



A PROGRAM OF THE TCEQ



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# GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM: FISCAL 2026 WORK PLAN

**GALVESTON BAY  
COUNCIL MEETING**

**OCTOBER 16, 2024**

# GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL BYLAWS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## ARTICLE IX. CONDUCT AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Council members may not use or allow the use of, for other than official council purposes, information obtained through or in connection with their council affiliation that has not been made available to the general public.

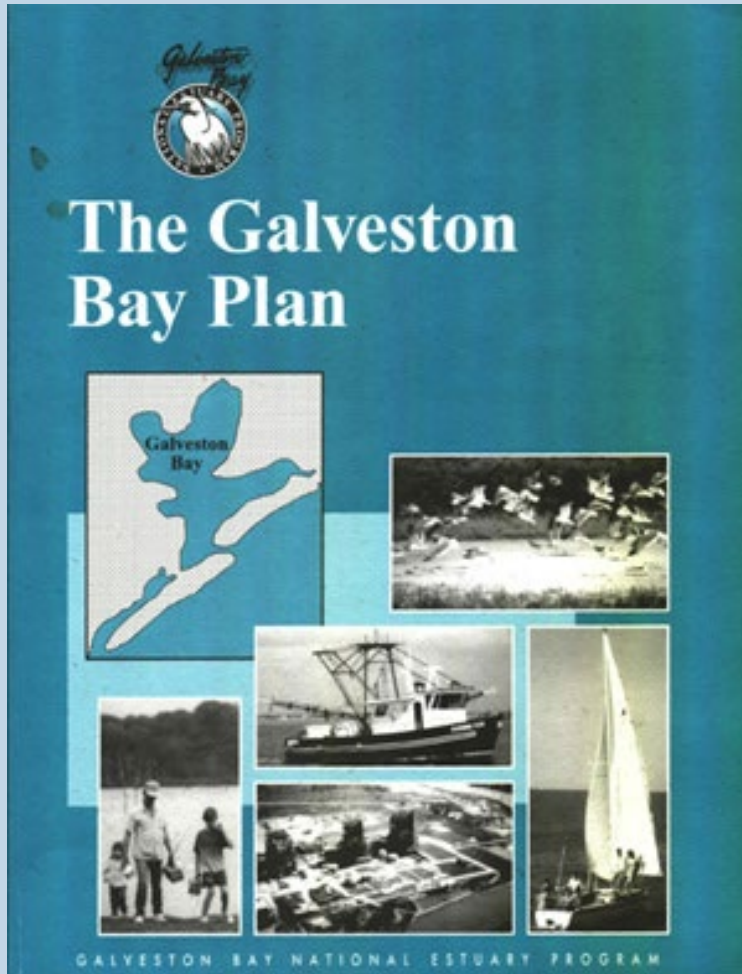
In no case shall a Council member represent individual opinions as those of the Council, the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), or the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

In order to make GBEP business transparent, any Council member or proxy that has an interest (financial, personal or business interest including a contract, subcontract, or grant) in any matter before the Council or a subcommittee or working group shall identify such interest prior to discussion and voting on such matter. No Council member or proxy shall cast a vote or seek to influence any decision on any matter that would provide a direct financial benefit to that member or proxy, or otherwise give the appearance of a conflict of interest under State, Federal, or local law. The Council member shall recuse themselves after identifying any conflict of interest and refrain from any deliberations on that matter.

All Council members are expected to conduct themselves in a civil manner, showing courtesy and respect to other Council members, GBEP staff, and any other individuals present at the meeting.



# FISCAL 2026 PROGRAMMATIC PROJECTS



## **The Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition**

*The Comprehensive Conservation and Management  
Plan for the Galveston Bay Ecosystem*



# FISCAL 2026 PROGRAMMATIC PROJECTS

## 1. GBEP Annual Website Hosting & Maintenance

Lead: The Wilkins Group

Proposed Amount: \$5,300.00

## 2. State of the Bay Symposium

Lead: Moody Gardens

Proposed Amount: \$25,000.00

## 3. Regional Monitoring Database

Lead: Houston Advanced Research Center

Proposed Amount: \$281,123.00 (Fiscal 2026 \$195,187.45; Fiscal 2027 \$89,935.55)



