to address two urgent needs on the island: 1) repair damaged rock groins on the northern shoreline, and 2) enhance bare ground habitat for beach-nesting birds on the northwest corner. Protection measures at North Deer Island were previously funded by GBEP and multiple partners and constructed between 2000 and 2008. Now, nearly 20 years later, erosion on the northern shoreline poses an imminent threat to the island. The previous project constructed breakwaters, groins, and restored salt marsh habitat on North Deer Island to withstand erosional forces. Although the completed project has been largely successful, and erosion on most of North Deer Island has slowed, there is an urgent need to shore up the project element that has not met design expectations by amending the damaged groins on the northern shoreline to better meet the erosional forces. In addition to storm-driven erosional force, North Deer Island experiences erosional forces from vessels traveling along the GIWW which generate waves and drawdown and erode the shoreline. Waves generated by barges, shrimp boats, crew boats, and fast-moving recreational vessels can be significant, and have led to nearshore erosion of rock groin structures. After the initial break in the groins, continued wave energy from passing vessels has eaten away at the shoreline and habitat.

To slow the ongoing erosion, Audubon Texas, the state office of the National Audubon Society, in partnership with Ducks Unlimited and Houston Audubon Society, is proposing to repair the damaged rock groins. When complete, the repairs will prevent further erosion and damage to the island and slow the loss of the previously completed protection measures. In addition to refilling portions of the eroded structure, the project team plans to enhance nearby oyster reefs to slow waves and currents before they reach the shoreline which will prevent future erosion of the repaired groins. Beyond the immediate benefits to North Deer Island, enhancing the nearby oyster reefs will also provide essential fish habitat to the nearby estuarine ecosystem.

Our second objective is to add additional bare ground habitat to the northwestern corner of the island. Beach-nesting birds in Galveston Bay and around the Gulf of Mexico are continually under threat from human disturbance and loss of habitat. The northwestern shore of North Deer Island has previously supported colonies of nesting terns, however, it has become overgrown with vegetation. This project will design an area on the island that is raised and protected to support beach-nesting birds like terns and skimmers. This area is less frequented by boaters than other nearby islands that support beach-nesting birds, like Struvelucy and Jigsaw Islands, so it is less likely to be disturbed.

In addition to protecting important fish and wildlife habitat, the project will protect nature-based opportunities as well. Sportfish anglers use the area surrounding the island to fish for recreationally important species. Birdwatching has become a leading non-consumptive outdoor activity in the nation. The upper Texas Coast is recognized internationally as a birding hotspot. This island supports the maintenance of bird populations that people visit the area to observe.

The first phase of the project, which we are seeking funding for through this RFP, will include bathymetric and geotechnical surveys and engineering and design work to develop a Restoration Plan. Deliverables will also include permit applications to the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct the restoration actions identified in the Restoration Plan. The first phase of work is expected to take 12 months. Upon completion the partners will seek Phase 2 funding to implement the Restoration Plan.

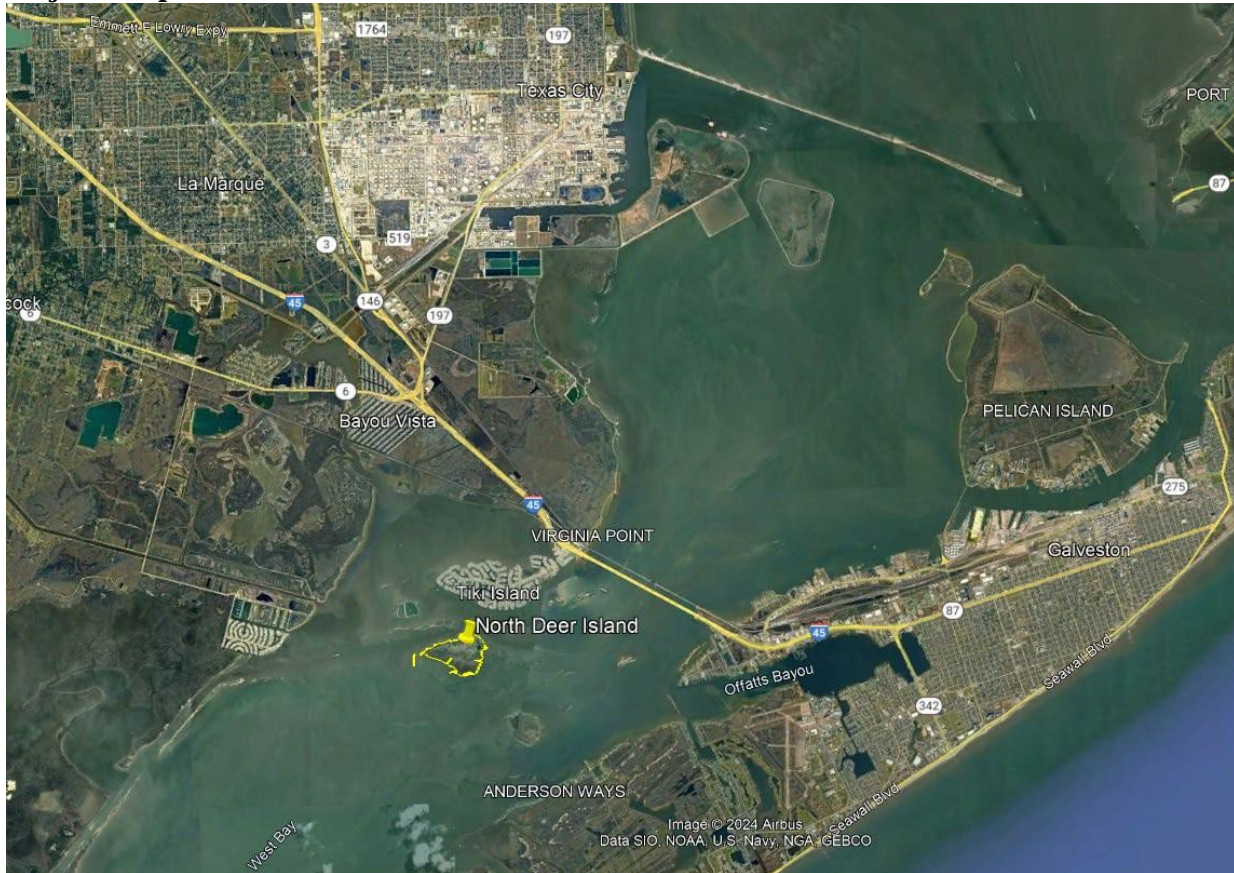
**Latitude/Longitude (Optional):**

29° 17'11.32" N 94° 55'30.21" W

**Location:**

North Deer Island is located in West Bay, Galveston County, Texas

**Projects Map**



Map 1. Location of North Deer Island which is outlined in yellow.

**Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):**



Map 2. Northern shoreline of North Deer Island where restoration work is needed to repair jetties and restore bare ground habitat.

**SECTION SIX: BUDGET DETAILS**

**Grant Payments [see 30 TAC § 14.7(12)]:** All grant payments will be made on the basis of reimbursement for allowable costs (as defined in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E). All payments for awarded proposals will be reimbursements of allowable costs incurred after both parties have entered (signed) a grant agreement for the project.

**Budget.** Authorized budgeted expenditures for work performed are as follows:

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>Cost for Work to be Performed</b>
Salary / Wages	\$16,611.00
Fringe Benefits 27% <sup>1</sup>	\$4,485.00
Travel	\$1,600.00
Supplies	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$70,200.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$200.00
<b>Total Direct Cost</b>	<b>\$93,095.00</b>
Indirect Costs	\$14,809.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$107,904.00</b>

**Indirect Cost Agreement**

Please note: If using a rate different from your entity Indirect Cost Agreement; a letter of exemption from the appropriate authority must be provided with the application, or a statement must be included certifying that the recipient has elected to be reimbursed for an amount less than its total indirect costs, that unreimbursed indirect costs are part of the recipient’s contribution to the success of the project, and that the recipient will pay for all unreimbursed indirect costs using funds available to it for that purpose.

Note: Nonprofit Organization Indirect Cost Negotiation Agreement included as an attachment in application submission email.

**Indirect Cost Reimbursable Rate.** The reimbursable rate for this Contract is 25.49% of (check one):

- Salary and fringe benefits
- Modified total direct costs
- Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

This rate is less than or equal to (check one):

- Predetermined Rate**— an indirect rate that is negotiated between the Performing Party and its federal cognizant agency and supported by a current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) letter. A Predetermined Rate is not subject to adjustment except as provided by 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 200.411.

---

<sup>1</sup> If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.

**De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of ten percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) in lieu of determining the actual indirect costs of the service. Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs.

**Provisional Rate**— an experienced-based rate agreed to by Performing Party and TCEQ in the absence of a NICRA rate negotiated with the applicable federal cognizant agency.

**Partial Reimbursement Rate**— a reimbursement rate agreed to between TCEQ and Performing Party that is less than the rate authorized under TxGMS or, where applicable, 2 CFR Part 200. Performing Party contributes all of its unreimbursed indirect costs to the successful performance of the project or projects funded under this Contract, in accordance with Article 9 of this section.

**Other:**

**Other.** If Budget Category “Other” is greater than \$25,000 or more than 10% of total Contract budget, identify the main constituents:

“Other” costs will include boat fuel.

#### **SECTION SEVEN: CONTRACT REQUIREMENT [see 30 TAC § 14.7(15)]:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if you become a successful grant recipient selected for a grant award, you must enter into a signed grant agreement or contract with TCEQ following the announcement of that award.

#### **SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Please read and understand the following:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that information on how grant payments will be made is contained in the Budget Details section describing direct and possibly indirect costs. You further acknowledge that grant payments will be reimbursements on the basis of allowable costs incurred and that selected recipients will receive contract documents addressing allowable costs, unallowable costs, and reimbursement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge your understanding that Project Proposals do not require matching funds and that a TCEQ director does not need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if GBEP elects to hold a pre-submittal meeting relating to this Project Proposal, GBEP will notify you of the meeting’s time and location indicating whether attendance is mandatory.

#### **SECTION NINE: QUESTIONS AND PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETINGS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13) and 30 TAC § 14.7(14)]:**

- There are no pre-submittal meetings scheduled.
- For requests for additional, pre-submittal information [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13)], please contact the corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page.
- 

#### **SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS**

In submitting your Project Proposal, please refer and adhere to the following instructions and guidelines concerning materials and information required to be submitted by potential grant recipients:

- GBEP intends to accept only complete Projected Proposals in a layout and format constituting a filled version of this proposal document with all applicable sections therein addressed; however, GBEP may, in its sole discretion, consider and accept nonconforming Project Proposals in the best interest of the state.
- Unless otherwise specified by GBEP, formal signatures are not required on Project Proposals.

- Unless otherwise communicated or implied, GBEP requires 1 (one) completed copy of your Project Proposal per corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator.
- Project Proposals must be received electronically, through the email address of the relevant Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page, by the deadline listed on both this page and the first page of this Project Proposal document.

**Submittal Process and Deadline [see 30 TAC § 14.7(8) and 30 TAC § 14.7(9)]:  
Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by  
August 5, 2024 to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:**

WSQ Subcommittee  
[Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov)

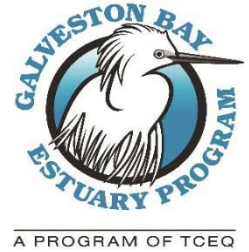
NRU Subcommittee  
[Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov)

PPE Subcommittee  
[Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov) and [Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov)

M&R Subcommittee  
[Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov)



# Galveston Bay Estuary Program Fiscal 2026 NRU Project Proposal



Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by **August 5, 2024**. No late submittals will be considered for funding.

This Call for Project Proposals complies with 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 14.7, which lays out requirements for a competitive solicitation by TCEQ for grant awards. For convenience, specific citations to 30 TAC § 14.7 are identified in the text.

## SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

**Purpose [required by 30 TAC § 14.7(1)]:** The purpose of the proposed grant from the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), a program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), is to implement *The Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (the Plan), a comprehensive conservation and management plan falling under Section 320, of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1330), for a designated national estuary in the State of Texas.

**Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]:** The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for FY2026 (FY2026 Priority Area Actions) that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for fiscal 2026 at the June 2024 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

**Authority [see 30 TAC § 14.7(2)]:** Grants issued by GBEP under this solicitation are authorized by: the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) § 320 (33 UNITED STATES CODE § 1330), commonly referred to as the National Estuary Program; TEX. WATER CODE § 5.124; and 30 TAC ch. 14.

**Match Requirement [see 30 TAC § 14.7(10) and 30 TAC § 14.7(11)]:** No matching funds are required. Therefore, there is no need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.

**Multiple Awards [see 30 TAC § 14.7(7)]:** GBEP anticipates awarding funds for multiple proposals. GBEP intends to award grants to that combination of proposals which best implements the Plan, factoring in all criteria identified in this Call for Project Proposals, the availability of funds, and the most effective division of funds between awards.

## SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL - GENERAL INFORMATION

**Subcommittee:**

NRU

**Project Name:**

The 10th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through a 4th Acquisition at Middle Tract, Galveston Island, Texas

Project Previously Funded by GBEP?      Yes       No

**Lead Implementer / Categories of Eligible Recipients [see 30 TAC § 14.7(3)]:**

The lead implementer must be in one of the following categories of eligible recipients. Please indicate which category applies to your entity. If the proposing party is not already paired with a lead implementer in one of the categories listed below, the proposing party will need to partner with an eligible recipient in one of these categories to be selected for funding. Please reach out to GBEP staff with any questions.

- Federal, State, or Local Government       Council of Government       Public ISDs or Universities  
 Nonprofit       Other\*

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) in Partnership with Artist Boat, Inc. (AB)

**Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:**

EVA9NVGH2K85

AND:

**VIN or Tax ID:**

74-1680372

**Contact Information:**

Project Representative Name	Savannah Horton
Project Representative Phone	346-733-3400
Project Representative Email	savannah.horton@tpwd.texas.gov

**Amount Requested from GBEP:**

\$200,000

Federal  State  No Preference Is the project scalable? **Amount Requested per year (if applicable):**

FY 2026 (09/01/2025-08/31/2026)	\$200,000.00
FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	\$0.00
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	\$200,000.00

**Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2025 - ending no later than May 31, 2028) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:**

September 1, 2025 - December 31, 2027

**Project Urgency:**

Galveston Island and the proposed project are in Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes Region (Figure 1). Historically, the west end had a continuous band of coastal prairie habitats interspersed with brackish to freshwater marshes. The proposed acquisition consists of tracts 3, 4, and 5 (single owner) of the remaining Middle Tracts within this region and they encompass 164-acres of these undeveloped habitats. Additionally, these three tracts of land are specifically critical habitat for important migratory bird species, contain suitable habitat for the federally listed Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), and a pack of coyotes known to have red wolf DNA have site fidelity to the CHP (Table 3-4, Photographs 4-5).

The acquisition tracts are directly adjacent to tracts within the Coastal Heritage Preserve (CHP) that protect a portion of a brackish to freshwater slough that runs through the middle of the west end of Galveston Island and supports important freshwater emergent marsh habitat. Artist Boat owns and manages roughly 19,000 linear feet of the slough south of Stewart Road (Figure 2). The purchase of these tracts and an additional 40 acres that is a part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Addition project being submitted alongside this proposal would complete the protection of this portion of the slough and add an additional 1,600 linear feet to the CHP. This will also maintain connection to the sloughs and open water systems north of Stewart Road and along the west end of Galveston Island (Figure 2, Figure 3). Although the property is not for sale, the landowner has selected to sell this land for conservation, which if not purchased will be planned for the future development of up to 1,118 units (single family homes, commercial, and midrise units). This development would greatly impact adjacent conserved lands through the fragmentation of the sloughs, non-point source runoff, light, and noise pollution.

Artist Boat has been successful at conserving 1,039 acres (including an ongoing transaction totaling 141 acres that will close in August, Figure 4). The majority of these acquisitions were accomplished because there have been willing sellers. There have been willing sellers because funding has been available for the purchases. If conservation funding slows down or ceases to exist, the land will continue to at risk of development. The current owner of the acquisition tract, Kahala Green, LLC. has signed a willing seller letter that documents their participation and their permission for Artist Boat to seek funding for the purchase of these tracts and to conduct due diligence activities (Figure 5).

**Total Project Cost (including Leveraging Amounts, if any; provide leveraging information where indicated below):**

\$12,450,950

Is this an estimate?

**Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):**

TPWD in partnership with AB has submitted a proposal to the 2025 NCWCGP funding opportunity requesting \$1M cash, Artist Boat will provide the balance of the project cost \$11,450,950 and required match (\$303,634) in cash. Funded projects are expected to be announced March 2025.

Artist Boat has financial commitment from 13 individual donors and foundations, totaling \$29,700 for this project. Artist Boat has applied for a GOMESA Project of Special Merit Grant from the Texas General Land Office's (GLO) Cycle 30 CMP funding for \$3,000,000. GLO also plans to submit a grant as pass through to Artist Boat for NOAA's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding opportunity for \$6,000,000. The remainder of the funding required to purchase this tract will be accomplished by a combination of state and private funding opportunities, private fundraising and Artist Boat's fund- raising campaign, #BeOneInAMillion (<https://www.artistboat.org/be-one-in-a-million/> ). This campaign is asking "1 million people to donate \$10 to save the wilds of Galveston Island!".

**Partners\* and Their Roles:**

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Coastal Fisheries Department** – Pass-through funding partner, grant management for NCWCGP grant (if awarded) and TCEQ GBEP NRU (if awarded) up until closing of property.

**Artist Boat** – Is responsible for financial costs of all expenses associated with acquiring the land (due diligence, administrative and legal, developing documents (conservation easements and memorandums of understanding and contracts), and transaction assistance. AB will hold a conservation easement and be responsible for management, monitoring, and stewardship of the property.

**Shed Conservation Solutions** – Assisting AB in the acquisition process, writing grant applications, and managing the due diligence completion for the project.

**Galveston Independent School District (GISD)** – As public governmental entity, GISD will be the ultimate fee simple title holder. Artist Boat will hold a conservation easement and be responsible for perpetual management, monitoring, and stewardship of the property.

**\*If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted under the application.**

### **SECTION THREE: GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION IMPLEMENTATION**

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

The FY2026 Priority Area Actions are found at:

<https://gbep.texas.gov/ensure-safe-human-and-aquatic-life-use/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/protect-and-sustain-living-resources/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/engage-communities/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/inform-science-based-decision-making/>

#### **Acquire land or development rights to permanently preserve habitats vital to the health of the Galveston Bay watershed:**

This project and the acquisition of the proposed 40 acres will implement multiple of the FY2026 priority area actions. The project will acquire undeveloped habitats within the Galveston Bay watershed as a whole and will permanently preserve them from development through a conservation easement.

#### **Enhance existing habitats to increase overall function and productivity:**

The acquisition of these tracts will enhance the existing habitats previously preserved within CHP lands and add to the preservation of a robust coastal complex within the Galveston Bay watershed. It will protect adjacent lands and the slough running through the Middle Tracts from development, fragmentation, and any associated runoff and light pollution.

#### **Support projects that sustain and restore native species populations and support projects that reduce invasive species:**

Artist Boat is the permanent steward of the habitats within the CHP, and they actively manage the land to sustain and enhance native species and remove invasives from the property. Maintenance and management projects implemented within the CHP are developed by a technical advisory committee consisting of resource agencies and local communities.

#### **Develop new and support existing stewardship programs and volunteer opportunities for stakeholders:**

Artist Boat will provide Habitat Restoration Adventures on this land to restore prairies with students and provide Sea Citizens with training to remove invasive species and mow to mimic fire.

#### **Support and promote workshops and events that facilitate stakeholder and partner involvement:**

Artist Boat plans to work with the Karnakawa Kalda on a land acknowledgement ceremony for these new lands being added to the Coastal Heritage Preserve, provide access for proper nature-based ceremonies, and eventually have this be a part of a 3-mile walking trail with interpretive signage inclusive of their history of place on the land. Additionally, special care will be given to integrate the fee title holder, Galveston Independent School District in the design and goals of interpretation for learners' engagement.

#### **Develop new and support existing programs in Galveston Bay that change behaviors and attitudes in Galveston Bay with a focus on adult education:**

Artist Boat will integrate this land into use during walking and birding adventures for K-Grey learners with Dusk to Dawn Access for adult engagement, the addition will provide more land and more opportunity to increase Sea Citizen participation. This is volunteer program to engage adults in land stewardship weekly or monthly utilizing their expertise regularly. The land will also be used for one time volunteer events which engage corporate, university, and other adult clubs or organizations.

**Develop new and support existing K-12 Galveston Bay estuary-related curricular materials for regional use:** Artist Boat will use the land to support Professional Development for teachers with new or existing developed curriculum that are integrated across disciplines to teach teachers how to teach about Galveston Bay and its public trust resources.

#### **Support nonpoint source education and outreach campaigns:**

Artist Boat's mission, and Artist Boat's programs are all specifically designed to increase environmental awareness and to develop stewardship for coastal wetlands conservation for K-Grey participants. Artist Boat is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting awareness and preservation of coastal margins and the marine environment through the disciplines of the sciences and the arts. Artist Boat's vision is to pioneer educational programming and partnerships for integrated artistic and scientific exploration, interpretation, and preservation of coastal margins and marine ecosystems. This project will help facilitate their mission.

The CHP will serve as a platform for delivery of Artist Boat’s environmental educational programs. These programs have a strong emphasis on place-based and experiential learning and are centered on creating foundational knowledge of estuarine ecology, human uses and human impacts of estuarine and coastal resources, and how humans can take actions to protect and enhance coastal habitats and the environmental quality of Galveston Island and West Galveston Bay. Artist Boat’s programming has served 180,000+ participants over the last 21 years. Specific programs Artist Boat will deliver at the CHP will include K-12 eco-art workshops and adventures, public and private eco-art adventures (birding, kayaking, world ocean day festival etc.), eco-art public art program (bucket brigade, seawall interpretive trail), habitat restoration adventures (K-Grey)

The CHP provides low impact public use opportunities, bird and nature watching and trail walking and has plans to increase public use opportunities. Such as creating a three-mile low impact walking trail. As the permanent steward of the CHP, Artist Boat has been and will continue work with resource agencies and local community organizations through Technical Advisory Committees to develop stewardship and maintenance plans for the property, providing more opportunities for public involvement in the project.

**Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:**

**Plan Priority 2: Protect and Sustain Living Resources**

- HC-1       HC-2       HC-3
- SC-1       SC-2
- FWI-1       FWI-2       FWI-3

**Plan Priority Area Actions Detail:**

**HC1-** Develops a grant proposal and funding strategy for an acquisition project and plans to acquire land that preserves habitat vital to the Galveston Bay watershed.

**HC-2** Through active management of preserved property, the native habitats are continually being enhanced and managed to promote habitat quality, such as invasive species removal.

**SC1 & SC2-** The project acquires land that preserves habitat vital to the Galveston Bay watershed. Once land is acquired, the property will be managed to sustain and restore native species populations, including the control and reduction of invasive species populations.

**FWI3 -** Artist Boat teaches K-Grey learners in all its programs about water quality and conservation. The land is used for these programs and to demonstrate how land and wetland filter and improve water quality, how humans use and compete with nature for freshwater through discussions about importance of maintaining freshwater inflows to the bay, how humans impact and degrade water through actions related to overuse or waste and non-point source pollution.

**Does the project implement any other *Galveston Bay Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* Priority Area Actions, or the other Subcommittee priorities?**

- WSQ (Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use)
- PPE (Engage Communities)
- M&R (Inform Science-Based Decision Making)

**Other Subcommittee Detail:**

SPO1, SPO2, PEA1, PEA2, PEA3, NPS-2: Artist Boat's mission, and Artist Boat's programs are all specifically designed to increase environmental awareness and to develop support for coastal wetlands conservation. Artist Boat's vision is to pioneer educational programming and partnerships for integrated artistic and scientific exploration, interpretation, and preservation of coastal margins and marine ecosystems. Some of their educational programs specifically address non-point source pollution, water quality, and water conservation. This project will help facilitate their mission and their educational programs develop stewardship programs and volunteer opportunities through activities like their habitat restoration adventures. They also host workshops and events, such as world ocean day festival, seawall interpretive trail, etc. that promote stakeholder and partner engagement in stewardship and conservation. They have programs specifically dedicated to educate K-12 students, but also have programs that are open to adult education and participation. They engage in key issues that are impacting the Galveston Bay watershed and provide educational opportunities for participants to learn how they can change behaviors and attitudes to positively affect the Galveston Bay estuary.

**Other Plans Implemented:**

The proposed project would acquire habitat identified as nationally stable but regionally decreasing wetland types. The project would also implement multiple natural resource goals of numerous coastal ecosystem and watershed management plans and efforts including regional plans, statewide plans and plans specific to the Galveston Bay system and West Galveston Bay. The individual management plans or efforts and how the proposed project implements the management plan's goals are provided in Table 1.

**SECTION FOUR: SUBCOMMITTEE PRIORITIES / FACTORS TO BE USED TO SELECT AWARDS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(6)]**

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

**NRU Subcommittee Identified Priorities**

*Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.*

- Habitat acquisition.
- Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts.
  - Special emphasis on adaptive management for previously completed projects.
- Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
  - Special emphasis on projects addressing seagrasses, intertidal reef/shell hash, and benthic mapping.
  - Any species monitoring projects should be a collaboration/partnership between subcommittees.
- Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple goal benefits to the subcommittee.
- Take into consideration the results of the Estuary Resilience Action Plan.
- Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost.

**Subcommittee Priority Detail:**

The project is a land acquisition project that will be managed to sustain and restore native species populations including the control and reduction of invasive species populations. The project will benefit federal, and state listed species and species listed on the species of greatest conservation need including non-game wildlife (Table 3). This project will add to the acquisition and restoration efforts that have occurred in West Bay over the last 20 years, increasing and enhancing the resource values of a larger landscape, the West Bay Corridor Conservation Initiative (Table 2).

If funded by NCWCGP for the requested \$1M (including the additional required match), funded by GOMESA for \$3,000,000, funded by NOAA BIL for \$6,000,000, and the \$200,000 requested from the NRU, this project will leverage \$10,503,634.

If AB is unable to accomplish the acquisition, the land will be at risk of development. A nearby tract, that was originally part of the Middle Tract suite has now been slated for development and is no longer available for conservation efforts. This tract, specifically, is at risk of the development of a 1,118-unit development if not conserved.

**Does the Project work with new, smaller communities/partnerships?**

- Yes
- No

In 2024 Artist Boat met with representatives from the Karankawa tribal community to welcome their involvement and support in the preservation of their ancestral lands on Galveston Island. They are committed to supporting all applications for this and other historical lands to become a part of the Coastal Heritage Preserve. Additionally, they are committed to having a land acknowledgement ceremony for the new lands and existing land.

The Artist Boat has partnered on educational programs with Galveston ISD for over 21 years. It is new that they have decided to take a pivotal role by holding simple fee title to the lands proposed for acquisition in order to help secure funding not open to non-profits through larger grants for land acquisition. The district believes in land conservation and nature access for a community to be engaged in lifelong learning. Additionally, the district has to frequently respond to issues that represent a lack of resilience during hurricanes and flooding, and they see this land conservation as a direct contributor to a resilient and flourishing coastal community.

**SECTION FIVE: PROPOSAL DETAILS**

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.

**Project Summary:**

The objective of this project is to purchase, in fee simple, and conserve in perpetuity approximately 164 acres of coastal habitats. The purchased tract would be added to and be managed as part of the 898-acre (one ongoing project would add another 141 acres, closing in August of 2024) Coastal Heritage Preserve.

**Full Project Description (1,000 words or less):**

The objective of this project is to purchase, in fee simple, and conserve in perpetuity approximately 164 acres of coastal habitats. The purchased tract would be added to and be managed as part of the 898-acre (one ongoing project would add another 141 acres, closing in August of 2024) Coastal Heritage Preserve. TPWD is also submitting a proposal to the 2026 TCEQ NRU GBEP Subcommittee for the acquisition of an additional 40 acres directly adjacent to this tract titled "The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through a 5th acquisition at Middle Tract".

This proposed Acquisition Tract (Figures 1-4) will directly benefit and protect approximately thirty (30.11) acres of temporarily flooded freshwater emergent marsh habitat; six (6.16) acres of temporarily flooded freshwater scrub shrub, 0.13 acres of permanently flooded freshwater open water, and 128 acres of upland coastal prairie. This project will conserve breeding, nesting, foraging, roosting, and wintering habitats that benefit numerous coastal-dependent and migratory bird species. When inundated these freshwater habitats provide breeding, nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat for resident fish species. Additionally, the project potentially provides habitat for threatened and endangered species (Table 3). The project will protect 1,039 acres adjacent to these 164 acres and maintain connection to an important system of sloughs connecting the middle of the island to the bay and the entire conserved area. However, the primary goal is protecting these 164 acres from the development threat of 1,118 units (single family, commercial, and midrise). This development would greatly impact the adjacent conserved lands through the fragmentation of the sloughs, non-point source runoff, light, and noise pollution.

The overall conservation benefits of the proposed project, combined with existing and ongoing coastal habitat restoration/protection efforts (Tables 1 and 2) within West Galveston Bay will help to maintain and improve the physical and biological integrity of the coastal ecosystem along the southern shoreline of West Galveston Bay and Galveston Island including protecting and restoring functions that enhance water quality and ultimately protecting West Galveston Bay's long term productivity and biodiversity.

Protecting the integrity of Galveston Island also provides significant benefits in protecting human investments in the coastal zone.

