Natural Resource Uses (NRU) Subcommittee Fiscal 2027 Proposals

	PROPOSAL NAME	GRANTEE	TOTAL REQUEST
1.	Upper Armand Bayou Protection Project: Baywood Golf Course Acquisition	ABNC	$500,000.00
2.	Galveston Bay Water Quality Protection, Watershed Conservation, and Public Access Expansion	Coastal Trust	$285,820.43
3.	Coastal Prairie Restoration and Habitat Enhancement	CPC	$225,000.00
4.	Salt Lake Native Marsh Shoreline Protection Project	FOBWR	$48,000.00
5.	GBF Bird Nesting Platform	GBF	$48,875.00
6.	FY 2027-2028 Conservation Assistance Program	GBF	$250,000.00
7.	Building Coastal Resilience on Bolivar Peninsula	HAS	$250,000.00
8.	Tidwell Park Riparian Restoration Project	HPARD	$120,000.00
9.	Jocelyn Nungaray NWR Tall Grass Prairie and Freshwater Wetlands Restoration	Texas RICE	$50,000.00
10.	The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through a 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract	TPWD	$100,000.00
11.	Shoreline Restoration at Galveston Island S.P. & Prairie Restoration/Wetland Creation at UH Coastal Center	TPWD	$250,000.00
12.	Pre- and Post-Restoration Terrapin Nesting Habitat Surveys at Galveston Island State Park	UHCL	$103,613.39
13.	*Feasibility Study for a Bioretention Wetland Demonstration Site*	*UHCL*	*Sent to WSQ*
		TOTAL:	**$2,231,308.82**

Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Fiscal 2027 Project Proposal

Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by July 25, 2025. 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 TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Natural Resource Uses (NRU)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Choose an item.

Project Name:

Upper Armand Bayou Protection Project: Baywood Golf Course Acquisition

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☐

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

Armand Bayou Nature Center

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*

Armand Bayou Nature Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:	CTBHH28PCJB8
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	Tax ID: 237403757 TIN: 1237403757

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Tim Pylate
Project Representative Phone	832-837-9112 (mobile) 713-274-2665 (direct office)
Project Representative Email	tim@abnc.org

Amount Requested from GBEP:

$500,000

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒
Is the project scalable? ☐ No

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	$500,000.00
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	$0.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	$0.00
Total	$500,000.00

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2026 – ending no later than May 31, 2029) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

This acquisition will begin no earlier than September 1, 2026 and will be completed before August 31, 2027.

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

$1,500,000

Is this an estimate?

No. The property owners have invited Armand Bayou Nature Center to offer them $1,500,000 for the property. Armand Bayou Nature Center subsequently had the property appraised, and it has been valued at $2,100,000. Therefore, the property is being offered at significantly lower than its appraised value.

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

Armand Bayou Nature Center is in discussions with the following funders with regard to this project:

- The Brown Foundation, $500,000 – discussions underway for assistance with purchase
- The Knobloch Family Foundation, $500,000 – discussions underway for assistance with purchase
- Fidelity Foundation, $300,000 – discussions underway for support to repair irrigation and native plant nursery infrastructure following purchase
- Armand Bayou Nature Center will fund all due diligence associated with the purchase (i.e. appraisals, environmental site assessments, etc.)

Project Urgency:

The property formerly known as the Baywood Golf Course, is some of the last remaining private, undeveloped land along the upper reaches of Armand Bayou. It is adjacent to and across the bayou from 1,145 acres recently purchased by Armand Bayou Nature Center for the purposes of conservation, with support from GBEP and other public and private funding. Other portions of this former golf course have already been developed or are currently under development, and potential for further development is high, given that the property abuts Red Bluff and Genoa Red Bluff roads—highly industrial areas. Fortunately, the owners of the property have approached Armand Bayou Nature Center exclusively to purchase the undeveloped portions of the land (106 acres) and have not placed the property on the open market. However, that opportunity may evaporate if ABNC does not show movement on purchasing the property. The property owners have indicated that they would like to see the property under contract within the next year. Armand Bayou has had the property independently appraised at $2.1 million (July 23, 2025).

SECTION THREE: *GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION* IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the Fiscal 2027 Subcommittee Priorities (Section Four) will be considered above others. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* Action Plans 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/

Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:

Plan Priority 1: Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

NPS-1 ☐	NPS-2 ☐	NPS-3 ☐	NPS-4 ☐	
PS-1 ☐	PS-2 ☐	PS-3 ☐		
PHA-1 ☐	PHA-2 ☐	PHA-3 ☐	PHA-4 ☐	PHA-5 ☐

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 3: Engage Communities

SPO-1 ☒	SPO-2 ☒	SPO-3 ☐	SPO-4 ☐
PEA-1 ☐	PEA-2 ☐	PEA-3 ☐	

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:

HC1: Land Acquisition – The primary goal of this request is to purchase and preserve 106 acres of three critically endangered habitats that were once dominant along the Texas Gulf Coast: wetland forest, coastal tall grass prairie, and the unchannelized estuarine Armand Bayou and its brackish water marshes. Armand Bayou is specifically mentioned in the Galveston Bay Plan as an example of an area needing protection and preservation.

HC2: Habitat Restoration – The acquisition of this property is specifically for the purpose of habitat restoration. Approximately 20 percent of the proposed acquisition is historical Texas coastal prairie that is overrun with invasive species, with the other 80 percent being historical riparian forest and bayou wetlands. Immediately upon acquisition, ABNC intends to begin the process of returning the land to its climax conditions by removing invasive species and planting native plants. Over the course of the last several decades, Armand Bayou Nature Center has meticulously restored and maintained 900 acres of Texas coastal tallgrass prairie on its current preserve and planted dozens of acres of wetland plants along the edges of Armand Bayou. ABNC has the knowledge, the experience, and the manpower to make this happen. Armand Bayou and its floodplain is specifically mentioned in the Galveston Bay Plan as an example of habitat in need of restoration and preservation.

HC3: Habitat Enhancement – Habitat enhancement and habitat restoration go hand in hand, and Armand Bayou Nature Center has a great deal of experience in enhancing the ecosystems with which it has been entrusted. Armand Bayou is specifically mentioned in the Galveston Bay Plan in this regard. Upon acquisition, ABNC will begin the process of evaluating where coastal habitat can be enhanced beyond the planned restoration of wetland and prairie habitats.

SC1: Native Species Management – The proposed acquisition will see an extension of ABNC's restoration of native species to the historical prairies and wetlands along southern Armand Bayou. ABNC's process for propagation of native plant species is the gold standard among those restoring and maintaining prairie and marsh habitats. Hundreds of volunteers collect the seed heads from native plants, propagate them in the ABNC native plant nursery, and transfer them to one-gallon pots until they are ready to be physically planted in the prairie or along the bayou. ABNC plants more than 10,000 plants per year. This process will be used to restore and enhance the native species on the proposed acquisition. Additionally, the restoration and preservation work that ABNC has done along southern Armand Bayou has been crucial for the return of many native animal species that had almost completely disappeared, like American alligators, bald eagles, ospreys, brown pelicans, and river otters. Several rookeries of colonial nesting waterbirds have been established as a result of these efforts. Similarly, the prairie along Armand Bayou supports many native bird species that are prairie obligate. Loggerhead shrikes, eastern meadowlarks, LeConte's sparrow, and many others make their homes on the prairie. With the recent expansion of the preserve by 1,145 acres, ABNC is ramping up efforts to facilitate the return of native birds like bobwhite quail and even critically endangered prairie chickens. Additionally, monarchs, swallowtails, pipevine swallowtails, and many other native butterflies and pollinators lay their eggs on the plants of Armand Bayou's prairie. Armand Bayou is specifically noted in the Galveston Bay Plan for its native species management.

SC2: Invasive Species Control – ABNC would extend its invasive species management practices along southern Armand Bayou to the proposed acquisition. ABNC marshals its army of volunteers (and occasionally contractors) to remove thousands upon thousands of invasive plants from the prairie every year, such as vasey grass, tallow trees, deep rooted sedge, trifoliate orange trees, McCartney rose, and many others. ABNC also works with TPWD and contractors to remove invasive plants on the bayou such as water hyacinth and elephant ear. Additionally, ABNC monitors and, when necessary, works to humanely remove invasive animal species such as feral hog and cat populations. Armand Bayou is specifically mentioned with regard to invasive species control in the Galveston Bay Plan.

FWI3: Water Conservation and Education – While ABNC is not specifically asking for money in this request for its environmental education programs, it is important to note that ABNC's mission is twofold: to protect the ecosystems with which it has been entrusted; and to educate the public about why these ecosystems are so important to everyone. ABNC has educational programs for all ages, from 18 months old to adults. ABNC maintains partnerships with multiple institutions of higher learning, such as the University of Houston Clear Lake, The University of Texas, Stephen F Austin State University, Texas A&M, San Jacinto College, and Lee College, engaging on everything from Ecology 101 to graduate level research. Similarly, ABNC has partnerships with public and private schools and home school groups. Even ABNC's recreational tours are educational, with weekend pontoon boat and kayak tours teaching visitors about the importance of conservation of our wetlands and our bayous.

SPO1: Stewardship Programs and Volunteer Opportunities – Volunteer opportunities are the backbone of Armand Bayou Nature Center's conservation efforts. Volunteers bring a half million dollars in labor to these efforts every year, removing thousands of invasive plants and physically planting more than 10,000 native plants in the ground every year. Additionally, ABNC brings in service groups from local companies and educational institutions for regular planting projects. ABNC also has annual events such as Prairie Pandemonium, where hundreds of volunteers from the community at large sign up to plant more than 2,000 plants in a single morning. ABNC will marshal its army of 250 regular volunteers and more than 1,000 active volunteers to accomplish the habitat restoration and enhancement of the proposed acquisition.

SPO2: Workshops and Events – In order to teach volunteers how to do the conservation work that is the core of ABNC's mission, ABNC provides volunteers with dozens of learning opportunities throughout the year. ABNC's weekly "Prairie Friday" offers volunteers with a weekly opportunity to engage in hands-on learning about prairie restoration. ABNC also provides volunteers with lectures from established experts in conservation during its monthly volunteer meetings. Additionally, ABNC is home to the Galveston Bay Area Chapter of Texas A&M's Texas Master Naturalist program, which is a wellspring of conservation learning and volunteering. While ABNC is not requesting funding to support these efforts, it is important to note that all the restoration and enhancement activities performed by volunteers would not be possible without these learning opportunities and workshops.

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.

Subcommittee Identified Priorities

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

☒ WSQ: Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans.
☒ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
☐ WSQ: Public health risk awareness outreach campaigns related to contact recreation and/or seafood consumption.
☒ NRU: Habitat acquisition.
☒ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts with special emphasis on:
- ☐ Adaptive management for previously completed projects;
- ☐ Projects that have lost funding from other federal sources; and
- ☐ Nonnative species management.

☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
☒ NRU: Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program.
☒ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost
☒ PPE: Empowers K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.
☒ PPE: Connects new audiences to existing/completed projects or the natural habitat.
☒ PPE: Opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops/networking for education and outreach practitioners on key topics.
☒ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
☐ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially species of concern, WSQ, PPE).
☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay.
☐ M&R: 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.

☐ Investigate ecosystem services and economic valuation of bay resources.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

WSQ: While the budget for this project is strictly for acquisition and does not directly support management measures or watershed-based plans, preventing this land from being developed ensures that the land CAN be a part of watershed plans. Additionally, the riparian forest and prairie being protected and restored on this property are crucial to storm water retention, flood abatement, and water quality improvement in the Galveston Bay watershed. And while the budget for this project does not directly pay for the implementation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution, the habitat restoration that will occur on this acquisition in subsequent years certainly will address nonpoint source pollution. The wetlands on the proposed acquisition will filter pollutants and remove excess nutrients from water. These wetlands will serve as a natural buffer, slowing down water and allowing pollutants to settle, while plants absorb nutrients and improve water quality. These healthy headwaters translate to healthy Galveston Bay waters.

NRU: The primary goal of this funding is habitat acquisition. However, ABNC intends to approach this acquisition with the same types of restoration and preservation work that has been accomplished along southern Armand Bayou, which has been crucial for the return of many native wildlife species. American alligators, bald eagles, ospreys, brown pelicans, and river otters make their home on the preserve. Several rookeries of colonial nesting waterbirds have been established as a result of these efforts and will be saved on the new property. Armand Bayou's restored prairie also supports many native bird species that are prairie obligate. With the recent expansion of the preserve, ABNC is hopeful that it may be able to help facilitate the return of native birds like bobwhite quail and prairie chickens. Additionally, many native pollinators such as Texas' state insect—the monarch butterfly—are nearing critical endangerment due to habitat loss, and they depend on the plants of Armand Bayou's prairie. This acquisition will not only ensure the wildlife currently living there will be protected, but the restoration work ABNC intends to complete on the land will enhance the habitat. Additionally, due to the irrigation infrastructure in place on the property, ABNC intends to use portions of the new acquisition as a native plant nursery and staging area for restoration to occur on the adjacent 1,145 acres, thereby creating a multiplier effect. Although the property owners have not expressly indicated that they will sell to someone else within 24 months, the pace with which development is occurring on other portions of the old golf course is an indicator of how urgent this project is. In addition, the property owners have expressed interest in having the property under contract within the next year.