# FISCAL 2026 WATER & SEDIMENT QUALITY (WSQ) PROJECTS



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# FISCAL 2026 WSQ PROJECTS

## **4. Assessment of Coastal Groundwater Quality and Dynamics in San Jacinto River Waste Pit Superfund Site**

**Lead:** Texas A&M University at Galveston

**Proposed Amount:** \$99,976.00

## **5. Evaluation of Green Infrastructure to Reduce Microplastic Pollution in Galveston Bay**

**Lead:** Houston-Galveston Area Council

**Proposed Amount:** \$221,928.00 (Fiscal 2026 \$121,472.85; Fiscal 2027 \$100,455.15)

## ***6. Alternative #1: Assessing Demonstration Rain Garden and Stormwater Wetland Health through Soil and Vegetation Monitoring***

**Lead:** Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

**Proposed Amount:** \$235,176.00

## ***7. Alternative #2: Targeted Bacteria Monitoring – Watershed Focus***

**Lead:** Houston-Galveston Area Council

**Proposed Amount:** \$60,000.00



# FISCAL 2026 NATURAL RESOURCES USES (NRU) PROJECTS



# FISCAL 2026 NRU PROJECTS

## 8. Monitoring and Managing the Threatened Eastern Black Rails in the Galveston Bay Area (FISCAL 2026 FUNDING APPROVED BY GBC IN FISCAL 2025)

**Lead:** Texas A&M University

**Proposed Amount:** \$174,235.00 (Fiscal 2025 \$158,388.00; Fiscal 2026 \$15,847.00)

## 9. FY 2025-2026 Conservation Assistance Program

**Lead:** Galveston Bay Foundation

**Proposed Amount:** \$100,000.00

## 10. North Deer Island – Habitat Restoration & Enhancement (Phase 1)

**Lead:** National Audubon Society

**Proposed Amount:** \$100,000.00 (State)

## 11. The 10th/11th Additions to the Coastal Heritage Preserve

**Lead:** Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in partnership with Artist Boat, Inc.

**Proposed Amount:** \$100,000.00 (State)



# FISCAL 2026 NRU PROJECTS

## CONTINUED

### **12. From Scat to Conservation: Community-Based Research of Galveston Bay's Ghost Wolves**

**Lead:** Michigan Technological University

**Proposed Amount:** \$12,600.00

### ***13. Alternative #1: Salt Lake Native Marsh Shoreline Protection Project***

**Lead:** Friends Group of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges

**Proposed Amount:** \$30,000.00 (State)

### ***14. Alternative #2: Informing Ongoing Management of Environmental Water Transactions to Preserve or Enhance Tidal Bayou Function in East Bay***

**Lead:** Texas Water Trade

**Proposed Amount:** \$163,016.00



# FISCAL 2026 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & EDUCATION (PPE) PROJECTS



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# FISCAL 2026 PPE PROJECTS

## 15. Texas Envirothon

**Lead:** University of Houston Clear Lake – Environmental Institute of Houston

**Proposed Amount:** \$90,972.00

## 16. City of Houston Nature Trails Master Plan

**Lead:** City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department

**Proposed Amount:** \$90,000.00

## 17. Regional Coordination of River, Lakes, Bays ‘N Bayous Trash Bash®

**Lead:** Houston-Galveston Area Council

**Proposed Amount:** \$10,000.00

## 18. *Alternative #1: Reclaim the Drain Day*

**Lead:** *Bayou Preservation Association*

**Proposed Amount:** \$27,000.00



# FISCAL 2026 MONITORING & RESEARCH (M&R) PROJECTS



*Sampling for Rangia clams in Trinity Bay*



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# FISCAL 2026 M&R PROJECTS

## 19. Monitoring to Assess Long-Term Restoration Success in Galveston Bay Wetlands (FISCAL 2026 FUNDING APPROVED BY GBC IN FISCAL 2025)

Lead: Texas A&M University at Galveston

Proposed Amount: \$151,161.00 (Fiscal 2025 \$103,908.00; Fiscal 2026 \$47,253.00)

## 20. Developing Molecular Tools for Demographics and Distribution of Galveston Bay Estuary System Sea Turtles

Lead: Texas A&M University at Galveston

Proposed Amount: \$99,826.00

## 21. *Alternative #1: Distribution Of Key Emergent Pollutants in the Aquatic Biota (Oysters and Fish), Sediments and Surface Waters of Galveston Bay*

Lead: *Texas A&M University at Galveston*

Proposed Amount: *\$132,594.00*

## 22. *Alternative #2: Ecosystem Effects of the Pelican Island Bridge Collision and Vacuum Gas Oil Spill in Galveston Bay*