**Latitude/Longitude (Optional):**

29°13'57.24"N, 94°55'5.6064"W

**Location:**

San Jacinto-Brazos Coastal Basin Watershed- Lower Galveston Bay Watershed- West Galveston Bay



# Projects Map

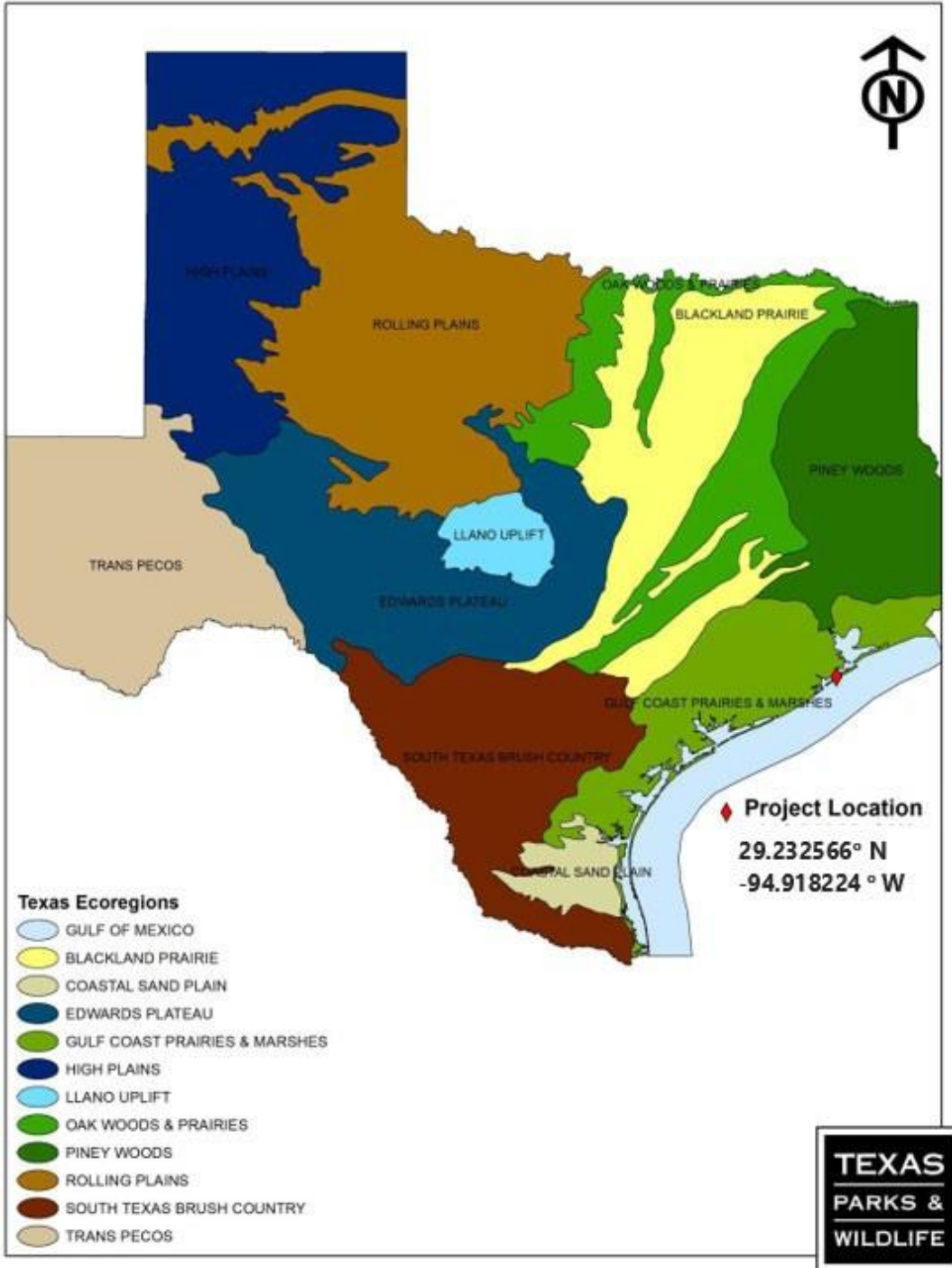


Figure 1. The proposed project is located between West Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico on the West end of Galveston Island.

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

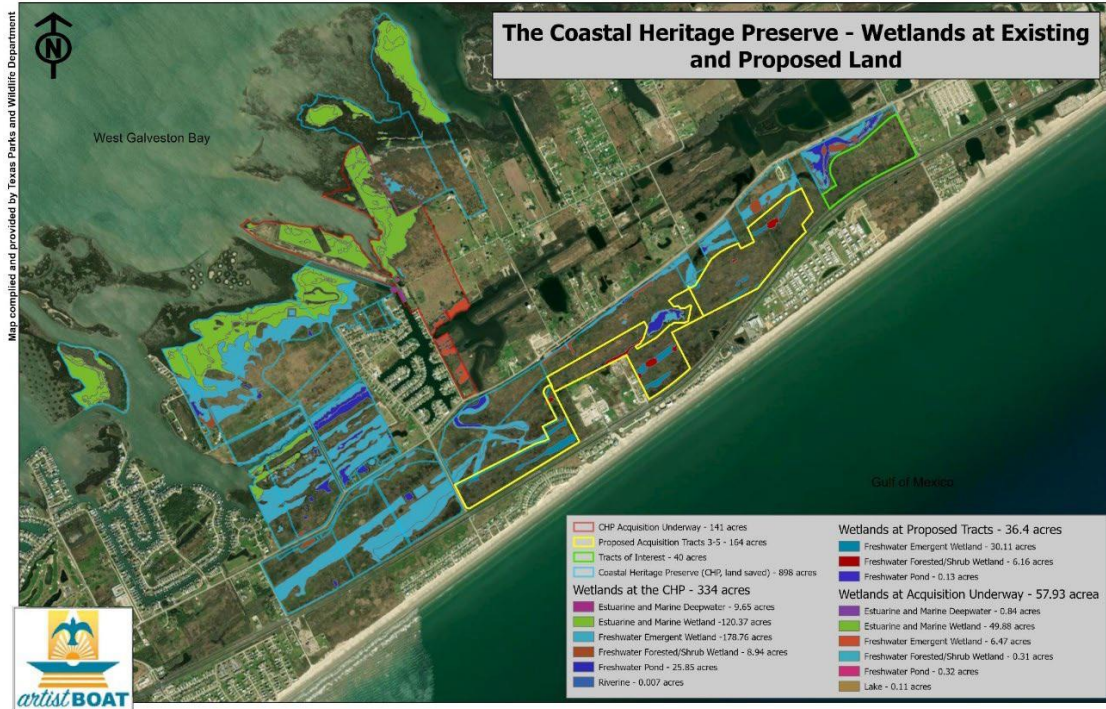


Figure 2. Existing Acreage and Wetlands within the Coastal Heritage Preserve and Proposed Acquisition Tract.

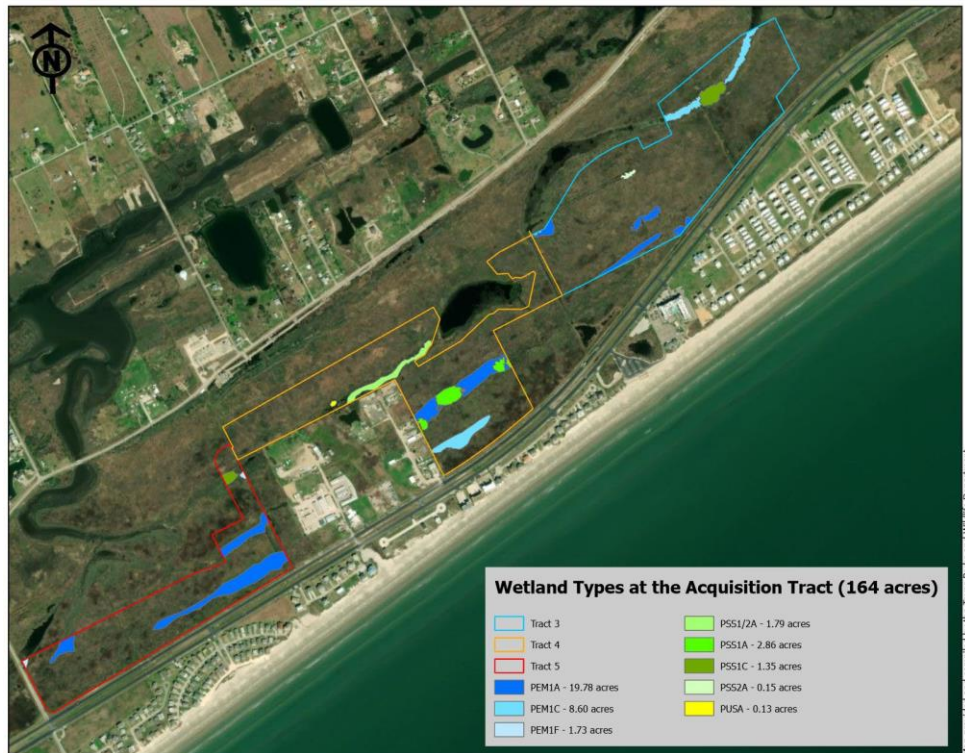
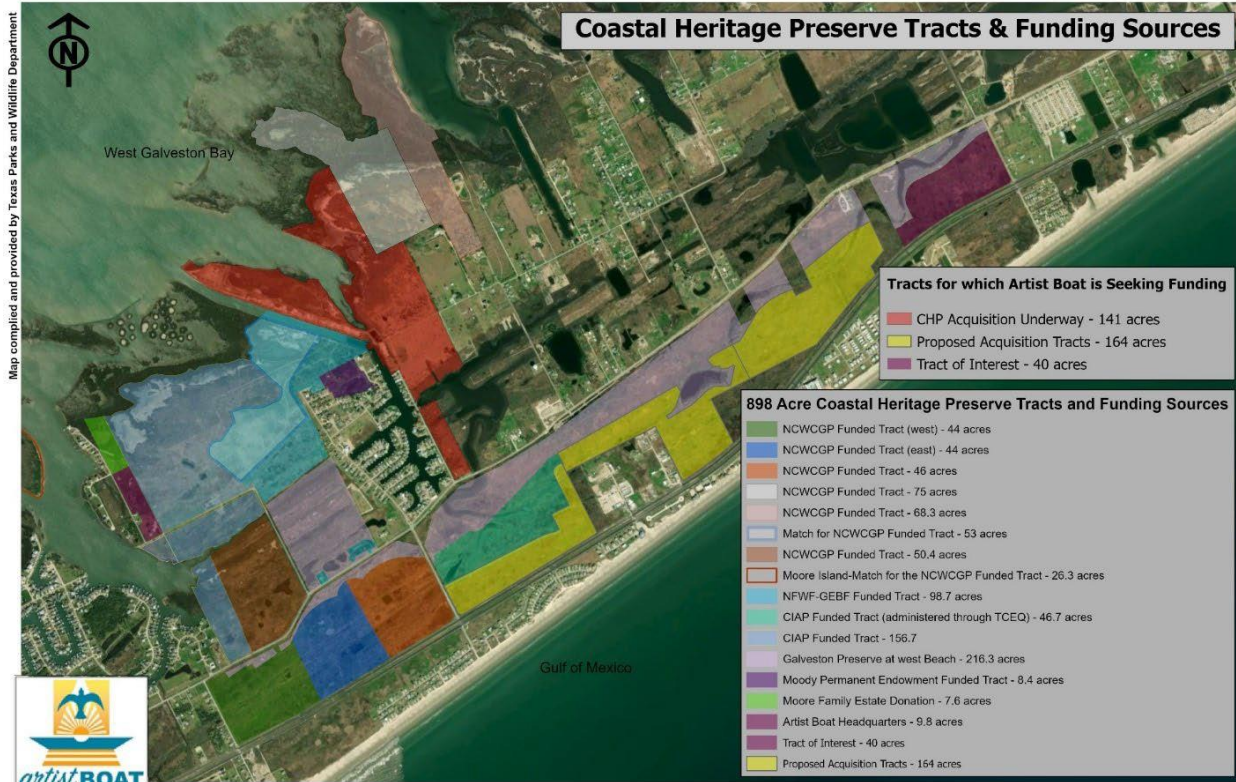


Figure 3. Wetland Types and Amounts at the proposed Acquisition Tract.





**Figure 4. Existing Acreage and Funding Sources within the Coastal Heritage Preserve and Proposed Acquisition Tract.**



**Table 1.** Coastal Watershed Management. This project supports the natural resource goals of numerous coastal ecosystem and watershed management plans including both statewide plans and plans specific to the Galveston Bay system and West Galveston Bay.

<b>Management Plan or effort</b>	<b>How this plan implements management plan goals</b>
<i>Texas Coastal Management Program</i>	Preserves, restore, and enhances the diversity, quality, quantity, functions and values of coastal natural resource areas.
<i>Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan</i>	This project is a Tier 1 project within the March 2023 Region 1 Upper Texas Coast Project List as Project 240.
<i>Texas Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan</i>	Prioritizes: certain CNRAs (coastal wetlands, coastal barriers, special hazard areas), certain other habitats (for rare, threatened, or endangered species; coastal prairies), other conservation lands (e.g., lands that provide connectivity and buffers to existing protected lands), and public access/recreation areas, each of which occurs with this project.
<i>Texas Wetlands Conservation Plan</i>	Enhances wetland resources with respect to function and value through voluntary conservation of the quality, quantity, and diversity of Texas wetlands.
<i>Coastal Wetlands Acquisition Plan for Texas</i>	Assists in the goal on no net loss of coastal wetland functions and values through preservation.
<i>Galveston Bay Estuary Program's Galveston Bay Plan</i>	Protect [and restore] wetlands, the number one management action of the Galveston Bay system.
<i>Galveston Bay Foundation Habitat Conservation Blueprint</i>	Restore and protect important Galveston Bay habitats, including estuarine intertidal marsh. Supports conservation of habitat identified as a priority conservation site.
<i>Gulf Coast Joint Venture's Texas Mid-Coast and Chenier Plain Initiative Plans and Mottled Duck Conservation Plan</i>	Conserves migratory birds and their habitats along the western U.S. Gulf of Mexico.
<i>Texas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy 2005-2010</i>	Conserves habitats within the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes Ecoregion and conserves coastal area in the Galveston Bay system.
<i>U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan Lower Mississippi/Western Gulf Coast Shorebird Planning Region</i>	Conserve Gulf coastal habitat, one of the most important regions in the United States for migratory shorebirds, and waterbirds.
<i>West Galveston Island Greenprint for Growth</i>	Conserves Galveston Island's west end prairies and marshes and is in the priority habitat conservation area of the Greenprint.
<i>The Nature Conservancy's Coast Prairies &amp; Marshes Ecoregional Conservation Plan</i>	Preserves habitat within the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes ecoregion.
<i>West [Galveston] Bay Conservation Initiative</i>	Protect habitats along Galveston Bay.
<i>Comprehensive Plan a Shared Vision for Galveston Island</i>	Preserves and protect sensitive natural resources, including wetlands and permanently protect open space on Galveston Island.

Management Plan or effort	How this plan implements management plan goals
<i>Long-Term Community Recovery Plan-City of Galveston, Texas</i>	Implements one of the projects in the plan, addressing land conservation for ecological services and hazard mitigation during storms.

**Table 2. West Bay Corridor Conservation Initiative**

This project will add to the acquisition and restoration efforts that have occurred in West Bay over the last 20 years, increasing and enhancing the resource values of a larger landscape, the West Bay Corridor Conservation Initiative.

(**Bold font** indicates a NCWCGP funded project. ♦Indicates on-going project)

Project	Lead Conservation Entity(s)	Conserved (acres)	Restored / Protected (acres)	Shoreline Protected (linear feet)
Virginia Point Peninsula Preserve	Scenic GALVESTON Inc.	1,464		10,200
SCENIC GALVESTON John Q. O'Quinn Estuarial Corridor Preserve	Scenic GALVESTON Inc.	900	80	
Pierce Marsh	Galveston Bay Foundation / The Nature Conservancy-Texas	1,361	413	
Harbor Walk	Scenic Galveston Inc.	215		
Shoreline Protection at Tiki Island	Village of Tiki Island		8	1,000
<b>Hall's Lake Restoration</b>	Galveston Bay Estuary Program		475	2,500
<b>West Bay Bird Island</b>	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Texas General Land Office		34	600
Beach Pocket Park #4	Galveston County	71		
Dos Vacas Muertas Bird Sanctuary	Houston Audubon Society	6		
Snake Island Cove	Galveston Bay Foundation /NOAA		265	
Estuary Restoration Act (McAllis Point)	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Texas General Land Office		61	7,442
<b>McAllis Point Land Acquisition Phase I</b>	Trust for Public Land, Galveston County, Texas General Land Office, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	60		
Ostermayer Bayou	Trust for Public Land, Galveston County	85		
Recovery Act: Restoring Estuarine Habitat in West Galveston Bay (Carancahua Cove/Jumbile Cove)	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		199/130	6,794/ 9,898
<b>Jumbile Cove Phase I and II Marsh Restoration</b>	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department		97/89	2,800
<b>Galveston Island State Park Restoration</b>	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		930	13,500
Galveston Island State Park	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	1,930		
<b>Delehide Cove</b>	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department		200	10,500
Bob Moore Island	Galveston Bay Foundation / Cabeza de Vaca / Artist Boat	26		

Project	Lead Conservation Entity(s)	Conserved (acres)	Restored / Protected (acres)	Shoreline Protected (linear feet)
Lafitte's Cove Nature Preserve	Lafitte's Cove Nature Society	20		
<b>Starvation Cove Marsh Restoration</b>	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		384	3,200
Sweetwater Lake Preserve	Galveston Bay Foundation	458	5	1,000
<b>North Deer Island Bird Sanctuary</b>	Houston Audubon Society Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	7	2/151	9,000
Starvation Gap Restoration	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department		38/23	1,400
<b>Bird Island Cove Restoration</b>	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		70/247	2,000
Bird Island Cove Shoreline Protection Phase I	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		12/126	8,820
<b>Coastal Heritage Preserve</b>	Artist Boat	898		
Gang's Bayou	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		14/9	3,800
GISP Marsh Restoration and Protection in Carancahua and Dana Cove	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		70/0	
GISP Marsh Restoration and Protection in Carancahua Cove Phase II	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		0/70	5,415
GISP Marsh Restoration and Protection in Dana Cove and Oak and Butterow Bayou Phase III	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		0/350	7,550

**Table 3.** Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species. This project will provide benefits to both federally and state listed threatened and endangered species and species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) in the Texas Conservation Action Plan (TCAP). While the SGCN includes additional species for this geographic region, only those listed here are those considered to have a S1 (critically imperiled), S2 (imperiled), or S3 (vulnerable) ranking. Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, March 2023, Teir 1 Project, Region 1 Upper Texas Coast Project 240 Coastal Heritage Preserve.

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within General Vicinity (✓)	Status	Project Benefits	Recovery Plan Supported
Piping plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i>	✓	Federally and State threatened	The CHP protects migratory and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Yes
Rufa red knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	✓	Federally threatened, S3 (non-breeding)	The CHP protects migratory and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Recovery Outline
White-faced ibis <i>Plegadis chihi</i>	✓	State threatened	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects year-round foraging, roosting and nesting habitat	N/A

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within General Vicinity (✓)	Status	Project Benefits	Recovery Plan Supported
Reddish egret <i>Egretta rufescens</i>	✓	State threatened	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects juvenile foraging habitat	N/A
Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	✓	Federally and State threatened S2 (breeding)	The CHP protects year-round foraging, roosting, and nesting habitat and wintering habitat. USFWS confirmed presence of suitable habitat on tracts adjacent to the acquisition site.	Recovery Outline
Northern Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	✘	S3 (non-breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	N/A
Hudsonian Godwit <i>Limosa haemastica</i>	✓	S2	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher <i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	✘	S3 (breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects spring foraging, roosting, and nesting habitat	N/A
Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Acquisition track has habitat used by this species	S3	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects spring foraging, roosting and nesting habitat and migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	N/A
Henslow's Sparrow <i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	Acquisition track has habitat used by this species	S3	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	N/A
Texas Diamondback Terrapin <i>Malaclemys terrapin littoralis</i>	The CHP has habitat used by this species, observed on west end of Galveston Island	S3	The CHP protects year-round habitat including nesting habitat	N/A



<b>Common/ Scientific Name</b>	<b>Observed within General Vicinity (✓)</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Project Benefits</b>	<b>Recovery Plan Supported</b>
Eastern box turtle <i>Terrapene carolina triunguis</i>	Observed on the west end of Galveston Island	S3	The CHP protects year-round habitat including nesting habitat	N/A
Ornate box turtle <i>Terrapene ornata ornata</i>	Observed on the west end of Galveston Island	S3	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects year-round habitat including nesting habitat	N/A
Brown Pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	✓	S3 (breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects year-round habitat	N/A
Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius nivosus</i>	✓	S3 (breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
American Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	✓	S3	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Stilt Sandpiper <i>Calidris himantopus</i>	✓	S3	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Buff-breasted Sandpiper <i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	✓	S2, S3	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Franklins Gull <i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>	✓	S2 (non-breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger (surinamensis)</i>	✓	S3	The acquisition tract and CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
King Rail <i>Rallus elegans</i>	✓	S3 (breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects year-round habitat including nesting habitat	N/A

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within General Vicinity (✓)	Status	Project Benefits	Recovery Plan Supported
Burrowing Owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	✓	S3 (breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	N/A
Chuck-Will's Widow	✓	S3 (non-breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A

**Table 4. Benefits to Coastal-Dependent or Migratory Bird Species.** This project will conserve foraging, roosting, and wintering habitats that benefit numerous coastal-dependent and migratory bird species, including Federal and State threatened species, species in moderate and significant decline (Lester and Gonzales, 2009), species listed on the USFWS 2021 List of Birds of Conservation Concern, Bird Conservation Region 37, Priority species with the Gulf Coast Joint Venture (GCJV) Mottled Duck Conservation Plan and the Texas Conservation Action Plan: Species of Greatest Conservation need in the Gulf Coast Prairies and Gulf of Mexico Ecoregion (TPWD 2011).

The species listed here have been observed on lands now managed as the Coastal Heritage Preserve, at Galveston Island State Park (GISP) ~2 miles to the southwest and on the West End of Galveston Island using the same habitats present at the acquisition tracts. While not all species associated with these two sites may be represented on this tract, GISP has a list of 285 species and most use the same habitats represented on these tracts. The CBC had 166 species documented in 2021. Stopover habitat for water, food, and rest is especially important for many species during Spring migration. For example, GISP routinely documents 33 species of wood warblers every spring despite having limited woodland habitat. Many songbird species use habitat associated with the acquisition tract as stopover habitat during migration. Some examples of those species are included in this table.

This project will also contribute to the goals of several national and regional bird conservation plans. The Gulf Coast Joint Venture's Mottled Duck Conservation Plan (Wilson, 2007) which addresses the importance of viable coastal marsh for various life history needs of the Mottled Duck. This project's non-tidal habitat features support meeting those needs on Galveston Island. This project will implement strategy B-3, to protect, restore and manage priority terrestrial and aquatic habitat for birds, of the Blueprint for the Future of Migratory Birds (USFWS, 2004).

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within the general vicinity (✓)  Observed at the Acquisition Site (✗)	Project Benefits	Specific Management Plan or List
Mottled Duck <i>Anas fulvigula</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, nesting, and breeding habitat	Texas Conservation Action Plan: Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Gulf Coast Prairies and Gulf of Mexico Ecoregion (TCAP-SGCN); GCJV- Mottled Duck Conservation Plan and Priority Species; Coastal Dependent Bird
Blue-winged Teal <i>Anas discors</i>	✓	Protects foraging roosting habitat for migrating and wintering	Wetland Dependent Bird
Northern Shoveler <i>Spatula clypeata</i>	✓	Protects foraging roosting habitat for migrating and wintering	Wetland Dependent Bird
Common Loon <i>Gavia immer</i>	✓	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
Pied-billed Grebe <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	✓	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Brown Pelican <i>Pelicanus occidentalis</i>	✓	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Bird
Neotropic Cormorant\ <i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	✓	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	Galveston Bay Status and Trends, 2007-2008 (moderately decreasing) (GBEP); Wetland Dependent Bird
Double-crested Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax auritis</i>	✓	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Tricolored Heron <i>Egretta tricolor</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging habitat	TCAP-SGCN; 20-year decline in Galveston Bay Status and Trends, 2007- 2008 (moderately decreasing) (GBEP); Coastal Dependent Bird
Reddish Egret <i>Egretta rufescens</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging habitat	USFWS. 2021. Birds of Conservation Concern. Bird Conservation Region 37 (BCR 37); State listed threatened species; Gulf Coast Joint Venture (GCJV)- Reddish Egret Plan and Priority Species; TCAP-SGCN; GBEP (moderately

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within the general vicinity (✓)  Observed at the Acquisition Site (✗)	Project Benefits	Specific Management Plan or List
			decreasing); Coastal Dependent Bird
Great Egret <i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Great Blue Heron <i>Ardea herodias</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging and roosting habitat	GBEP (significant decline); Coastal Dependent Bird
Little Blue Heron <i>Egretta caerulea</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging habitat	TCAP-SGCN; GCJV Priority Species; Wetland Dependent Bird
Roseate Spoonbill <i>Ajaia ajaja</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
Snowy Egret <i>Egretta thula</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Bird
Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
White-faced Ibis <i>Plegadis chihi</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging habitat	State listed threatened species; TCAP-SGCN; GBEP (moderately decreasing); Coastal Dependent Bird
Black-crowned Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging and roosting habitat	GBEP (significant decline); Wetland Dependent Bird
Yellow-crowned Night Heron <i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging and roosting habitat	Wetland Dependent Migratory Bird
White Ibis <i>Eudocimus albus</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
White-tailed Kite <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Grassland Dependent Bird
Northern Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Red-tailed Hawk <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>		Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird

<b>Common/ Scientific Name</b>	<b>Observed within the general vicinity (✓)  Observed at the Acquisition Site (✗)</b>	<b>Project Benefits</b>	<b>Specific Management Plan or List</b>
	✓		
Crested Caracara	✗	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Migratory Bird
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrines</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; State Listed Threatened; Migratory Bird
American Kestrel <i>Falco sparvarius</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	✓	Protects fall through spring foraging and roosting habitat	Wetland Dependent, Migratory Bird
Sandhill Crane <i>Grus canadensis</i>	✓	Protects fall winter foraging habitat	Migratory Bird
Clapper Rail <i>Rallus Longirostris</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, nesting and breeding habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, and breeding habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Bird
Yellow Rail <i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; Migratory Bird
American Coot <i>Fulica americana</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Black-bellied Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	✓	Protects migrating and wintering foraging and roosting habitat	Coastal Dependent Migratory Bird
American Golden-Plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	✓	Protects migrating habitat	Wetland Dependent Migratory Bird
Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; GCJV Priority Species; Coastal Dependent Migratory Bird
Wilson's Plover <i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	✓	Protects spring through fall foraging, roosting, and breeding habitat	BCR 37; Shorebird Conservation Plan (SCP); TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Migratory
Semipalmated Plover <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	✓	Protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird

<b>Common/ Scientific Name</b>	<b>Observed within the general vicinity (✓)  Observed at the Acquisition Site (✗)</b>	<b>Project Benefits</b>	<b>Specific Management Plan or List</b>
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Federal and State listed threatened species; SCP; GCJV Shorebird Plan; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Killdeer <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	✓	Protects migrating, foraging and breeding habitat	Migratory Bird
American Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging and roosting, habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Bird
Black-necked Stilt <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	✓	Protects migrating, foraging, breeding and roosting habitat Spring through Fall	Wetland Dependent Bird
Greater Yellowlegs <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP; Migratory Bird
Willet <i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	✓	Protects year round foraging, roosting nesting, and breeding habitat	Coastal Dependent and Migratory Bird
Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularius</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	✗	Protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP; Migratory Bird
Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP
Long-billed Curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Marbled Godwit <i>Limosa fedoa</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP; Migratory Bird
Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Semipalmated Sandpiper- <i>Calidris pusilla</i>	✓	Protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Western Sandpiper <i>Calidris mauri</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Least Sandpiper <i>Calidris minutella</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
White-rumped Sandpiper <i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	✓	Protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Upland Sandpiper <i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	✓	Protects stopover habitat during migration	Grassland Dependent Bird
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i>	✓	Protects stopover habitat during migration	Migratory Bird
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Stilt Sandpiper <i>Calidris himantopus</i>	✓	Protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird

<b>Common/ Scientific Name</b>	<b>Observed within the general vicinity (✓)  Observed at the Acquisition Site (✗)</b>	<b>Project Benefits</b>	<b>Specific Management Plan or List</b>
Long-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP; Migratory Bird
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>	✓	Protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Caspian Tern <i>Sterna caspia</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	Coastal Dependent
Forster's Tern <i>Sterna forsteri</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent
Gull-billed Tern <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent
Least Tern <i>Sterna antillarum</i>	✓	Protects spring through fall foraging, roosting, and breeding habitat	BCR 37; Migratory Bird
Royal Tern <i>Sterna maxima</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and nesting habitat	Coastal Dependent
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and nesting habitat	BCR 37; Coastal Dependent
Laughing Gull <i>Larus atricilla</i>	✓	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to openwater feeding and loafing habitat	GBEP (moderately decreasing); Coastal Dependent
Black Skimmer <i>Rynchops niger</i>	✓	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent
Belted Kingfisher <i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	✓	Protects wintering forage habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird <i>Archilochus colubris</i>	✓	Protects migrating habitat during migration	Migratory Bird
White-winged Dove <i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Migratory Bird
Mourning Dove <i>Zenaida macroura</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	Migratory Bird
Eastern Kingbird <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	✓	Protects migrating and breeding habitat	Migratory Bird
Eastern Phoebe <i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	✓	Protects migrating and wintering habitat	Migratory Bird
Loggerhead Shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, nesting and breeding habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN
American Robin <i>Turdus migratorius</i>	✓	Protects winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Northern Mockingbird <i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	State Bird of and Migratory Bird
Common Yellowthroat <i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within the general vicinity (✓)  Observed at the Acquisition Site (✗)	Project Benefits	Specific Management Plan or List
Seaside Sparrow <i>Ammodramus maritimus</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, nesting and breeding habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow <i>Ammodramus nesloni</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; Migratory Bird
Le Conte's Sparrow <i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Marsh Wren <i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	✓	Protects year-round habitat for foraging, roosting and breeding	Wetland Dependent Bird
Sedge Wren <i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Dickcissel <i>Spiza Americana</i>	✗	Protects spring through fall foraging, roosting, and breeding habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Eastern Meadowlark <i>Strunella magna</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, nesting and breeding habitat	TCAP-SGCN
Painted Bunting <i>Passerina ciris</i>	✓	Protects migrating foraging and resting habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Summer Tanager <i>Piranga rubra</i>	✗	Protects migrating foraging and resting habitat	Migratory Bird



Photograph 1. Wetland Type PUBHh at the CHP adjacent to the acquisition tract. When inundated these wetlands provide breeding, nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat for resident fish species. Without regular rainfall these wetlands dry up, providing



opportunistic opportunities for avian species to feed on trapped fish and invertebrates including aquatic insect larvae.



Photograph 2. Wetland Type PEM1A at Tract 3 of the acquisition tract.



Photograph 3. Wetland Type PEM1A at Tract 4 of the acquisition tract.