PPE: While the budget for purchasing the property does not directly impact the work of the PPE subcommittee, it is important to note that ABNC's mission is twofold: to protect the ecosystems with which it has been entrusted; and to educate the public about why these ecosystems are so important everyone. **ALL** of the property at ABNC is a living classroom. ABNC has educational programs for all ages, from 18 months old to adults. ABNC maintains partnerships with multiple institutions of higher learning, such as University of Houston Clear Lake, Texas A&M, University of Texas, Stephen F Austin State University, San Jacinto College, and Lee College, engaging on everything from Ecology 101 to graduate level research. Similarly, ABNC has partnerships with public and private schools and home school groups. Even ABNC's recreational tours are educational, with weekend pontoon boat and kayak tours teaching visitors about the importance of conservation. The ABNC preserve has long been a place where kindergarten through college students and community members are empowered to positively impact their local environment through service-learning projects, and the new acquisition will be no exception. Similarly, ABNC will continue, as always, to provide the facilities and opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops and networking opportunities for education and outreach practitioners on key topics. ABNC partners with multiple agencies to train the next generation of conservationists—University of Houston Clear Lake, San Jacinto College, the Gulf Corps, and the Texas Conservation Corps (TXCC), to name a few. The new acquisition will be an opportunity for countless young people to develop and further their vocations in conservation. Finally, the center will be happy to partner with any and all GBEP funding partners (and others) to continue ABNC's 50-year tradition of education and conservation workforce development.

Does the Project align with any EPA Areas of Special Interest?

☒ Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health
☒ Make Investments that Address Coastal Resiliency
☒ Reduce Trash

Armand Bayou Nature Center's acquisition, restoration and preservation plans are included in the Texas General Land Office's Coastal Resiliency Master Plan. Furthermore, by preventing this land from being developed, controlling invasive plant species, and installing native species, this land will contribute vital ecosystem services such as flood mitigation and water purification. The EPA estimates that a single acre of wetland can store as much as a million gallons of flood water. Wetlands along our bayous naturally filter and remove excess nutrients from water through physical, chemical, and biological processes. Wetlands act as natural buffers, slowing down water flow and allowing sediments and pollutants to settle, while plants absorb and transform nutrients, improving downstream water quality. These healthy headwaters mean healthy bay waters. It is important to note that by adding this acreage to the preserve, it will be protected from the trash dumping that is currently happening on the property. ABNC will also regularly monitor and clean the trash that is washed onto the shores and into the waters of these wetlands during major rain events. The proposed acquisition will not only add protected acreage to the preserve, but the new acquisition has some irrigation and infrastructure that will support a native plant nursery that will serve habitat restoration on an additional 1,145 adjacent acres recently acquired by ABNC.

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 **Upper Armand Bayou Protection Project: Baywood Golf Course Acquisition** is focused on preserving and then restoring106 acres of three rapidly disappearing habitats that were once dominant along the Texas Gulf Coast: wetland forest, Texas coastal tall grass prairie, and the unchannelized estuarine Armand Bayou and its surrounding wetlands. The survival of these vulnerable ecosystems is vital for the 370 species of wildlife that depend upon them, for people seeking the wonder and comforts of nature, and for the range of ecosystem services they provide, including storm water retention, flood abatement and water quality improvement.

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

Established in 1974 by environmental visionaries, Armand Bayou Nature Center (ABNC) is a 4000-acre nonprofit nature preserve in Pasadena, Texas. ABNC protects three vanishing Gulf Coast habitats: wetland forest, Texas coastal tall grass prairie, and the unchannelized estuarine Armand Bayou and its surrounding wetlands. ABNC's mission is twofold: to protect the ecosystems with which it has been entrusted; and to educate the public about why these ecosystems are so important to everyone. The **Upper Armand Bayou Protection Project: Baywood Golf Course Acquisition** is focused on preserving 106 acres of habitat along Armand Bayou adjacent to and just east of Armand Bayou Nature Center's current preserve. This is an historic opportunity to ensure that this critical habitat and the absolute last of the area's green space is not forever lost to development and urban sprawl, and it will ensure that completed restoration work along southern Armand Bayou is protected from rushing flood waters from the north. The survival of these vulnerable ecosystems is vital for the 370 species of wildlife that depend upon them, for people seeking the wonder and comforts of nature, and for the range of ecosystem services they provide, including storm water retention, flood abatement, water quality improvement, and carbon sequestration. Upon acquiring the land, ABNC and its army of volunteers will begin the process of restoring the land to its climax prairie and wetland conditions by removing invasive plants and installing native grasses and forbs.

This project specifically addresses the Galveston Bay Plan's priorities of **Land Acquisition**, **Habitat Restoration**, **Habitat Enhancement**, **Native Species Management**, and **Invasive Species Control**. Moreover, most of the work to be done on the property will be completed by ABNC's army of experienced knowledgeable, and hardworking volunteers, who have, over the last several decades, restored 900 acres of Texas coastal prairie and dozens of acres of brackish water marsh along the edges of Armand Bayou. This, along with the service-learning projects regularly conducted on the preserve, directly addresses the Galveston Bay Plan's priorities of **Stewardship Programs and Volunteer Opportunities**, and **Workshops and Events**, that give communities opportunities to learn about and participate in restoring and preserving their own ecological heritage.

Finally, due to some irrigation infrastructure that is present on the land, ABNC will be able to use a portion of this land as a native plant nursery to additionally restore the recently acquired and adjacent 1,145 acres of the preserve, thereby creating a multiplier effect.

Other Plans Implemented:

[Please identify any third-party conservation plans this project implements, such as the Texas Coastal Management Plan, Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, watershed-based plans, etc.]

The **Upper Armand Bayou Protection Project** is a Tier One project of the GLO Coastal Resiliency Master Plan.

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

☒ Yes
☐ No

The budget for this project is specifically for land acquisition; however, this property will become part of the larger ABNC preserve. ABNC is well known for its zeal in partnering with a broad range of community stakeholders for the last 50 years—not only in the restoration and preservation of the preserve, but also in educating the public about the importance of these ecosystems.

Is the project subject to Title VI requirements?
To meet federal nondiscrimination guidance and laws (Title VI), TCEQ requires information and services to be provided in languages other than English when significant numbers of beneficiaries are of limited English-speaking ability (LEP). If 5% or more of the population within your project area is LEP and share a common language, then you are required to provide outreach in the alternative language. For statewide projects, Spanish language outreach is required. As Title VI compliance could impact the project budget, please reach out to the primary subcommittee coordinator for this application with questions on determining applicability and EJScreen instructions.

☒ Yes
☐ No

ABNC and the proposed acquisition are located in Pasadena, Texas, where 68% of the population identifies as Hispanic or Latino. The immediate vicinity, particularly northern Pasadena, faces significant socioeconomic challenges, including linguistic isolation, undereducation, underemployment, and low life expectancy, with much of the area falling within the 80th to 90th percentile of these indicators.

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

[degrees, minutes, and seconds format]

29˚38'00.71"N 95˚06'44.99W

Location:

[Description of area(s) of Galveston Bay watershed addressed by proposal]

This 106-acre property contains the east bank of the upper section of Armand Bayou near the corner of Genoa-Red Bluff Rd and Red Bluff Rd. It is adjacent to and across the bayou from 1,145 acres recently purchased by Armand Bayou Nature Center for the purposes of conservation. These headwaters flow south to Clear Lake and into Galveston Bay.

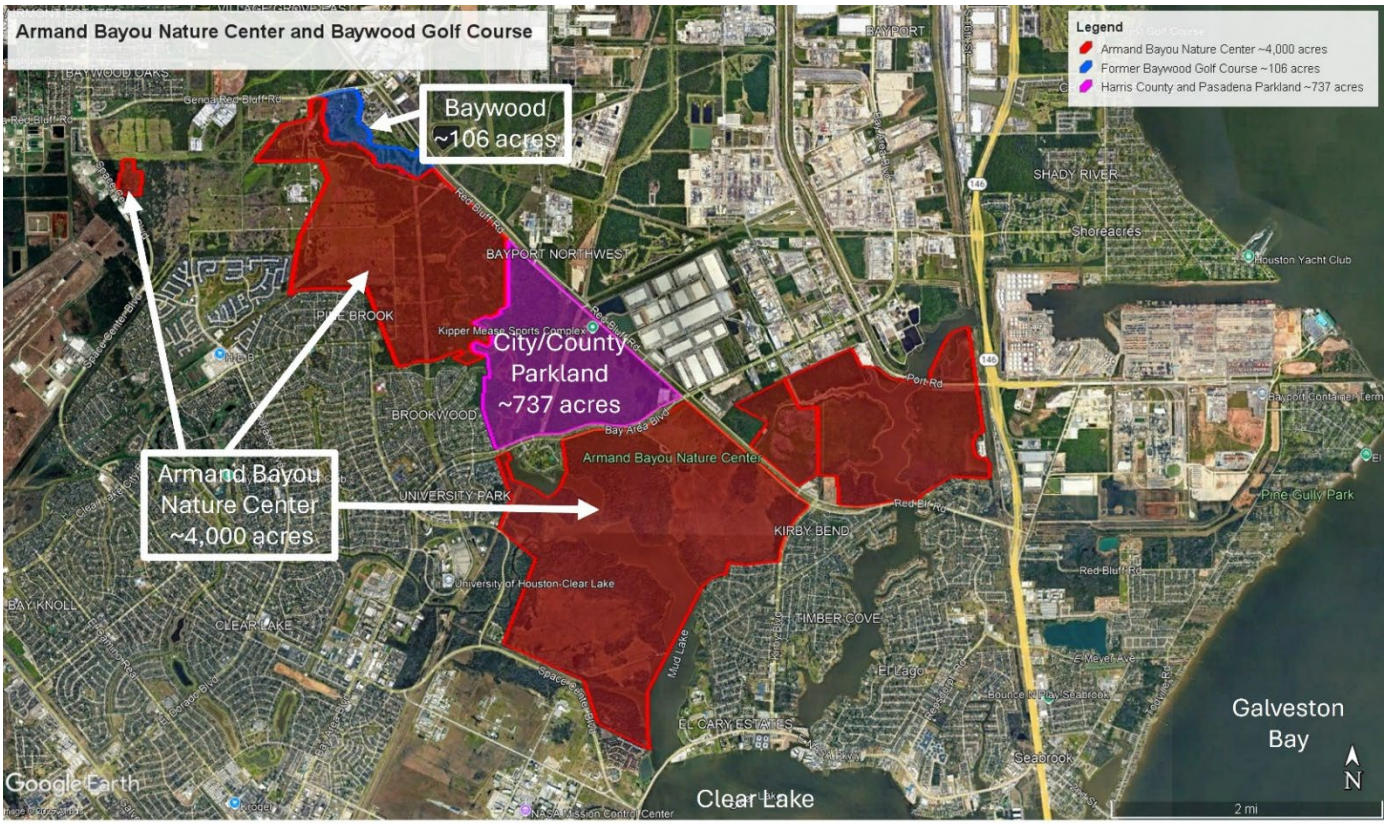
Partners[1] **and Their Roles**:

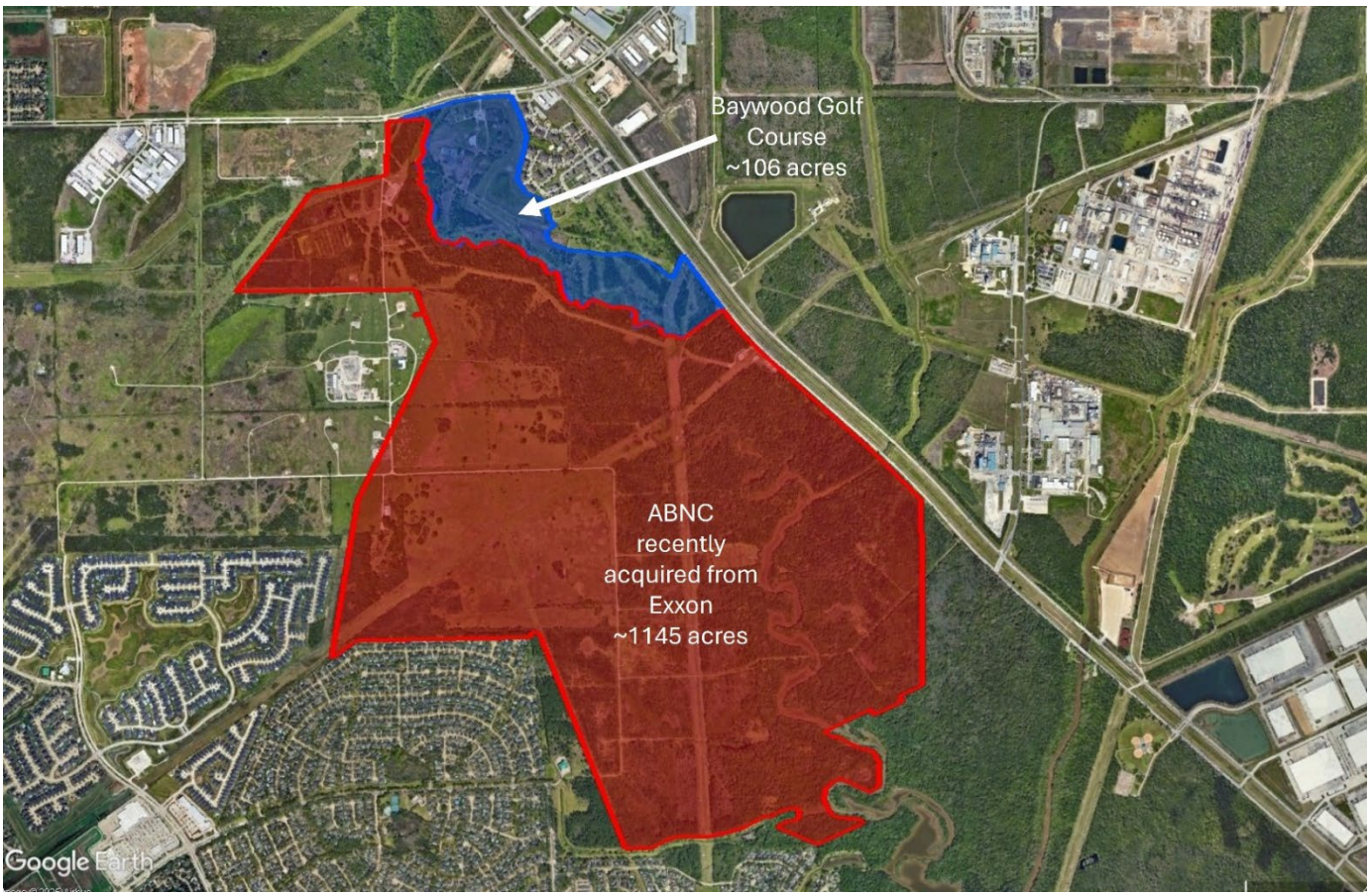
[Please identify project partners and detail what roles they will play in project implementation.]

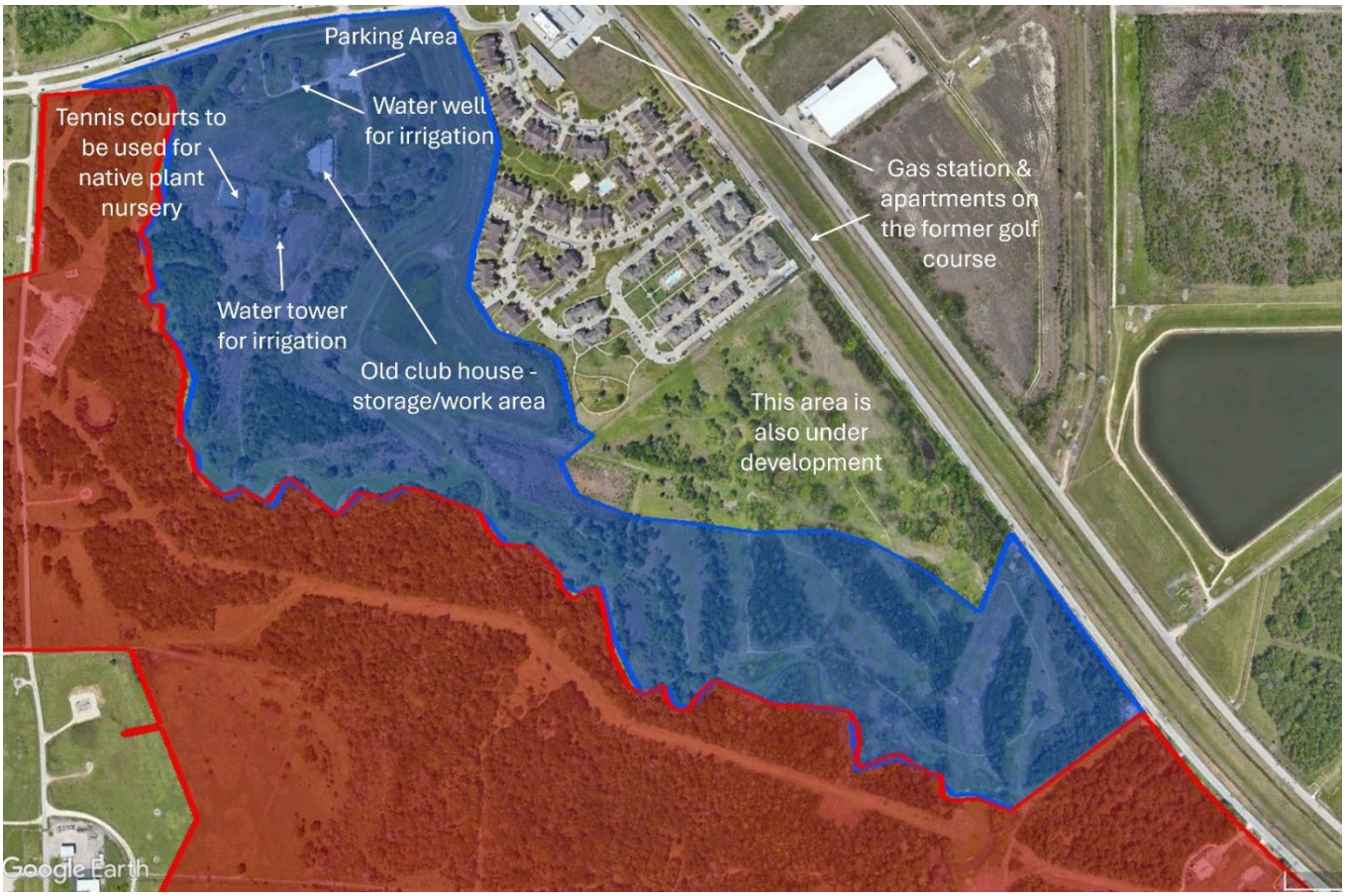
The Brown Foundation (potential funder for fee simple purchase), The Knobloch Family Foundation (potential funder for fee simple purchase), Fidelity Foundation (potential funder for irrigation and native plant nursery infrastructure following purchase). Discussions are underway with all three of these groups.

[1] If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted as an appendix with the application.

Projects Map






Parking Area
Water well for irrigation
Tennis courts to be used for native plant nursery
Gas station & apartments on the former golf course
Water tower for irrigation
Old club house - storage/work area
This area is also under development
Google Earth

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

Baywood Large Alligator

Baywood Nesting Waterbird Rookery Pond (With Invasive Water Hyacinth)

Armand Bayou as it flows through the Baywood Golf Course

Armand Bayou as it flows through the Baywood Golf Course


Baywood Invasive Plants (Hairy Buttercup and Giant Reed)


Baywood Trash on Land and Water

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:

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	$0.00
Fringe Benefits **(##%)**[2]	$0.00
Travel	$0.00
Supplies	$0.00
Equipment	$0.00
Contractual	$0.00
Construction	$0.00
Other	$0.00
Total Direct Cost	$0.00

b. Indirect Costs[3]

Distribution Base Amount *(identify Base type below)*	$
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	%
Total Indirect Costs	$

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	$

Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):
☒ Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify: **N/A. ABNC is not seeking any indirect costs for this project.**
The indirect cost rate is (check one):

☒ **Other:** [Examples: De Minimis Rate with a base of direct salary and wages (less than or equal to actual indirect costs) or Provisional Rate. If this is a Provisional Rate, include the following language: Provisional Rate: The subsequent adjustment of the indirect cost rate is subject to the requirements of Article 9 of this section.]

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

Armand Bayou Nature Center is not seeking **ANY** indirect costs for this proposal. The entirety of the requested amount will be spent on the purchase of the property.

[2] If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.
[3] Please attach Indirect Cost Agreement as an appendix if applicable

Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Fiscal 2027 Project Proposal

Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by July 25, 2025. 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 TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Natural Resource Uses (NRU)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Water and Sediment Quality (WSQ)

Project Name:

Galveston Bay Water Quality Protection, Watershed Conservation, and Public Access Expansion

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

The Coastal Trust, Inc.

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*

[If other, please identify pass-through partner.]

Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:	YQGNQUBLT695
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	82-0830961

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Michael Roberts
Project Representative Phone	(225) 505-5905
Project Representative Email	michael@thecoastaltrust.org

Amount Requested from GBEP:

$285,820.43

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒
Is the project scalable? ☒

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	$118,273.87
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	$83,773.48
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	$83,773.48
Total	$285,820.43

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2026 – ending no later than May 31, 2029) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

September 1, 2026 through May 31, 2029

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

$285,820.43

Is this an estimate? ☒

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

The Coastal Trust will conduct charitable campaigns and pursue other allowable sources of public funding to support the implementation of this entire scope of work. Work will be scaled up based on funds received. The Internal Revenue Service granted The Coastal Trust 501(c)(3) status on February 10, 2025, and TCT has secured required charitable registrations to conduct fundraising campaigns. This is proceeding immediately. The Coastal Trust is a member of the Greater Houston Partnership and is working through that organization to build a network of donor relationships within the business community in the Houston-Galveston region. Private charitable contributions are being sought as well by TCT to support this scope of work. Funds raised will support future acquisition and conservation costs and due diligence beyond just the Smith Point parcel.

Project Urgency:

Project Representative is willing to work up to full time performing this work immediately. Time is of the essence for land restoration and conservation with tremendous growth facing the region. The Coastal Trust is newly established as a 501(c)(3) public charity and hopes to be able to initiate and sustain operations by securing public funds to benefit the public trust such as these funds applied for through this solicitation.

SECTION THREE: *GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION* IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the Fiscal 2027 Subcommittee Priorities (Section Four) will be considered above others. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* Action Plans 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/
Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:

Plan Priority 1: Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

NPS-1 ☒	NPS-2 ☐	NPS-3 ☒	NPS-4 ☐	
PS-1 ☒	PS-2 ☒	PS-3 ☐		
PHA-1 ☐	PHA-2 ☐	PHA-3 ☒	PHA-4 ☐	PHA-5 ☐

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 3: Engage Communities

SPO-1 ☐	SPO-2 ☐	SPO-3 ☐	SPO-4 ☐
PEA-1 ☐	PEA-2 ☐	PEA-3 ☐	

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:

NPS 1 - Support Watershed-Based Plan Development and Implementation – Identify, prioritize, and help implement projects in Watershed Based Plans to expand sewer systems to address septic contamination.

NPS 3 – Implement Nonpoint Source Best Management Practices – Identify, develop, and implement projects to promote afforestation and reforestation of the Galveston Bay watershed to reduce stormwater pollution.

PS 1 – Support Stormwater Education Programs – Train local governments on stormwater best management practices to maintain MS4 compliance and create integrated stormwater utilities to maximize co-benefits.

PS 2 – Achieve Sanitary Sewer System Capacity and Integrity – Work with sewer utilities to evaluate and expand sewage treatment capacity to accommodate connection of properties with failing septic systems.

PHA 3 – Improve Contact Recreation Safety Through Watershed-Based Plans (WBPs) – Reduce risks of fecal coliform contamination in Galveston Bay through implementation of septic to sewer connection projects.

HC1 – Land Acquisition – Identify, acquire, and conserve private lands of ecological and recreational value. Prioritize land within and adjacent to existing local, state, and federal lands to improve habitat connectivity.

HC-2 – Habitat Restoration – Restore longleaf pine habitat in its historic range to benefit species of concern, sequester carbon, and improve water quality through reductions in stormwater runoff into Galveston Bay.

HC 3 – Habitat Enhancement – Expand public ownership of lands and shorelines to facilitate management measures to enhance fish and wildlife habitat and provide public access to Galveston Bay for recreation.

SC 1 – Native Species Management – Afforestation and reforestation of longleaf pine habitat within historic longleaf pine range to benefit identified fish and wildlife species of concern dependent on this 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.