Lead: *Texas A&M University at Galveston*

Proposed Amount: *\$103,479.00*

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# FISCAL 2026 GBEP 320/STATE FUNDING

Funding estimates based on fiscal 2025 levels (without Rider funding)

- EPA Section 320 funding: \$850,000 (\$1,700,000 with supplied match)
- State Funding: \$224,484
- Salary, fringe, and indirect levels subject to change

FY 2026 Planned Funding Allocations	
§320 CWA Funding	
Federal: \$1,700,000 -- Comes “pre-matched” by TCEQ (1:1)	
\$850,000 - TCEQ \$850,000 – EPA	
State: \$224,484	

Budget Funding Type	Federal (CWA §320)	State	Total
Total Funding	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 224,484	\$ 1,924,484
Administration*	\$ (786,586)	\$ (27,660)	\$ (814,246)
Remaining	\$ 913,414	\$ 196,824	\$ 1,110,238

\*Administration includes salary, fringe, indirect, and general operational costs.



# FISCAL 2026 BUDGET AND PRIORITIES (B&P) RECOMMENDED BUDGET



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# Fiscal 2026 Budget and Priorities Subcommittee Recommended Budget (Section 320/State)

*Projects in RED approved in Fiscal 2025*

			FY 2026		FY 2027
Category	Grantee	Original Funding Request	State Funding	Federal Funding	
<b>Baseline Costs</b>					
Salaries, Fringe, and Indirect	N/A	\$778,519.70	\$0.00	\$778,519.70	\$0.00
General Operational Costs	N/A	\$35,706.00	\$27,660.00	\$8,046.00	\$0.00
<b>Programmatic Costs</b>					
1. GBEP Annual Website Hosting & Maintenance	Wilkins Group	\$5,868.00	\$0.00	\$5,300.00	\$0.00
2: State of the Bay Symposium	Moody Gardens	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
3. Regional Monitoring Database	HARC	\$281,123.00	\$0.00	\$195,187.45	\$85,935.55
<b>WSQ</b>					
4. Assessment of Coastal Groundwater Quality and Dynamics in San Jacinto River Waste Pit Superfund Site	TAMUG	\$99,976.00	\$0.00	\$99,976.00	\$0.00
5. Evaluation of Green Infrastructure to Reduce Microplastic Pollution in Galveston Bay	H-GAC	\$221,928.00	\$0.00	\$121,472.85	\$100,455.15
6. <i>Alternative #1: Assessing Demonstration Rain Garden and Stormwater Wetland Health through Soil and Vegetation Monitoring</i>	<i>Texas A&amp;M AgriLife</i>	\$235,176.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7. <i>Alternative #2: Targeted Bacteria Monitoring – Watershed Focus</i>	<i>H-GAC</i>	\$60,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>NRU</b>					
<b>8. Monitoring and Managing the Threatened Eastern Black Rails in the Galveston Bay Area</b>	<b>TAMU (Butler)</b>	<b>\$174,235.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$15,847.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
9. FY 2025-2026 Conservation Assistance Program	GBF	\$230,000.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00
10. North Deer Island – Habitat Restoration & Enhancement (Phase 1)	NAS	\$107,905.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11. The 10th/11th Additions to the Coastal Heritage Preserve	TPWD	\$400,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12. From Scat to Conservation: Community-based Research of Galveston Bay’s Ghost Wolves	MTU	\$12,600.00	\$0.00	\$12,600.00	\$0.00
13. <i>Alternative #1: Salt Lake Native Marsh Shoreline Protection Project</i>	<i>FOBWR</i>	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
14. <i>Alternative #2: Informing Ongoing Management of Environmental Water Transactions to Preserve or Enhance Tidal Bayou Function in East Bay</i>	<i>TWT</i>	\$163,016.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>PPE</b>					
15. Texas Envirothon	UHCL	\$90,972.00	\$0.00	\$90,972.00	\$0.00
16. City of Houston Nature Trails Master Plan	HPARD	\$90,000.00	\$0.00	\$90,000.00	\$0.00
17. Regional Coordination of River, Lakes, Bays ‘N Bayous Trash Bash®	H-GAC	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
18. <i>Alternative #1: Reclaim the Drain Day</i>	<i>BPA</i>	\$27,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>M&amp;R</b>					
<b>19. Monitoring to Assess Long-term Restoration Success in Galveston Bay Wetlands</b>	<b>TAMUG (Armitage)</b>	<b>\$151,161.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$47,253.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
20. Developing Molecular Tools for Demographics and Distribution of Galveston Bay Estuary System Sea Turtles	TAMUG (Marshall)	\$99,826.00	\$0.00	\$99,826.00	\$0.00
21. <i>Alternative #1: Distribution of Key Emergent Pollutants in the Aquatic Biota (Oysters and Fish), Sediments and Surface Waters of Galveston Bay</i>	<i>TAMUG (Quigg)</i>	\$132,594.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
22. <i>Alternative #2: Ecosystem Effects of the Pelican Island Bridge Collision and Vacuum Gas Oil Spill in Galveston Bay</i>	<i>TAMUG (Hala)</i>	\$103,479.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>FY 2026 Funding Requests</b>		\$3,566,084.70	\$227,660.00	\$1,700,000.00	\$186,390.70
<b>FY 2026 Anticipated Funding Allocation (Federal and State)</b>		<b>\$1,924,484.00</b>	<b>\$224,484.00</b>	<b>\$1,700,000.00</b>	
<b>Difference</b>		(\$3,176.00)	(\$3,176.00)	(\$0.00)	