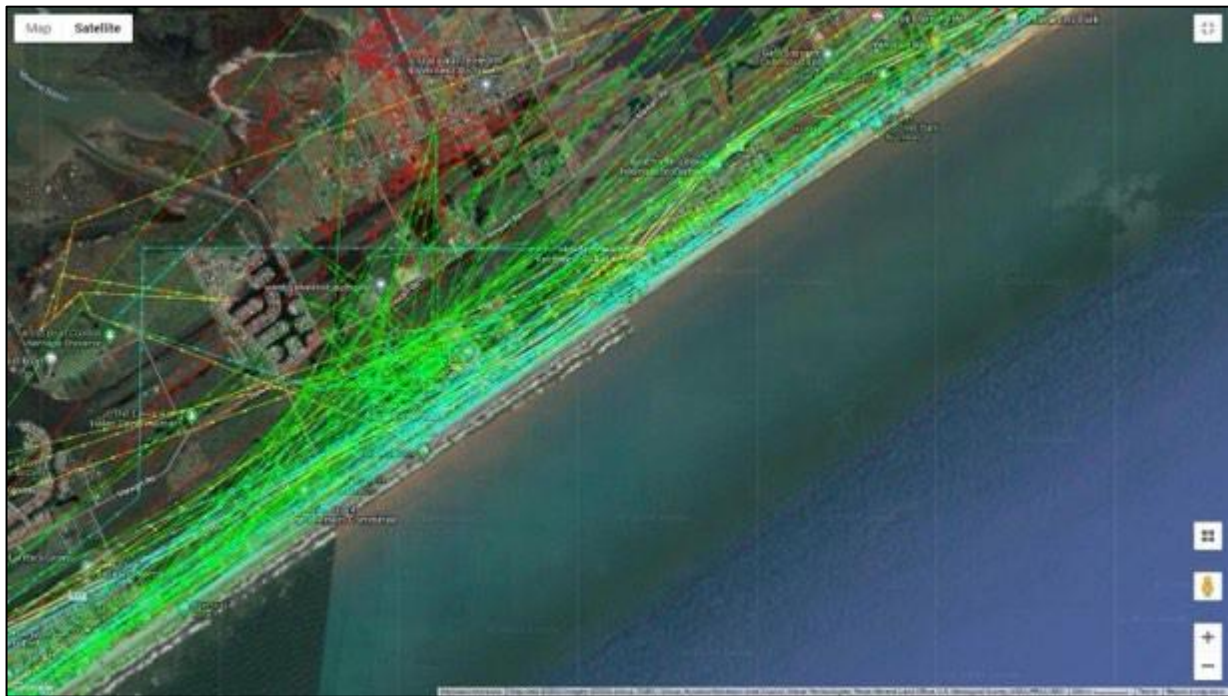




Photograph 4. Coyotes show evidence of red wolf genes on Galveston Island, Texas. Credit: Ron Wooten Photography.



Photograph 5. Coyotes show evidence of red wolf genes on Galveston Island, Texas. Credit: Ron Wooten Photography.



Photograph 6. Coyotes Screenshot of GPS collar pathways for Galveston coyotes on West Galveston Island and on land which includes the CHP and acquisition tracts. These tracts of land have provided multiple sightings of these coyotes since they are undeveloped and contain natural vegetation and refuge for multiple species.

**SECTION SIX: BUDGET DETAILS**

**Grant Payments [see 30 TAC § 14.7(12)]:** All grant payments will be made on the basis of reimbursement for allowable costs (as defined in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E). All payments for awarded proposals will be reimbursements of allowable costs incurred after both parties have entered (signed) a grant agreement for the project.

**Budget.** Authorized budgeted expenditures for work performed are as follows:

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>Cost for Work to be Performed</b>
Salary / Wages	\$0.00
Fringe Benefits (###)% <sup>1</sup>	\$0.00
Travel	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$200,000.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
<b>Total Direct Cost</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>
Indirect Costs	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>

**Indirect Cost Agreement**

Please note: If using a rate different from your entity Indirect Cost Agreement; a letter of exemption from the appropriate authority must be provided with the application, or a statement must be included certifying that the recipient has elected to be reimbursed for an amount less than its total indirect costs, that unreimbursed indirect costs are part of the recipient’s contribution to the success of the project, and that the recipient will pay for all unreimbursed indirect costs using funds available to it for that purpose.

[\[Insert Indirect Cost Agreement or Attach as an Appendix if Applicable\]](#)

**Indirect Cost Reimbursable Rate.** The reimbursable rate for this Contract is ##% of (check one):

- Salary and fringe benefits
- Modified total direct costs
- Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

This rate is less than or equal to (check one):

- Predetermined Rate**— an indirect rate that is negotiated between the Performing Party and its federal cognizant agency and supported by a current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) letter. A Predetermined Rate is not subject to adjustment except as provided by 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 200.411.
- De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of ten percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) in lieu of determining

---

<sup>1</sup> If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.

the actual indirect costs of the service. Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs.

**Provisional Rate**— an experienced-based rate agreed to by Performing Party and TCEQ in the absence of a NICRA rate negotiated with the applicable federal cognizant agency.

**Partial Reimbursement Rate**— a reimbursement rate agreed to between TCEQ and Performing Party that is less than the rate authorized under TxGMS or, where applicable, 2 CFR Part 200. Performing Party contributes all of its unreimbursed indirect costs to the successful performance of the project or projects funded under this Contract, in accordance with Article 9 of this section.

**Other:**

**Other.** If Budget Category “Other” is greater than \$25,000 or more than 10% of total Contract budget, identify the main constituents:

[Description of costs associated with “Other” budget category.]

**Total Project Estimated Costs (Budget Narrative)**

<b>Land Acquisition</b>	\$12,290,700
<b>Due diligence (service provider, appraisals, survey, phase I)</b>	\$60,750
<b>Artist Boat Project Management</b>	\$15,000
<b>Legal (contract review, closing)</b>	\$25,000
<b>Conservation Easement</b>	\$60,500
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$12,450,950</b>

**Potential Federal Funding Sources**

GOMESA	\$3,000,000
NCWGCP	\$1,000,000
NOAA BIL (GLO applying on behalf of Artist Boat)	\$6,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,000,000</b>

**Potential Non-Federal Funding Sources**

Foundations and Individual Donors	\$29,700
Artist Boat (cash)	\$303,634
<b>Total nonfederal contributions</b>	<b>\$433,634</b>

**Additional Funding that may be Federal or Non-Federal**

Artist Boat (cash)	<b>\$1,917,616</b>
--------------------	--------------------

<b>Requested TCEQ GBEP NRU Subcommittee Contribution</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
--	------------------



**SECTION SEVEN: CONTRACT REQUIREMENT [see 30 TAC § 14.7(15)]:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if you become a successful grant recipient selected for a grant award, you must enter into a signed grant agreement or contract with TCEQ following the announcement of that award.

**SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Please read and understand the following:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that information on how grant payments will be made is contained in the Budget Details section describing direct and possibly indirect costs. You further acknowledge that grant payments will be reimbursements on the basis of allowable costs incurred and that selected recipients will receive contract documents addressing allowable costs, unallowable costs, and reimbursement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge your understanding that Project Proposals do not require matching funds and that a TCEQ director does not need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if GBEP elects to hold a pre-submittal meeting relating to this Project Proposal, GBEP will notify you of the meeting's time and location indicating whether attendance is mandatory.

**SECTION NINE: QUESTIONS AND PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETINGS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13) and 30 TAC § 14.7(14)]:**

- There are no pre-submittal meetings scheduled.
- For requests for additional, pre-submittal information [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13)], please contact the corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page.
- 

**SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS**

In submitting your Project Proposal, please refer and adhere to the following instructions and guidelines concerning materials and information required to be submitted by potential grant recipients:

- GBEP intends to accept only complete Projected Proposals in a layout and format constituting a filled version of this proposal document with all applicable sections therein addressed; however, GBEP may, in its sole discretion, consider and accept nonconforming Project Proposals in the best interest of the state.
- Unless otherwise specified by GBEP, formal signatures are not required on Project Proposals.
- Unless otherwise communicated or implied, GBEP requires 1 (one) completed copy of your Project Proposal per corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator.
- Project Proposals must be received electronically, through the email address of the relevant Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page, by the deadline listed on both this page and the first page of this Project Proposal document.

**Submittal Process and Deadline [see 30 TAC § 14.7(8) and 30 TAC § 14.7(9)]:  
Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by  
**August 5, 2024** to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:**

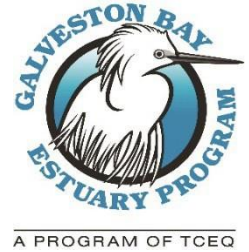
WSQ Subcommittee  
[Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov)

NRU Subcommittee  
[Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov)

PPE Subcommittee  
[Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov) and [Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov)

M&R Subcommittee  
[Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov)

# Galveston Bay Estuary Program Fiscal 2026 NRU Project Proposal



Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by **August 5, 2024**. No late submittals will be considered for funding.

This Call for Project Proposals complies with 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 14.7, which lays out requirements for a competitive solicitation by TCEQ for grant awards. For convenience, specific citations to 30 TAC § 14.7 are identified in the text.

## SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

**Purpose [required by 30 TAC § 14.7(1)]:** The purpose of the proposed grant from the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), a program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), is to implement *The Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (the Plan), a comprehensive conservation and management plan falling under Section 320, of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1330), for a designated national estuary in the State of Texas.

**Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]:** The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for FY2026 (FY2026 Priority Area Actions) that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for fiscal 2026 at the June 2024 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

**Authority [see 30 TAC § 14.7(2)]:** Grants issued by GBEP under this solicitation are authorized by: the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) § 320 (33 UNITED STATES CODE § 1330), commonly referred to as the National Estuary Program; TEX. WATER CODE § 5.124; and 30 TAC ch. 14.

**Match Requirement [see 30 TAC § 14.7(10) and 30 TAC § 14.7(11)]:** No matching funds are required. Therefore, there is no need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.

**Multiple Awards [see 30 TAC § 14.7(7)]:** GBEP anticipates awarding funds for multiple proposals. GBEP intends to award grants to that combination of proposals which best implements the Plan, factoring in all criteria identified in this Call for Project Proposals, the availability of funds, and the most effective division of funds between awards.

## SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL - GENERAL INFORMATION

**Subcommittee:**

NRU

**Project Name:**

The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through a 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract, Galveston Island, Texas

Project Previously Funded by GBEP?      Yes       No

**Lead Implementer / Categories of Eligible Recipients [see 30 TAC § 14.7(3)]:**

The lead implementer must be in one of the following categories of eligible recipients. Please indicate which category applies to your entity. If the proposing party is not already paired with a lead implementer in one of the categories listed below, the proposing party will need to partner with an eligible recipient in one of these categories to be selected for funding. Please reach out to GBEP staff with any questions.

- Federal, State, or Local Government       Council of Government       Public ISDs or Universities  
 Nonprofit       Other\*

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) in Partnership with Artist Boat, Inc. (AB)



**Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:**

EVA9NVGH2K85

AND:

**VIN or Tax ID:**

74-1680372

**Contact Information:**

Project Representative Name	Savannah Horton
Project Representative Phone	346-733-3400
Project Representative Email	Savannah.horton@tpwd.texas.gov

**Amount Requested from GBEP:**

\$200,000

Federal  State  No Preference Is the project scalable? **Amount Requested per year (if applicable):**

FY 2026 (09/01/2025-08/31/2026)	\$200,000.00
FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	\$0.00
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	\$200,000.00

**Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2025 - ending no later than May 31, 2028) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:**

September 1, 2025 - December 31, 2027

**Project Urgency:**

Galveston Island and the proposed project are in Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes Region (Figure 1). Historically, the west end had a continuous band of coastal prairie habitats interspersed with brackish to freshwater marshes. The proposed acquisition consists of tract 2 of the remaining Middle Tracts within this region and they encompass 40 acres of undeveloped coastal prairie habitat (Figure 3). Additionally, these three tracts of land are specifically critical habitat for important migratory bird species and there is a pack of coyotes known to have red wolf DNA that have site fidelity to the CHP (Table 3-4, Photographs 6-9).

The acquisition tract is directly adjacent to tracts within the Coastal Heritage Preserve (CHP) that protect a portion of a brackish to freshwater slough that runs through the middle of the west end of Galveston Island and supports important freshwater emergent marsh habitat. Artist Boat owns and manages roughly 19,000 linear feet of the slough south of Stewart Road (Figure 2). The purchase of this tract and the 164 acres that is a part of the 10th Addition project would complete the protection of this portion of the slough and add an additional 1,600 linear feet to the CHP. This will also maintain connection to the sloughs and open water systems north of Stewart Road and along the west end of Galveston Island (Figure 2). Therefore, this acquisition will provide a critical buffer from development and habitat fragmentation within the CHP. Although the property is not for sale, the landowner has selected to sell this land for conservation, which if not purchased will be planned for the future development of 163 single family homes on an adjacent property. This development would greatly impact the adjacent conserved lands through the fragmentation of the sloughs, non-point source runoff, as well as light and noise pollution.

Artist Boat has been successful at conserving 1,039 acres (including an ongoing transaction totaling 141 acres that will close in August, Figure 4). The majority of these acquisitions were accomplished because there have been willing sellers. There have been willing sellers because funding has been available for the purchases. If conservation funding slows down or ceases to exist, the land will continue to be threatened by development. Artist Boat has a willing seller letter from the landowner to purchase the remaining 40.237 acres for \$3,819,000. The letter documents their participation and their permission for Artist Boat to seek funding for the purchase of these tracts and to conduct due diligence activities (Figure 5).

**Total Project Cost (including Leveraging Amounts, if any; provide leveraging information where indicated below):**

\$3,941,950

Is this an estimate?

**Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):**

TPWD in partnership with AB has submitted a proposal to the 2025 NCWCGP funding opportunity requesting \$1M cash, Artist Boat will provide the balance of the project cost \$2,638,316 and required match (\$303,634) in cash. Funded projects are expected to be announced March 2025.

Artist Boat has received a financial commitment from 13 individual donors and foundations for \$29,700, letters of commitment are in Appendix G. Artist Boat has applied for a GOMESA Project of Special Merit Grant from the Texas General Land Office's (GLO) Cycle 30 CMP funding for \$2,000,000. The remainder of the funding required to purchase this tract will be accomplished by a combination of state and private funding opportunities, private fundraising and Artist Boat's fund- raising campaign, #BeOneInAMillion ( <https://www.artistboat.org/be-one-in-a-million/> ). This campaign is asking "1 million people to donate \$10 to save the wilds of Galveston Island!"

**Partners\* and Their Roles:**

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Coastal Fisheries Department** - Pass-through funding partner, grant management for NCWCGP grant (if awarded) and TCEQ GBEP NRU (if awarded) up until closing of property.

**Artist Boat** - Is responsible for financial costs of all expenses associated with acquiring the land (due diligence, administrative and legal, developing documents (conservation easements and memorandums of understanding and contracts), and transaction assistance., all Will hold a conservation easement and be responsible for management, monitoring, and stewardship of the property.

**Shead Conservation Solutions** - Assisting Artist Boat in the acquisition process, writing grant applications, and managing the due diligence completion for the project.

**Galveston Independent School District** - as public governmental entity will be the ultimate fee simple title holder. Artist Boat will hold a conservation easement and be responsible for perpetual management, monitoring, and stewardship of the property.

**\*If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted under the application.**

### **SECTION THREE: GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION IMPLEMENTATION**

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

The FY2026 Priority Area Actions are found at:

<https://gbep.texas.gov/ensure-safe-human-and-aquatic-life-use/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/protect-and-sustain-living-resources/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/engage-communities/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/inform-science-based-decision-making/>

#### **Acquire land or development rights to permanently preserve habitats vital to the health of the Galveston Bay watershed:**

This project and the acquisition of the proposed 40 acres will implement multiple of the FY2026 priority area actions. The project will acquire undeveloped habitats within the Galveston Bay watershed as a whole and will permanently preserve them from development.

#### **Enhance existing habitats to increase overall function and productivity:**

The acquisition of these tracts will enhance the existing habitats previously preserved within CHP lands and add to the preservation of a complete coastal complex within the Galveston Bay watershed. It will protect adjacent lands and the slough running through the Middle Tracts from development, fragmentation, and any associated runoff and light pollution.

#### **Support projects that sustain and restore native species populations and support projects that reduce invasive species:**

Artist Boat is the permanent steward of the habitats within the CHP, and they actively manage the land to sustain and enhance native species and remove invasives from the property. Maintenance and management projects implemented within the CHP are developed by a technical advisory committee consisting of resource agencies and local communities.

#### **Develop new and support existing stewardship programs and volunteer opportunities for stakeholders:**

Artist Boat will provide Habitat Restoration Adventures on this land to restore prairies with students and provide Sea Citizens with training to remove invasive species and mow to mimic fire.

#### **Support and promote workshops and events that facilitate stakeholder and partner involvement:**

Artist Boat plans to work with the Karankawa Kalda on a land acknowledgement ceremony for these new lands being added to the Coastal Heritage Preserve, provide access for proper nature-based ceremonies, and eventually have this be a part of a 3-mile walking trail with interpretive signage inclusive of their history of place on the land. Additionally, special care will be given to integrate the fee title holder, Galveston Independent School District in the design and goals of interpretation for learners' engagement.

#### **Develop new and support existing programs in Galveston Bay that change behaviors and attitudes in Galveston Bay with a focus on adult education:**

Artist Boat will integrate this land into use during walking and birding adventures for K-Grey learners with Dusk to Dawn Access for adult engagement, the addition will provide more land and more opportunity to increase Sea Citizen participation. This is volunteer program to engage adults in land stewardship weekly or monthly utilizing their expertise regularly. The land will also be used for one time volunteer events which engage corporate, university, and other adult clubs or organizations.

#### **Develop new and support existing K-12 Galveston Bay estuary-related curricular materials for regional use:**

Artist Boat will use the land to support Professional Development for teachers with new or existing developed curriculum that are integrated across disciplines to teach teachers how to teach about Galveston Bay and its public trust resources.

#### **Support nonpoint source education and outreach campaigns:**

Artist Boat's mission, and Artist Boat's programs are all specifically designed to increase environmental awareness and to develop stewardship for coastal wetlands conservation for K-Grey participants. Artist Boat

is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting awareness and preservation of coastal margins and the marine environment through the disciplines of the sciences and the arts. Artist Boat's vision is to pioneer educational programming and partnerships for integrated artistic and scientific exploration, interpretation, and preservation of coastal margins and marine ecosystems. This project will help facilitate their mission.

The CHP will serve as a platform for delivery of Artist Boat's environmental educational programs. These programs have a strong emphasis on place-based and experiential learning and are centered on creating foundational knowledge of estuarine ecology, human uses and human impacts of estuarine and coastal resources, and how humans can take actions to protect and enhance coastal habitats and the environmental quality of Galveston Island and West Galveston Bay. These programs include education on water conservation and nonpoint source pollution. Artist Boat's programming has served 180,000+ participants over the last 21 years. Specific programs Artist Boat will deliver at the CHP will include K-12 eco-art workshops and adventures, public and private eco-art adventures (birding, kayaking, world ocean day festival etc.), eco-art public art program (bucket brigade, seawall interpretive trail), habitat restoration adventures (K-Grey).

The CHP provides low impact public use opportunities, bird and nature watching and trail walking and has plans to increase public use opportunities. Such as creating a three-mile low impact walking trail.

As the permanent steward of the CHP, Artist Boat has been and will continue work with resource agencies and local community organizations through Technical Advisory Committees to develop stewardship and maintenance plans for the property, providing more opportunities for public involvement in the project.

**Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:**

Plan Priority 2: Protect and Sustain Living Resources

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| HC-1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HC-2 <input type="checkbox"/>            | HC-3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  |
| SC-1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | SC-2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |   |
| FWI-1 <input type="checkbox"/>           | FWI-2 <input type="checkbox"/>           | FWI-3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**Plan Priority Area Actions Detail:**

**HC1-** Develops a grant proposal and funding strategy for an acquisition project and plans to acquire land that preserves habitat vital to the Galveston Bay watershed.

**HC-2** Through active management of preserved property, the native habitats are continually being enhanced and managed to promote habitat quality, such as invasive species removal.

**SC1 & SC2-** The project acquires land that preserves habitat vital to the Galveston Bay watershed. Once land is acquired, the property will be managed to sustain and restore native species populations, including the control and reduction of invasive species populations.

**FWI3 -** Artist Boat teaches K-Grey learners in all its programs about water quality and conservation. The land is used for these programs and to demonstrate how land and wetland filter and improve water quality, how humans use and compete with nature for freshwater through discussions about importance of maintaining freshwater inflows to the bay, how humans impact and degrade water through actions related to overuse or waste and non-point source pollution.

**Does the project implement any other *Galveston Bay Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* Priority Area Actions, or the other Subcommittee priorities?**

- WSQ (Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use)
- PPE (Engage Communities)
- M&R (Inform Science-Based Decision Making)

**Other Subcommittee Detail:**

SPO1, SPO2, PEA1, PEA2, PEA3, NPS-2: Artist Boat's mission, and Artist Boat's programs are all specifically designed to increase environmental awareness and to develop support for coastal wetlands conservation. Artist Boat's vision is to pioneer educational programming and partnerships for integrated artistic and scientific exploration, interpretation, and preservation of coastal margins and marine ecosystems. This project will help facilitate their mission and their educational programs develop stewardship programs and volunteer opportunities through activities like their habitat restoration adventures. They also host workshops and events, such as world ocean day festival, seawall interpretive trail, etc. that promote stakeholder and partner engagement in stewardship and conservation. They have programs specifically dedicate to educate K-12 students, but also have programs that are open to adult education and participation. They engage in key issues that are impacting the Galveston Bay watershed and provide educational opportunities for participants to learn how they can change behaviors and attitudes to positively affect the Galveston Bay estuary. These programs include education on water conservation and nonpoint source pollution.

**Other Plans Implemented:**

The project would implement multiple natural resource goals of numerous coastal ecosystem and watershed management plans and efforts including regional plans, statewide plans and plans specific to the Galveston Bay system and West Galveston Bay. The individual management plans or efforts and how the proposed project implements the management plan's goals are provided in Table 1.

**SECTION FOUR: SUBCOMMITTEE PRIORITIES / FACTORS TO BE USED TO SELECT AWARDS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(6)]**

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

**NRU Subcommittee Identified Priorities**

*Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.*

- Habitat acquisition.
- Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts.
  - Special emphasis on adaptive management for previously completed projects.
- Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
  - Special emphasis on projects addressing seagrasses, intertidal reef/shell hash, and benthic mapping.
  - Any species monitoring projects should be a collaboration/partnership between subcommittees.
- Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple goal benefits to the subcommittee.
- Take into consideration the results of the Estuary Resilience Action Plan.
- Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost.

**Subcommittee Priority Detail:**

The project is a land acquisition project that will be managed to sustain and restore native species populations including the control and reduction of invasive species populations. The project may benefit federal, and state listed species and species listed on the species of greatest conservation need, including non-game wildlife (Table 3). This project will add to the acquisition and restoration efforts that have occurred in West Bay over the last 20 years, increasing and enhancing the resource values of a larger landscape, the West Bay Corridor Conservation Initiative (Table 2).

If funded by NCWCGP for the requested \$1M (including the additional required match), funded by GOMESA for \$2,000,000, and the \$100,000 requested from the NRU, this project will leverage \$3,100,000.

If AB is unable to accomplish the acquisition, the land will be at risk of development. A nearby tract, that was originally part of the Middle Tract suite has now been slated for development and is no longer available for conservation efforts.

**Does the Project work with new, smaller communities/partnerships?**

- Yes
- No

In 2024 Artist Boat met with representatives from the Karankawa tribal community to welcome their involvement and support in the preservation of their ancestral lands on Galveston Island. They are committed to supporting all applications for this and other historical lands to become a part of the Coastal Heritage Preserve. Additionally, they are committed to having a land acknowledgement ceremony for the new lands and existing land.

Artist Boat has partnered on educational programs with Galveston ISD for over 21 years. It is new that they have decided to take a pivotal role by holding simple fee title to the lands proposed for acquisition in order to help secure land for conservation through funding not availed to non-profits through larger grants for land acquisition. The district believes in land conservation and nature access for a community to be engaged in lifelong learning. Additionally, the district has to respond frequently to issues that represent a lack of resilience during hurricanes and flooding, and they see this land conservation as a direct contributor to a resilient and flourishing coastal community.

**SECTION FIVE: PROPOSAL DETAILS**

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.

**Project Summary:**

The objective of this project is to purchase, in fee simple, and conserve in perpetuity approximately 40 acres of coastal habitats. The purchased tract would be added to and be managed as part of the 898-acre (one ongoing project would add another 141 acres, closing in August of 2024) Coastal Heritage Preserve.

**Full Project Description (1,000 words or less):**

The objective of this project is to purchase, in fee simple, and conserve in perpetuity approximately 40 acres of coastal habitats. The purchased tract would be added to and be managed as part of the 898-acre (one ongoing project would add another 141 acres, closing in August of 2024) Coastal Heritage Preserve. TPWD is also submitting a 2026 proposal to the TCEQ NRU GBEP Subcommittee for the acquisition of an additional 164 acres directly adjacent to this tract titled "The 10th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through a 4th acquisition at Middle Tract".

The proposed acquisition tract (Figures 2-4 and Table 1 of Appendix A) will directly benefit and protect approximately forty (40) acres of coastal prairie. While the tract does not contain wetland habitat according to NWI data, ground truthing site did reveal the presence of hydric soils as well as obligate and facultative wetland plants species. However, the required hydrology to flag this site as containing wetland habitat was not present. The project will acquire coastal habitats that will provide habitat to avian and mammalian species and potentially threatened and endangered species described in Tables 3 and 4. This project will conserve breeding, nesting, foraging, roosting, and wintering habitats that benefit numerous coastal-dependent and migratory bird species. The project will protect 1,039 acres adjacent to these 40 acres and support an important system of sloughs connecting the middle of the island to the bay and the entire conserved area. However, the primary goal is protecting these 40 acres from development. Any development would greatly impact the adjacent conserved lands through the fragmentation of the sloughs, non-point source runoff, light, and noise pollution.

The overall conservation benefits of the proposed project, combined with existing and ongoing coastal habitat restoration/protection efforts (Tables 1 and 2) within West Galveston Bay will help to maintain and improve the physical and biological integrity of the coastal ecosystem along the southern shoreline of West Galveston Bay and Galveston Island including protecting and restoring functions that enhance water quality and ultimately protecting West Galveston Bay's long term productivity and biodiversity.

Protecting the integrity of Galveston Island also provides significant benefits in protecting human investments in the coastal zone.

**Latitude/Longitude (Optional):**

29°13'57.24"N, 94°55'5.6064"W

**Location:**

San Jacinto-Brazos Coastal Basin Watershed- Lower Galveston Bay Watershed- West Galveston Bay

Projects Map

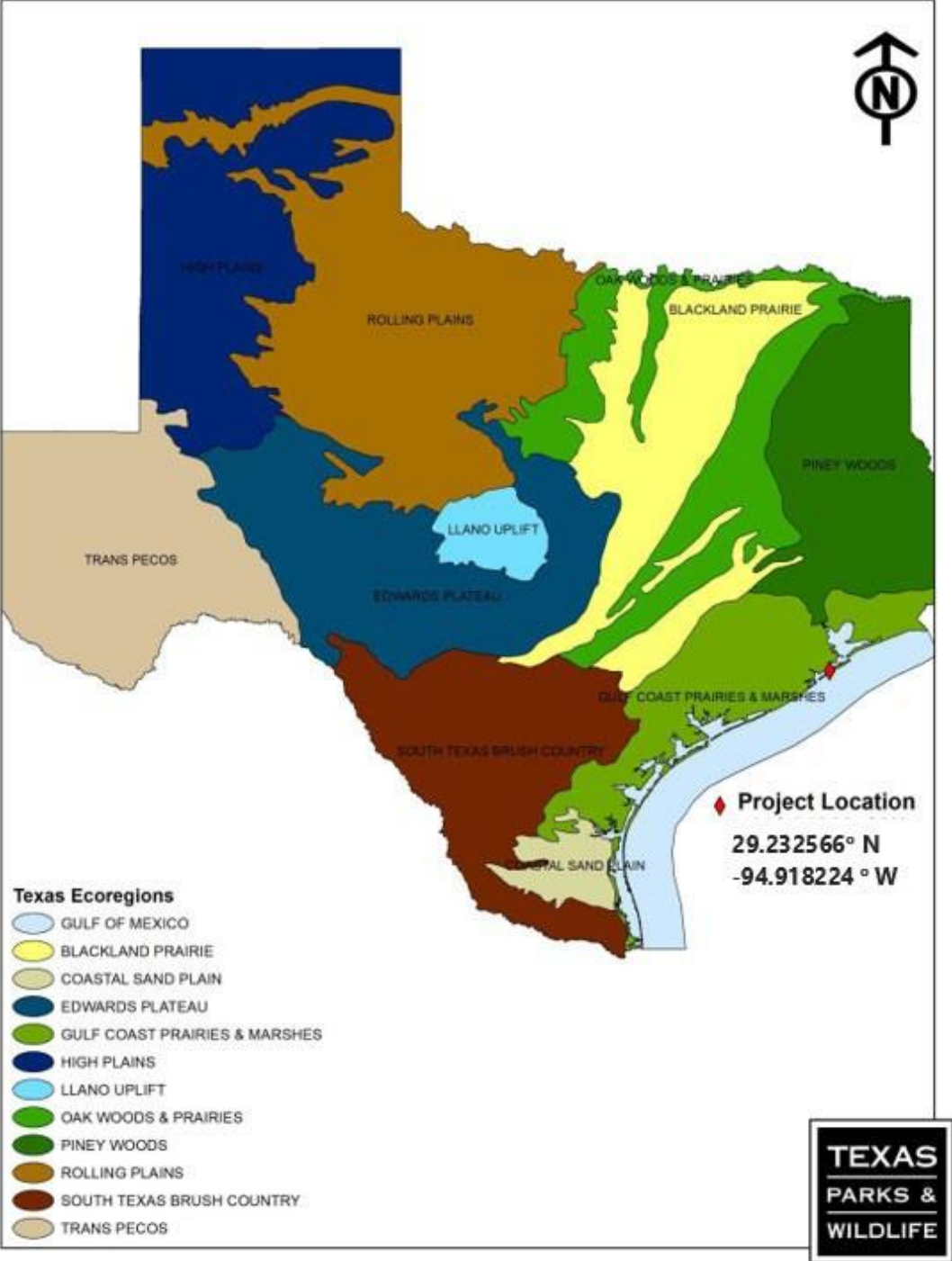


Figure 1. The proposed project is located between West Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico along the south shoreline of West Galveston Island, Texas



Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

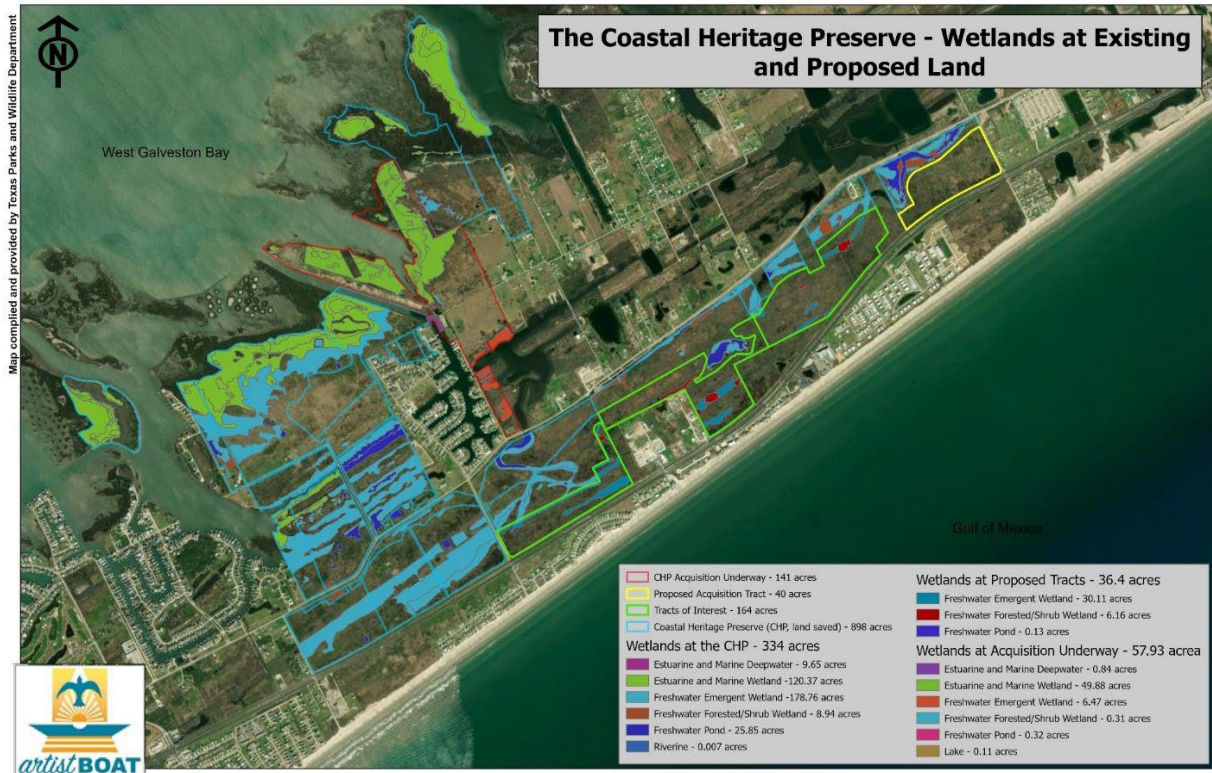
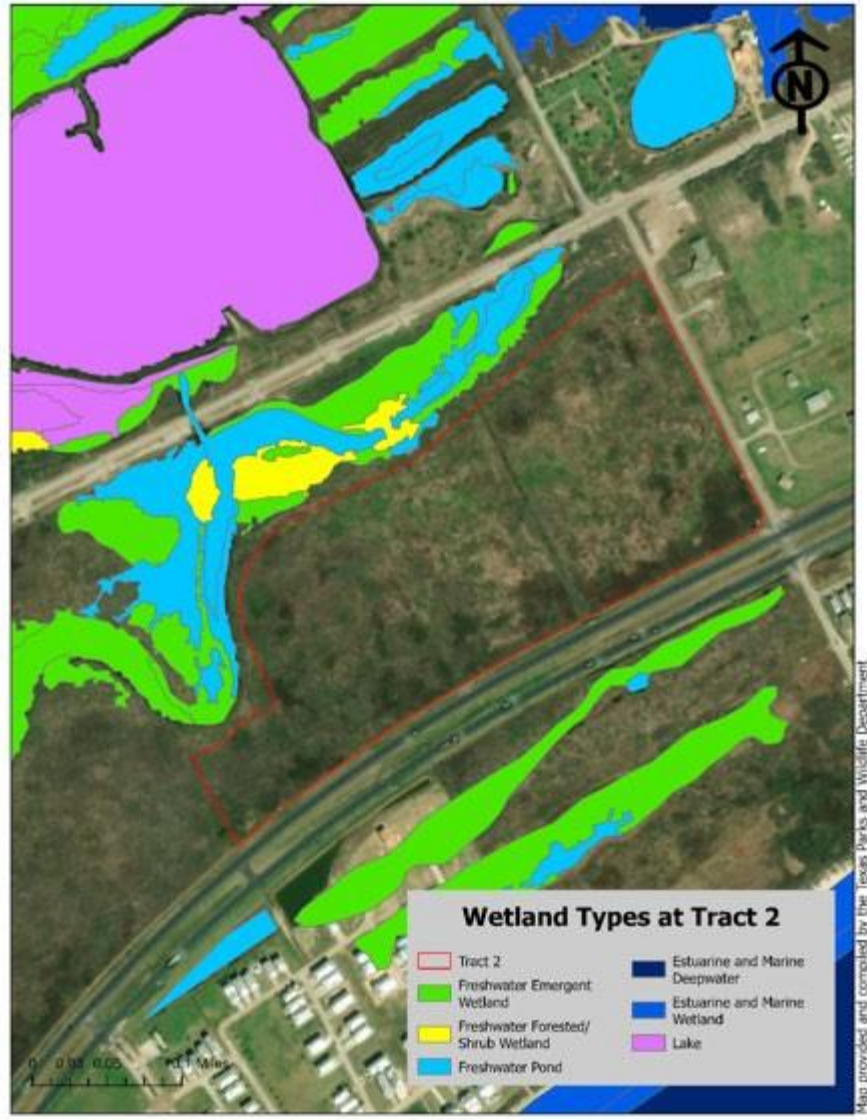
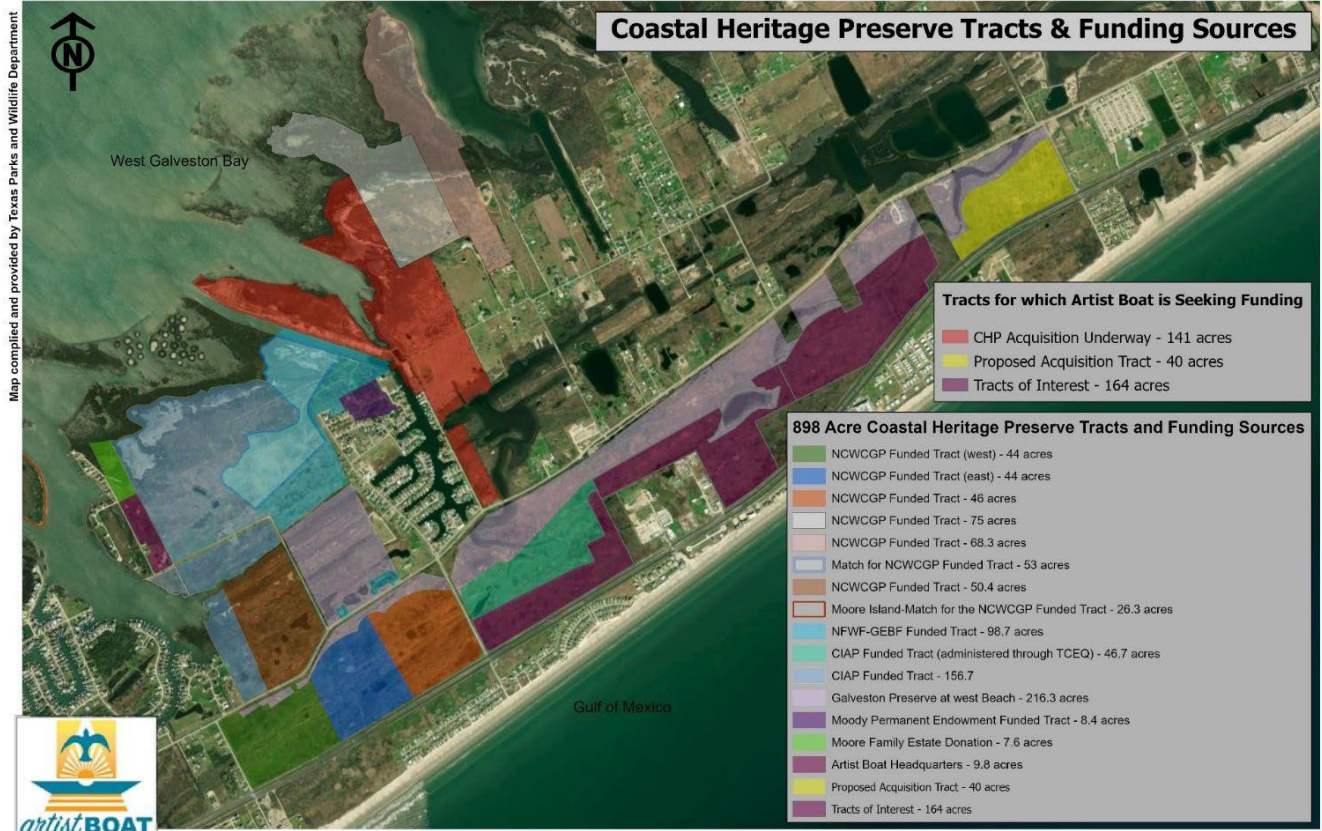


Figure 2. Existing Acreage and Wetland Habitats within the Coastal Heritage Preserve and Proposed Acquisition Tract.



**Figure 3 Wetland Types and Amounts at the proposed Acquisition Tract.**





**Figure 4. Existing Acreage and Funding Sources within the Coastal Heritage Preserve and Proposed Acquisition Tract.**

# Ohana Development, LLC

P. O. Box 3809  
Galveston Texas 77552

21May 2024

Karla Klay  
Artist Boat  
13330 Settegast Road  
Galveston, Texas 77554

Dear Ms. Klay,

Ohana Development, LLC is prepared to sell a tract of land it owns on West Galveston Island in a single transaction. Ohana Development, LLC is prepared to sell the tract of land to Artist Boat to be used for conservation purposes and offers this willing seller letter as documentation of its' interest in participating in this sale as long as the transaction is commercially feasible.

Ohana Development, LLC understands that the purchase of this land by Artist Boat will be contingent upon a combination of governmental grant funding, private foundation grant funding and private funds raised by Artist Boat.

Ohana Development, LLC owns a 40.237 acre tract located at the intersections of FM3005 and 8 Mile Road. The tract is shown in the attached survey.

As discussed, Ohana Development, LLC is prepared to sell this tract at \$95,000/acre and is asking to be made aware of all grant applications made and all awards granted in this transaction. Ohana Development, LLC also requests copies of the yellow-book appraisal that will be done on its' land. If the grants are awarded and all other necessary funds raised, Ohana Development, LLC will proceed expeditiously as the seller to complete the conveyance of the Tract to Artist Boat, to be preserved in perpetuity for habitat conservation. If the Tract is conveyed, Ohana Development, LLC makes a final requirement that Artist Boat maintains the existing drainage easements that exist and are shown on the survey-these easements work to manage drainage not only for TxDOT but also for neighborhoods seaward of FM3005.

Respectfully submitted



Debbie Reinhart, Managing Member

**Figure 5.** Willing Seller Letter

**Table 1.** Coastal Watershed Management. This project supports the natural resource goals of numerous coastal ecosystem and watershed management plans including both statewide plans and plans specific to the Galveston Bay system and West Galveston Bay.

<b>Management Plan or effort</b>	<b>How this plan implements management plan goals</b>
<i>Texas Coastal Management Program</i>	Preserves, restore, and enhances the diversity, quality, quantity, functions and values of coastal natural resource areas.
<i>Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan</i>	This project is a Tier 1 project within the March 2023 Region 1 Upper Texas Coast Project List as Project 240.
<i>Texas Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan</i>	Prioritizes: certain CNRAs (coastal wetlands, coastal barriers, special hazard areas), certain other habitats (for rare, threatened, or endangered species; coastal prairies), other conservation lands (e.g., lands that provide connectivity and buffers to existing protected lands), and public access/recreation areas, each of which occurs with this project.
<i>Texas Wetlands Conservation Plan</i>	Enhances wetland resources with respect to function and value through voluntary conservation of the quality, quantity, and diversity of Texas wetlands.
<i>Coastal Wetlands Acquisition Plan for Texas</i>	Assists in the goal on no net loss of coastal wetland functions and values through preservation.
<i>Galveston Bay Estuary Program’s Galveston Bay Plan</i>	Protect [and restore] wetlands, the number one management action of the Galveston Bay system.
<i>Galveston Bay Foundation Habitat Conservation Blueprint</i>	Restore and protect important Galveston Bay habitats, including estuarine intertidal marsh. Supports conservation of habitat identified as a priority conservation site.
<i>Gulf Coast Joint Venture’s Texas Mid-Coast and Chenier Plain Initiative Plans and Mottled Duck Conservation Plan</i>	Conserves migratory birds and their habitats along the western U.S. Gulf of Mexico.
<i>Texas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy 2005-2010</i>	Conserves habitats within the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes Ecoregion and conserves coastal area in the Galveston Bay system.
<i>U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan Lower Mississippi/Western Gulf Coast Shorebird Planning Region</i>	Conserve Gulf coastal habitat, one of the most important regions in the United States for migratory shorebirds, and waterbirds.
<i>West Galveston Island Greenprint for Growth</i>	Conserves Galveston Island’s west end prairies and marshes and is in the priority habitat conservation area of the Greenprint.
<i>The Nature Conservancy’s Coast Prairies &amp; Marshes Ecoregional Conservation Plan</i>	Preserves habitat within the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes ecoregion.
<i>West [Galveston] Bay Conservation Initiative</i>	Protect habitats along Galveston Bay.
<i>Comprehensive Plan a Shared Vision for Galveston Island</i>	Preserves and protect sensitive natural resources, including wetlands and permanently protect open space on Galveston Island.

Management Plan or effort	How this plan implements management plan goals
<i>Long-Term Community Recovery Plan-City of Galveston, Texas</i>	Implements one of the projects in the plan, addressing land conservation for ecological services and hazard mitigation during storms.

**Table 2. West Bay Corridor Conservation Initiative**

This project will add to the acquisition and restoration efforts that have occurred in West Bay over the last 20 years, increasing and enhancing the resource values of a larger landscape, the West Bay Corridor Conservation Initiative.

(**Bold font** indicates a NCWCGP funded project. ♦Indicates on-going project)

Project	Lead Conservation Entity(s)	Conserved (acres)	Restored / Protected (acres)	Shoreline Protected (linear feet)
Virginia Point Peninsula Preserve	Scenic GALVESTON Inc.	1,464		10,200
SCENIC GALVESTON John Q. O'Quinn Estuarial Corridor Preserve	Scenic GALVESTON Inc.	900	80	
Pierce Marsh	Galveston Bay Foundation / The Nature Conservancy-Texas	1,361	413	
Harbor Walk	Scenic Galveston Inc.	215		
Shoreline Protection at Tiki Island	Village of Tiki Island		8	1,000
<b>Hall's Lake Restoration</b>	Galveston Bay Estuary Program		475	2,500
<b>West Bay Bird Island</b>	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Texas General Land Office		34	600
Beach Pocket Park #4	Galveston County	71		
Dos Vacas Muertas Bird Sanctuary	Houston Audubon Society	6		
Snake Island Cove	Galveston Bay Foundation /NOAA		265	
Estuary Restoration Act (McAllis Point)	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Texas General Land Office		61	7,442
<b>McAllis Point Land Acquisition Phase I</b>	Trust for Public Land, Galveston County, Texas General Land Office, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	60		
Ostermayer Bayou	Trust for Public Land, Galveston County	85		
Recovery Act: Restoring Estuarine Habitat in West Galveston Bay (Carancahua Cove/Jumbile Cove)	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		199/130	6,794/ 9,898
<b>Jumbile Cove Phase I and II Marsh Restoration</b>	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department		97/89	2,800
<b>Galveston Island State Park Restoration</b>	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		930	13,500
Galveston Island State Park	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	1,930		
<b>Delehide Cove</b>	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department		200	10,500

Project	Lead Conservation Entity(s)	Conserved (acres)	Restored / Protected (acres)	Shoreline Protected (linear feet)
Bob Moore Island	Galveston Bay Foundation / Cabeza de Vaca / Artist Boat	26		
Lafitte's Cove Nature Preserve	Lafitte's Cove Nature Society	20		
<b>Starvation Cove Marsh Restoration</b>	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		384	3,200
Sweetwater Lake Preserve	Galveston Bay Foundation	458	5	1,000
<b>North Deer Island Bird Sanctuary</b>	Houston Audubon Society Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	7	2/151	9,000
Starvation Gap Restoration	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department		38/23	1,400
<b>Bird Island Cove Restoration</b>	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		70/247	2,000
Bird Island Cove Shoreline Protection Phase I	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		12/126	8,820
<b>Coastal Heritage Preserve</b>	Artist Boat	898		
Gang's Bayou	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		14/9	3,800
GISP Marsh Restoration and Protection in Carancahua and Dana Cove	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		70/0	
GISP Marsh Restoration and Protection in Carancahua Cove Phase II	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		0/70	5,415
GISP Marsh Restoration and Protection in Dana Cove and Oak and Butterow Bayou Phase III	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		0/350	7,550

**Table 3. Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species.** This project will provide benefits to both federally and state listed threatened and endangered species and species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) in the Texas Conservation Action Plan (TCAP). While the SGCN includes additional species for this geographic region, only those listed here are those considered to have a S1 (critically imperiled), S2 (imperiled), or S3 (vulnerable) ranking. Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, March 2023, Teir 1 Project, Region 1 Upper Texas Coast Project 240 Coastal Heritage Preserve.

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within General Vicinity (✓)	Status	Project Benefits	Recovery Plan Supported
Rufa red knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	✓	Federally threatened, S3 (non-breeding)	The CHP protects migratory and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Recovery Outline
White-faced ibis <i>Plegadis chihi</i>	✓	State threatened	The CHP protects year-round foraging, roosting and nesting habitat	N/A

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within General Vicinity (✓)	Status	Project Benefits	Recovery Plan Supported
Reddish egret <i>Egretta rufescens</i>	✓	State threatened	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects juvenile foraging habitat	N/A
Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	✓	Federally and State threatened S2 (breeding)	The CHP protects year-round foraging, roosting, and nesting habitat and wintering habitat. USFWS confirmed presence of suitable habitat on tracts adjacent to the acquisition site.	Recovery Outline
Northern Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	✘	S3 (non-breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	N/A
Hudsonian Godwit <i>Limosa haemastica</i>	✓	S2	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher <i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	✘	S3 (breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects spring foraging, roosting, and nesting habitat	N/A
Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Acquisition track has habitat used by this species	S3	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects spring foraging, roosting and nesting habitat and migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	N/A
Henslow's Sparrow <i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	Acquisition track has habitat used by this species	S3	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	N/A
Eastern box turtle <i>Terrapene carolina triunguis</i>	Observed on the west end of Galveston Island	S3	The CHP protects year-round habitat including nesting habitat	N/A
Ornate box turtle <i>Terrapene ornata ornata</i>	Observed on the west end of Galveston Island	S3	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects year-round habitat including nesting habitat	N/A



Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within General Vicinity (✓)	Status	Project Benefits	Recovery Plan Supported
Brown Pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	✓	S3 (breeding)	The CHP protects year-round habitat	N/A
Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius nivosus</i>	✓	S3 (breeding)	The CHP protects stopover habitat during migration	N/A
American Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	✓	S3	The CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Long-Billed Curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i>	✓	S3 (breeding)	The CHP protects year-round habitat including nesting habitat	N/A
Stilt Sandpiper <i>Calidris himantopus</i>	✓	S3	The CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Buff-breasted Sandpiper <i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	✓	S2, S3	The CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Franklins Gull <i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>	✓	S2 (non-breeding)	The CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger (surinamensis)</i>	✓	S3	The CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
King Rail <i>Rallus elegans</i>	✓	S3 (breeding)	The CHP protects year-round habitat including nesting habitat	N/A
Burrowing Owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	✓	S3 (breeding)	The CHP protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	N/A
Chuck-Will's Widow	✓	S3 (non-breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A

**Table 4. Benefits to Coastal-Dependent or Migratory Bird Species.** This project will conserve foraging, roosting, and wintering habitats that benefit numerous coastal-dependent and migratory bird species, including Federal and State threatened species, species in moderate and significant decline (Lester and Gonzales, 2009), species listed on the USFWS 2021 List of Birds of Conservation Concern, Bird Conservation Region 37, Priority species with the Gulf Coast Joint Venture (GCJV) Mottled Duck

Conservation Plan and the Texas Conservation Action Plan: Species of Greatest Conservation need in the Gulf Coast Prairies and Gulf of Mexico Ecoregion (TPWD 2011).

The species listed here have been observed on lands now managed as the Coastal Heritage Preserve, at Galveston Island State Park (GISP) ~2 miles to the southwest and on the West End of Galveston Island using the same habitats present at the acquisition tracts. While not all species associated with these two sites may be represented on this tract, GISP has a list of 285 species and most use the same habitats represented on these tracts. The CBC had 166 species documented in 2021. Stopover habitat for water, food, and rest is especially important for many species during Spring migration. For example, GISP routinely documents 33 species of wood warblers every spring despite having limited woodland habitat. Many songbird species use habitat associated with the acquisition tract as stopover habitat during migration. Some examples of those species are included in this table.

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within the general vicinity (✓)  Observed at the Acquisition Site (✗)	Project Benefits	Specific Management Plan or List
Mottled Duck <i>Anas fulvigula</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging, roosting, nesting, and breeding habitat	Texas Conservation Action Plan: Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Gulf Coast Prairies and Gulf of Mexico Ecoregion (TCAP-SGCN); GCJV-Mottled Duck Conservation Plan and Priority Species; Coastal Dependent Bird
Blue-winged Teal <i>Anas discors</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects foraging roosting habitat for migrating and wintering	Wetland Dependent Bird
Northern Shoveler <i>Spatula clypeata</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects foraging roosting habitat for migrating and wintering	Wetland Dependent Bird
Common Loon <i>Gavia immer</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
Pied-billed Grebe <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Brown Pelican <i>Pelicanus occidentalis</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Bird

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within the general vicinity (✓)  Observed at the Acquisition Site (✗)	Project Benefits	Specific Management Plan or List
Neotropic Cormorant\ <i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	Galveston Bay Status and Trends, 2007-2008 (moderately decreasing) (GBEP); Wetland Dependent Bird
Double-crested Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax auritis</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Tricolored Heron <i>Egretta tricolor</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging habitat	TCAP-SGCN; 20-year decline in Galveston Bay Status and Trends, 2007-2008 (moderately decreasing) (GBEP); Coastal Dependent Bird
Reddish Egret <i>Egretta rufescens</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging habitat	USFWS. 2021. Birds of Conservation Concern. Bird Conservation Region 37 (BCR 37); State listed threatened species; Gulf Coast Joint Venture (GCJV)- Reddish Egret Plan and Priority Species; TCAP-SGCN; GBEP (moderately decreasing); Coastal Dependent Bird
Great Egret <i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Great Blue Heron <i>Ardea herodias</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging and roosting habitat	GBEP (significant decline); Coastal Dependent Bird
Little Blue Heron <i>Egretta caerulea</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging habitat	TCAP-SGCN; GCJV Priority Species; Wetland Dependent Bird
Roseate Spoonbill <i>Ajaia ajaja</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
Snowy Egret <i>Egretta thula</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging	TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Bird

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within the general vicinity (✓)  Observed at the Acquisition Site (✗)	Project Benefits	Specific Management Plan or List
		habitat	
Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
White-faced Ibis <i>Plegadis chihi</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging habitat	State listed threatened species; TCAP-SGCN; GBEP (moderately decreasing); Coastal Dependent Bird
Black-crowned Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging and roosting habitat	GBEP (significant decline); Wetland Dependent Bird
Yellow-crowned Night Heron <i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging and roosting habitat	Wetland Dependent Migratory Bird
White Ibis <i>Eudocimus albus</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
White-tailed Kite <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Grassland Dependent Bird
Northern Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Red-tailed Hawk <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Crested Caracara	✗	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Migratory Bird
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrines</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; State Listed Threatened; Migratory Bird
American Kestrel <i>Falco sparverius</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	✓	Protects fall through spring foraging and roosting habitat	Wetland Dependent, Migratory Bird
Sandhill Crane <i>Grus canadensis</i>	✓	Protects fall winter foraging habitat	Migratory Bird
Clapper Rail <i>Rallus Longirostris</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, nesting and breeding habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, and breeding habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Bird

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within the general vicinity (✓)  Observed at the Acquisition Site (✗)	Project Benefits	Specific Management Plan or List
Yellow Rail <i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; Migratory Bird
American Coot <i>Fulica americana</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Black-bellied Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects migrating and wintering foraging and roosting habitat	Coastal Dependent Migratory Bird
American Golden-Plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects migrating habitat	Wetland Dependent Migratory Bird
Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; GCJV Priority Species; Coastal Dependent Migratory Bird
Wilson's Plover <i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects spring through fall foraging, roosting, and breeding habitat	BCR 37; Shorebird Conservation Plan (SCP); TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Migratory Bird
Semipalmated Plover <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Federal and State listed threatened species; SCP; GCJV Shorebird Plan; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Killdeer <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects migrating, foraging and breeding habitat	Migratory Bird
American Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year- round foraging and roosting, habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Bird
Black-necked Stilt <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects migrating, foraging, breeding and roosting habitat Spring through Fall	Wetland Dependent Bird
Greater Yellowlegs <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting	Wetland Dependent Bird

<b>Common/ Scientific Name</b>	<b>Observed within the general vicinity (✓)  Observed at the Acquisition Site (✗)</b>	<b>Project Benefits</b>	<b>Specific Management Plan or List</b>
		habitat	
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP; Migratory Bird
Willet <i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	✓	Protects year round foraging, roosting nesting, and breeding habitat	Coastal Dependent and Migratory Bird
Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularius</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	✗	Protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP; Migratory Bird
Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP
Long-billed Curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Marbled Godwit <i>Limosa fedoa</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP; Migratory Bird
Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Semipalmated Sandpiper- <i>Calidris pusilla</i>	✓	Protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Western Sandpiper <i>Calidris mauri</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Least Sandpiper <i>Calidris minutella</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
White-rumped Sandpiper <i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	✓	Protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Upland Sandpiper <i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	✓	Protects stopover habitat during migration	Grassland Dependent Bird
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i>	✓	Protects stopover habitat during migration	Migratory Bird
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Stilt Sandpiper <i>Calidris himantopus</i>	✓	Protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Long-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP; Migratory Bird
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird

<b>Common/ Scientific Name</b>	<b>Observed within the general vicinity (✓)  Observed at the Acquisition Site (✗)</b>	<b>Project Benefits</b>	<b>Specific Management Plan or List</b>
Caspian Tern <i>Sterna caspia</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	Coastal Dependent
Forster's Tern <i>Sterna forsteri</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent
Gull-billed Tern <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent
Least Tern <i>Sterna antillarum</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects spring through fall foraging, roosting, and breeding habitat	BCR 37; Migratory Bird
Royal Tern <i>Sterna maxima</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging, roosting and nesting habitat	Coastal Dependent
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects year-round foraging, roosting and nesting habitat	BCR 37; Coastal Dependent
Laughing Gull <i>Larus atricilla</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects wetland habitat adjacent to openwater feeding and loafing habitat	GBEP (moderately decreasing); Coastal Dependent
Black Skimmer <i>Rynchops niger</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent
Belted Kingfisher <i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>	✓	The CHP and tracts directly adjacent protects wintering forage habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird <i>Archilochus colubris</i>	✓	Protects migrating habitat during migration	Migratory Bird
White-winged Dove <i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Migratory Bird
Mourning Dove <i>Zenaida macroura</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	Migratory Bird
Eastern Kingbird <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	✓	Protects migrating and breeding habitat	Migratory Bird

<b>Common/ Scientific Name</b>	<b>Observed within the general vicinity (✓)  Observed at the Acquisition Site (✗)</b>	<b>Project Benefits</b>	<b>Specific Management Plan or List</b>
Eastern Phoebe <i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	✓	Protects migrating and wintering habitat	Migratory Bird
Loggerhead Shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, nesting and breeding habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN
American Robin <i>Turdus migratorius</i>	✓	Protects winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Northern Mockingbird <i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	State Bird of and Migratory Bird
Common Yellowthroat <i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Seaside Sparrow <i>Ammodramus maritimus</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, nesting and breeding habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow <i>Ammodramus nesloni</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; Migratory Bird
Le Conte's Sparrow <i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Marsh Wren <i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	✓	Protects year-round habitat for foraging, roosting and breeding	Wetland Dependent Bird
Sedge Wren <i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	✓	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Dickcissel <i>Spiza Americana</i>	✗	Protects spring through fall foraging, roosting, and breeding habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Eastern Meadowlark <i>Strunella magna</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, nesting and breeding habitat	TCAP-SGCN
Painted Bunting <i>Passerina ciris</i>	✓	Protects migrating foraging and resting habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Summer Tanager <i>Piranga rubra</i>	✗	Protects migrating foraging and resting habitat	Migratory Bird





Photograph 1. Wetland Type PUBHh at the CHP adjacent to the acquisition tract. When inundated these wetlands provide breeding, nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat for resident fish species. Without regular rainfall these wetlands dry up, providing opportunistic opportunities for avian species to feed on trapped fish and invertebrates including aquatic insect larvae.



Photograph 2. Wetland Type PEM1 at the CHP adjacent to the acquisition tract. When inundated these wetlands provides breeding, nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat for resident fish species. Without regular rainfall these wetlands dry up, providing opportunistic opportunities for avian species to feed on trapped fish and invertebrates including aquatic insect larvae.



Photograph 3. Red winged blackbird flying over the acquisition tract



Photograph 4. Acquisition tract showing coastal prairie habitat and wetland plant species.





Photograph 5. Acquisition tract

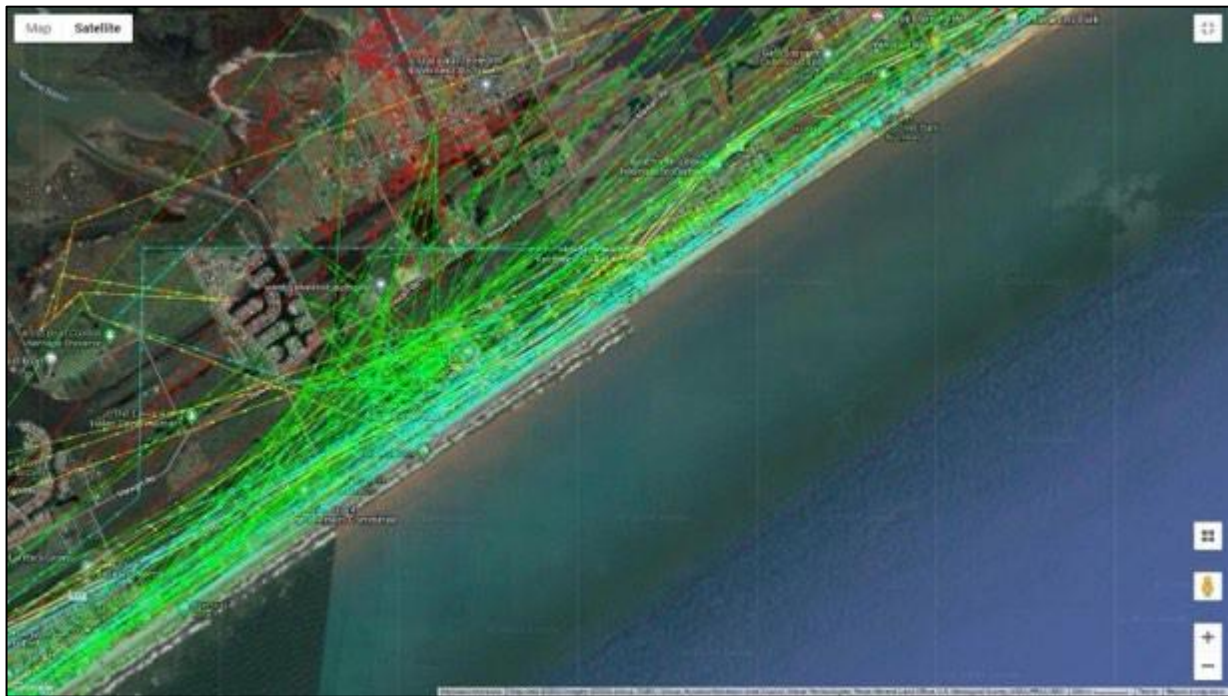




Photograph 6. Coyotes show evidence of red wolf genes on Galveston Island, Texas. Credit: Ron Wooten Photography.