Subcommittee Identified Priorities

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

☒ WSQ: Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans.
☒ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
☐ WSQ: Public health risk awareness outreach campaigns related to contact recreation and/or seafood consumption.
☒ NRU: Habitat acquisition.
☐ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts with special emphasis on:
  ☐ Adaptive management for previously completed projects;
  ☐ Projects that have lost funding from other federal sources; and
  ☐ Nonnative species management.
☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
☒ NRU: Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program.
☐ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost
☐ PPE: Empowers K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.
☐ PPE: Connects new audiences to existing/completed projects or the natural habitat.
☐ PPE: Opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops/networking for education and outreach practitioners on key topics.
☐ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
☐ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially species of concern, WSQ, PPE).
☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay.
☐ M&R: 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.
☐ Investigate ecosystem services and economic valuation of bay resources.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

WSQ: Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans.

Stormwater management, septic to sewer connections, land conservation, and forestry work will all support implementation of watershed-based plans that have been developed for the Galveston Bay watershed.

WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.

Stormwater management, septic to sewer connections, land conservation, and forestry work will all support reduction of point and nonpoint source pollution the Galveston Bay watershed.

NRU: Habitat acquisition.

Project would perform due diligence for the acquisition of 3,375 linear feet of shoreline at Smith Point.

NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.

Forestry component of project will protect habitat for Bachman's Sparrow, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Louisiana Pine Snake, and Gopher Tortoise, all of which depend on longleaf pine forest for habitat.

NRU: Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program.

The Coastal Trust through its philanthropic mission will seek to provide as much support as can be generated to support the overall work of the GBEP in its implementation of the Galveston Bay Plan.

Does the Project align with any EPA Areas of Special Interest?

☒ Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health
☐ Make Investments that Address Coastal Resiliency
☐ Reduce Trash

Reduces nutrient pollution in Galveston Bay through afforestation and reforestation of the watershed, as well as reducing fecal coliform and nutrient pollution through the connection of septic systems to sewers. Reduction in fecal coliform and nutrients in Galveston Bay will improve public health and aquatic habitat.

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 seeks to provide programmatic support to the Galveston Bay Estuary Program in its implementation of the Galveston Bay Plan. Projects include: improve public access to Galveston Bay through land acquisition, improve water quality through stormwater management and septic to sewer connections, and improve fish and wildlife habitat through restoration of longleaf pine habitat within its historic range.

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

Galveston Bay Estuary Program - Water and Sediment Quality Subcommittee - Nonpoint Source Pollution – Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use – Planning and Implementation of Septic to Sewer Connections

Work with GBEP using existing septic system inventory and water quality monitoring data to target areas surrounding Galveston Bay for septic to sewer connection projects. Work with sewer utilities to plan these projects and advance developed projects to the procurement phase. Serve as a coordinator and technical resource for GBEP and sewer utilities and other relevant partners including the Houston-Galveston Region Bacteria Implementation Group as septic to sewer connection projects are developed and implemented. Estimate project benefits to Galveston Bay in terms of reductions in fecal coliform contamination to determine cost-effectiveness and impacts to sensitive environments to facilitate scientific project prioritization. Help plan for development of necessary addition capacity of local sanitary sewer systems. Support implementation of similar work identified in existing local watershed protection plans.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program - Water and Sediment Quality Subcommittee - Nonpoint Source Pollution – Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use – Integrated Stormwater Utility Asset Management Development

Work with GBEP to help stormwater utilities in the Galveston Bay watershed develop and implement integrated asset management programs. Provide technical assistance for the development of stormwater utilities to provide sources of funding for stormwater programs. Provide technical assistance for management of these utilities for to maximize effectiveness of programs to ensure integrity and efficiency of use of public funds. Help stormwater utilities identify and pursue opportunities for natural infrastructure to leverage stormwater funds to achieve MS4 compliance and achieve a full range of co-benefits, including improved public health through increased access to public parks for passive recreation, improved urban fish and wildlife habitat, and increases in property value under the proximate principle.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program – Natural Resource Uses Subcommittee – Protect and Sustain Living Resources - East Bay and Trinity Bay Watershed Conservation and Public Access Expansion

Perform due diligence on potential acquisition of Smith Point for permanent preservation and conveyance to Chambers County for the expansion of Robbins Park. Approach landowner and negotiate a potential acquisition or donation of subject property working with interested local conservation partners. Work with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify potential expansion opportunities for the Moody and Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuges. Work with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to identify potential expansion opportunities for the Candy Cain Abshier Wildlife Management Area. Perform due diligence on identified lands and approach identified landowners to negotiate a potential acquisition or donation of subject properties. Priority acquisition is Smith Point, to add 3,375 linear feet of public shoreline access at Chambers County's James H. Robbins Park from current 500 linear feet that faces heavy recreational use.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program – Natural Resource Uses Subcommittee – Galveston Bay Watershed Longleaf Pine Afforestation and Reforestation Project Identification, Planning, and Implementation

Coordinate between the Galveston Bay Estuary Program, Texas A&M Forest Service, and the Texas Longleaf Team to identify and implement restoration opportunities in historic longleaf pine range in Chambers County, Liberty County, Trinity County, Polk County, and San Jacinto County. Perform comprehensive project planning including identification of potential credits available to landowners for performing

restoration. Establish scientific prioritization system for protection of riparian forests along bay tributaries. Will provide added habitat for Texas species of concern such as Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, Louisiana Pine Snake, and Gopher Tortoise, which depend on longleaf pine forest for habitat.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program – Engage Communities – Local Government Coordination Assistance

At the direction of and representing the Galveston Bay Estuary Program, support and expand existing local GBEP government outreach efforts identified in the Stakeholder and Partner Outreach Action Plan. Train and work with local governments to identify, plan, and implement projects that support the Galveston Bay Plan.

Other Plans Implemented:

Galveston Bay Plan, Texas Longleaf Pine Implementation Team Conservation Plan, Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, Watershed-based plans that have been developed in the Galveston Bay Watershed, Houston-Galveston Area Council septic plans, Houston Stormwater Master Plan, Galveston Master Drainage Plan

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

☒ Yes
☐ No

The Coastal Trust seeks to enhance coordination will all local jurisdictions in the Galveston Bay watershed.

Is the project subject to Title VI requirements?

To meet federal nondiscrimination guidance and laws (Title VI), TCEQ requires information and services to be provided in languages other than English when significant numbers of beneficiaries are of limited English-speaking ability (LEP). If 5% or more of the population within your project area is LEP and share a common language, then you are required to provide outreach in the alternative language. For statewide projects, Spanish language outreach is required. As Title VI compliance could impact the project budget, please reach out to the primary subcommittee coordinator for this application with questions on determining applicability and EJScreen instructions.

☐ Yes
☒ No

Project does not involve engagement of the general public. It includes targeted outreach and coordination with federal and state agencies and local governments, and landowners with ecologically valuable lands.

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

29° 32' 47.3274", -94° 47' 19.6362"

Location:

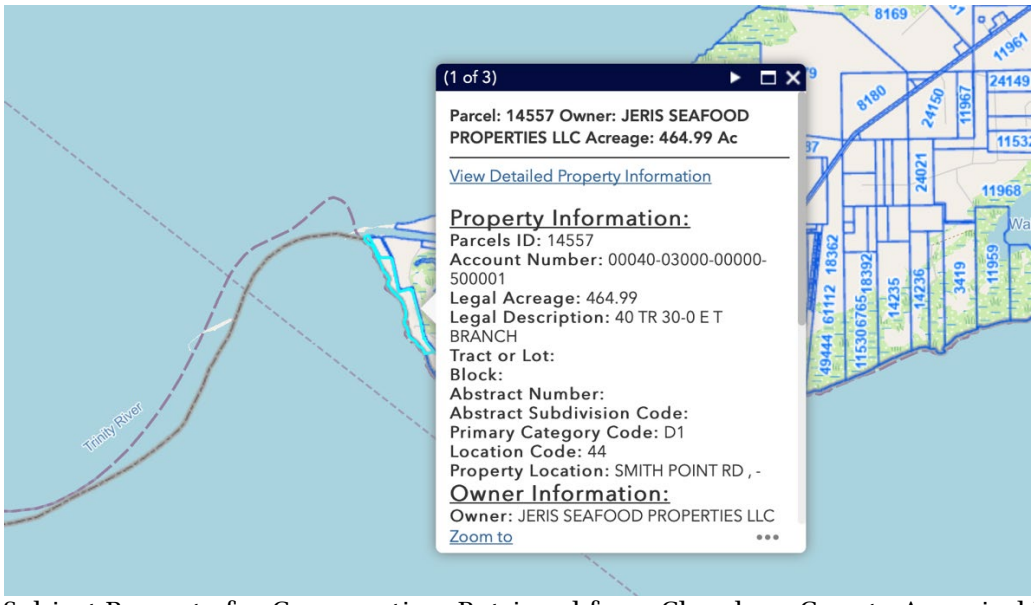
Smith Point, East Bay Watershed, Trinity Bay Watershed, Municipalities in Galveston Bay Watershed, Chambers County, Liberty County, Trinity County, Polk County, and San Jacinto County.

Partners[1] and Their Roles:

The Coastal Trust will work in coordination with the Texas A&M Forest Service and Texas Longleaf Team on afforestation and reforestation of the watershed. TCT will work in coordination with the Galveston Bay Foundation and Coastal Prairie Conservancy and other interested nonprofits on public access and land conservation. TCT seeks to help build partner capacity through sources outside of Galveston Bay Estuary Program funding to maximize participation in completion of work and increase leverage of GBEP funds. Recruitment of additional partners and development of resources will be a deliberate and ongoing process.

[1] If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted as an appendix with the application.

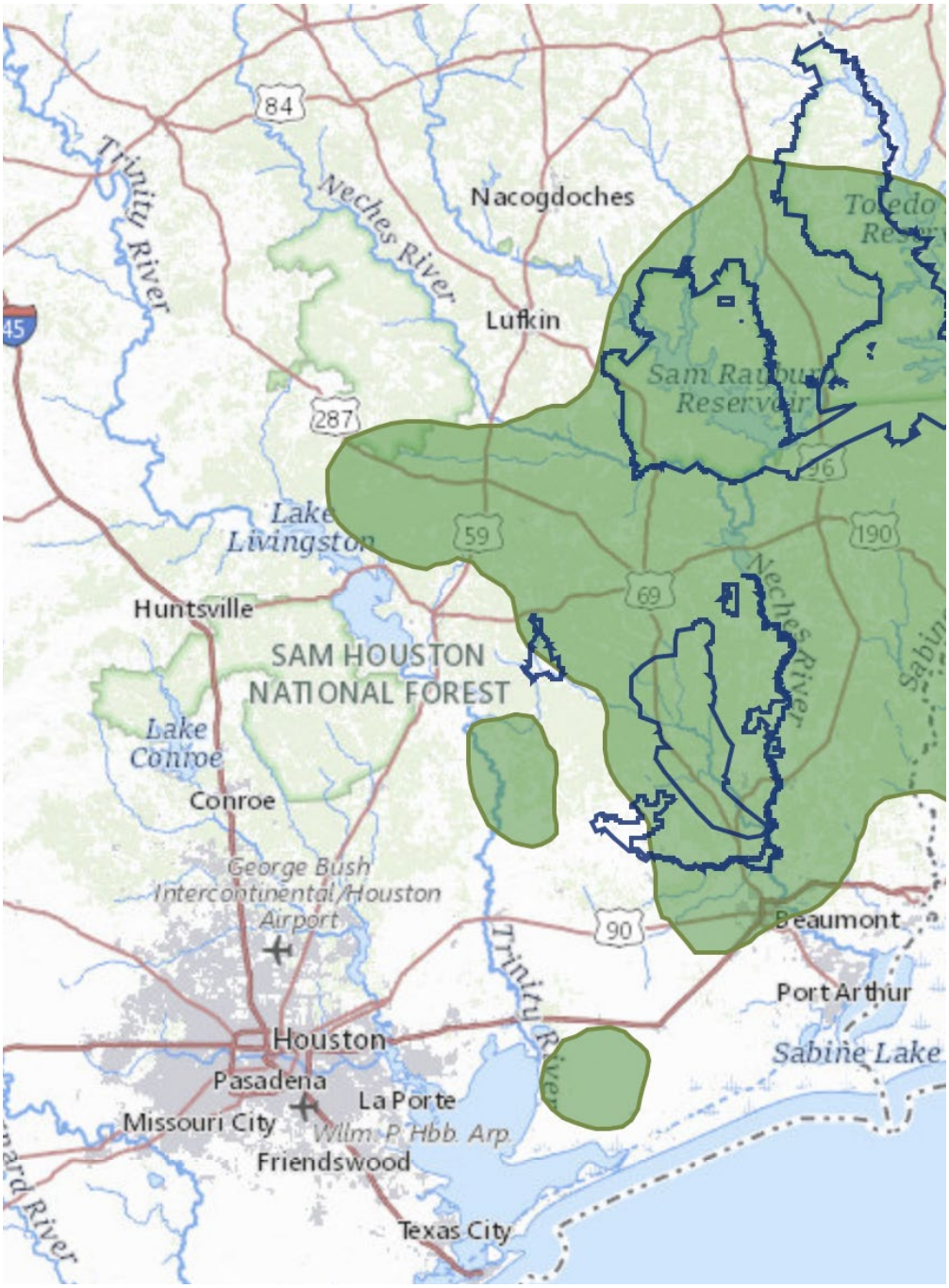
Projects Map



Priority Subject Property for Conservation. Retrieved from Chambers County Appraisal District.