A landscape photograph of Galveston Bay wetlands. The foreground and middle ground are filled with dense, tall grasses growing in shallow, rippling water. The background shows a flat horizon line under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text is overlaid in the upper half of the image.

**GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL  
PROJECT APPROVALS  
SECTION 320/STATE**

# FISCAL 2026 PROJECT APPROVAL PROGRAMMATIC

Project	Grantee	FY 2026		FY 2027
		State Funding	Federal Funding	
1. GBEP Annual Website Hosting & Maintenance	Wilkins Group	\$0.00	\$5,300.00	\$0.00
2: State of the Bay Symposium	Moody Gardens	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
3. Regional Monitoring Database	HARC	\$0.00	\$195,187.45	\$85,935.55

*Note: Any funding received beyond the max planned budget would be applied to Fiscal 2027 allocations or identified alternative projects.*



# FISCAL 2026 PROJECT APPROVAL WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY

Project	Grantee	FY 2026		FY 2027
		State Funding	Federal Funding	
4. Assessment of Coastal Groundwater Quality and Dynamics in San Jacinto River Waste Pit Superfund Site	TAMUG	\$0.00	\$99,976.00	\$0.00
5. Evaluation of Green Infrastructure to Reduce Microplastic Pollution in Galveston Bay	H-GAC	\$0.00	\$121,472.85	\$100,455.15
6. <i>Alternative #1: Assessing Demonstration Rain Garden and Stormwater Wetland Health through Soil and Vegetation Monitoring</i>	<i>Texas A&amp;M AgriLife</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
7. <i>Alternative #2: Targeted Bacteria Monitoring – Watershed Focus</i>	<i>H-GAC</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>

*Note: Any funding received beyond the max planned budget would be applied to Fiscal 2027 allocations or identified alternative projects.*



# FISCAL 2026 PROJECT APPROVAL

## NATURAL RESOURCE USES

Project	Grantee	FY 2026		FY 2027
		State Funding	Federal Funding	
<b>8. Monitoring and Managing the Threatened Eastern Black Rails in the Galveston Bay Area (FY 2025 APPROVED)</b>	<b>TAMU (Butler)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$15,847.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
9. FY 2025-2026 Conservation Assistance Program	GBF	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00
10. North Deer Island – Habitat Restoration & Enhancement (Phase 1)	NAS	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11. The 10th/11th Additions to the Coastal Heritage Preserve	TPWD	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12. From Scat to Conservation: Community-based Research of Galveston Bay’s Ghost Wolves	MTU	\$0.00	\$12,600.00	\$0.00
13. <i>Alternative #1: Salt Lake Native Marsh Shoreline Protection Project</i>	<i>FOBWR</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
14. <i>Alternative #2: Informing Ongoing Management of Environmental Water Transactions to Preserve or Enhance Tidal Bayou Function in East Bay</i>	<i>TWT</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>

*Note: Any funding received beyond the max planned budget would be applied to Fiscal 2027 allocations or identified alternative projects.*