Photograph 7. Coyotes show evidence of red wolf genes on Galveston Island, Texas. Credit: Ron Wooten Photography.



Photograph 8. Coyotes Screenshot of GPS collar pathways for Galveston coyotes on West Galveston Island and on land which includes the CHP and acquisition tracts. These tracts of land have provided multiple sightings of these coyotes since they are undeveloped and contain natural vegetation and refuge for multiple species.

**SECTION SIX: BUDGET DETAILS**

**Grant Payments [see 30 TAC § 14.7(12)]:** All grant payments will be made on the basis of reimbursement for allowable costs (as defined in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E). All payments for awarded proposals will be reimbursements of allowable costs incurred after both parties have entered (signed) a grant agreement for the project.

**Budget.** Authorized budgeted expenditures for work performed are as follows:

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>Cost for Work to be Performed</b>
Salary / Wages	\$0.00
Fringe Benefits (##%) <sup>1</sup>	\$0.00
Travel	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$200,000.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
<b>Total Direct Cost</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>
Indirect Costs	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>

**Indirect Cost Agreement**

Please note: If using a rate different from your entity Indirect Cost Agreement; a letter of exemption from the appropriate authority must be provided with the application, or a statement must be included certifying that the recipient has elected to be reimbursed for an amount less than its total indirect costs, that unreimbursed indirect costs are part of the recipient’s contribution to the success of the project, and that the recipient will pay for all unreimbursed indirect costs using funds available to it for that purpose.

[\[Insert Indirect Cost Agreement or Attach as an Appendix if Applicable\]](#)

**Indirect Cost Reimbursable Rate.** The reimbursable rate for this Contract is ##% of (check one):

- Salary and fringe benefits
- Modified total direct costs
- Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

This rate is less than or equal to (check one):

- Predetermined Rate**— an indirect rate that is negotiated between the Performing Party and its federal cognizant agency and supported by a current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) letter. A Predetermined Rate is not subject to adjustment except as provided by 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 200.411.

---

<sup>1</sup> If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.

**De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of ten percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) in lieu of determining the actual indirect costs of the service. Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs.

**Provisional Rate**— an experienced-based rate agreed to by Performing Party and TCEQ in the absence of a NICRA rate negotiated with the applicable federal cognizant agency.

**Partial Reimbursement Rate**— a reimbursement rate agreed to between TCEQ and Performing Party that is less than the rate authorized under TxGMS or, where applicable, 2 CFR Part 200. Performing Party contributes all of its unreimbursed indirect costs to the successful performance of the project or projects funded under this Contract, in accordance with Article 9 of this section.

**Other:**

**Other.** If Budget Category “Other” is greater than \$25,000 or more than 10% of total Contract budget, identify the main constituents:

[Description of costs associated with “Other” budget category.]

**Estimated Costs (Budget Narrative)**

<b>Land Acquisition</b>	\$3,819,000
<b>Due diligence (service provider, appraisals, survey, phase I)</b>	\$39,750
<b>Artist Boat Project Management</b>	\$15,000
<b>Legal (contract review, closing)</b>	\$15,000
<b>Conservation Easement</b>	\$53,200
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$3,941,950</b>

**Potential Federal Funding Sources**

GOMESA	\$2,000,000
NCWGCP	\$1,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>

**Potential Non-Federal Funding Sources**

Foundations and Individual Donors	\$29,700
Artist Boat (cash)	\$303,634
<b>Total nonfederal contributions</b>	<b>\$333,334</b>

**Additional Funding that may be Federal or Non-Federal**

Artist Boat (cash)	\$408,616
--------------------	-----------

<b>Requested TCEQ GBEP NRU Subcommittee Contribution</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
--	------------------



**SECTION SEVEN: CONTRACT REQUIREMENT [see 30 TAC § 14.7(15)]:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if you become a successful grant recipient selected for a grant award, you must enter into a signed grant agreement or contract with TCEQ following the announcement of that award.

**SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Please read and understand the following:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that information on how grant payments will be made is contained in the Budget Details section describing direct and possibly indirect costs. You further acknowledge that grant payments will be reimbursements on the basis of allowable costs incurred and that selected recipients will receive contract documents addressing allowable costs, unallowable costs, and reimbursement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge your understanding that Project Proposals do not require matching funds and that a TCEQ director does not need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if GBEP elects to hold a pre-submittal meeting relating to this Project Proposal, GBEP will notify you of the meeting's time and location indicating whether attendance is mandatory.

**SECTION NINE: QUESTIONS AND PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETINGS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13) and 30 TAC § 14.7(14)]:**

- There are no pre-submittal meetings scheduled.
- For requests for additional, pre-submittal information [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13)], please contact the corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page.
- 

**SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS**

In submitting your Project Proposal, please refer and adhere to the following instructions and guidelines concerning materials and information required to be submitted by potential grant recipients:

- GBEP intends to accept only complete Projected Proposals in a layout and format constituting a filled version of this proposal document with all applicable sections therein addressed; however, GBEP may, in its sole discretion, consider and accept nonconforming Project Proposals in the best interest of the state.
- Unless otherwise specified by GBEP, formal signatures are not required on Project Proposals.
- Unless otherwise communicated or implied, GBEP requires 1 (one) completed copy of your Project Proposal per corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator.
- Project Proposals must be received electronically, through the email address of the relevant Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page, by the deadline listed on both this page and the first page of this Project Proposal document.

**Submittal Process and Deadline [see 30 TAC § 14.7(8) and 30 TAC § 14.7(9)]:  
Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by  
**August 5, 2024** to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:**

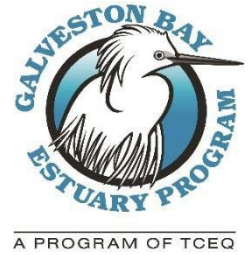
WSQ Subcommittee  
[Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov)

NRU Subcommittee  
[Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov)

PPE Subcommittee  
[Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov) and [Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov)

M&R Subcommittee  
[Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov)

# Galveston Bay Estuary Program Fiscal 2026 NRU Project Proposal



Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by **August 5, 2024**. No late submittals will be considered for funding.

This Call for Project Proposals complies with 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 14.7, which lays out requirements for a competitive solicitation by TCEQ for grant awards. For convenience, specific citations to 30 TAC § 14.7 are identified in the text.

## SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

**Purpose [required by 30 TAC § 14.7(1)]:** The purpose of the proposed grant from the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), a program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), is to implement *The Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (the Plan), a comprehensive conservation and management plan falling under Section 320, of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1330), for a designated national estuary in the State of Texas.

**Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]:** The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for FY2026 (FY2026 Priority Area Actions) that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for fiscal 2026 at the June 2024 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

**Authority [see 30 TAC § 14.7(2)]:** Grants issued by GBEP under this solicitation are authorized by: the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) § 320 (33 UNITED STATES CODE § 1330), commonly referred to as the National Estuary Program; TEX. WATER CODE § 5.124; and 30 TAC ch. 14.

**Match Requirement [see 30 TAC § 14.7(10) and 30 TAC § 14.7(11)]:** No matching funds are required. Therefore, there is no need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.

**Multiple Awards [see 30 TAC § 14.7(7)]:** GBEP anticipates awarding funds for multiple proposals. GBEP intends to award grants to that combination of proposals which best implements the Plan, factoring in all criteria identified in this Call for Project Proposals, the availability of funds, and the most effective division of funds between awards.

## SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL - GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Subcommittee:**

Natural Resource Uses (NRU)

### **Project Name:**

Informing ongoing management of environmental water transactions to preserve or enhance tidal bayou function in East Bay.

Project Previously Funded by GBEP?                      Yes                       No

### **Lead Implementer / Categories of Eligible Recipients [see 30 TAC § 14.7(3)]:**

The lead implementer must be in one of the following categories of eligible recipients. Please indicate which category applies to your entity. If the proposing party is not already paired with a lead implementer in one of the categories listed below, the proposing party will need to partner with an eligible recipient in one of these categories to be selected for funding. Please reach out to GBEP staff with any questions.

The primary applicant, Texas Water Trade (TWT), is a nonprofit with university partner, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) receiving a subaward.

**Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:**

DPE7D8R64GB6

AND:

**VIN or Tax ID:**

83-2740232

**Contact Information:**

Project Representative Name	Kevin De Santiago
Project Representative Phone	(361) 695-0418
Project Representative Email	desantiago@texaswatertrade.org

**Amount Requested from GBEP:**

\$163,016

Federal  State  No Preference Is the project scalable? **Amount Requested per year (if applicable):**

FY 2026 (09/01/2025-08/31/2026)	\$112,079.00
FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	\$ 50,937.00
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	\$ 0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$163,016.00</b>

**Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2025 - ending no later than May 31, 2028) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:**

September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2027

**Project Urgency:**

The study will provide necessary guidance on adaptively managing environmental water transactions to preserve or enhance tidal bayou function in the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed in response to abnormally dry to drought conditions such as those experienced in the past couple years. This information is critical to ongoing projects in East Bay and its watershed.

**Total Project Cost (including Leveraging Amounts, if any; provide leveraging information where indicated below):**

Total Project Cost: \$233,016  
 Amount Requested from GBEP: \$163,016  
 Leveraging Amount: Up to \$70,000

Is this an estimate? **Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):**

Texas Water Trade is leveraging the costs of transacted water purchased from Chambers-Liberty Counties Navigation District totaling up to \$70,000 of secured funds from a corporate partner.

**Partners\* and Their Roles:**

TWT will manage the project, perform continuous water quality monitoring, and perform analysis and reporting. TWT will oversee the environmental water transactions related to this study.  
 Dr. Daniel Coffey from TAMU-CC will sample nekton communities and nutrients, manage and analyze data, and perform analysis and reporting (please see letter of commitment).

**\*If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted under the application.**

**SECTION THREE: GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION IMPLEMENTATION**

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

The FY2026 Priority Area Actions are found at:

<https://gbep.texas.gov/ensure-safe-human-and-aquatic-life-use/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/protect-and-sustain-living-resources/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/engage-communities/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/inform-science-based-decision-making/>

**FWI-2 Freshwater Inflows Research and Management:**

Though the Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay Basin and Bay Area Expert Science Team (BBEST) recognized the Trinity-San Jacinto Estuary as a sound ecological environment, climate variability, drought, and increasing freshwater demand have and will continue to impact this vulnerable ecosystem. Beyond agency regulation and other measures, Senate Bill (SB) 3 passed by the 87th legislature in 2007 lists market-based transactions as a possible approach in addressing gaps in environmental flow needs, but these practices have not lived up to their potential on the coast.

The goal of the Sustain Freshwater Inflows (FWI) Action Plan is to sustain freshwater inflows to Galveston Bay with supporting freshwater inflow research and management listed as an objective (FWI-2). The proposed study offers a unique opportunity to investigate the outcome of a semi-controlled field experiment, informing the adaptive management of transacted water to restore or enhance tidal bayou function, specifically habitat provision for nekton species such as blue crab, brown and white shrimp, gulf menhaden, etc. Water quality, nutrients, and primary production will be investigated as potential drivers of observed patterns in the nekton community response.

**HC-3 Habitat Enhancement:**

Due to relatively localized watersheds, tidal bayou streamflow is largely dependent on regional precipitation making their ecological function as a productive, low saline habitat exceptionally vulnerable to drought. The proposed study will restore and/or enhance function which will be largely dependent on rainfall conditions in 2026.

**Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:**

Plan Priority 2: Protect and Sustain Living Resources

HC-1       HC-2       HC-3

SC-1       SC-2

FWI-1       FWI-2       FWI-3

**Plan Priority Area Actions Detail:**

**FWI-2 Freshwater Inflows Research and Management**

Output: The study will collect data and share results and partner publications on freshwater inflows research and management on the GBEP website.

Performance measures: Study will help contribute to the following performance measures: 1) Number of research studies addressing the annual and seasonal freshwater inflow and freshwater management needs of Galveston Bay and 2) Number of GBEP website visits.

**HC-3 Habitat Enhancement**

Output: Funding of this study will help achieve GBEP's objective in leveraging funds to enhance existing degraded habitats. Additionally, study findings will be used to advocate for further funding of water transactions to benefit natural habitats and native species throughout the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed.

**Does the project implement any other *Galveston Bay Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* Priority Area Actions, or the other Subcommittee priorities?**

- ✓ WSQ (Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use)
- ☐ PPE (Engage Communities)
- ✓ M&R (Inform Science-Based Decision Making)

**Other Subcommittee Detail:**

**Plan Priorities:**

*Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use*

The Plan and GBERAP recognize the relationship between water quantity and quality. Environmental water transactions are a novel practice to augment environmental flows to maintain estuarine productivity and potentially improve water quality. The findings of this study could establish managed freshwater releases as an effective tool in managing nonpoint source pollution in tidal streams and improving function (**NPS-3**).

*Inform Science-Based Decision Making*

The study will focus on physical and biological stressors to better understand their impact on tidal bayou ecosystem function (habitat provision) in Galveston Bay (**RES-1/RES-3**).

**Other Plans Implemented:**

The 2023 Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan lists multiple Tier 1 projects in East Bay focusing on restoring and protecting wetlands and shoreline. While these projects are critical to rebuilding and promoting wetland resiliency, the water transactions proposed in the current study target a separate issue contributing to wetland vulnerability and enhancement of ecosystem function e.g., nutrient delivery, salinity moderation to support these objectives in unison. Additionally, the project will aid the GCJV's habitat objectives in the Texas Chenier Plain augmenting freshwater inflows to maintain brackish conditions in estuarine environments.

**SECTION FOUR: SUBCOMMITTEE PRIORITIES / FACTORS TO BE USED TO SELECT AWARDS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(6)]**

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

**NRU Subcommittee Identified Priorities**

*Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.*

- Habitat acquisition.
- ✓ Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts.
  - Special emphasis on adaptive management for previously completed projects.
- ✓ Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
  - Special emphasis on projects addressing seagrasses, intertidal reef/shell hash, and benthic mapping.
  - Any species monitoring projects should be a collaboration/partnership between subcommittees.
- ✓ Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple goal benefits to the subcommittee.
- ✓ Takes into consideration the results of the Estuary Resilience Action Plan.
- ✓ Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost.

**Subcommittee Priority Detail:**

Texas Water Trade and partners will be implementing water transactions totaling volumes of 2,000 acre-feet (AF) annually to benefit East Bay and its watershed through 2033. These transactions are supported by an agreement with the Chambers-Liberty Counties Navigational District and corporate and foundational support. TWT is leveraging water costs to further understand the impact of this work on tidal bayou function, specifically habitat provision to nekton species (blue crab, gulf menhaden, white and brown shrimp, etc.). Study findings could spur additional for water transactions aimed at restoring or enhancing tidal bayou function which support various economically and ecologically important species. More importantly, the information is critical to aid in managing ongoing projects in East Bay.

In the Galveston Bay Estuary Resilience Action Plan, stakeholder experts identified increasing drought and warming air and water temperatures as current and future stressors for Galveston Bay. In summary, these stressors affected several GBEP priorities/goals as they apply to environmental flows by: 1) increasing evapotranspiration and straining freshwater supplies and inflows, 2) concentrating nutrients and degrading water quality, 3) reducing base flow of streams and stream function, and 4) increasing salinity beyond those favorable for estuarine species such as oysters. For all of these stressors, monitoring and research was cited as required measures to better understand impacts and how they could be mitigated.

**Does the Project work with new, smaller communities/partnerships?**

- ✓ Yes
- No

The project works with public and private landowners in rural communities, a regional water authority, corporate sponsor, and NGOs to implement environmental water transactions to benefit local economies and ecology and preserve cultural values.

## **SECTION FIVE: PROPOSAL DETAILS**

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.

### **Project Summary:**

The proposed study offers a unique opportunity to study the outcome of a semi-controlled experiment, informing the adaptive management of transacted water to restore or enhance tidal bayou function, specifically habitat provision for nekton species such as blue crab, brown and white shrimp, gulf menhaden, etc. Water quality, nutrients, and primary production will be investigated as potential drivers of observed patterns.

### **Full Project Description (1,000 words or less):**

Tidal streams are unique estuarine systems where streamflow is influenced by tides giving rise to dynamic and productive environments that harbor numerous ecologically and economically important species. However, tidal streams across the Texas Coast have been the subject of multiple efforts to understand and assess water quality impairments which can impact human use and habitat provision (Neffinger et al. 2024). Quigg et al. (2009) suggested that tidal stream vulnerability to such impairments, specifically in the urbanized Dickinson Bayou Watershed, are magnified by their intrinsically low flushing rates which increases residence times of pollutants in the system. Tidal bayous, a type of tidal stream, in the Galveston Bay Watershed are highly dependent on regional rainfall and municipal and agricultural returns making them vulnerable to diminished freshwater inputs. To compound these issues, increased freshwater demand from growing populations, increased evapotranspiration from warming temperatures, and increased drought further strain water resources and environmental flows (GBERAP 2023), threatening these habitats and their ability to function.

Tidal bayous in the East Bay Watershed provide habitat for numerous economically and ecologically important species (Margo 2017) and distribute freshwater inflows to numerous upper estuarine habitats (i.e., wetlands, estuarine lakes, bays, etc.). The region is largely rural, distinguishing it from western urbanized watersheds in the greater Galveston Bay Watershed. Nonetheless, development in this region (e.g., agricultural levees, roadways, and canal dredging) has contributed to significant loss of freshwater and estuarine wetland habitats by restricting overland flow and increasing saltwater intrusion (Feagin et al. 2020).

Environmental water transactions are voluntary, market-based mechanisms that increase freshwater inputs to rivers, streams, estuaries, and other coastal environments. TWT, Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have secured two multiyear agreements with the Chambers-Liberty Counties Navigation District (CLCND) to purchase and manage freshwater in support of wildlife and estuarine environments in Chambers County. In 2023, TWT, GBF, TNC, and Manomet (manomet.org) delivered transacted water to public and private landowners creating over 2,000 acres of high quality habitat for migratory birds during the fall, winter, and spring migratory peaks. However, prolonged drought conditions revealed the need to be more responsive to the loss of tidal bayou function during dry periods by implementing more direct introductions of freshwater into these systems. To accomplish this, TWT is planning to allocate a portion of transacted water (200-500 AF) in the coming years to enhance tidal bayou function.

The proposed study offers a unique opportunity to study the outcome of a semi-controlled field experiment, informing the adaptive management of transacted water to restore and/or enhance tidal bayou function, specifically habitat provision for key nekton species, such as blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*), brown shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus aztecus*), white shrimp (*Litopenaeus setiferus*), Gulf menhaden (*Brevoortia patronus*), that directly or indirectly support ecological function and commercial, recreational, and tourism industries in Galveston Bay. To accomplish this, Dr. Coffey's lab at TAMU-CC will sample nekton communities using a before-after control-impact (BACI) experimental design. Specifically, nekton will be sampled for the two



months before and after (4 months total) freshwater is released at four treatment (impact) sites in Onion Bayou and four control sites in an adjacent bayou (e.g., Easy Bay Bayou, TBD by field reconnaissance) with no additional freshwater releasement. Nekton will be collected using seines (10-m length  $\times$  4.6 m width, with 4.76-mm mesh) hauled parallel to each stream bank covering an area of 46 m<sup>2</sup>. Three independent seine hauls (total area 138 m<sup>2</sup>) will be taken at each of the eight sites, with two sampling events conducted each month totaling 192 samples over the entire 4-month period. Individual nekton >120 mm in length from each seine haul will be identified, photographed, and released, whereas smaller individuals will be preserved in 10% buffered formalin and processed in the laboratory. In the laboratory, fishes and crustaceans in each sample will be sorted, counted, identified to the lowest possible taxon (typically species), and measured to the nearest 0.1 mm. If more than 22 individuals of the same species were collected in a single haul, the largest, smallest, and 20 randomly sampled individuals will be measured.

At each sampling site, water quality (salinity, temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen), chlorophyll, and nutrient samples (ammonia nitrogen, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, total phosphorus, nitrate-nitrite, total organic carbon, and total suspended solids) will be collected during each sampling event to account for environmental variability and assess potential changes following freshwater releasement. Continuous salinity data will be recorded by TWT using sondes strategically positioned at a subset of impact and control sites to account for the dynamic conditions and variability in tidal bayous.

The overall **goal** of this project is to investigate the response of nekton communities to managed freshwater releases in tidal bayous. Specifically, this project will inform ongoing work by: 1) investigating the efficacy of introducing transacted water to enhance tidal bayou function by comparing nekton and water quality responses in control and impact areas, 2) characterizing the spatial and temporal extent of nekton response to managed freshwater releases, and 3) investigating the role of water quality and nutrient response in provision of habitat. In conjunction with adjacent wetland creation and associated bird use monitoring in the East Bay Watershed, this study will underscore the importance of adaptively managing transacted water to restore and enhance both freshwater and estuarine ecosystems on the Texas Coast.

**Latitude/Longitude (Optional):**

[degrees, minutes, and seconds format]

**Location:**

The study area will include four treatment (impact) sites in the tidal segments of Onion Bayou and four control sites in an adjacent tidal stream (e.g., East Bay Bayou or other TBD) in the East Bay Watershed.

## Projects Map



**Figure 1.** Location of Onion Bayou for treatment (impact) site selection for freshwater release. Control sites in an adjacent tidal stream with no freshwater release will be selected following field reconnaissance.

### Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

[\[Insert Here or Attach as an Appendix\]](#)

**SECTION SIX: BUDGET DETAILS**

**Grant Payments [see 30 TAC § 14.7(12)]:** All grant payments will be made on the basis of reimbursement for allowable costs (as defined in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E). All payments for awarded proposals will be reimbursements of allowable costs incurred after both parties have entered (signed) a grant agreement for the project.

**Budget.** Authorized budgeted expenditures for work performed are as follows:

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>Cost for Work to be Performed</b>
Salary / Wages	\$9,410.20
Fringe Benefits <b>(13.65% &amp; 28%)<sup>1</sup></b>	\$1,543.51
Travel	\$4,945.00
Supplies	\$875.01
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$132,963.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
<b>Total Direct Cost</b>	<b>\$149,736.72</b>
Indirect Costs	\$13,278.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$163,015.58</b>

**Indirect Cost Agreement**

Please note: If using a rate different from your entity Indirect Cost Agreement; a letter of exemption from the appropriate authority must be provided with the application, or a statement must be included certifying that the recipient has elected to be reimbursed for an amount less than its total indirect costs, that unreimbursed indirect costs are part of the recipient’s contribution to the success of the project, and that the recipient will pay for all unreimbursed indirect costs using funds available to it for that purpose.

*New OMB rules will take effect 10/2024 changing de minimis rate to 15% and subaward limit caps to \$50K. De minimis rate and MTDC reflect new rules (MTDC includes salaries, fringe, travel, and up to the first \$50,000 of each subaward).*

**Indirect Cost Reimbursable Rate.** The reimbursable rate for this Contract is 15% of (check one):

- Salary and fringe benefits
- Modified total direct costs
- Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

This rate is less than or equal to (check one):

- Predetermined Rate**— an indirect rate that is negotiated between the Performing Party and its federal cognizant agency and supported by a current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) letter. A

---

<sup>1</sup> If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.

Predetermined Rate is not subject to adjustment except as provided by 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 200.411.

✓ **De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of ten percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) in lieu of determining the actual indirect costs of the service. Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs.

**Provisional Rate**— an experienced-based rate agreed to by Performing Party and TCEQ in the absence of a NICRA rate negotiated with the applicable federal cognizant agency.

**Partial Reimbursement Rate**— a reimbursement rate agreed to between TCEQ and Performing Party that is less than the rate authorized under TxGMS or, where applicable, 2 CFR Part 200. Performing Party contributes all of its unreimbursed indirect costs to the successful performance of the project or projects funded under this Contract, in accordance with Article 9 of this section.

**Other:**

**Other.** If Budget Category “Other” is greater than \$25,000 or more than 10% of total Contract budget, identify the main constituents:

[Description of costs associated with “Other” budget category.]

#### **SECTION SEVEN: CONTRACT REQUIREMENT [see 30 TAC § 14.7(15)]:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if you become a successful grant recipient selected for a grant award, you must enter into a signed grant agreement or contract with TCEQ following the announcement of that award.

#### **SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Please read and understand the following:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that information on how grant payments will be made is contained in the Budget Details section describing direct and possibly indirect costs. You further acknowledge that grant payments will be reimbursements on the basis of allowable costs incurred and that selected recipients will receive contract documents addressing allowable costs, unallowable costs, and reimbursement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge your understanding that Project Proposals do not require matching funds and that a TCEQ director does not need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if GBEP elects to hold a pre-submittal meeting relating to this Project Proposal, GBEP will notify you of the meeting’s time and location indicating whether attendance is mandatory.

#### **SECTION NINE: QUESTIONS AND PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETINGS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13) and 30 TAC § 14.7(14)]:**

- There are no pre-submittal meetings scheduled.
- For requests for additional, pre-submittal information [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13)], please contact the corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page.
- 

#### **SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS**

In submitting your Project Proposal, please refer and adhere to the following instructions and guidelines concerning materials and information required to be submitted by potential grant recipients:

- GBEP intends to accept only complete Projected Proposals in a layout and format constituting a filled version of this proposal document with all applicable sections therein addressed; however, GBEP may, in its sole discretion, consider and accept nonconforming Project Proposals in the best interest of the state.

- Unless otherwise specified by GBEP, formal signatures are not required on Project Proposals.
- Unless otherwise communicated or implied, GBEP requires 1 (one) completed copy of your Project Proposal per corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator.
- Project Proposals must be received electronically, through the email address of the relevant Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page, by the deadline listed on both this page and the first page of this Project Proposal document.

**Submittal Process and Deadline [see 30 TAC § 14.7(8) and 30 TAC § 14.7(9)]:  
Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by  
August 5, 2024 to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:**

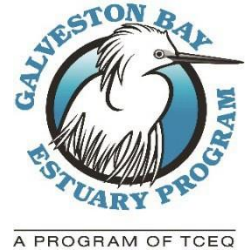
WSQ Subcommittee  
[Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov)

NRU Subcommittee  
[Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov)

PPE Subcommittee  
[Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov) and [Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov)

M&R Subcommittee  
[Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov)

# Galveston Bay Estuary Program Fiscal 2026 NRU Project Proposal



Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by **August 5, 2024**. No late submittals will be considered for funding.

This Call for Project Proposals complies with 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 14.7, which lays out requirements for a competitive solicitation by TCEQ for grant awards. For convenience, specific citations to 30 TAC § 14.7 are identified in the text.

## SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

**Purpose [required by 30 TAC § 14.7(1)]:** The purpose of the proposed grant from the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), a program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), is to implement *The Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (the Plan), a comprehensive conservation and management plan falling under Section 320, of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1330), for a designated national estuary in the State of Texas.

**Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]:** The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for FY2026 (FY2026 Priority Area Actions) that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for fiscal 2026 at the June 2024 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

**Authority [see 30 TAC § 14.7(2)]:** Grants issued by GBEP under this solicitation are authorized by: the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) § 320 (33 UNITED STATES CODE § 1330), commonly referred to as the National Estuary Program; TEX. WATER CODE § 5.124; and 30 TAC ch. 14.

**Match Requirement [see 30 TAC § 14.7(10) and 30 TAC § 14.7(11)]:** No matching funds are required. Therefore, there is no need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.

**Multiple Awards [see 30 TAC § 14.7(7)]:** GBEP anticipates awarding funds for multiple proposals. GBEP intends to award grants to that combination of proposals which best implements the Plan, factoring in all criteria identified in this Call for Project Proposals, the availability of funds, and the most effective division of funds between awards.

## SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL - GENERAL INFORMATION

**Subcommittee:**

NRU

**Project Name:**

UHCL Prairie, Savanna and Wet Prairie Restoration

Project Previously Funded by GBEP?      Yes       No

**Lead Implementer / Categories of Eligible Recipients [see 30 TAC § 14.7(3)]:**

The lead implementer must be in one of the following categories of eligible recipients. Please indicate which category applies to your entity. If the proposing party is not already paired with a lead implementer in one of the categories listed below, the proposing party will need to partner with an eligible recipient in one of these categories to be selected for funding. Please reach out to GBEP staff with any questions.

- Federal, State, or Local Government       Council of Government       Public ISDs or Universities  
 Nonprofit       Other\*

Public University

**Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:**

AND:

RD74AUNCTZJ1

VIN or Tax ID:

74-6001399

**Contact Information:**

Project Representative Name	Wendy Reistle
Project Representative Phone	281-283-30456
Project Representative Email	Reistle@uhcl.edu

**Amount Requested from GBEP:**

\$242,600

Federal  State  No Preference

Is the project scalable?

**Amount Requested per year (if applicable):**

FY 2026 (09/01/2025-08/31/2026)	\$135,050
FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	\$107,550
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$242,600</b>

**Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2025 - ending no later than May 31, 2028) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:**

1 September 2025 - May 31, 2028

**Project Urgency:**

This project will restore approximately 10 acres of savanna, wet prairies and wetlands along Horsepen Bayou. Hurricane Beryl uprooted and caused widespread tree damage at this site in July 2024. This project would offer remediation of storm damage as many large trees have already fallen and unless we can restore the area quickly those open spaces will most certainly become Chinese Tallow forests. Adding the native grassland and wetland components will increase the diversity of plants and animals as well as sequester carbon in the soils. The restored habitats will support local and statewide Monarch Butterfly conservation and may amphibians and bird species depend on prairies and wetlands. Approximately 600 species of plants are native to Texas' coastal prairie and savanna and this project will reintroduce many of those to the site.