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

Aerial view of Smith Point and James H. Robbins Park, photo taken by Michael Roberts on July 16, 2025. Area being pursued for acquisition, conservation, and conveyance to Chambers County outlined in red.



Historic Longleaf Pine Range and Focus Area of Texas Longleaf Implementation Team

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:

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	$183,000.00
Fringe Benefits **(16.55%)**[2]	$30,289.50
Travel	$5,250.00
Supplies	$0.00
Equipment	$0.00
Contractual	$30,000.00
Construction	$0.00
Other	$0.00
Total Direct Cost	$248,539.50

b. Indirect Costs[3]

Distribution Base Amount *(identify Base type below)*	$ 248,539.50
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	15%
Total Indirect Costs	$ 37,280.93

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	$ 285.820.43

Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):
☒ modified total direct costs

If other direct cost base, identify:

The indirect cost rate is (check one):

☒ **De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of fifteen percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)[4] in lieu of determining the actual indirect costs of the service. Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs.

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[2] If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.
[3] Please attach Indirect Cost Agreement as an appendix if applicable
[4] https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/section-200.1#p-200.1(Modified%20Total%20Direct%20Cost%20(MTDC))

Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Fiscal 2027 Project Proposal

Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by July 25, 2025. 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 TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Natural Resource Uses (NRU)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Monitoring and Research Subcommittee (M&R)

Project Name:

Coastal Prairie Restoration and Habitat Enhancement

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes☐ No ☒

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

Coastal Prairie Conservancy

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*	

Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:	MT1BFFHC4CJ1
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	760377029

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Mary Anne Piacentini
Project Representative Phone	281-851-8762
Project Representative Email	maryanne@coastalprairieconservancy.org

Amount Requested from GBEP:

$225,000

Federal ☐ State ☒ No Preference ☒

Is the project scalable? ☒

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	$95,250
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	$68,250
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	$61,500
Total	$225,000

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2026 – ending no later than May 31, 2029) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

09/01/2026 – 05/31/2029

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

$570,180.77

Is this an estimate? ☒

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

The Coastal Prairie Conservancy (CPC) has been pursuing funding opportunities to continue its efforts to restore and enhance the organization's fee owned lands on our 'Katy Prairie Preserve.' The parcels included in this project are located within the southwestern corner of the Upper Galveston Bay Watershed in Harris County.

We will pursue additional funding from foundation, corporate, and federal awards to expand the scope of this project, on current estimates nearly $575,000. These sources are well-aligned with the proposed project scope and offer a reliable pool of both secured and future potential funding.

- We will continue to approach existing land restoration funders who have supported CPC consistently over the past decade. These foundation and corporate funders should provide $175,000 - $200,000 throughout the proposed three-year grant period.
- In-kind support will be provided through approximately 1,200 volunteer hours supporting invasive species removal and native planting. In addition to our standard weekly volunteers or corporate groups, restoration partners for this grant will include the Texas Conservation Corps (e.g., through their Clean and Green Program) and Texas Master Naturalists. The estimated in-kind match contribution of this volunteer labor is estimated at $40,000- $45,000 throughout the proposed three-year grant period.
- This GBEP award could also serve as a match for federal programs such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP) and its Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). We also may apply for restoration funding from the North American Wetlands Conservation Standard Grant Program (NAWCA) at the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. An estimate of this reimbursable funding is $100,000- $115,000 throughout the proposed three-year grant period.

Project Urgency:

The project will span 2,570 acres and presents a timely opportunity to align with currently available federal match programs which support working lands maintenance, stewardship, and applied research. These funds are available now through programs like EQUIP and NAWCA, but given future federal funding uncertainty, missing the opportunity to secure supplemental funding, could mean losing the ability to leverage dollars effectively.
Funding during this cycle is especially important to support our ongoing prairie restoration as well as follow-up activities, which are essential to sustaining ecosystem health, flood mitigation, and long-term restoration outcomes.

Investing now in this work will allow us to continue vital habitat management across these parcels which flow into the Cypress Creek watershed, the fifth largest watershed in the Houston area. This watershed plays a vital role in regional water management; delays in funding could compromise recent progress, particularly given the fast-growing vegetation and persistent invasive pressure typical of Gulf Coast prairie systems.

The increasing frequency of severe weather and flooding in the Houston region underscores the urgency of investing in nature-based flood mitigation strategies now. Restoring prairie lands is especially important as prairies act like natural sponges, slowing stormwater before it reaches downstream communities. Delaying this work leaves Houston more vulnerable with each passing storm. We have a rare opportunity to

implement large-scale restoration on the historic Katy Prairie that will reduce flood risk while protecting one of the region's largest remaining working land and conservation landscapes.

Regarding the project timeline, this work could begin as early as fall 2025 should funding become available at that time. Initial activities would include some invasives removal work and consultations with our research partners to define the parameters for measuring the project's long-term impacts on hydrology and at-risk wetland species.

SECTION THREE: *GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION* IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the Fiscal 2027 Subcommittee Priorities (Section Four) will be considered above others. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* Action Plans are found at:
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https://gbep.texas.gov/protect-and-sustain-living-resources/
https://gbep.texas.gov/engage-communities/
https://gbep.texas.gov/inform-science-based-decision-making/

Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:

Plan Priority 1: Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

NPS-1 ☐	NPS-2 ☐	NPS-3 ☐	NPS-4 ☐	
PS-1 ☐	PS-2 ☐	PS-3 ☐		
PHA-1 ☐	PHA-2 ☐	PHA-3 ☐	PHA-4 ☐	PHA-5 ☐

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 3: Engage Communities

SPO-1 ☐	SPO-2 ☐	SPO-3 ☐	SPO-4 ☐
PEA-1 ☐	PEA-2 ☐	PEA-3 ☐	

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:

The project will bring 2,570 acres of habitat under improved management and aligns with the following Galveston Bay Plan priority area actions:

HC-3 – *Enhance and restore coastal habitats through stewardship and protection measures*
This project advances the long-term ecological restoration and stewardship of native prairie and wetland ecosystems across three key parcels within the Katy Prairie Preserve, located in the southwestern portion of the upper Galveston Bay watershed. Previous restoration efforts have laid a strong foundation for this project, and this next phase will further enhance hydrologic function within the Cypress Creek Watershed, an essential system that ultimately feeds into Lake Houston and Galveston Bay.

The Conservancy will conduct restoration by applying principles of soil health, which are: minimizing disturbance, maximizing soil cover, maintaining living roots, increasing biodiversity, and integrating sustainable cattle grazing. By adopting these principles, we will enhance soil fertility, improve water infiltration and retention, reduce erosion, and ultimately create a more resilient and productive ecosystem.

Restoration activities on the parcels will improve hydrologic function and residence time before moving water downstream. The longer residence time provides nutrient reductions to downstream areas by allowing for better nutrient uptake by native plants and wetlands. Additionally, by reducing the runoff to Cypress

Creek and numerous ditch networks in the region, capacity in those limited conveyance systems is made available for runoff from surrounding lands that are either developed or in degraded states. This holistic restoration strategy improves regional flood control and increases watershed resilience, making it more adaptable as well.

An overview of the three parcels that would be included in this project follows (see enclosed maps for further details):

Nelson Farm (1,736 acres) - This property was historically part of the rice and pasture rotation that was practiced across the Katy Prairie beginning in the early 20th century. It has been extensively leveled for rice production. Parts of the property continue to support rice production and cattle grazing during the fallow years (rice is generally on a three-year rotation). Fortunately, all the rice fields have also been constructed as wetland projects through Ducks Unlimited and the Texas Prairie Wetland Program. Approximately 300 acres of the property have been utilized for wetland mitigation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act; this acreage must be maintained as prairie wetland habitat.

Invasive species removal through chemical and mechanical means were effectively utilized for initial efforts to reduce invasive species; these efforts are now maintained with prescribed fire and grazing, mechanical methods, and selective herbicide application to invasive plant species. Through the continued selective application of herbicides and follow-up herbicide treatments, along with prescribed burns and grazing management and mechanical removals, we can continue to reduce the levels of infestation and reintroduce greater number of native species thereby improving the hydrologic functioning of the grassland areas and the connections between the wetland areas.

Jack Road South Preserve (511 acres) - The property has a 100-acre wetland that is documented in the National Wetland inventory mapping that has been incorporated into a Prairie Wetland project funded by Ducks Unlimited. Historic prairie potholes are located near the north end of the property and a few scattered to the south. These features are remnants of the historic tallgrass prairie/wetland complex that used to make up the Katy Prairie and which provided habitat for wetland-dependent wildlife. The property is currently used for cattle grazing in accordance with guidelines from NRCS.

Several invasive species are currently problematic on the property, including Chinese tallow, McCartney rose, and deep-rooted sedge. In addition, the property also has non-native pasture and forage grasses. Through continued use of targeted chemical and mechanical treatments in the most impacted areas and followed by maintenance strategies such as prescribed burns and grazing management, we will reduce infestations over time. These efforts will enhance the hydrologic function of this parcel which fronts on Cypress Creek and will significantly improve the quality of wetland and riparian habitat for several documented species of concern.

Cypress Creek Preserve (323 acres) - This property was historically part of the rice and pasture rotation system commonly practiced across the Katy Prairie. It lies entirely within the Cypress Creek floodway, as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Harris County Flood Control District. Approximately 33% of the property falls within the Gessner Loam (Ge) soil map unit, which originated from loamy fluviomarine deposits of the Pliocene era. These soils are deep to very poorly drained and characterized by medium natural fertility and high to very high water-holding capacity.

Several invasive species currently pose challenges on the property, including Chinese tallow, McCartney rose, and deep-rooted sedge, along with non-native pasture and forage grasses. To address these threats, we will continue implementing targeted chemical and mechanical treatments in the most affected areas, followed by ongoing maintenance through prescribed burns and rotational grazing. These integrated management practices will help reduce invasive populations over time, restore native vegetation, and improve overall ecosystem health. Importantly, these efforts will enhance the parcel's hydrologic function along Cypress Creek and significantly improve wetland and riparian habitat quality for multiple documented species of concern.

Restoration on these three land parcels will contribute to the productivity of Cypress Creek Watershed by slowing runoff and reducing sediment and nutrient loading, ultimately improving water quality and the productivity of Galveston Bay.

SC-1 – ***Support projects that conserve, restore, or create habitat for native species***
The project focuses on enhancing the native coastal prairie ecosystems that support a high diversity of wildlife species throughout the year. The targeted restoration work will support landscape- scale habitat continuity on the greater Katy Prairie Preserve, which currently spans nearly 20,000 acres of fee-owned

lands and properties under conservation easement (legally binding agreements to protect the conservation values of a property while allowing the landowner to continue to enjoy the quiet use of their land).

The Katy Prairie Preserve supports over 300 bird species and is designated as a Global Important Bird Area by National Audubon, one of only 20 sites in Texas. The preserve also supports 110 species of mammals, amphibians, and reptiles, along with numerous pollinators essential for both local ecosystems and agriculture. Over 700 species of grasses and wildflowers have been documented on the prairie.

This restoration work will benefit upland bird species that have been declining nationwide such as the Eastern meadowlark, Short-eared owl, Northern harrier, Bobwhite quail, Loggerhead shrike, Grasshopper sparrow, LeConte's sparrow, White-faced Ibis, and Sprague's pipit. The species have been documented on all three tracts through CPC's ongoing annual bird monitoring efforts.

Improved and expanded wetland areas will provide additional habitat for shorebirds, wading birds, and waterfowl as well other species of wildlife including the Mottled duck, Bald Eagle, Sandhill Crane, King rail, Little Blue heron, American kestrel, Dickcissel, and Long-billed curlew.