# FISCAL 2026 PROJECT APPROVAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND EDUCATION

Project	Grantee	FY 2026		FY 2027
		State Funding	Federal Funding	
15. Texas Envirothon	UHCL	\$0.00	\$90,972.00	\$0.00
16. City of Houston Nature Trails Master Plan	HPARD	\$0.00	\$90,000.00	\$0.00
17. Regional Coordination of River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash®	H-GAC	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
18. <i>Alternative #1: Reclaim the Drain Day</i>	<i>BPA</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>

*Note: Any funding received beyond the max planned budget would be applied to Fiscal 2027 allocations or identified alternative projects.*



# FISCAL 2026 PROJECT APPROVAL MONITORING AND RESEARCH

Project	Grantee	FY 2026		FY 2027
		State Funding	Federal Funding	
<b>19. Monitoring to Assess Long-term Restoration Success in Galveston Bay Wetlands (FY 2025 APPROVED)</b>	<b>TAMUG (Armitage)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$47,253.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
20. Developing Molecular Tools for Demographics and Distribution of Galveston Bay Estuary System Sea Turtles	TAMUG (Marshall)	\$0.00	\$99,826.00	\$0.00
21. <i>Alternative #1: Distribution of Key Emergent Pollutants in the Aquatic Biota (Oysters and Fish), Sediments and Surface Waters of Galveston Bay</i>	TAMUG (Quigg)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
22. <i>Alternative #2: Ecosystem Effects of the Pelican Island Bridge Collision and Vacuum Gas Oil Spill in Galveston Bay</i>	TAMUG (Hala)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

*Note: Any funding received beyond the max planned budget would be applied to Fiscal 2027 allocations or identified alternative projects.*



# FISCAL 2026 (FEDERAL FISCAL 2025) BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL)



# FEDERAL FISCAL 2025 BIL PROJECTS

## 1. Houston Parks Board Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Lead: Houston Parks Board

Proposed Amount: \$150,000.00

## 2. Renovating Jones Park: Building Galveston's First Climate-Ready Stormwater Park

Lead: Vision Galveston

Proposed Amount: \$400,616.00

## 3. State of the Bay 5<sup>th</sup> Edition

Lead: Houston Advanced Research Center

Proposed Amount: \$359,184.00



# FEDERAL FISCAL 2025 BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL)

Federal FY 2025 BIL Funding Allocations
100% Federal: \$909,800
No Administrative Costs Applied to Funding
<b>Match Requirements Waived for FFY 2025</b>

Budget Funding Type	Federal (BIL)	State	Total
<b>Total Funding</b>	\$ 909,800	\$ 0	\$ 909,800
<b>Administration</b>	<u>\$ (0)</u>	<u>\$ (0)</u>	<u>\$ (0)</u>
<b>Remaining</b>	\$ 909,800	\$ 0	\$ 909,800



# FEDERAL FISCAL 2025 B&P RECOMMENDED BUDGET

## Federal Fiscal 2025 Budget and Priorities Subcommittee Recommended Budget (BIL)

Category	Grantee	Original Funding Request	BIL Funding
<b>Baseline Costs</b>			
Salaries, Fringe, Indirect	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00
Operational Costs	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>BIL Projects</b>			
1. Houston Parks Board Comprehensive Conservation Plan	HPARD	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
2. Renovating Jones Park: Building Galveston's First Climate-Ready Stormwater Park	Vision Galveston	\$899,535.00	\$400,616.00
3. State of the Bay 5th Edition	HARC	\$377,639.00	\$359,184.00
<b>FFY 2025 Funding Requests</b>		\$1,427,174.00	\$909,800.00
<b>FFY 2025 Anticipated Funding Allocation (BIL)</b>			<b>\$909,800.00</b>
<b>Difference</b>			\$0.00



# **GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL PROJECT APPROVALS BIL**



# FEDERAL FISCAL 2025 PROJECT APPROVAL

## Federal Fiscal 2025 Budget and Priorities Subcommittee Recommended Budget (BIL)

Project	Grantee	BIL Funding
1. Houston Parks Board Comprehensive Conservation Plan	HPARD	\$150,000.00
2. Renovating Jones Park: Building Galveston's First Climate-Ready Stormwater Park	Vision Galveston	\$400,616.00
3. State of the Bay 5th Edition	HARC	\$359,184.00
<b>FFY 2025 Funding Requests</b>		<b>\$909,800.00</b>
<b>FFY 2025 Anticipated Funding Allocation (BIL)</b>		<b>\$909,800.00</b>
<b>Difference</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