**Total Project Cost (including Leveraging Amounts, if any; provide leveraging information where indicated below):**

\$242,600

Is this an estimate?



### **Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):**

#### **In Kind:**

On site volunteers include the Texas Master Naturalist (TMN), Environmental Justice Association (student organization on UHCL campus), and Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT)- Clear Lake Chapter are all heavily involved with our restoration prairie efforts on the UHCL campus.

Advice and conservation cooperative learning with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Armand Bayou Nature Center, Galveston Bay Foundation, Native Prairies Association of Texas, and the Coastal Prairie Conservancy.

#### **Cash:**

CMP Cycle 26 CMP Program: Previously Funded Project (Phase 1 in 2021): \$144,000

CMP Cycle 30 GOMESA: Requested Funding \$466,339

NPSOT: Possible cash contribution for planting native wetland and prairie plants up to \$2,000

### **Partners\* and Their Roles:**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, private lands program leader, Tim Siegmund has agreed to support this conservation effort by continuing to provide technical support on questions pertaining to successful prairie restoration and maintenance and public outreach efforts.

Coastal Prairie Conservancy is a partner on our restoration projects as our work together complements and enhances regional efforts to conserve the imperiled grassland habit in Texas. Our partnership efforts over the past year have included workshops and field trips held at EIH on the UHCL campus, Deer Park Prairie, Dick Benoit Prairie and Armand Bayou Nature Center. Workshops are planned for the fall at the UH Coastal Prairie and the EIH at UHCL.

Native Plant Society of Texas - Clear Lake Chapter has a partnership agreement with EIH. This partnership includes monthly native plant talks for the public, several seed collecting and seed cleaning workshops held at EIH throughout the year, and workdays at our UHCL native prairie restoration sites.

Galveston Bay Area Master naturalist volunteer their time and energy on numerous EIH projects including prairie restoration, native seed collection and native plant propagation. Currently GBAMN spend about 12 hours a month working on removing invasive species in the proposed restoration site. We will also be working with their Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) group on this project to include a more diverse audience.

Native Prairie Association of Texas has a partnership with EIH to include our prairie restoration on sites as part of their Girls on the Prairie summer camps.

UHCL Faculty and Staff use the prairie restoration sites for hands-on university and K-12 student learning, specifically looking at native plants and wildlife interactions, endangered species, invasive species, point and non-point pollution, wetland delineations and identifying soil types.

The Environmental Justice Association (EJA) student association at UHCL is committed to assisting with prairie restoration efforts and enhancement on campus. EJA assists with prairie restoration and planting efforts at least once a month during the academic school year.

Armand Bayou Nature Center - offers support for the prairie restoring projects at EIH/UHCL. UHCL has a MOU with Armand Bayou as our conservation efforts serve as learning opportunities for the local community.

**\*If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted under the application.**

### **SECTION THREE: GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION IMPLEMENTATION**

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

The FY2026 Priority Area Actions are found at:

<https://gbep.texas.gov/ensure-safe-human-and-aquatic-life-use/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/protect-and-sustain-living-resources/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/engage-communities/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/inform-science-based-decision-making/>

#### **Protect and Sustain Living Resources: Habitat Conservation and Species Conservation**

The Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH) at the University of Houston – Clear Lake (UHCL) campus proposes to help conserve the ecological health of the Galveston Bay Ecosystem by restoring the natural landscape to a 25-acre tract adjacent to Horsepen Bayou, a tidal stream flowing through the campus. Historic aerial photography shows the site lies at the juncture of four coastal natural resource areas; tall-grass prairie, post oak savanna, riparian forest, and freshwater tidal marsh. The grassland component has been lost to woody encroachment, with the probable loss of more than half of the plant species native to this habitat. The area is a designated 25-acre natural area, and most importantly, retains its native soils and topography including a significant area of mima mounds and wetlands. The project site is on a public University campus that supports estuarine and coastal research and education programs; therefore, the restoration will be sustainable long-term.

#### **Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:**

Plan Priority 2: Protect and Sustain Living Resources

HC-1       HC-2       HC-3

SC-1       SC-2

FWI-1       FWI-2       FWI-3

#### **Plan Priority Area Actions Detail:**

##### **HC-2 Habitat Restoration:**

This project aims to restore the most imperiled ecosystem in the United States and the plants and animals that depend on it for survival. Most of this ecosystem has been lost through lack of fire, overgrazing, invasive species, and conversion to agriculture. This area is specifically designated for conservation because most of it is in the flood plain and provides easy access for students to enjoy and learn from. Currently there are many large invasive trees and bushes e.g. *Triadica sebifera* (Chinese Tallow), and *Ligustrum spp.* in the landscape. Removing these and planting native grassland and wetland species will restore and improve valuable habitats.

##### **HC-2: Habitat Enhancement:**

Some of the restoration site will benefit from habitat enhancement. Hurricane Beryl removed many large native trees such as *Quercus falcata* (Southern Red Oak) and *Quercus stellata* (Post Oak), no younger trees were growing to replace them. We will plant saplings of these species to ensure the continuation of this riparian woodland alongside Horsepen Bayou. Where the trees have been removed by the hurricane in the savanna, we will be planting that area with native prairie plants, and native prairie/wetland plants in the wetland areas.

##### **SC-1: Native Species Management**

Carefully sourced local species will be used to restore and enhance this imperiled habitat. Approximately 600 species of plants are native to Texas' coastal prairie and savanna and this project will reintroduce many of those to the site. We will do annual plant surveys of the restored areas to inform management decision-making. The restored areas will be actively managed by mowing, haying or fire. Restoring native prairie will also protect native insects and grassland bird species.

##### **SC-2: Invasive Species Control**

Invasive species i.e. *T. sebifera*, *Sorghum halepense* (Johnson grass), and *Ligustrum spp.* as well as various non-native *Paspalum spp.*, and others are being actively managed in a section of prairie restored in a pilot project. The monitoring and management of invasive species will continue throughout the project period and beyond.

Best practices will be developed for our site through collaboration and research and shared with conservation and natural resource management professionals.

**Does the project implement any other *Galveston Bay Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* Priority Area Actions, or the other Subcommittee priorities?**

- WSQ (Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use)
- PPE (Engage Communities)
- M&R (Inform Science-Based Decision Making)

**Other Subcommittee Detail:**

**PEA-2 Adult Education**

College student groups and community members will be involved as volunteers. Presentations and workshops will be used to educate them on Coastal Prairie, native species, invasive species, habitat needs of local and migrating birds, watersheds, and non-point source pollution.

**RES-6 Evaluate Best Management Practice Projects**

Best Management Practices will be developed for Prairie management and maintenance, as well as for control of invasive species. Partners will collaborate with EIH to ensure best management practices.

**Other Plans Implemented:**

- Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan: Managing Watersheds
- Gulf Coast Joint Venture Conservation Plan: The conservation of important birding habitats; monitoring and evaluation of the implementation process.

**SECTION FOUR: SUBCOMMITTEE PRIORITIES / FACTORS TO BE USED TO SELECT AWARDS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(6)]**

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

**NRU Subcommittee Identified Priorities**

*Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.*

- Habitat acquisition.
- Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts.
  - Special emphasis on adaptive management for previously completed projects.
- Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
  - Special emphasis on projects addressing seagrasses, intertidal reef/shell hash, and benthic mapping.
  - Any species monitoring projects should be a collaboration/partnership between subcommittees.
- Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple goal benefits to the subcommittee.
- Takes into consideration the results of the Estuary Resilience Action Plan.
- Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost.

**Subcommittee Priority Detail:**

**Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts.**

This project builds on a pilot project undertaken to determine the best method of restoring grassland habitat on campus. The pilot project restored two acres of degraded savanna habitat using three different restoration protocols. Using what we have learned, we will expand savanna and wet prairie/wetland restoration to approximately 10 additional acres. This area includes prairie potholes and mima mounds. An area of degraded woodland adjacent to the bayou and damaged by hurricane Beryl will be enhanced by planting native woodland species.

**Benefit to native fish and wildlife**

Restored habitat will support local and Statewide Monarch Butterfly conservation, and many amphibians and bird species that are dependent on prairies and wetlands.

**Project Urgency:**

Hurricane Beryl uprooted and caused widespread tree damage at this site in July 2024. This project would offer remediation of storm damage as many large trees have already fallen and unless we can restore the area quickly those open spaces will most certainly become Chinese Tallow forests.

**Does the Project work with new, smaller communities/partnerships?**

- Yes
- No

The Environmental Justice Association (EJA) student association membership at UHCL changes annually as new students are entering the university. The group has been and continues to be committed to assisting with prairie restoration efforts and enhancement on campus.

We will also be working with a smaller group of Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalist. The Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) group will be involved to include a more diverse audience of Master Naturalist.

#### **SECTION FIVE: PROPOSAL DETAILS**

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.

#### **Project Summary:**

Restoration and enhancement of nearly ten acres of imperiled habitat types found on the University of Houston-Clear Lake campus adjacent to Horsepen Bayou, a tidal tributary of Galveston Bay. This project will serve as an example of what can be done in the larger Southeast Houston area to restore endangered ecosystems along with ecological services; provide habitat benefits for wildlife; research and conservation opportunities for students; and provide students and community members an area through which they can walk and experience the regional coastal landscapes.

## Full Project Description (1,000 words or less):

The Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH) at the University of Houston – Clear Lake (UHCL) proposes to help conserve the ecological health of the Galveston Bay Ecosystem by restoring the natural landscape to a 10-acre tract adjacent to Horsepen Bayou, a tidal stream flowing through the campus. Historic aerial photography shows the site lies at the juncture of four coastal natural resource areas; tall-grass prairie, post oak savanna, riparian forest, and freshwater tidal marsh. The grassland component of the prairie and savanna has been lost to woody encroachment due to the lack of a natural fire regime, invasive species, and overgrazing, with the probable loss of more than half of the plant species native to this habitat type. The riparian forest has been degraded through invasion by non-native plant species, and the wetlands are partially filled by past stream channelization work. The project site is on a public university campus that supports estuarine and coastal research and public education programs. The area is a designated 25-acre natural area, and most importantly, the project site retains its native soils and topography, including a significant area of mima mounds and wetlands.

This project will comprise Phase 2 of our restoration efforts. Phase 1 was funded by a CMP grant from the Texas General Land Office and was a pilot program in which we researched the best restoration techniques on a two-acre site within the project area, and have had success restoring wet savanna. Lessons learned from our pilot study include: 1) seeding is required because there is no longer a viable seed bank. 2) mulch must be removed in order for the seed to make good soil contact and 3) vigilant efforts are required to monitor for invasive species control.

Proposed restoration within the 25 acres will include 1) wet prairie and freshwater wetland restoration through invasive woody plant removal and seeding. 2) riparian forest enhancement through invasive species removal and planting of native tree species. 3) upland prairie/savanna restoration through woody understory removal and seeding.

We will be using 1944 imagery to inform the restoration plan. The work will increase the overall ecosystem service function around Galveston Bay by restoring critical but declining habitat types adjacent to tidal waters.

Further historic aerial photo interpretation coupled with ground-truthing of current vegetation will refine planned plant community boundaries. Non-native trees and shrubs e.g. *Triadica sebifera* (Chinese Tallow), *Ligustrum spp.*, and *Ilex vomitoria* (Yaupon) trees smaller than 8” in diameter will be mechanically removed from the restoration site. This will leave the large native trees such as Post Oaks and Southern Red Oaks that appear in the 1944 aerial photo and still thrive on the site today. Non-native shrubs and trees in the wetland areas and riparian forest will be removed through hand-applied mechanical and herbicide methods. Herbicide will also be applied to woody re-sprouts within the mechanically cleared prairie and savanna habitats and although no evidence of native grassland flora has been found there, this work will be done by hand to avoid unintentional application to native species.

The site will then be seeded with locally native appropriate grass and wildflower species that will include locally hand-collected seed as well as purchased seed from reputable native plant seed retailers. The seeding will be done by volunteers (Master Naturalist, Native Plant Society, UHCL student organizations) and UHCL-EIH staff. The restoration progress and management will be conducted by UHCL-EIH staff and Federal Work Study students.

Upon completion of the restoration, a compact tractor/mower will be purchased in order to insure proper maintenance of the restored area. Woody species must not be allowed to take over the restoration site (*Triadica sebifera* is our main concern). Maintenance options will include haying or mowing, and prescribed burns when conditions are favorable.

To ensure student and community involvement, Federal Work Study students from UHCL will be hired for the project period as UHCL/EIH funds allow. With a focus on equity-building by seeking persons of diverse backgrounds to be team leaders with the Federal Work Study program, these students will have the opportunity to obtain valuable job skills related to wetlands, restoration techniques, flora/fauna species identification, watershed education, climate change resilience, and provide a natural resources background that will empower work study students to excel in a career in the conservation field.

We will be partnering with the Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalist Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) group, The Native Plant Society -Clear Lake Chapter and the Environmental Justice Association (EJA) student organization. We will offer workday opportunities and workshops (with our partnerships with Armand Bayou, Natives Prairies Association of Texas and the Coastal Prairie Conservancy) for each of



these groups to create understanding in wetlands, watersheds, non-point source pollution, flood mitigation, native and invasive plants, and prairies. By hosting these workdays and workshop opportunities we aim to reach the local disadvantaged communities within our service area. These opportunities will expand current volunteer and outreach programs for each of these groups.

Invasive grasses, sedges, and trees will be held in check by regular monitoring and removal. A Best Management Practice for the control of Invasive species will be developed.

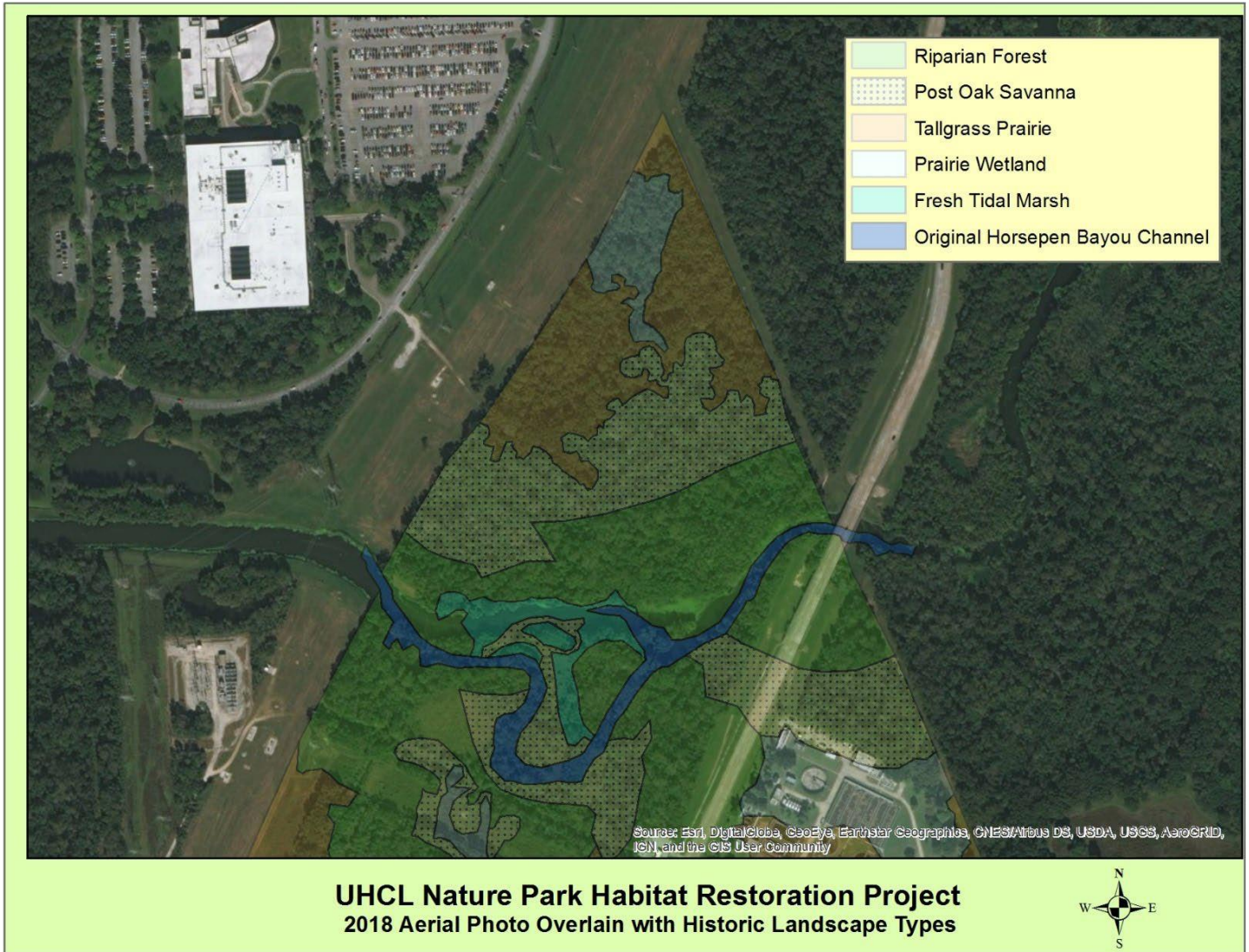
**Latitude/Longitude (Optional):**

See attached map

**Location:**

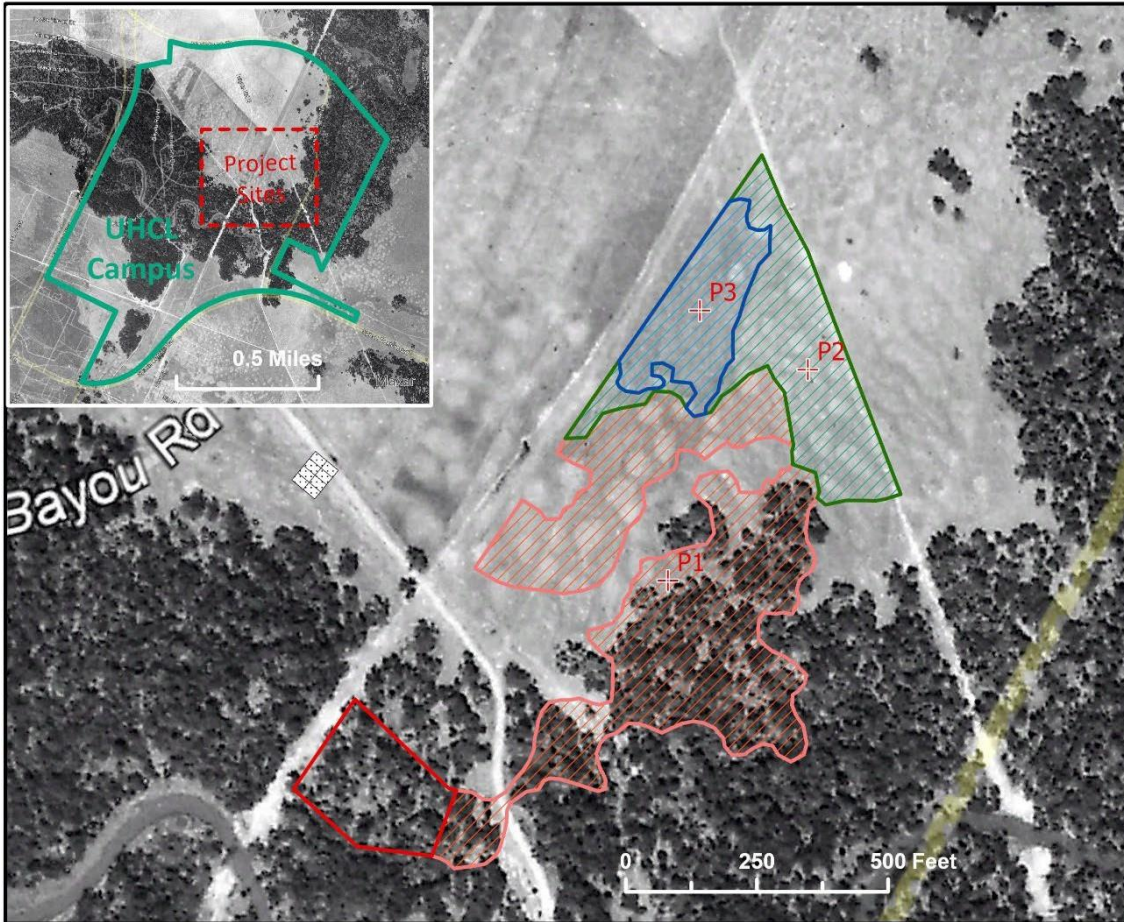
University of Houston Clear Lake: Nature Preserve adjacent to Horsepen Bayou.

**Projects Map**



Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

[Insert Here or Attach as an Appendix]



1944 aerial photo showing the general location with MIMA mounds and scarcity of trees indicating coastal prairie/savanna

P1 (29.58089° N, 95.0947° W): Post Oak Savanna (6.34 acres)

P2 (29.58201° N, 95.09388° W): Prairie (2.28 acres)

P3 (29.58231° N, 95.09453° W): Wet Prairie (1.23 acres)

Total area proposed for restoration: 9.85 acres, approximately 5 acres of restoration per year.



2021 - Before the savanna/coastal/wet prairie restoration project in 2021, the site was an overgrown Chinese Tallow, *Ligustrum* spp., and Yaupon thicket.





2023 - The restoration project, funded by a TGLO cycle 26 grant, restored the site to savanna/coastal/wet prairie.



#### **SECTION SIX: BUDGET DETAILS**

**Grant Payments [see 30 TAC § 14.7(12)]:** All grant payments will be made on the basis of reimbursement for allowable costs (as defined in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E). All payments for awarded proposals will be reimbursements of allowable costs incurred after both parties have entered (signed) a grant agreement for the project.

**Budget.** Authorized budgeted expenditures for work performed are as follows:

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	\$27,500.00
Fringe Benefits (36%) <sup>1</sup>	\$9,900.00
Travel	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00
Equipment	\$23,000.00
Contractual	\$0.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$103,000.00
<b>Total Direct Cost</b>	<b>\$169,400.00</b>
Indirect Costs	\$73,200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$242,600.00</b>

### Indirect Cost Agreement

Please note: If using a rate different from your entity Indirect Cost Agreement; a letter of exemption from the appropriate authority must be provided with the application, or a statement must be included certifying that the recipient has elected to be reimbursed for an amount less than its total indirect costs, that unreimbursed indirect costs are part of the recipient's contribution to the success of the project, and that the recipient will pay for all unreimbursed indirect costs using funds available to it for that purpose.

[\[Insert Indirect Cost Agreement or Attach as an Appendix if Applicable\]](#)

UHCL's federally-negotiated institutional on-campus indirect cost reimbursement is 50% of modified total direct costs. The MTDC base includes all salaries, fringe benefits, materials, supplies, services, travel and subcontracts up to the first \$25,000 of each subgrant or subcontract. The agreement is effective 09/01/2024 - 08/31/2028. The cognizant federal agency DHHS contact is Olulola Oluborode (214) 767-3261.

- ❖ If selected for funding, a reduced IDC rate will be negotiated with UHCL and the Office of Sponsored Research Projects (OSRP). Any reduction in the federally negotiated rate is contingent upon the decision of OSRP.

**Indirect Cost Reimbursable Rate.** The reimbursable rate for this Contract is 50% of (check one):

- Salary and fringe benefits
- Modified total direct costs
- Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

This rate is less than or equal to (check one):

- Predetermined Rate**— an indirect rate that is negotiated between the Performing Party and its federal cognizant agency and supported by a current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) letter. A Predetermined Rate is not subject to adjustment except as provided by 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 200.411.
- De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of ten percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) in lieu of determining the actual indirect costs of the service. Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs.

<sup>1</sup> If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.

**Provisional Rate**— an experienced-based rate agreed to by Performing Party and TCEQ in the absence of a NICRA rate negotiated with the applicable federal cognizant agency.

**Partial Reimbursement Rate**— a reimbursement rate agreed to between TCEQ and Performing Party that is less than the rate authorized under TxGMS or, where applicable, 2 CFR Part 200. Performing Party contributes all of its unreimbursed indirect costs to the successful performance of the project or projects funded under this Contract, in accordance with Article 9 of this section.

**Other:**

**Other.** If Budget Category “Other” is greater than \$25,000 or more than 10% of total Contract budget, identify the main constituents:

The site must be cleared of fallen tree debris, invasive species and mulch, and this will mostly be done by an external contractor. Some invasive species removal can be accomplished with Master Naturalist volunteers. The debris removal will be done by an external contractor.

#### **SECTION SEVEN: CONTRACT REQUIREMENT [see 30 TAC § 14.7(15)]:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if you become a successful grant recipient selected for a grant award, you must enter into a signed grant agreement or contract with TCEQ following the announcement of that award.

#### **SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Please read and understand the following:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that information on how grant payments will be made is contained in the Budget Details section describing direct and possibly indirect costs. You further acknowledge that grant payments will be reimbursements on the basis of allowable costs incurred and that selected recipients will receive contract documents addressing allowable costs, unallowable costs, and reimbursement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge your understanding that Project Proposals do not require matching funds and that a TCEQ director does not need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if GBEP elects to hold a pre-submittal meeting relating to this Project Proposal, GBEP will notify you of the meeting’s time and location indicating whether attendance is mandatory.

#### **SECTION NINE: QUESTIONS AND PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETINGS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13) and 30 TAC § 14.7(14)]:**

- There are no pre-submittal meetings scheduled.
- For requests for additional, pre-submittal information [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13)], please contact the corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page.

#### **SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS**

In submitting your Project Proposal, please refer and adhere to the following instructions and guidelines concerning materials and information required to be submitted by potential grant recipients:

- GBEP intends to accept only complete Projected Proposals in a layout and format constituting a filled version of this proposal document with all applicable sections therein addressed; however, GBEP may, in its sole discretion, consider and accept nonconforming Project Proposals in the best interest of the state.
- Unless otherwise specified by GBEP, formal signatures are not required on Project Proposals.
- Unless otherwise communicated or implied, GBEP requires 1 (one) completed copy of your Project Proposal per corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator.
- Project Proposals must be received electronically, through the email address of the relevant Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page, by the deadline listed on both this page and the first page of this Project Proposal document.

#### **Submittal Process and Deadline [see 30 TAC § 14.7(8) and 30 TAC § 14.7(9)]:**



**Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by August 5, 2024 to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:**

WSQ Subcommittee

[Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov)

NRU Subcommittee

[Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov)

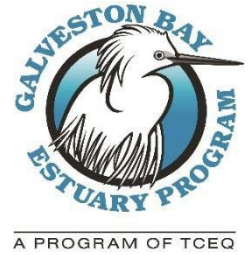
PPE Subcommittee

[Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov) and [Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov)

M&R Subcommittee

[Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov)

# Galveston Bay Estuary Program Fiscal 2026 PPE Project Proposal



Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by **August 5, 2024**. No late submittals will be considered for funding.

This Call for Project Proposals complies with 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 14.7, which lays out requirements for a competitive solicitation by TCEQ for grant awards. For convenience, specific citations to 30 TAC § 14.7 are identified in the text.

## SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

**Purpose [required by 30 TAC § 14.7(1)]:** The purpose of the proposed grant from the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), a program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), is to implement *The Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (the Plan), a comprehensive conservation and management plan falling under Section 320, of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1330), for a designated national estuary in the State of Texas.

**Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]:** The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for FY2026 (FY2026 Priority Area Actions) that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for fiscal 2026 at the June 2024 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

**Authority [see 30 TAC § 14.7(2)]:** Grants issued by GBEP under this solicitation are authorized by: the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) § 320 (33 UNITED STATES CODE § 1330), commonly referred to as the National Estuary Program; TEX. WATER CODE § 5.124; and 30 TAC ch. 14.

**Match Requirement [see 30 TAC § 14.7(10) and 30 TAC § 14.7(11)]:** No matching funds are required. Therefore, there is no need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.

**Multiple Awards [see 30 TAC § 14.7(7)]:** GBEP anticipates awarding funds for multiple proposals. GBEP intends to award grants to that combination of proposals which best implements the Plan, factoring in all criteria identified in this Call for Project Proposals, the availability of funds, and the most effective division of funds between awards.

## SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL - GENERAL INFORMATION

**Subcommittee:**

Public Participation and Education (PPE) (primary); NRU and M&R (considerations)

**Project Name:**

From Scat to Conservation: Community-based research of Galveston Bay's ghost wolves

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes  No

**Lead Implementer / Categories of Eligible Recipients [see 30 TAC § 14.7(3)]:**

The lead implementer must be in one of the following categories of eligible recipients. Please indicate which category applies to your entity. If the proposing party is not already paired with a lead implementer in one of the categories listed below, the proposing party will need to partner with an eligible recipient in one of these categories to be selected for funding. Please reach out to GBEP staff with any questions.

Michigan Technological University (a public, higher-educational institution)

**Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:**

38-6005955

**AND:**

**VIN or Tax ID:**

38-6006309

**Contact Information:**

Project Representative Name	Kristin Brzeski
Project Representative Phone	(262)844-5946
Project Representative Email	kbrzeski@mtu.edu

**Amount Requested from GBEP:**

\$ 12,600

Federal  State  No Preference

Is the project scalable?

**Amount Requested per year (if applicable):**

FY 2026 (09/01/2025-08/31/2026)	\$ 6,000.00
FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	\$ 6,000.00
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	\$ 0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,000.00</b>

**Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2025 - ending no later than May 31, 2028) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:**

09/01/2025-05/31/2027

**Project Urgency:**

The urgency of sampling scat from the unique coyotes that live on Galveston Island and surrounding mainland is heightened by the rapid ongoing development in the area. Implementing community-based education and science integration is essential to involve residents in conservation efforts to seed and foster a collective responsibility for preserving biodiversity. This approach will enhance data collection, raise awareness, develop ways for engagement and community contribution, and ensure sustainable conservation practices across the bay.

**Total Project Cost (including Leveraging Amounts, if any; provide leveraging information where indicated below):**

In total, this community engagement program is estimated to need \$ 50,000 of financial support, for which we have secured funding for the genetic processing of noninvasive (scat) samples. In this proposal, we request funding from the GBEP PPE program to assist with the outreach and educational component of the project, including travel for in-person events, cost to develop educational material, and recruitment workshops.

Is this an estimate?

**Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):**

We have secured \$ 40,000 in donations earmarked to implement our community-based program of collecting noninvasive genetic samples and serve as the basis for the educational component of this proposed program. These donations include gifts from the 1) Foundation For The Carolinas and the 2) California Community Foundation.

**Partners\* and Their Roles:**

Dr. Bridgett vonHoldt (not a subgrantee), Professor at Princeton University is an active, ongoing partner and collaborator in this research program. Her role will be to assist in the genetic component (e.g., DNA sequencing, analysis), where her partnership is integral for completing this proposed study. She will further assist with developing the educational and outreach materials for this proposal's success.

Further, we are developing a wonderful relationship with Artist Boat's Executive Director (Karla Klay) where we wish to keep finding ways in which we can collaborate and partner for this PPE to be successful on Galveston Island. Although not formally discussed with respect to this proposal, our interactions with Artist Boat have been amazing and we plan to keep building our relationship.