By combating invasives and reintroducing greater numbers of native plant species, prairie specialists will also benefit from this work including the eastern spotted skunk, Crawfish frog, and the Western chicken turtle – the latter is being studied on the Katy Prairie Preserve by herpetologists at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

SC-2 – ***Implement strategies for controlling invasive and nuisance species***
Across the three parcels, current vegetation reflects degraded conditions caused by historic agricultural practices that led to a shift in soil microbes away from the appropriate types and ratios of mycorrhizal fungi and rhizobia necessary to support native vegetation. This project will implement targeted invasive species control alongside sustainable land management practices to improve soil health and reintroduce native species.

The targeted removal of invasive species is a central component of this project and will employ the following practices:

- roller chopping and shredding
- heavier mechanical clearing and aerial spraying
- spot treatment
- prescribed fire
- in-kind volunteer labor for invasive management and native plant introduction

These interventions will reduce the spread and reestablishment of invasives while creating improved environmental conditions for native plant communities to thrive.

These efforts work together to restore and maintain the health, function, and resilience of native prairie ecosystems across thousands of acres within the Cypress Creek Watershed.

FWI-2 – ***Support research to understand freshwater inflow needs for Galveston Bay and inform management strategies***
Native prairies function as natural sponges, increasing infiltration and buffering freshwater flows into downstream waterways. The Conservancy has been working with the SSPEED Center at Rice University and RES (Resource Environmental Solutions) to model and assess how restored working lands contribute to regional water cycles. For example, recent studies from the SSPEED Center have enabled CPC to understand that restoration activities on the Katy Prairie Preserve result in enhanced hydrologic and ecological functionality, with a per-acre water retention of up to 0.8 acre-feet of additional infiltration annually on restored prairie areas. RES is working on a wetland mitigation project to re-establish hydrologic function on a separate parcel of CPC-owned land that lies within the San Jacinto River Basin.

This project will expand these research and land management monitoring efforts by:

- supporting continued hydrologic research and monitoring, helping inform regional strategies about how management strategies can aid in sustaining seasonal and annual freshwater inflows to Galveston Bay;
- monitoring water improvement qualities provided by native plants and through improved wetlands areas; and

- providing additional data on the water retention aspects of restored prairies grassland and wetland areas during periods of flooding.

Through this project and these partnerships, we would commit to presenting these findings to the public through conference presentations and panels and by issuing white papers.

RES-1- Conduct Biological Stressor Monitoring and Research

The Conservancy will also work with partners to monitor the impacts of biological stressors on native species of plants and wildlife. Currently we support native wildlife and plant monitoring efforts for various projects across the Katy Prairie Preserve, including a project that documented aquatic invertebrates and how their habitats were impacted by climatic events, land management practices, and pollutants. This research was presented at the 2024 Entomological Society of America's Conference in Phoenix and can be viewed at https://www.posterpresentations.com/research/posters/VH-28589/#mz-expanded-view-95135760517.

Through this project, the Conservancy would seek to continue this research on the Jack Road South parcel and could explore collaborations with existing research partners at Texas A&M University, Texas Park and Wildlife Department, or others to continue understanding how biological stressors are impacting wildlife species in the upper Galveston Bay watershed.

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.

Subcommittee Identified Priorities

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

☐ WSQ: Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans.
☐ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
☐ WSQ: Public health risk awareness outreach campaigns related to contact recreation and/or seafood consumption.
☐ NRU: Habitat acquisition.
☒ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts with special emphasis on:
  ☒ Adaptive management for previously completed projects;
  ☐ Projects that have lost funding from other federal sources; and
  ☒ Nonnative species management.
☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
☒ NRU: Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program.
☐ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost
☐ PPE: Empowers K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.
☐ PPE: Connects new audiences to existing/completed projects or the natural habitat.
☐ PPE: Opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops/networking for education and outreach practitioners on key topics.
☐ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
☐ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially species of concern, WSQ, PPE).
☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay.
☒ M&R: 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.

☐ Investigate ecosystem services and economic valuation of bay resources.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

The project will bring 2,570 acres of habitat under improved management and hydrology and aligns with the following sub-committee priority areas:

NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts
This project emphasizes the enhancement of long-term restoration and conservation efforts by integrating multiple ecological management techniques. The Conservancy will conduct restoration in part by applying principles of soil health, which are: minimizing disturbance, maximizing soil cover, maintaining living roots, increasing biodiversity, and integrating livestock. By adopting these principles, we will enhance soil fertility, improve water infiltration and retention, reduce erosion, and ultimately create a more resilient and productive ecosystem. Mechanical and chemical removal of invasive plant species is coordinated with prescribed fire management, no-till native seed planting, and rotational grazing. These efforts work together to restore and maintain the health, function, and resilience of native prairie ecosystems across thousands of acres.

NRU: Adaptive management for previously completed projects
Each parcel of land was previously acquired to protect these habitats and open green space for the benefit of people and wildlife forever. By further restoring and enhancing these lands, the ecologic value of this initial vision will be even further realized.

NRU: Nonnative species management
The project focuses heavily on controlling and removing aggressive invasive species such as Chinese tallow (listed as both noxious and invasive by The Texas Department of Agriculture), Macartney rose, Deep-rooted sedge, and King Ranch bluestem, which threaten the ecological integrity of the region's last native prairie remnants. All of these species are categorized as invasive plants by Texasinvasives.org. By implementing targeted mechanical and chemical treatments alongside ecological restoration practices such as prescribed burns and rotational cattle grazing, the project aims to reduce the dominance of these invasive plants and promote the recovery of native vegetation communities.

NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state-listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), and nongame wildlife
The parcels lie within the Katy Prairie Preserve, a critical landscape that supports over 300 bird species and is designated as a Global Important Bird Area by National Audubon, one of only 20 sites in Texas. The designation by National Audubon after site visits where experts identified the use of much of the Katy Prairie for its benefit to upland species, many of which are in decline. The preserve also supports 110 species of mammals, amphibians, and reptiles, along with numerous pollinators essential for both local ecosystems and agriculture. In addition, over 700 grasses and forbs have been documented on the Katy Prairie.

Several species will benefit from improved habitat conditions including the federal endangered Monarch butterfly and the following species listed as vulnerable or imperiled on the TPWD's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN): Black tern, Grasshopper sparrow, King rail, Le Conte's sparrow, Prothonotary warbler, Southwestern Willow flycatcher, and Sprague's pipit. In addition, the Alligator Snapping turtle, Common Garter snake, Eastern Box turtle, Prairie skink, Slender Glass lizard, Southern crawfish frog, Strecker's Chorus frog, Texas Horned lizard, and Western Chicken turtle would benefit from expanded habitats.

NRU: Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program
This project leverages significant partnerships and community support to maximize impact and contribute to learnings for future applications across the region. Based on current budget estimates, an award from GBEP would account for 39% of the project's overall budget. The project has strong potential for co-funding

through USDA NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in additional to some of the corporations that traditionally support CPC's restoration efforts.

The project anticipates 1,200 hours of in-kind volunteer labor during the proposed grant period and will pursue collaborations with partners such as the Texas Conservation Corps (through the Clean and Green Program) and Texas Master Naturalists for volunteer support. As part of our Outreach and Education programming, we operate the *Great Grow Out* program, which educates the public about the value of native plants and engages them in helping to grow out seedlings at their homes, allowing our Native Seed Nursery to expand its capacity.

Beyond natural resource benefits, the restoration work will generate measurable water quantity and quality co-benefits aligned with stormwater quality (SWQ) priorities by enhancing groundwater infiltration and reducing nutrient and sediment runoff. Carbon sequestration benefits will also be realized through the reestablishment of native grassland areas and the use of rotational cattle grazing which stimulates biological activities within soils.

We will engage the expertise of restoration and hydrology specialists from WHF, the SSPEED Center at Rice University, Texas R.I.C.E, and RES. Their expert guidance and monitoring capabilities will enable the impacts and learnings from this project to be delivered to the public in the form of presentations and white papers.

M&R: Species of Greatest Conservation Need
The project will provide the opportunity to monitor Species of Greatest Conservation Need that rely on seasonal or year-round habitat in the Upper Galveston Bay watershed thereby aiding in understanding more about the Galveston Bay ecosystem components overall and how and when preservation initiatives might benefit this wildlife populations when biological stressors may be present. The following species listed as vulnerable or imperiled on the TPWD's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) have been documented or identified as potential species for habitat usage and part of monitoring efforts: Black tern, Grasshopper sparrow, King rail, Le Conte's sparrow, Prothonotary warbler, Southwestern Willow flycatcher, Sprague's pipit, Alligator Snapping turtle, Common Garter snake, Eastern Box turtle, Prairie skink, Slender Glass lizard, Southern crawfish frog, Strecker's Chorus frog, Texas Horned lizard, and Western Chicken turtle.

M&R: Environmental Parameters
The project will provide the opportunity to monitor the impacts of biological stressors from invasives species, land management practices, and pollutants in the Upper Galveston Bay watershed thereby aiding in understanding more about the Galveston Bay ecosystem components overall during certain climate conditions or when other biological stressors may be present.

Does the Project align with any EPA Areas of Special Interest?
☒ Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health
☐ Make Investments that Address Coastal Resiliency
☐ Reduce Trash

This project plays a critical role in reducing nutrient pollution by restoring native prairie ecosystems that act as natural filters for water. Wetlands are called nature's kidneys as they and the riparian corridors throughout this system act as natural filters, protecting local water sources from agricultural runoff and urban pollutants, especially from road runoff. Their protection is essential for maintaining the health of local watersheds and downstream elements in Harris and Galveston Counties.

The removal of invasive species and re-establishment of native plants improve soil stability and increase infiltration, thereby decreasing surface runoff that carries excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus into adjacent waterways. These nutrients often contribute to harmful algal blooms and degraded water quality, which pose risks to public health and aquatic life. By improving watershed function and promoting sustainable land management practices, the project supports cleaner water and a healthier environment for surrounding communities.

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 supports restoration and invasive species management across 2,570 acres within the Katy Prairie, a nearly 20,000-acre conservation landscape in the southwestern Upper Galveston Bay Watershed. By enhancing native prairie and wetland habitats and advancing research on freshwater inflows and ecological stressors, the project will help restore and sustain the health, function, and resilience of Cypress Creek Watershed and its downstream impacts on the Galveston Bay.

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

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

This project focuses on the restoration of three properties in the Katy Prairie Preserve, a vital conservation landscape spanning nearly 20,000 contiguous acres of working lands, coastal prairies, grasslands, and wetlands. Specifically, the project targets native prairie and wetland ecosystem restoration across three parcels in the upper Galveston Bay watershed of Harris County. These parcels are the 323-acre Cypress Creek Preserve, the 1,736-acre Nelson Farm Preserve, and the 511-acre Jack Road South Preserve- all of which flow into the Cypress Creek Watershed.

Nelson Farm currently supports rice farming and cattle grazing and includes 300 acres designated as prairie wetland mitigation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Previous restoration work has removed the worst of the invasives but continued invasives management and the reintroduction of more native species would improve the hydrologic functioning of the grassland areas and the wetland connections.

The Jack Road South Preserve contains a 100-acre wetland and historic prairie potholes that support wetland-dependent wildlife throughout the year. Ongoing restoration will reduce infestations of Chinese tallow, McCartney rose, and invasive grasses, this work would greatly enhance habitat quality and water hydrology for Cypress Creek.

The Cypress Creek Preserve lies entirely within the designated floodway and contains deep, poorly drained Gessner Loam soils and seasonal flats. It faces the greatest pressure and presence of invasive vegetation. Targeted treatments and sustainable land management practices will improve ecological function and water storage across the site.

The project would support the following primary activities across these parcels:

- Mechanical and chemical removal of invasive species which threaten native prairie and wetland ecosystems, including but not limited to Chinese tallow, Macartney rose, and King Ranch bluestem.
- Integrated land management techniques such as prescribed fire, no-till native seeding, and managed grazing to restore and maintain ecosystem resilience and function.
- Hydrologic processes to increase soil infiltration and reduce surface runoff, thereby lowering nutrient and sediment loads entering Cypress Creek watershed.
- Habitat enhancement for a range of native and declining bird species and several Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN).
- Research documenting the positive impacts of prairie and wetland restoration, including but not limited to infiltration and absorption studies, water quality monitoring, and biological stressors impact on native wildlife.
- Leveraging strong partnerships with community groups, volunteers, academic and research organizations, and federal and state programs to sustain and expand restoration efforts.

Collectively, these efforts will support the broader ecological integrity of the upper Galveston Bay watershed and the Cypress Creek system. The project will bring 2,570 acres of habitat under improved management and aligns with the following Galveston Bay Plan priorities:

Enhance and restore coastal habitats, including combating invasives
Previous restoration efforts on these parcels have laid a strong foundation and this next phase of work will further enhance hydrologic function within the Cypress Creek Watershed, an essential system that ultimately feeds into Lake Houston and Galveston Bay.

Across the three parcels, current vegetation reflects degraded conditions caused by historical agricultural practices that led to anaerobic soils. This project will implement targeted invasive species control alongside sustainable land management to improve soil health and reintroduce native species.

The Conservancy will undertake restoration activities by applying principles of soil health including minimizing disturbance, maximizing soil cover, maintaining living roots, increasing biodiversity, and integrating sustainable grazing. Mechanical and chemical removal of invasive plant species is coordinated with prescribed fire management, no-till native seed planting, and managed grazing.

Restoration activities will focus on reconnecting wetlands to improve hydrologic residence time across the landscape. These efforts will enhance water retention, allowing for greater nutrient uptake by newly established native plant communities. The result will be more resilient and ecologically stable prairie and wetland systems characterized by improved soil health, increased infiltration rates, and higher soil moisture content. Ultimately, these improvements will reduce nutrient loads flowing into downstream water bodies.

These efforts work together to restore and maintain the health, function, and resilience of native prairie ecosystems across thousands of acres of Cypress Creek Watershed lands.

Restore habitats for the benefit of native species

These restoration sites lie within a critical landscape that supports over 300 bird species and is designated as a Global Important Bird Area by National Audubon, one of only 20 sites in Texas. The preserve also supports 110 species of mammals, amphibians, and reptiles, along with numerous pollinators essential for both local ecosystems and agriculture. Over 700 species of grasses and wildflowers have been documented on the prairie.

The project focuses on enhancing the native coastal prairie ecosystems that support diverse wildlife species throughout the year. This restoration work will benefit upland bird species that have been declining nationwide. Improved and expanded wetland areas will provide habitat for shorebirds, wading birds, and waterfowl. In addition to species currently Mottled duck, Long-billed curlew, and King rail.

Engaged community partners to advance research and inform management strategies

This project leverages partnerships and community support to maximize impact and contribute to learnings for future applications across the region. CPC has previously worked with the SSPEED Center at Rice University and RES to model and assess how restored working lands contribute to regional water cycles. This project will expand those efforts by supporting continued hydrologic research and monitoring o**f** groundwater infiltration and nutrient and sediment runoff, helping inform regional strategies for sustaining freshwater inflows to Galveston Bay.

With support and partnership from WHF and Texas R.I.C.E in implementing the land management practices, the project will result in immediate ecological improvements combined with research and monitoring that can influence future land management practices impacting the freshwater inflows into Galveston Bay and the overall productivity of the ecosystem.

The project anticipates 1,200 hours of in-kind volunteer engagement with partners such as the Texas Conservation Corps (through the Clean and Green Program), Texas Master Naturalists, and through participants of our *Great Grow Out* native plant program.

As a result, this project provides cross-cutting benefits that support multiple GBEP subcommittee priority areas, making it a high-leverage and multifaceted investment.

Other Plans Implemented:

This project advances critical regional and state conservation priorities, including the Texas Coastal Management Program and the Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan. It aligns closely with watershed-based plans for Cypress Creek and the broader Katy Prairie watershed and are efforts that are supported by the San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group by addressing key goals related to water quality protection, habitat restoration, and climate resilience. Additionally, it complements the Galveston Bay Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan by promoting invasive species management, native habitat restoration, and stakeholder engagement.

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

☒ Yes
☐ No

The Coastal Prairie Conservancy (CPC) would be a new grantee if awarded. The Conservancy was a sub-recipient of a previous GBEP grant focused on community engagement and outreach.

Is the project subject to Title VI requirements?

To meet federal nondiscrimination guidance and laws (Title VI), TCEQ requires information and services to be provided in languages other than English when significant numbers of beneficiaries are of limited English-speaking ability (LEP). If 5% or more of the population within your project area is LEP and share a common language, then you are required to provide outreach in the alternative language. For statewide projects, Spanish language outreach is required. As Title VI compliance could impact the project budget, please reach out to the primary subcommittee coordinator for this application with questions on determining applicability and EJScreen instructions.

☐ Yes
☒ No

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

Cypress Creek Preserve - 29˚55'15.9" N 95˚50'24.8" W
Jack Road Preserve - 29˚57'59.6" N 95˚49'38.6" W
Nelson Farm Preserve - 29˚55'11.2" N 95˚52'08.3" W

Location:

This project focuses on three parcels within the eastern portion of the Katy Prairie Preserve, located in northwestern Harris County, and part of the upper Galveston Bay watershed. These sites lie within the Cypress Creek Watershed, which ultimately flow into Lake Houston and Galveston Bay.

Partners[1] **and Their Roles**:

The following partners are enthusiastic supporters of this project and have provided letters of support should the project be selected for funding.

WHF – restoration and land management implementation partner
SSPEED Center, Rice University – research partner
RES – research and land management implementation partner
Texas R.I.C.E. – research and land management implementation partner
Texas Master Naturalist, Coastal Prairie Chapter – volunteer partner
Clean and Green Team of Texas Conservation Corps – volunteer partner
Raven Environmental Services – restoration contractor
Tip-C Rice and Cattle – restoration contractor

[1] If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted as an appendix with the application.

Projects Map

This map details the project locations and watersheds. Additional maps can be found in this dropbox link: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/oiu5735vl2cxaqgfulrle/AAjlA5NEG5Eo1B_mXo8A1tI?rlkey=gob888r5iig8azg3tvzvsh14z&st=r306ldcp&dl=0

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

Please see photos of the three properties in the drop box link at https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/oiu5735vl2cxaqgfulrle/AAjlA5NEG5Eo1B_mXo8A1tI?rlkey=gob888r5iig8azg3tvzvsh14z&st=r306ldcp&dl=0

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:

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	$18,000.00
Fringe Benefits **(0%)**[2]	$0.00
Travel	$0.00
Supplies	$0.00
Equipment	$0.00
Contractual	$160,000.00
Construction	$0.00
Other (research partners)	$20,000.00
Total Direct Cost	$198,000.00

b. Indirect Costs[3]

Distribution Base Amount *(identify Base type below)*	$
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	% 15
Total Indirect Costs	$ 27,000.00

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	$225,000

Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):
☒ modified total direct costs

The indirect cost rate is (check one):

☒ **De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of fifteen percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)[4] in lieu of determining the actual indirect costs of the service. Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs.

[2] If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.
[3] Please attach Indirect Cost Agreement as an appendix if applicable
[4] https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/section-200.1#p-200.1(Modified%20Total%20Direct%20Cost%20(MTDC))

Gmail

Jenny Claycombe <jenny@coastalprairieconservancy.org>

Fwd: Raven / CPC partnership

1 message

Bethany Foshee <bfoshee@coastalprairieconservancy.org> Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 4:33 PM
To: Jenny Claycombe <jenny@coastalprairieconservancy.org>, Katie Sierra <ksierra@coastalprairieconservancy.org>, Stephen Deiss <stephen@coastalprairieconservancy.org>

Here is Raven's support letter!

Bethany Foshée
Stewardship and Outreach Director
Blazing Star Sanctuary - Conservation Cemetery Manager
Coastal Prairie Conservancy | Nature's Burial
Field Office: 31975 Hebert Rd., Waller, TX 77484
Office: 713.523.6135
Cell: 832.515.0189
bfoshee@coastalprairieconservancy.org
coastalprairieconservancy.org

The Coastal Prairie Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust sustaining a resilient Texas by preserving coastal prairies, wetlands, farms, and ranches to benefit people and wildlife forever.

Coastal Prairie Conservancy

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Kevin Mundorff** <mundorff@ravenenvironmental.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 4:28 PM
Subject: Raven / CPC partnership
To: Bethany Foshee <bfoshee@coastalprairieconservancy.org>

GBEP - NRU Committee:

Raven Environmental Services, Inc. is an active partner with CPC, assisting with stewardship of CPC lands on the Katy Prairie. We are proud to provide this letter of support for CPC's application to the GBEP NRU program. Our company provides land stewardship services on CPC lands. We will assist with prescribed burns and invasive species chemical treatments if CPC is awarded with these funds.

Sincerely,

Kevin T. Mundorff

Cert. & Insured Prescribed Burn Manager

TDA Cert. No. - 0467377

RAVEN ***Environmental Services, Inc.***

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 6482

Huntsville, TX 77342-6482

Shipping address:

6 Oak Bend Drive

Huntsville, TX 77320-0536

Phone numbers:

877-291-0946 (3#) - Office

936-581-0712 - Mobile

Gmail

Jenny Claycombe <jenny@coastalprairieconservancy.org>

Fwd: TMN - Coastal Prairie Chapter - Support for GBEP grant application

1 message

Bethany Foshee <bfoshee@coastalprairieconservancy.org> Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 4:20 PM
To: Jenny Claycombe <jenny@coastalprairieconservancy.org>, Katie Sierra <ksierra@coastalprairieconservancy.org>, Stephen Deiss <stephen@coastalprairieconservancy.org>

Here's the support letter from the TMN Coastal Prairie chapter!

Bethany Foshée
Stewardship and Outreach Director
Blazing Star Sanctuary - Conservation Cemetery Manager
Coastal Prairie Conservancy | Nature's Burial
Field Office: 31975 Hebert Rd., Waller, TX 77484
Office: 713.523.6135
Cell: 832.515.0189
bfoshee@coastalprairieconservancy.org
coastalprairieconservancy.org

The Coastal Prairie Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust sustaining a resilient Texas by preserving coastal prairies, wetlands, farms, and ranches to benefit people and wildlife forever.

Coastal Prairie Conservancy

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Joyce Tipton** <joyce@coastalprairie.org>
Date: Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 1:34 PM
Subject: TMN - Coastal Prairie Chapter - Support for GBEP grant application
To: Bethany Foshee <bfoshee@coastalprairieconservancy.org>
Cc: Susan Walther <susan@coastalprairie.org>, Shannon Westveer <shannon@coastalprairie.org>, Vanessa Weidman <vanessa@coastalprairie.org>

*On behalf of the **Texas Master Naturalist, Coastal Prairie Chapter,** we have learned that the Coastal Prairie Conservancy is preparing to apply for a Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) Natural Resource Uses (NRU) grant to support continued large-scale restoration efforts at our Katy Prairie Preserve from 2026 to 2028.*

*The **Texas Master Naturalist, Coastal Prairie Chapter** is an active partner with CPC, assisting with stewardship of CPC lands on the Katy Prairie. The Texas Master Naturalist Program's mission is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas. The Coastal Prairie Chapter is proud to provide our support for CPC's application to the GBEP NRU program. Our members assist in wildlife and plant monitoring, invasive species removals, trail management and expansion, and native planting efforts which are all activities that are outlined in the scope of the grant proposal. Many of our members routinely and actively volunteer with the Coastal Prairie Conservancy and we are excited to lend our support to all of the restoration opportunities that this grant can help to provide.*

Sincerely,
Joyce A. Tipton, Certified Texas Master Naturalist
Vice President, Coastal Prairie Chapter

Gmail

Jenny Claycombe <jenny@coastalprairieconservancy.org>

Quick Request - Partner Email for Grant Application - Due This Friday

Kathy Welch <kathykwelch@gmail.com> Wed, Jul 23, 2025 at 11:02 PM
To: Bethany Foshee <bfoshee@coastalprairieconservancy.org>
Cc: David Welch <dwelchfarm@aol.com>, Jenny Claycombe <jenny@coastalprairieconservancy.org>, Katie Sierra <ksierra@coastalprairieconservancy.org>, Stephen Deiss <stephen@coastalprairieconservancy.org>

Tip C Rice & Cattle JV is an active partner with CPC, assisting with stewardship of CPC lands on the Katy Prairie. We are proud to provide this letter of support for CPC's application to the GBEP NRU program.
We provide land stewardship services on CPC lands as well as management of leased lands for grazing and rice farming through our lease agreement.
We will assist with invasive species mechanical clearing, dirt work to restore natural hydrology, native plantings, and chemical treatments.
David & Kathy Welch
Owners
Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 23, 2025, at 1:46 PM, Bethany Foshee <bfoshee@coastalprairieconservancy.org> wrote:
>
> [Quoted text hidden]

assist in wildlife and plant monitoring, invasives species removal, trail management and expansion, and native planting efforts which are all activities that are outlined in the scope of our proposal

Sincerely,

Bethany Foshée
Stewardship and Outreach Director
Blazing Star Sanctuary - Conservation Cemetery Manager
Coastal Prairie Conservancy | Nature's Burial
Field Office: 31975 Hebert Rd., Waller, TX 77484
Office: 713.523.6135
Cell: 832.515.0189
bfoshee@coastalprairieconservancy.org
coastalprairieconservancy.org

The Coastal Prairie Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust sustaining a resilient Texas by preserving coastal prairies, wetlands, farms, and ranches to benefit people and wildlife forever.