**\*If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted under the application.**

**SECTION THREE: GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION IMPLEMENTATION**

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

The FY2026 Priority Area Actions are found at:

<https://gbep.texas.gov/ensure-safe-human-and-aquatic-life-use/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/protect-and-sustain-living-resources/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/engage-communities/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/inform-science-based-decision-making/>

This proposal will build a new opportunity for volunteers (residents of communities) and students (enrolled in local high schools and colleges). The latter will be a result of new partnerships developed with local educational institutes such as TAMU Galveston campus. This program will thus be the foundation for connecting this proposal to two additional FY2026 Priority Area Actions of “Protect and Sustain Living Resources” (Species Conservation Acton Plan SC-1) and “Inform Science-based Decision Making” (Monitoring and Research Action Plan RES-1). As my collaborative team already has built a history of public engagement and science-based discussions for species and habitat conservation, we will continue to share our findings in educational sessions with local City Officials to build a dialogue regarding habitat preservation and wildlife conservation which stem from this proposed noninvasive community engagement program. We envision this program’s infrastructure is easily implemented in other Texas coastal communities (or even nation-wide) to assist in raising awareness for nature-based solutions that help increase the resiliency of coastal habitats and communities in a time that climate change and coastal development are enhancing the erosion of critically important coastal ecosystems. This proposal will be highly accessible across all educational and student levels, from building experiential learning programs for K-12, college (2- and 4-year institutions), and continuing education options. In thinking more nationally for a geographically broader impact and inclusivity, the Galveston Bay region will serve as a role model for this innovative focus on science-based community engagement programs. As a professor, I will integrate this program into my undergraduate course at MTU (Conservation Genetics, FW4128). Experiential learning activities significantly enhance learning outcomes and retention, allowing student to apply theoretical concepts to real-world situations. It is well established that participation in citizen science leads to broader understanding, acceptance, and advocacy.

**Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:**

Plan Priority 3: Engage Communities

SPO-1  SPO-2  SPO-3  SPO-4

PEA-1  PEA-2  PEA-3

**Plan Priority Area Actions Detail:**

This proposed program will directly and immediately engage communities who wish to help protect and preserve the coastal ecosystems of Galveston Bay. Further, given our ongoing relationships with local City Officials (**SPO-4**), we will also provide crucial information regarding science-based options for nature-based solutions regarding resilience to climate change. As such, we focus on **SPO-1** and **SPO-2** through the building of citizen science based experiential learning and research contributions. These events are to directly recruit community members and students to be trained and collect coyote scat, data on location and quality of the biomaterials, learn about the biological systems, and interact with the research team directly. Workshops and educational materials will bridge the relationship between science and conservation action/recommendations. We envision that such would be one of many foundational activities that contribute towards a regional or state-wide initiative (**SPO-3**) for coastal ecosystem preservation. This proposal has the central mission that concomitant with experiential learning for various communities, we also will educate program participants directly through 1) exhibits at the Chamber of Commerce and hopefully the East End Lagoon on Galveston Island (**PEA-1**) as well as recruit volunteers from continued (**PEA-2**) and primary educational school programs (**PEA-3**). This proposal will also make available educational materials (e.g., from my MTU course Conservation Genetics, FW4128 and other material generated in this effort) for any teacher to incorporate into their own course development.

**Does the project implement any other *Galveston Bay Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* Priority Area Actions, or the other Subcommittee priorities?**

- NRU (Protect and Sustain Living Resources)
- WSQ (Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use)
- M&R (Inform Science-Based Decision Making)

**Other Subcommittee Detail:**

Our proposal overlaps with the Natural Resource Uses subcommittee's priority area of "Native Species Management" (SC-1) that aims to 1) protect/sustain living resources, 2) engage communities (this proposal), and 3) provide information for science-based decisions with respect to native species. Galveston's coyotes (i.e., ghost wolves) are unique in that they thrive in coastal habitats on barrier islands and mainland coastal prairies. These coyotes carry a substantial amount of genetic ancestry from the critically endangered and endemic Red wolf. With the loss of their habitat (both through urban development and climate change) threatening their persistence, our proposal will work to include community members to conduct science that will provide significant suggestions for any future economic growth on Galveston Island as it pertains to natural spaces, corridors, and intact ecosystems. This proposal will inform us about where ghost wolves thrive, where they move to when disturbed or their territory is destroyed, and how to mitigate human-wildlife interactions by protecting or building natural spaces for wildlife. Results of this effort will be immediate while developing long-term efforts as an ongoing commitment as the region grows. We hope to contribute towards a conversation that will equally value natural spaces alongside economic goals. We already collaborate with the Galveston Island Humane Society, Artist Boat, the Galveston Bay Foundation, and the Texas Conservation Alliance on these such goals but without funding to realize them. Our proposed work will also overlap with monitoring biological stressors (RES-1) as it pertains to the life history traits of ghost wolves, which includes reproduction, survival, diet, and movement. When disturbances occur (inclement weather, habitat conversion, etc.), we will have the temporal data to understand immediate responses to such environmental stressors and match with life history responses (territory shifts, diet changes, compensatory litter size or lifespan changes, etc.).

**Other Plans Implemented:**

We do not have an active Plan connected to this proposal yet. We continue to be in communication with Galveston City Officials and work with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (Urban Wildlife/Ecology Program) to consider how wildlife and urban ecology research will contribute towards a larger initiative of preserving coastal habitat.

**SECTION FOUR: SUBCOMMITTEE PRIORITIES / FACTORS TO BE USED TO SELECT AWARDS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(6)]**

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

**PPE Subcommittee Identified Priorities**

*Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.*

- Continuation or expansion of established education, outreach, or engagement programs.
- Partnering with new local entities or smaller NGOs to reach new communities.
- Connecting new audiences to existing/completed projects or the natural habitat.
- Opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops/networking opportunities for stakeholders on key topics.

**Subcommittee Priority Detail:**

We recently launched our program called **Scat-Track: Canine Conservation through Citizen Science**, which is a community-based engagement program that utilizes [www.citsci.org](http://www.citsci.org), a global NSF-funded platform for implementing citizen science research. This initiative includes a web platform and phone application for streamlined data collection and database management. Our Scat-Track project has already been shared with eight pilot test participants that has resulted in the collection of >130 scat samples since January 2024 (see map below). The program will have an associated website with detailed instructions for sample identification, collection, and safety protocols. This proposal aims to support the ongoing development of Scat-Track with three primary educational goals: 1) integrate Scat-Track data into 2- or 4-year undergraduate college curriculum, 2) improve community learning of canine ecology and conservation through dissemination of research results, and 3) expand participant recruitment across the Gulf coast (the historic red wolf range) to establish a long-term education and data collection mechanism. Citizen science projects have a well-vetted history of engaging the public in scientific data collection, effectively gathering extensive data across different habitats and regions while simultaneously educating participants about the science to which they are contributing. Indeed, the rediscovery of red wolf ancestry in Galveston coyotes was largely due to a citizen scientist who noticed the distinct appearance of local coyotes. This observation led to the emergence of our Galveston coyote research program and the many townhalls and outreach events that have followed, spurring the development of Scat-Track, which aims to reach a broad audience to collect data for long-term research objectives while providing educational content. This will be achieved through the [www.citsci.org](http://www.citsci.org) application and my associated Scat-Track website that is focused on data collection and data dissemination paired with educational content. I will continue to hold regular regional public presentations with my team and local partners to maintain a presence in our long-term study sites along the Texas coast. My team will also develop educational materials for dissemination to a diverse set of educational programs and educational centers for residents, visitors, and tourists. Scat-Track aims to positively impact views of coyote and wolves by sharing research and educational content through web-based and in-person methods. I will develop educational modules on canine ecology and conservation, incorporating videos, expert interviews, non-technical text, and interactive content.

**Does the Project work with new, smaller communities/partnerships?**

- Yes
- No

We have an active, ongoing collaboration with Bayou City Waterkeeper, Galveston Bay Foundation, Galveston Island Humane Society, Moore-Odom Foundation, Texas Conservation Alliance, Artist Boat, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (Urban Wildlife/Ecology Program). We are developing the dialogue with other stakeholders (Houston Zoo, Moody Gardens, Texas Audubon, and Texas Master Naturalist Program Galveston Chapter) to find ways that build community engagement and educational opportunities for ecosystem preservation.



**SECTION FIVE: PROPOSAL DETAILS**

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.

**Project Summary:**

Our proposal aims to couple citizen science with novel noninvasive genomic tools to determine how environmental conditions preserve the endangered red wolf DNA found in coyotes (locally called Ghost Wolves) in the Galveston Bay ecosystem. We will build upon our previous work with the Galveston area coyotes to gain deeper insights into how ghost genetic red wolf ancestry influences both individual organisms and the broader ecosystem.

As part of the **Education Plan**, our proposed project will develop a community-based program for collecting noninvasive genetic data. This program will feature online portals for reporting results and interactive learning, which will also support classroom education. We have funding and ongoing efforts to establish the genetic methodologies and analyze data to answers question such as how many coyotes persist in the region, how much red wolf ancestry they carry in their genomes, what they eat, and what habitats they use.

We are requesting funding and working to establish partnerships in this proposal to continue developing educational materials for citizen science recruitment and outreach. This includes travel support, workshop development, and generating educational materials about Galveston Bay's 'Ghost Wolves.'

## Full Project Description (1,000 words or less):

Successful citizen science can radically advance scientific and conservation goals. For instance, eBird, an open access platform for reporting bird observations, has contributed to hundreds of journals articles and impacted management of birds across the western hemisphere, while engaging more people in nature. Similarly, we previously worked with a regional river otter program in northern California that incorporated citizen art to fund scholarships and watershed restoration. Given the dual benefits of impacting community involvement in science while advance conservation and research goals, we are dedicated to growing and sustaining Scat-Track: Canine Conservation through Citizen Science. Scat-Track is designed to engage the public to noninvasively collect wild canine genetic material from scat across coastal Texas ecosystems. These data will be used to learn about the red wolf DNA that persists in coastal coyotes. Specifically, these results will determine: (1) if red wolf genetic material persists in small pockets or is widespread throughout coyotes of coastal Texas, (2) what they eat across seasons and landscapes, (3) how many individuals persist, (4) where they move and how they are impacted by stressors, such as development and extreme weather. While the broader research aims to understand the processes that maintain red wolf DNA in coastal Texas, here we are requesting **support to continue developing and implementing Scat-Track across Galveston Bay.**

To date, we have developed a simple and exportable protocol that allows citizen scientists to collect meaningful biomaterial for genetic analysis. The goal is to host online material with regularly updates and educational opportunities for volunteers, and the curious, to learn about ecology and conservation. Basic management involves working with teachers or students for daily operations, such as mailing sampling kits and contacting contributors, and periodically adding new education modules and updating the website with the latest information. Our roadmap for expanding participation is as follows. **1) Enhance and continue in-person and field efforts across the Gulf Coast coastal ecosystems with established partners.** We will support this strong participant base with specific educational materials, such as the Galveston Island ghost wolf research page. **2) Expand participant recruitment through field interactions, seminars, webinars, and classroom visits.** Current partners supporting this effort include Baylor University, Saint Mary's University, Audubon Delta, University of Louisiana Lafayette, Mississippi State University, Oklahoma State University, Arkansas State University, Red Wolf Coalition, and Princeton University. Academic partners will also introduce Scat-Track to undergraduate students. **3) Leverage social and public media to galvanize additional participants throughout the historic red wolf range.** The combined social media presence among current partners exceeds 8 million followers across platforms like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and X. This will grow with a sustained social media campaign, supported by MTU News and Media Relations department. Based on previous national media attention for our Galveston coyote work, including features in the New York Times, PBS docuseries EcoSense for Living and Chasing the Tide, ABC News, CNN, CBS News, and the Atlantic, I am confident Scat-Track will reach millions and become an institutionalized program, like eBird or the River Otter Project.

We are requesting funds to support the expansion of Scat-Track throughout Galveston Bay. This includes funds for in-person travel, recruitment workshops, and public presentations, as well as funds for developing and printing educational materials for the public and partner with organizations, and hosting recruitment events that support Scat-Track efforts.

Scat-Track aims to contribute towards **building a scientifically literate public**, which fosters a culture of curiosity and can drive progress in conservation and sustainability. We have the potential to reach millions of people through online material and engage hundreds in scat collection, impacting science literacy and perceptions of canines across the country, and specifically across coastal Texas. **Science communication** has the power to build trust in science through translating complex scientific concepts in understandable ways. We are dedicated to impactful science communication through public speaking and online content, utilizing best practices for framing a strong, clearly articulated conservation science message for town halls, podcasts, educational material, and webinars.

**Scat-Track Program strives to be inclusive by working to provide information in multiple languages to ensure accessibility for diverse communities**, specifically Spanish and to engage individuals from different backgrounds, fostering a more representative participant group. We will continue to work with or develop new partnerships with the following groups to boost community engagement and educational opportunities: Bayou City Waterkeeper, Galveston Bay Foundation, Galveston Island Human Society, Houston Zoo, Moody Gardens, Moore-Odom Foundation, Texas Audubon, Texas Conservation Alliance, Texas Master Naturalist Program Galveston Chapter, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD Urban Wildlife/Ecology Program), and Artist Boat.

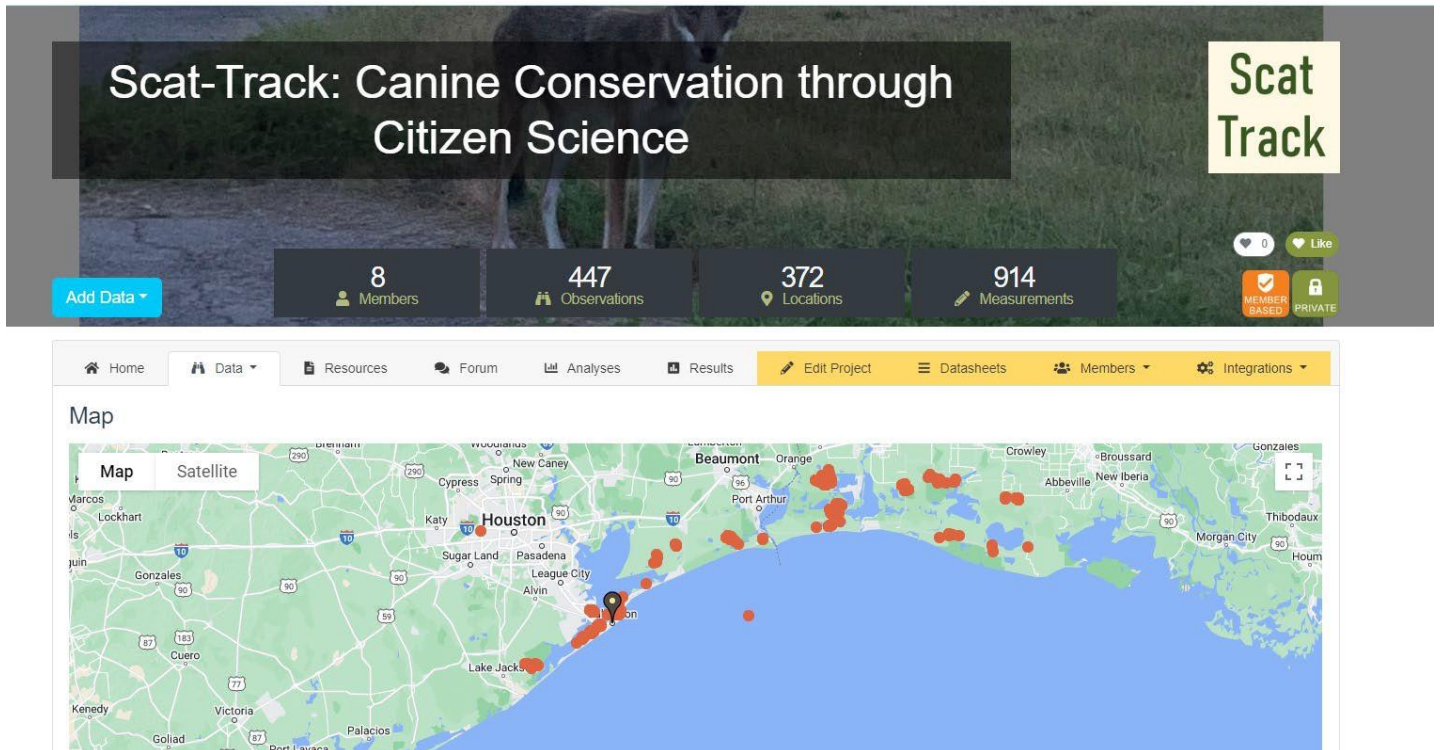
**Latitude/Longitude (Optional):**

Latitude: 29°16'45" N  
Longitude: 94°49'33" W

**Location:**

Galveston Island and any community on coastal Galveston Bay

**Projects Map**



Map of locations of current scat samples and contributors from Scat-Track. Through this project, where we are proposing to develop educational material to share with partners and our extensive network, we aim to expand and enhance both science data collection and biodiversity education.

**Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):**

**SECTION SIX: BUDGET DETAILS**

**Grant Payments [see 30 TAC § 14.7(12)]:** All grant payments will be made on the basis of reimbursement for allowable costs (as defined in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E). All payments for awarded proposals will be reimbursements of allowable costs incurred after both parties have entered (signed) a grant agreement for the project.

**Budget.** Authorized budgeted expenditures for work performed are as follows:

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>Cost for Work to be Performed</b>
Salary / Wages	\$0.00
Fringe Benefits (##%) <sup>1</sup>	\$0.00
Travel	\$3,500
Supplies	\$4,000
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$2,500
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
<b>Total Direct Cost</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
Indirect Costs	\$2,600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,600.00</b>

**Indirect Cost Agreement**

Please note: If using a rate different from your entity Indirect Cost Agreement; a letter of exemption from the appropriate authority must be provided with the application, or a statement must be included certifying that the recipient has elected to be reimbursed for an amount less than its total indirect costs, that unreimbursed indirect costs are part of the recipient’s contribution to the success of the project, and that the recipient will pay for all unreimbursed indirect costs using funds available to it for that purpose.

**Indirect Cost Reimbursable Rate.** The reimbursable rate for this Contract is 26% of (check one):

- Salary and fringe benefits
- Modified total direct costs
- Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify: Off campus education project. 26%

This rate is less than or equal to (check one):

- Predetermined Rate**— an indirect rate that is negotiated between the Performing Party and its federal cognizant agency and supported by a current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) letter. A Predetermined Rate is not subject to adjustment except as provided by 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 200.411.
- De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of ten percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) in lieu of determining the actual indirect costs of the service. Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs.

<sup>1</sup> If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.

**Provisional Rate**— an experienced-based rate agreed to by Performing Party and TCEQ in the absence of a NICRA rate negotiated with the applicable federal cognizant agency.

**Partial Reimbursement Rate**— a reimbursement rate agreed to between TCEQ and Performing Party that is less than the rate authorized under TxGMS or, where applicable, 2 CFR Part 200. Performing Party contributes all of its unreimbursed indirect costs to the successful performance of the project or projects funded under this Contract, in accordance with Article 9 of this section.

**Other:**

**Other.** If Budget Category “Other” is greater than \$25,000 or more than 10% of total Contract budget, identify the main constituents:

[Description of costs associated with “Other” budget category.]

#### **SECTION SEVEN: CONTRACT REQUIREMENT [see 30 TAC § 14.7(15)]:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if you become a successful grant recipient selected for a grant award, you must enter into a signed grant agreement or contract with TCEQ following the announcement of that award.

#### **SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Please read and understand the following:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that information on how grant payments will be made is contained in the Budget Details section describing direct and possibly indirect costs. You further acknowledge that grant payments will be reimbursements on the basis of allowable costs incurred and that selected recipients will receive contract documents addressing allowable costs, unallowable costs, and reimbursement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge your understanding that Project Proposals do not require matching funds and that a TCEQ director does not need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if GBEP elects to hold a pre-submittal meeting relating to this Project Proposal, GBEP will notify you of the meeting’s time and location indicating whether attendance is mandatory.

#### **SECTION NINE: QUESTIONS AND PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETINGS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13) and 30 TAC § 14.7(14)]:**

- There are no pre-submittal meetings scheduled.
- For requests for additional, pre-submittal information [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13)], please contact the corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page.

#### **SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS**

In submitting your Project Proposal, please refer and adhere to the following instructions and guidelines concerning materials and information required to be submitted by potential grant recipients:

- GBEP intends to accept only complete Projected Proposals in a layout and format constituting a filled version of this proposal document with all applicable sections therein addressed; however, GBEP may, in its sole discretion, consider and accept nonconforming Project Proposals in the best interest of the state.
- Unless otherwise specified by GBEP, formal signatures are not required on Project Proposals.
- Unless otherwise communicated or implied, GBEP requires 1 (one) completed copy of your Project Proposal per corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator.
- Project Proposals must be received electronically, through the email address of the relevant Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page, by the deadline listed on both this page and the first page of this Project Proposal document.

**Submittal Process and Deadline [see 30 TAC § 14.7(8) and 30 TAC § 14.7(9)]:**

**Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by August 5, 2024 to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:**

WSQ Subcommittee

[Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov)

NRU Subcommittee

[Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov)

PPE Subcommittee

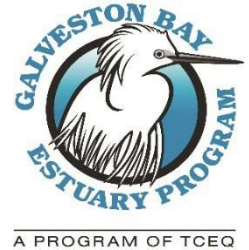
[Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov) and [Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov)

M&R Subcommittee

[Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov)



# Galveston Bay Estuary Program Fiscal 2026 M&R Project Proposal



Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by **August 5, 2024**. No late submittals will be considered for funding.

This Call for Project Proposals complies with 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 14.7, which lays out requirements for a competitive solicitation by TCEQ for grant awards. For convenience, specific citations to 30 TAC § 14.7 are identified in the text.

## SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

**Purpose [required by 30 TAC § 14.7(1)]:** The purpose of the proposed grant from the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), a program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), is to implement *The Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (the Plan), a comprehensive conservation and management plan falling under Section 320, of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1330), for a designated national estuary in the State of Texas.

**Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]:** The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for FY2026 (FY2026 Priority Area Actions) that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for fiscal 2026 at the June 2024 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

**Authority [see 30 TAC § 14.7(2)]:** Grants issued by GBEP under this solicitation are authorized by: the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) § 320 (33 UNITED STATES CODE § 1330), commonly referred to as the National Estuary Program; TEX. WATER CODE § 5.124; and 30 TAC ch. 14.

**Match Requirement [see 30 TAC § 14.7(10) and 30 TAC § 14.7(11)]:** No matching funds are required. Therefore, there is no need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.

**Multiple Awards [see 30 TAC § 14.7(7)]:** GBEP anticipates awarding funds for multiple proposals. GBEP intends to award grants to that combination of proposals which best implements the Plan, factoring in all criteria identified in this Call for Project Proposals, the availability of funds, and the most effective division of funds between awards.

## SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL - GENERAL INFORMATION

**Subcommittee:**

M&R

**Project Name:**

Developing Molecular Tools for Demographics and Distribution of Galveston Bay Estuary System Sea Turtles

Project Previously Funded by GBEP?      Yes       No

**Lead Implementer / Categories of Eligible Recipients [see 30 TAC § 14.7(3)]:**

The lead implementer must be in one of the following categories of eligible recipients. Please indicate which category applies to your entity. If the proposing party is not already paired with a lead implementer in one of the categories listed below, the proposing party will need to partner with an eligible recipient in one of these categories to be selected for funding. Please reach out to GBEP staff with any questions.

- Federal, State, or Local Government       Council of Government       Public ISDs or Universities  
 Nonprofit       Other\*

Public University- Texas A&M University at Galveston

**Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:**

G8Y3L8JV2588

AND:

**VIN or Tax ID:**

EIN 742125225

**Contact Information:**

Project Representative Name	Christopher Marshall
Project Representative Phone	409-740-4884
Project Representative Email	<a href="mailto:marshalc@tamug.edu">marshalc@tamug.edu</a>

**Amount Requested from GBEP:**

\$99,826.00

Federal  State  No Preference Is the project scalable? **Amount Requested per year (if applicable):**

FY 2026 (09/01/2025-08/31/2026)	\$60,505.00
FY 2027 (09/01/2026-08/31/2027)	\$39,321.00
<b>Total</b>	\$99,826.00

**Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2025 - ending no later than May 31, 2028) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:**

September 2025 - August 2027

**Project Urgency:**

The Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research at Texas A&M University at Galveston has established a long-term, in-water sea turtle monitoring program in the Galveston Bay Estuary System (GBES). Over time, this work has been integrated in the Center's rescue, recovery, and rehabilitation programs to widen the ability to track sea turtles in the GBES. The proposed work presented here will further expand and complement our ability to determine how sea turtles use the GBES habitats, provide a new tool to investigate the demographics and distribution in the GBES, and determine the feasibility of estimating sea turtle density. Such data will be important to State of Texas wildlife managers since sea turtles are a "species of greatest conservation need" as well as assist wildlife rescue and rehabilitation programs during sea turtle cold stuns.

**Total Project Cost (including Leveraging Amounts, if any; provide leveraging information where indicated below):**

*The total amount requested from GBEP is \$99,826.00.*

Is this an estimate? **Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):**

Staff support, and graduate student tuition and fees for six semesters (YR: Fall, Spring, Summer, YR 2: Fall, Spring and Summer) **are not requested** in this proposal and should be considered as leverage. This allows for more requested funds to go toward sampling supplies, analytical costs, and some salary support for a student technician and the PI. **The total amount requested from GBEP is \$99,826.00.**

**Partners\* and Their Roles:**

The Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research is the lead for sea turtle rescue, recovery, rehabilitation, and research on the upper Texas coast. All sea turtle strandings, live or deceased, are channeled through the organization for either rescue or recovery and further research. The GCSTR also participates in in-water research in which sea turtles are captured and tagged with satellite and acoustic tags to monitor their travel throughout the Gulf of Mexico. The stranding information, as well as the results from in-water research will be utilized as comparative data for the proposed eDNA research in this project. USFWS, NOAA, and Texas Parks and Wildlife oversee the state and federal permits for the GCSTR to work with these endangered animals.

**\*If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted under the application.**

**SECTION THREE: GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION IMPLEMENTATION**

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the FY2026 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

The FY2026 Priority Area Actions are found at:

<https://gbep.texas.gov/ensure-safe-human-and-aquatic-life-use/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/protect-and-sustain-living-resources/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/engage-communities/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/inform-science-based-decision-making/>

The proposed research enacts the Galveston Bay Priority Plan 4: Inform Science-based Decision Making through biological monitoring, tracking ecosystem health indicators (using sea turtles), and provide demographic and distribution data on the sea turtle species that utilize the Galveston Bay Estuary System to wildlife managers. The use of new molecular tools will coincide with current TCEQ funded projects to provide updated demographic baseline data for *species of greatest conservation need*. These assessments will enhance existing and ongoing conservation efforts for the sea turtle species that utilize all areas of Galveston Bay, delivering focus to adaptive management strategies. As indicator species, this work will also address important data gaps regarding a major living resource that also influences benthic habitats of the GBES.

Specifically, the proposed research will enact FY2026 Priority Area Actions for **SC-1** (Projects that sustain and restore native species populations), **RES-1** (Develop new and support existing efforts to conduct biological stressor monitoring and research), and **RES-3** (Develop new and support existing efforts to conduct physical stressor monitoring and research). Using molecular tools to understand the demographics and distribution of sea turtles in the GBES will provide a new insight into how biological (**RES-1**) and physical stressors (**RES-3**) change the distribution (and possibly density) of sea turtles in the GBES, particularly green sea turtles that may cold stun during winter cold fronts. As indicated in the Galveston Bay Plan, it is important that Priority Action Plan **SC (1 & 2)** also provide information for Action Plans for **RES (1-3)**, which this proposed research does.

Furthermore, the proposed research enacts FY2026 Priority Area Actions for **ACS-1** (Support tracking the status and trends of environmental and stressor indicators of Galveston Bay ecosystem health), and **ACS-2** (Expand the dissemination of easy-to-access Galveston Bay monitoring and research). The development of molecular tools to characterize the demographics and distribution of Galveston Bay Estuary System Sea Turtles *will augment existing research conducted by the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research (GCSTR) that is currently funded by the Galveston Bay Estuary Program*. These tools have the potential to enable greater sampling of sea turtles and provide a more comprehensive understanding of where sea turtles are in the GBES, where the “hotspots” of sea turtle activity are (**ACS-1**), as well as their demographics. Such information is critical for managers, but additionally, such information will be important to understand how long-term trends in biological and physical stressors, (such as cold-stunning events) change sea turtle density. This will also inform wildlife responders as to where to apply their limited resources to rescue turtles during winter cold fronts. These data will be shared with state (TPWD) and federal (USFWS, NOAA) partners that oversee management and conservation of these species of greatest conservation need. Additionally, data will be presented at the State of the Bay Symposium, national/international scientific meetings, and published in peer-reviewed journals.

**Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:**

Plan Priority 4: Inform Science-based Decision Making

RES-1  RES-2  RES-3  RES-4

RES-5  RES-6  RES-7  RES-8

ACS-1  ACS-2  ACS-3

**Plan Priority Area Actions Detail:**

Appropriate management of sea turtles in the Galveston Bay Estuary System requires accurate data regarding the seasonal use of particular areas by various species. Data from the GCSTR in-water research and stranding program indicate seasonal shifts of green, loggerhead and Kemp's ridley sea turtles. Environmental factors such as freshwater influxes, seagrass and shoreline erosion, and extreme weather events (cold weather fronts impact their movement and use of the GBES). Additionally, anthropogenic changes, such as marine construction, dredging, fishing and boating also affect their habitat use. This project will deliver insights into how sea turtles are impacted by biological stressors (**RES-1**) and how their habitat use changes throughout the year following quarterly sampling (**RES-3**). Record keeping of the physical and biological alterations of the bay system will be compared to the molecular movement data, as well as stranding and in-water research results. As sea turtles are considered an indicator species of ecosystem well-being, their use of Galveston Bay indicates sustainability and bay health (**ACS-1**). Marine organisms are not always easy to access, and monitoring efforts can be challenging. With this new molecular tool, we will expand the dissemination of Galveston Bay research (**ACS-2**) by delivering this data to our local stakeholders and partners such as USFWS, TPWD, NOAA, as well as wider audiences of the GCSTR.

**Does the project implement any other Galveston Bay Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Priority Area Actions, or the other Subcommittee priorities?**

- NRU (Protect and Sustain Living Resources)
- WSQ (Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use)
- PPE (Engage Communities)

**Other Subcommittee Detail:**

In the Galveston Bay Plan, the species conservation action plan has a mission to protect and sustain living resources. Species conservation is linked to habitat conservation, as health of an ecosystem directly impacts the health of the species inhabiting the area. Sea turtles are threatened or endangered species that thrive in the Galveston Bay Estuary System. To protect native species of concern, baseline data and the demographics of each species must first be addressed. As sea turtle populations continue to recover globally, impacts to local populations have lasting effects. The information acquired from this effort will present stakeholders the material required to make informed decisions about conserving these threatened and endangered native animals. This project contributes to conservation efforts through the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research (**SC-1**) by providing sea turtle presence/absence, distribution, and density, as well as habitat use in the GBES of a species of concern for the GBEP Subcommittee Natural Resource Use (NRU).

**Other Plans Implemented:**

Texas Coastal Study (USFWS), Texas Conservation Plan (TPWD), Texas Coastal Management Plan (TXGLO), Texas Wetland Conservation Plan (via seagrasses and benthic habitat).

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

**M&R Subcommittee Identified Priorities**

*Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.*

- Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially species of concern, WSQ, PPE).
- Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay.
- Assessment, exposure, and response to stressors, including **but not limited to**:
  - Species of greatest conservation need;
  - Contact recreation standards;
  - Environmental parameters;
  - Emerging contaminants; and
  - Legacy contaminants.

**Subcommittee Priority Detail:**

Sea turtle demographics and distribution in the GBES acquired through new molecular tools will greatly expand our ability to understand how increased freshwater influxes, extreme winters, erosion, and benthic ecology alterations affect these endangered and threatened species. Seasonal movement data acquired from strandings, in-water research and the new molecular tools of eDNA will provide meaningful and effective monitoring, through the comparison of past, existing and new projects focusing on species of concern. The movement of these animals through seasonal shifts will demonstrate healthy baselines as well as show cause for concern due to changes in environmental parameters, and emerging anthropogenic harm.

**Does the Project work with new, smaller communities/partnerships?**

- Yes
- No

N/A



## **SECTION FIVE: PROPOSAL DETAILS**

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority.

### **Project Summary:**

The Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research (GCSTR) is the lead for sea turtle rescue and recovery on the upper Texas coast. Recent data regarding sea turtle stranding recoveries, and from sea turtles captured as part of the in-water research program, demonstrate that three species of sea turtles (Green [*Chelonia mydas*], Kemp's ridley [*Lepidochelys kempii*], and loggerheads [*Caretta caretta*]) utilize the Galveston Bay Estuary System throughout the year. Stranding data have known biases since injured or deceased sea turtles may be carried by currents far from the habitat they were using. In-water capture and satellite tagging of sea turtles, while effective, is labor intensive and costly. The use of environmental DNA (eDNA) is a relatively new molecular tool and has been developed for measuring presence/absences of species, species distribution, species density, and even population assessments for a variety of species. The proposed research will allow the GCSTR to expand its capability to characterize the demographics and distribution of sea turtles in the GBES. These data will be used to compare and support similar data acquired from stranding, and in-water research. The GCSTR is well positioned to conduct this work. An important feature of this work is the ability to validate eDNA from the field. Here, the GCSTR's sea turtle hospital will be used to validate eDNA signatures from known sea turtle species held in mesocosms in the rehabilitation hospital. Such work will provide a non-invasive method of detecting sea turtles and allow us to corroborate the efficacy of this molecular tool for real time evasive animal habitat use in the GBES.

### **Full Project Description (1,000 words or less):**

The use of environmental DNA (eDNA) methods have been increasingly applied to assess presence/absence, distribution, and density of wildlife populations over the last decade. The promise of eDNA technology as new universal biomonitoring tools has been realized for species detection and biodiversity metrics, with the publication rate growing rapidly (Bessey et al., 2021; Jarman, Berry, & Bunce, 2018; Koziol et al., 2019; Taberlet, Coissac, Hajibabaei, & Rieseberg, 2012). The development of easily accessible and low-cost sampling methods, and the increased access of genomic analyses to isolate specific species, eDNA tools have become more commonplace for such studies.

The Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research (GCSTR) has demonstrated that three of the seven sea turtle species reside in, or use the Galveston Bay Estuary System (GBES). Stranding data from the upper Texas coast show that green (*Chelonia mydas*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), and loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) turtles use the entirety of the GBES (i.e., all bays of the Galveston Bay estuary including the upper Texas coast shoreline). All sea turtles are federally protected under the Endangered Species Act. The five species found in the GBES are threatened, endangered, or critically endangered. The State of Texas refers to sea turtles as "species of greatest conservation need." The GCSTR is conducting the first long-term monitoring program to understand the distribution of GBES sea turtles, and the biological and physical stressors that influence their movement, distribution, and habitat use.

Numerous studies rely on stranding data to determine stock levels; however, stranding data have known biases. Stranded sea turtles, do not necessarily indicate actual geolocation and habitat use, and many mortality events are never recovered (Hart, Mooreside, & Crowder, 2006). Stranded animals are often pushed towards a shoreline, or along the coast, and out of their presumed natural habitat due to tides and currents. In-water programs (the capture of wild sea turtles) are frequently used to assess sea turtle demographics and distribution. GBES sea turtles captured by the GCSTR's in-water program also applies satellite and acoustic tags, which provides long-term movement data. In-water work is costly, labor intensive, and limited by physical access and weather. ***eDNA methodologies offers additional lines of evidence that are non-invasive, relatively low-cost, and less labor intensive.*** Genetic information does not require visual observation, capture, or recovery of the organism (Adams et al., 2019); data are collected by simply acquiring a water sample. eDNA tools enable forensic detection of species-specific genetic material shed into the environment by an organism (Farrell et al., 2022). In conjunction with the current in-water research program, as well as their rescue, recovery, and rehabilitation programs, the GCSTR is well positioned to utilize eDNA analyses as a method to confirm stock assessments provided by in-water captures, and stranding data.

***The objectives of the proposed research is to develop and assess species-specific molecular tools to identify sea turtle presence/absence and habitat use. This will be accomplished by 1) determining the***

efficacy of eDNA protocols on turtles in the GBES using the sea turtle hospital to validate the methodologies, 2) assessing the detectability of eDNA levels when comparing locations with high vs. low flow-currents, 3) sample 10-known sea turtles hot spots seasonally throughout the GBES to determine presence/absence, distribution, and density, and 4) corroborate eDNA derived data with stranding and in-water data; assess the efficacy of eDNA as a monitoring tool.

Environmental DNA analyses are an increasingly utilized tool in population density studies and a preferred method for stakeholders (Harper et al., 2020). Use of eDNA technology are leading tools used to assess presence/absence and qualitative abundance that can identify sea turtle critical habitats. In the GBES study area, we will identify the presence/absence of specific sea turtle species and test the method's ability to provide quantitative vs. qualitative abundance of each species seasonally.

It is expected that eDNA analyses will have exceptional utility in predicting the severity of cold-stunning events for green sea turtles in the GBES, and in Texas. Sea turtles are prone to cold stunning events, which eDNA analyses could assist in the prediction of the number of impacted animals. Green sea turtles, like all sea turtles, are ectothermic and regulate their body temperature based on external environmental climate. When the water temperature falls below 10°C for longer than 12 hours, these animals will “cold stun”, and lose controlled movement. The GCSTR has rescued and recovered 450+ green sea turtles during cold stun events since January of 2021. Due to climate change, the number of cold stuns in our region has increased from one event every 2- 3 years to multiple events every year, and the number of impacted animals will only increase over time. While sea turtles have the ability to escape the shallow bays for deeper water, often these cold fronts occur so rapidly that escape is not possible. Furthermore, eDNA analyses are likely to provide additional lines of evidence that will enhance cold-stun model forecasting (Shaver et al., 2017). This work will provide new tools to measure physical and biological stressors and their impact on sea turtle use of the GBES.

Last, it is expected that eDNA analyses could provide critical information to industry working in coastal waters. Numerous dredging and beach renourishment projects have the potential to impact sea turtles due to the unknown presence or absence, activity level, or seasonal shifts on the upper Texas coast. Sea turtle habitat use in the GBES continues to be poorly understood while industry and port growth has expanded. It is crucial to establish the presence or absence and habitat use of sea turtles before major construction projects occur in the GBES, including the coastal spine project, and proposed wind farms offshore of Galveston and the Louisiana coast. Current movement studies by the GCSTR, and others, indicate that this area is a significant migratory path and foraging area for sea turtles (Marshall, pers. comm.; Howell & Shaver, 2021). With the use of eDNA technology, the GCSTR will be able to provide current habitat use for these critically endangered and threatened sea turtle species.

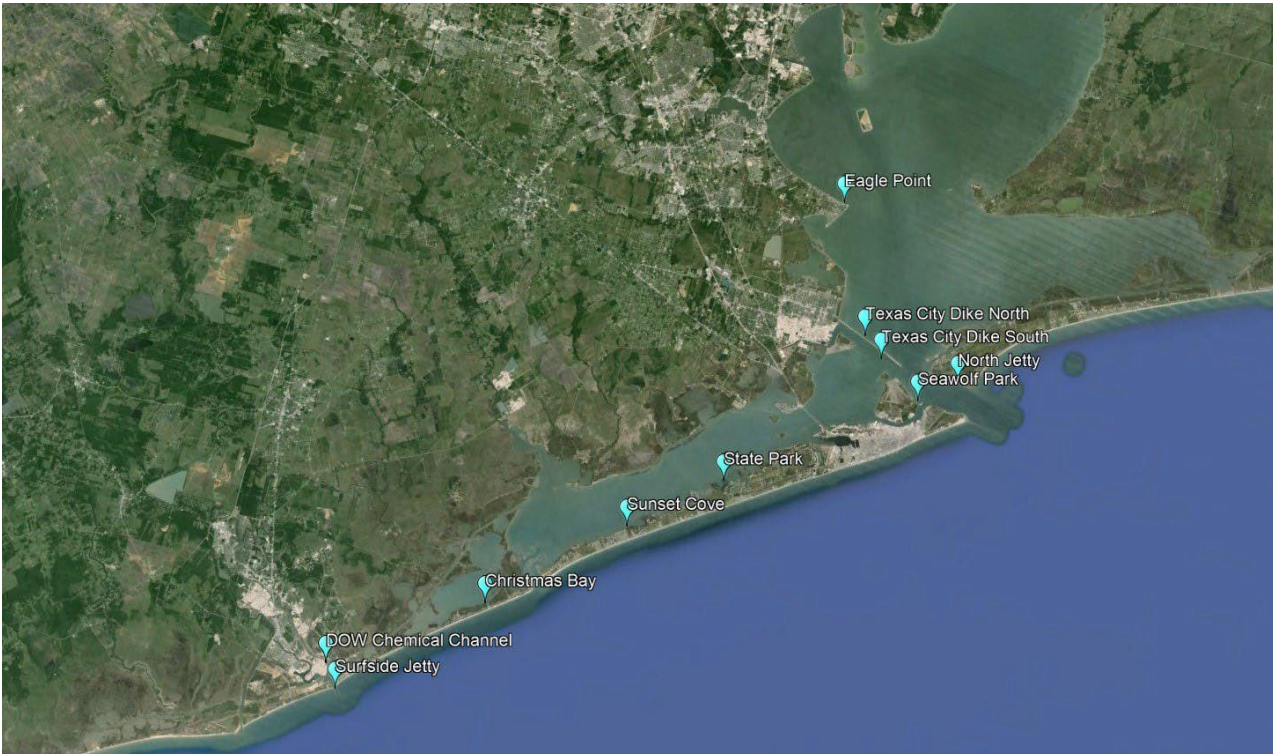
**Latitude/Longitude (Optional):**

29°13'45.372" N, 94°59'36.301" W

**Location:**

Galveston Bay Estuary System (Christmas, West, South, East, and Galveston Bays)

## Projects Map



***Ten shoreline locations*** will be utilized as sampling sites to coincide with in-water data acquired through the STARS acoustic array as well as common points of sea turtle strandings.

**Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):**



**Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research Rehabilitation Hospital**

**SECTION SIX: BUDGET DETAILS**

**Grant Payments [see 30 TAC § 14.7(12)]:** All grant payments will be made on the basis of reimbursement for allowable costs (as defined in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E). All payments for awarded proposals will be reimbursements of allowable costs incurred after both parties have entered (signed) a grant agreement for the project.

**Budget.** Authorized budgeted expenditures for work performed are as follows:

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>Cost for Work to be Performed</b>
Salary / Wages	\$29,037.00
Fringe Benefits	\$5,233.00
Travel	\$1,302.00
Supplies	\$21,200.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$0.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$8,050.00
<b>Total Direct Cost</b>	<b>\$64,822.00</b>
Indirect Costs	\$35,004.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$99,826.00</b>

**Indirect Cost Agreement**

[Indirect Cost Agreement has been attached as an Appendix]

**Indirect Cost Reimbursable Rate.** The reimbursable rate for this Contract is 54% of (check one):

Salary and fringe benefits

X Modified total direct costs

Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

This rate is less than or equal to (check one):

X **Predetermined Rate**— an indirect rate that is negotiated between the Performing Party and its federal cognizant agency and supported by a current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) letter. A Predetermined Rate is not subject to adjustment except as provided by 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 200.411.

**De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of ten percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) in lieu of determining the actual indirect costs of the service. Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs.

**Provisional Rate**— an experienced-based rate agreed to by Performing Party and TCEQ in the absence of a NICRA rate negotiated with the applicable federal cognizant agency.

**Partial Reimbursement Rate**— a reimbursement rate agreed to between TCEQ and Performing Party that is less than the rate authorized under TxGMS or, where applicable, 2 CFR Part 200. Performing Party contributes all of its unreimbursed indirect costs to the successful performance of the project or projects funded under this Contract, in accordance with Article 9 of this section.

**Other:**

**Other.** If Budget Category “Other” is greater than \$25,000 or more than 10% of total Contract budget, identify the main constituents:

N/A
-----

**SECTION SEVEN: CONTRACT REQUIREMENT [see 30 TAC § 14.7(15)]:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if you become a successful grant recipient selected for a grant award, you must enter into a signed grant agreement or contract with TCEQ following the announcement of that award.

**SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Please read and understand the following:**

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that information on how grant payments will be made is contained in the Budget Details section describing direct and possibly indirect costs. You further acknowledge that grant payments will be reimbursements on the basis of allowable costs incurred and that selected recipients will receive contract documents addressing allowable costs, unallowable costs, and reimbursement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge your understanding that Project Proposals do not require matching funds and that a TCEQ director does not need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that, if GBEP elects to hold a pre-submittal meeting relating to this Project Proposal, GBEP will notify you of the meeting’s time and location indicating whether attendance is mandatory.

**SECTION NINE: QUESTIONS AND PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETINGS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13) and 30 TAC § 14.7(14)]:**

- There are no pre-submittal meetings scheduled.
- For requests for additional, pre-submittal information [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13)], please contact the corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page.
- 

**SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS**

In submitting your Project Proposal, please refer and adhere to the following instructions and guidelines concerning materials and information required to be submitted by potential grant recipients:

- GBEP intends to accept only complete Projected Proposals in a layout and format constituting a filled version of this proposal document with all applicable sections therein addressed; however, GBEP may, in its sole discretion, consider and accept nonconforming Project Proposals in the best interest of the state.
- Unless otherwise specified by GBEP, formal signatures are not required on Project Proposals.
- Unless otherwise communicated or implied, GBEP requires 1 (one) completed copy of your Project Proposal per corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator.
- Project Proposals must be received electronically, through the email address of the relevant Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page, by the deadline listed on both this page and the first page of this Project Proposal document.



**Submittal Process and Deadline [see 30 TAC § 14.7(8) and 30 TAC § 14.7(9)]:  
Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by August 5, 2024 to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:**

WSQ Subcommittee  
[Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov)

NRU Subcommittee  
[Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov)

PPE Subcommittee  
[Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov) and [Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Matthew.Abernathy@tceq.texas.gov)

M&R Subcommittee  
[Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov)

### **Appendix: Budget Justification**

**Senior Personnel-** Total Budget Requested \$23,394.00 for Two Years  
Dr. Christopher Marshall, Department of Marine Biology (Texas A&M University, Galveston Campus) will serve as the lead PI and project manager. Dr. Marshall is requesting 1-month salary support in YR 1 of the grant, and one-half month salary support for YR 2 of the grant (includes a 3% annual escalation).

**Undergraduate Student Support-** Total Budget Requested \$10,876.00 for two years.  
An undergraduate student worker is requested to assist in the processing of samples and genetic lab work. After samples have been collected, they must be processed for DNA extraction and analysis. A student worker is requested to assist with this process for four semesters (two years, including summers). The student will participate for 10 hours per week, at \$12.00 an hour, for 44 weeks per year, which, including fringe benefits totals \$5438.00. This position will be for two years.

**Supplies-** Total Budget Requested \$21,200 for Two Years  
We request funds for supplies for this project. Sterile containers, Van Dorn samplers, reagents to stabilize eDNA and applicable consumable supplies are all required for sampling. For DNA processing and analysis, DNA extraction kits, as well as supplies needed for gel electrophoresis will be purchased. A kayak is requested to alleviate funding required to charter a University vessel, as well as necessary safety equipment, trailer, and tow straps. Fuel for the GCSTR truck for travel to field sites is also requested.

**Other costs-** Total Budget Requested \$8,050 for Two Years  
Some sites are only accessible using the TAMUG research vessels. Funds are requested to charter a vessel eight times for quarterly sampling over two years. Vessels rates are \$150/day, totaling \$1200.00 for the project. Each positive sample will be analyzed through genome sequencing. Computing costs and data analysis software are also requested to complete this work. Funds are requested to attend the Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Meeting, or another appropriate scientific meeting, in spring of 2027. This meeting will provide an opportunity for this research to be presented to sea turtle biologists conducting research in the southeastern United States.

### **Appendix: Indirect Cost Agreement**

**COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES RATE AGREEMENT**

EIN: 1746000531A1

DATE:09/02/2022

ORGANIZATION:

FILING REF.: The preceding agreement was dated 08/07/2019

Texas A & M University - College Station  
200 Technology Way  
A & M System Bldg, Suite 1281  
College Station, TX 77845-3424

The rates approved in this agreement are for use on grants, contracts and other agreements with the Federal Government, subject to the conditions in Section III.

---

**SECTION I: Facilities And Administrative Cost Rates**

---

RATE TYPES:      FIXED                  FINAL                  PROV. (PROVISIONAL)      PRED. (PREDETERMINED)

EFFECTIVE PERIOD

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>RATE (%) LOCATION</u>	<u>APPLICABLE TO</u>
PRED.	09/01/2022	08/31/2023	51.50 On Campus	Organized Research & Instruction
PRED.	09/01/2023	08/31/2025	52.50 On Campus	Organized Research & Instruction
PRED.	09/01/2025	08/31/2026	54.00 On Campus	Organized Research & Instruction
PRED.	09/01/2022	08/31/2026	32.00 On Campus	Other Sponsored Activities
PRED.	09/01/2022	08/31/2026	10.50 Off Campus	IPA Programs
PRED.	09/01/2022	08/31/2026	26.00 Off Campus	All Programs

ORGANIZATION: Texas A & M University - College Station  
AGREEMENT DATE: 9/2/2022

---

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>RATE (%) LOCATION</u>	<u>APPLICABLE TO</u>
PROV.	09/01/2026	Until Amended		Use same rates and conditions as those cited for fiscal year ending August 31, 2026.

\*BASE

Modified total direct costs, consisting of all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel and up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards under the award). Modified total direct costs shall exclude equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs of off site facilities, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$25,000. Other items may only be excluded when necessary to avoid a serious inequity in the distribution of indirect costs, and with the approval of the cognizant agency for indirect costs.

ORGANIZATION: Texas A & M University - College Station

AGREEMENT DATE: 9/2/2022

---

---

**SECTION II: SPECIAL REMARKS**

---

TREATMENT OF FRINGE BENEFITS:

The fringe benefits are specifically identified to each employee and are charged individually as direct costs. The directly claimed fringe benefits are listed below.

TREATMENT OF PAID ABSENCES

Vacation, holiday, sick leave pay and other paid absences are included in salaries and wages and are claimed on grants, contracts and other agreements as part of the normal cost for salaries and wages. Separate claims are not made for the cost of unpaid absences.

OFF-CAMPUS DEFINITION: OFF-CAMPUS DEFINITION: For all activities performed in facilities not owned by the institution and to which rent is directly allocated to the project(s) the off-campus rate will apply. Grants or contracts will not be subject to more than one F&A cost rate. If more than 50% of a project is performed off-campus, the off-campus rate will apply to the entire project.

FRINGE BENEFITS:

FICA, Retirement, Worker's Compensation, Life Insurance, Unemployment Insurance, Health Insurance, Accrued Compensated Absences

APPLICABILITY OF RATES: Texas A&M Research Foundation (EIN: 74-1238434), Texas Engineering Experiment Station (EIN: 74-1974733), Texas Engineering Extension Service (EIN: 74-2270626), Texas Agri-Life Research (FKA as Texas Agricultural Experiment Station) (EIN: 74-6000541), Texas Agri-Life Extension (FKA Texas cooperative Extension) (EIN: 74-6000537), Texas Transportation Institute, (EIN: 74-2270624), Texas A&M University at Galveston (EIN: 74-2125225), Texas A&M Health Science Center (EIN: 74-2907553), Texas Forest Service (EIN: 74-6014065), Texas A&M University System (EIN: 74-2648747), Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (EIN: 26-3850570), Shared Services Center Commercialization (EIN: 74-2648747), Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), (EIN: 84-1876045).

Your next F&A proposal based on actual costs for the fiscal year ending 08/31/2025, is due in our office by 02/28/2026.

Equipment means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds \$5,000.

ORGANIZATION: Texas A & M University - College Station

AGREEMENT DATE: 9/2/2022

**SECTION III: GENERAL**

**1. LIMITATIONS:**

The rates in this Agreement are subject to any statutory or administrative limitations and apply to a given grant, contract or other agreement only to the extent that funds are available. Acceptance of the rates is subject to the following conditions: (1) Only costs incurred by the organization were included in its facilities and administrative cost proposals as finally accepted; such costs are legal obligations of the organization and are allowable under the governing cost principles; (2) The same costs that have been treated as facilities and administrative costs are not claimed as direct costs; (3) Similar types of costs have been accorded consistent accounting treatment; and (1) The information provided by the organization which was used to establish the rates is not later found to be materially incomplete or inaccurate by the Federal Government. In such situations the rate(s) would be subject to renegotiation at the discretion of the Federal Government.

**3. ACCOUNTING CHANGES:**

This Agreement is based on the accounting system purported by the organization to be in effect during the Agreement period. Changes to the method of accounting for costs which affect the amount of reimbursement from this Agreement require prior approval of the authorized representative of the cognizant agency. Such changes include, but are not limited to, changes in the charging of a particular type of cost from facilities and administrative to direct. Failure to obtain approval may result in cost disallowances.

**C. FIXED RATES:**

If a fixed rate is in this Agreement, it is based on an estimate of the costs for the period covered by the rate. When the actual costs for this period are determined, an adjustment will be made to a rate of a future year(s) to compensate for the difference between the costs used to establish the fixed rate and actual costs.

**J. USE BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES:**

The rates in this Agreement were approved in accordance with the authority in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200 (2 CFR 200), and should be applied to grants, contracts and other agreements covered by 2 CFR 200, subject to any limitations in A above. The organization may provide copies of the Agreement to other Federal Agencies to give them early notification of the Agreement.

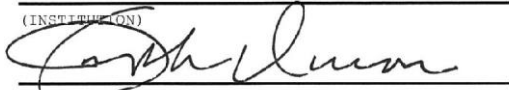
**E. REIMBURSEMENT:**

If any Federal contract, grant or other agreement is reimbursing facilities and administrative costs by a means other than the approved rate(s) in this Agreement, the organization should (1) credit such costs to the affected programs, and (2) apply the approved rate(s) to the appropriate base to identify the proper amount of facilities and administrative costs allocable to these programs.

BY THE INSTITUTION,

Texas A & M University - College Station

(INSTITUTION)



(SIGNATURE)

Joseph Duron

(NAME)

Chief Administrative Officer

(TITLE)

9-14-2022

(DATE)

ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT,

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

(AGENCY)

Arif M. Karim -5 Digitally signed by Arif M. Karim -5  
Date: 2022.09.13 13:48:14 -0500

(SIGNATURE)

Arif Karim

(NAME)

Director, Cost Allocation Services

(TITLE)

9/02/2022

(DATE) 6554

HHS REPRESENTATIVE,

Denise Shirlee

Telephone:

(214) 767-3261

**COMPONENTS OF PUBLISHED F&A COST RATE**

INSTITUTION: **Texas A&M University - College Station**

FY COVERED BY RATE: **September 1, 2022 -August 31, 2026**

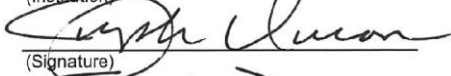
APPLICABLE TO: **ORGANIZED RESEARCH**

<b>RATE COMPONENT:</b>	<b>ORGANIZED RESEARCH &amp; INSTRUCTION FY 23 ON CAMPUS</b>	<b>ORGANIZED RESEARCH &amp; INSTRUCTION FY 24-25 ON CAMPUS</b>	<b>ORGANIZED RESEARCH &amp; INSTRUCTION FY 26 ON CAMPUS</b>	<b>OTHER SPONSORED ACTIVITIES FY 23-26 ON CAMPUS</b>	<b>ALL PROGRAMS FY 23-26 OFF CAMPUS</b>
Building Depreciation	6.6	6.9	7.3	1.0	
Equipment Depreciation	4.4	4.6	4.9	4.0	
Interest	2.7	2.8	3.0	0.1	
Operation & Maintenance	10.3	10.7	11.3	0.9	
Library	1.5	1.5	1.5		
Administration'	26.0	26.0	26.0	26.0	26.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>26.0</b>

\* Reflects provisions of Appendix III to Part 200 of Uniform Guidance-Indirect (F&A) Costs Identification and Assignment, and Rate Determination for Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), C.8. dated December 26, 2013.

CONCURRENCE:

Texas A&M University - College Station  
(Institution)

  
(Signature)

Joseph Duron  
(Name)

**Ch. t. 1- tk. //STIt4.: 'II Df/, .ce-, z**  
(Title)

**CJ- I Lf--; (o); .i. \_**  
(Date)



**Appendix: Fringe Rates**

Calculation:  
 Pl: ( 18,477 x 18.Q% + (SQ50,;:1.5 m.DS.) = .Q17  
 del-grad 0.560,;: 3%) = S316  
 Total = 15,2:33



System Office of Budgets and Accounting  
**TM TEXA A&M U IV RSn' YT M**

June 25, 2:01M

**MEMORA D'IJMI**

Chief Financial Officers  
 Accounting: 111:stirutians:and .Se,rvic:eAge;ncies:

**FROM:** Lemaitre, Director, AdOcn:ng

**SUBJECT:** F2:025 E1.1.dg:eting fur Fringe EInefits on .Sponsoredreemnts.

For fiscal year 2025, please use the fringe benefit rates listed below when calculating fringe benefits for sponsored activities. This will not impact reimbursements from sponsored agreements, as fringe benefits will continue to be reimbursed at the actual dollar amount expended, with the budgeted amount.

Beginning in 2000, the State is not required to pay Social Security for students who meet certain criteria or the purposes of fringe benefit budgeting, identifies that meet the criteria will be eligible for PICA Exempt Students. For students who do not meet the criteria, choose the employee category that applies to them.

**Mix of 2025 Fringe Benefits by Budget Purpose:**

Employees Eligible for all Fringe Benefits	13-9% of direct salaries & wages: PLUS fixed monthly dollar amount for group insurance
Employees Eligible for Group Term Life & Retirement FICA Exempt Students Eligible for Group Life Insurance but Not Eligible for Retirement	10.796% of direct salaries & wages: 3.0% of direct salaries & wages PLUS fixed monthly dollar amount for group insurance
PICA Exempt Students Not Eligible for Group Insurance & Retirement	3.096% of direct salaries & wages

Fiscal Year 2025 Fixed Monthly Group Medical & Basic Life Insurance

Classification of Employee	Mixed Monthly Insurance Amount
Faculty and Staff - Full Time (100%)	\$1,104
Faculty and Staff - Part Time (50-99.99%)	SS45
Insurance Eligible Student [b]	\$283
Combined (all employees) [a]	\$950

Distribution: Str., 111 J. Oilr • Col. Bli. St. ttni>, IFH:u i. 0- 9'5  
 (9'1!<) 4 @- 1110 • u: (9'1!<) 4}S:-!Ciiill • .....od'u.



System Office of Budgets and Accounting

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

- (a) If the classification of the employee who will be wml<lin,1::on tile spcmsorei!la reeme.nt is known., use the above figure that applies to them. Otherwise, use the combined amount (\$510)\_
- (b) The monthly insurance amount (\$283) is based on the 6IP state contribution. However, SE1,era1S m e,mbers.lial.le c ose,n to supplement the remaining half of the contribution or the remaining health premium amounts, whichever is less. One of the following requirements: (The supplement is optional for full-time employees)

1. The Graduate Assistant hired by line 1., 2004.  
or-
2. The Graduate Assistant received a supplement in 2000  
Below are the tables, *frN irr)tNmamu1a1pr.r.pases j,01,y\_* The first table is a breakdown of the following benefits: The second table details State monthly contribution towards: *gjfJO'U;p !medical a11!!1 baste lif insurance premiums;fur- insurance eligible employees*

**Breakdown of The Fringe Benefit Percentages**

	TR5 Bigible Employees [t']	ORP Bigible Employees [d]	Employees Not Eligible for Retirement Plan	IRICA Exempt Student
Social Security and first \$174,900 [e,mp lolfeir por!!ionl [e]	6.20%	5.20%	6.20%	ONE
Medicare	1.49%	1.45%	1.45%	ONE
Workman's Comp. Ins. [g]	.51%	.5%	.51%	.51%
Unemployment Comp. Ins. [h]	.3%	.3006%	.3%	.3%
Retirement Plan	2.5% [c]	8.5% [i]	ONE	NONE
Leave Time [j]	2.15%	2.15%	2.15%	2.15%
TOTAL	18.86%	19.1%	10.6%	2.9%
<b>Fringe Benefit Rate for Budget Purposes</b>	<b>18.9%</b>	<b>19.1%</b>	10.7%	3.0%

- (c) Under Retirement System The retirement contribution for full-time employees paid through TRS will remain at 2.25% in FY2025.
- (d) 2011 Retirement Program.
- (e) \$168,800 was effective 1/1/2014. Soda1Seoumy is subject to change as determined by federal law. For calendar year 2025, employee wages subject to social security increased to an estimated \$174,900.
- (f) Employees with an ORP start date on or before 8/1/95 are provided the same contribution rate (2025 Act's effective date 8/1/95 is 5.51%). The state contribution will remain at 5.6% in 2025. Existing member will S!LIP, Pleme.nt 1-93! to maintain the 8-5% contribution.
- (g) New Member assessment: range from .1% to .51% based on previous 11-year experience. See the act's assessment for each member in the FY2025 budget Instructions.