Coastal Prairie Conservancy

Bethany Foshee <bfoshee@coastalprairieconservancy.org> Fri, Jul 25, 2025 at 2:34 PM
To: Jenny Claycombe <jenny@coastalprairieconservancy.org>, Katie Sierra <ksierra@coastalprairieconservancy.org>

Here is one more letter! Hope it's not too late!

Bethany Foshée
Stewardship and Outreach Director
Blazing Star Sanctuary - Conservation Cemetery Manager
Coastal Prairie Conservancy | Nature's Burial
Field Office: 31975 Hebert Rd., Waller, TX 77484
Office: 713.523.6135
Cell: 832.515.0189
bfoshee@coastalprairieconservancy.org
coastalprairieconservancy.org

The Coastal Prairie Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust sustaining a resilient Texas by preserving coastal prairies, wetlands, farms, and ranches to benefit people and wildlife forever.

Coastal Prairie Conservancy

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Erick Nino** <enino@ayw.org>
Date: Fri, Jul 25, 2025 at 1:35 PM
Subject: Re: TxCC Clean and Green Program - Letter of Support for GBEP grant application? - due this Friday
To: Bethany Foshee <bfoshee@coastalprairieconservancy.org>

Good afternoon Bethany,

American Youthworks - Texas Conservation Corps is an active partner with CPC, assisting with stewardship of CPC lands on the Katy Prairie. We are proud to provide this letter of support for CPC's application to the GBEP NRU program. Our participants assist in wildlife and plant monitoring, invasive species removal, trail management and expansion, and native planting efforts which are all activities that are outlined in the scope of your proposal.

Sincerely,

Erick Nino
Clean & Green Program Manager
Houston Operating Site
512-599-7387

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail Jenny Claycombe <jenny@coastalprairieconservancy.org>

Participation in our Galveston Bay Estuary Program Request

3 messages

MaryAnne Piacentini <MaryAnne@coastalprairieconservancy.org> Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 5:54 PM
To: Phil Bedient <bedient@rice.edu>, Larry Dunbar <ldunbar@dunbarlawtx.com>
Cc: Jenny Claycombe <jenny@coastalprairieconservancy.org>, Katie Sierra <katie@coastalprairieconservancy.org>, Elisa Donovan <edonovan@coastalprairieconservancy.org>

Dear Phil and Larry,

The Coastal Prairie Conservancy is applying to the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) Natural Resource Uses program for funds to support continued large-scale restoration efforts on our Katy Prairie Preserve. If awarded, the project would run from 2026 through 2028.

As part of this effort, we hope to include research that highlights the benefits of native prairie preservation and restoration—particularly around water quality, flood mitigation, carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, and other ecosystem services.

We know you're working with the Flood Control District and AECOM on the Harris County Flood Resilience Plan and may be expanding on the earlier research you did for CPC about the capacity of prairie and wetland systems to slow down and store floodwaters. Given that, we'd welcome the opportunity to include the SSPEED Center as a regional partner on this proposal.

At this stage, we're simply asking whether you would be interested in being part of the project. We will follow up in August to explore collaboration more fully. Some partners may participate pro bono, while others may be sub-recipients of the grant—we're open to structuring involvement in a way that works for you.

If you're interested, please let us know by noon on Thursday, January 24, 2025. (I will be on vacation starting tomorrow so *please reply all* when you reply.)

Mary Anne

Mary Anne Piacentini
President and CEO
Coastal Prairie Conservancy
5615 Kirby Drive, Suite 867
Houston, Texas 77005-2458
Office: 713.523.6135 ext 4003
Mobile: 281.851.8762
MaryAnne@coastalprairieconservancy.org
coastalprairieconservancy.org

Coastal Prairie Conservancy

Give today and help preserve the coastal prairie!

The Coastal Prairie Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust sustaining a resilient Texas by preserving coastal prairies, wetlands, farms, and ranches to benefit people and wildlife forever.

Philip Bedient <bedient@rice.edu> Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 6:03 PM
To: MaryAnne Piacentini <MaryAnne@coastalprairieconservancy.org>
Cc: Larry Dunbar <ldunbar@dunbarlawtx.com>, Jenny Claycombe <jenny@coastalprairieconservancy.org>, Katie Sierra <katie@coastalprairieconservancy.org>, Elisa Donovan <edonovan@coastalprairieconservancy.org>

Mary Anne
We are absolutely interested to participate in the proposal

Phil Bedient
Herman Brown Professor of Engineering
Director, SSPEED Center
Rice University
Cell 713 303 0266
[Quoted text hidden]

MaryAnne Piacentini <MaryAnne@coastalprairieconservancy.org> Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 6:06 PM
To: Philip Bedient <bedient@rice.edu>

Gmail

Jenny Claycombe <jenny@coastalprairieconservancy.org>

Participation in CPC's Galveston Bay Estuary Program Grant Request

2 messages

MaryAnne Piacentini <MaryAnne@coastalprairieconservancy.org> Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 6:08 PM
To: Matthew Stahman <mstahman@res.us>
Cc: Jenny Claycombe <jenny@coastalprairieconservancy.org>, Elisa Donovan <edonovan@coastalprairieconservancy.org>, Katie Sierra <katie@coastalprairieconservancy.org>

Dear Matt,

The Coastal Prairie Conservancy is applying to the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) Natural Resource Uses program for funds to support continued large-scale restoration efforts on the Katy Prairie Preserve. If awarded, the project would run from 2026 through 2028.

As part of this effort, we hope to include research that highlights the benefits of native prairie preservation and restoration—particularly around water quality, flood mitigation, carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, and other ecosystem services in addition to human and soil health.

You have expressed interest in working with CPC on research in a number of the areas noted above. We even submitted a joint proposal to EPA which, alas, was not funded. While this is a much more modest request than the EPA grant, I hope that you and RES might be interested in undertaking research on one or more of the areas noted above. If so, we'd welcome the opportunity to include RES as a regional partner on this proposal.

At this stage, we're simply asking whether you would be interested in being part of the project. We will follow up in August to explore collaboration more fully. Some partners may participate pro bono, while others may be sub-recipients of the grant—we're open to structuring involvement in a way that works for you and RES.

If you're interested, please *reply to this email by noon on Thursday, January 24, 2025*. (I will be on vacation starting tomorrow so *please reply all* when you reply.)

Mary Anne

Mary Anne Piacentini
President and CEO
Coastal Prairie Conservancy
5615 Kirby Drive, Suite 867
Houston, Texas 77005-2458
Office: 713.523.6135 ext 4003
Mobile: 281.851.8762
MaryAnne@coastalprairieconservancy.org
coastalprairieconservancy.org

Coastal Prairie Conservancy

Give today and help preserve the coastal prairie!

The Coastal Prairie Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust sustaining a resilient Texas by preserving coastal prairies, wetlands, farms, and ranches to benefit people and wildlife forever.

Matthew Stahman <mstahman@res.us> Tue, Jul 22, 2025 at 3:04 PM
To: MaryAnne Piacentini <MaryAnne@coastalprairieconservancy.org>
Cc: Jenny Claycombe <jenny@coastalprairieconservancy.org>, Elisa Donovan <edonovan@coastalprairieconservancy.org>, Katie Sierra <katie@coastalprairieconservancy.org>, Erin Delawalla <edelawalla@res.us>, Samuel Burley <sburley@res.us>

Howdy, Mary Anne.

Yes, ma'am. We would be very interested in supporting this effort.

Enjoy your vacation and look forward to discussing when you get back.

Many thanks,

Matt Stahman

D: 346.310.6208 I M: 281.734.7787

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail **Stephen Deiss <stephen@coastalprairieconservancy.org>**

Re: CPC GBEP Proposal

1 message

Bill Stransky <txrice@att.net> Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 11:43 AM
To: Stephen Deiss <stephen@coastalprairieconservancy.org>

I will always support CPC.

Just let me know what to do.

I am also applying a GBEP application for prairie restoration on the Nungaray NWR (formerly Anahuc NWR)

Have you been to the 104 acre wetland unit we completed last year on Nelson Farms?

It is on the other side of Cypress Creek.

Wondering how it looks.

Thanks,

Bill s.

From: Stephen Deiss
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 11:35 AM
To: txrice@att.net
Subject: CPC GBEP Proposal

Dear Bill,

Coastal Prairie Conservancy is preparing to apply for a Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) Natural Resource Uses (NRU) grant to support continued large-scale restoration efforts at our Katy Prairie Preserve from 2026 to 2028.

As part of this proposal, we would like to include Texas R.I.C.E. as a regional partner that is engaged in research and implementation. You will be critical to efforts in research, planning and monitoring the native planting efforts, which is a major activity outlined in the scope of our proposal.

At this stage, we are simply seeking your preliminary interest in being part of the proposal. Please respond to this correspondence if this project is of interest to Texas R.I.C.E.

If the project is selected for funding, which would begin in fall 2026, we will reach out to discuss opportunities for collaboration in detail at that time.

Sincerely,

Stephen

--
Stephen Deiss, Working Lands Director
stephen@coastalprairieconservancy.org
(713) 523-6135 ext. 0 (979) 578-3918 mobile

Gmail **Stephen Deiss <stephen@coastalprairieconservancy.org>**

Re: CPC GBEP Proposal

1 message

Garry Stephens <garry.stephens@whf-texas.org> Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 12:43 PM
To: Stephen Deiss <stephen@coastalprairieconservancy.org>

Yes Sir, WHF would be interested in assisting CPC with the implementation of these planned practices. Let me know what, and when, info you will need.

Garry

On Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 11:35 AM Stephen Deiss <stephen@coastalprairieconservancy.org> wrote:

> Dear Garry,
>
> Coastal Prairie Conservancy is preparing to apply for a Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) Natural Resource Uses (NRU) grant to support continued large-scale restoration efforts at our Katy Prairie Preserve from 2026 to 2028.
>
> As part of this proposal, we would like to include Wildlife Habitat Federation as a regional partner that is engaged as a habitat restoration and stewardship contractor. WHF will be critical to efforts in invasive species removal and native planting efforts, which are activities outlined in the scope of our proposal.
>
> At this stage, we are simply seeking your preliminary interest in being part of the proposal. Please respond to this correspondence if this project is of interest to WHF.
>
> If the project is selected for funding, which would begin in fall 2026, we will reach out to discuss opportunities for collaboration in detail at that time.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Stephen
>
> --
> Stephen Deiss, Working Lands Director
> stephen@coastalprairieconservancy.org
> (713) 523-6135 ext. 0 (979) 578-3918 mobile
> Coastal Prairie Conservancy
> Formerly Katy Prairie Conservancy

--

Garry Stephens
President/CEO
WHF

210-422-1600
garry.stephens@whf-texas.org
whf-texas.org
PO Box 75, Cat Spring, TX 78933

Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Fiscal 2027 Project Proposal

Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by July 25, 2025. 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 TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Natural Resource Uses (NRU)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Public Participation and Education (PPE)

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)]:

Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges (FOBWR)

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*

Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:	Tax ID 76-0440298
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	

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:

$ 48,000.00

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☐
Is the project scalable? ☒

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	$ 48,000
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	$0.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	$0.00
Total	$ 48,000

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2026 – ending no later than May 31, 2029) [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.

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

$ 48,000

Is this an estimate? ☐

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

None

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.

SECTION THREE: *GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION* IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the Fiscal 2027 Subcommittee Priorities (Section Four) will be considered above others. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* Action Plans 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/

Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:

Plan Priority 1: Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

NPS-1 ☐	NPS-2 ☐	NPS-3 ☐	NPS-4 ☐	
PS-1 ☐	PS-2 ☐	PS-3 ☐		
PHA-1 ☐	PHA-2 ☐	PHA-3 ☐	PHA-4 ☐	PHA-5 ☐

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 3: Engage Communities

SPO-1 ☐	SPO-2 ☐	SPO-3 ☐	SPO-4 ☐
PEA-1 ☒	PEA-2 ☒	PEA-3 ☒	

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:

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.

Lastly is PEA- 1, 2, and 3, *Support Public Education and Awareness Initiatives* by installing a large informative sign explaining the breakwater and living shoreline project. Salt Lake is part of the visitor center area that receives around 60 thousand visitors a year. The auto tour loop drives on the northern boundary of the marsh this project will be protecting. Additionally, the visitor center has the DEEP program where schools come to learn at the refuge. These are 4th graders that get to use the refuge and be scientist for the day.

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.

Subcommittee Identified Priorities

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

☐ WSQ: Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans.
☐ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
☐ WSQ: Public health risk awareness outreach campaigns related to contact recreation and/or seafood consumption.
☐ NRU: Habitat acquisition.
☒ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts with special emphasis on:
- ☐ Adaptive management for previously completed projects;
- ☐ Projects that have lost funding from other federal sources; and
- ☐ Nonnative species management.

☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
☒ NRU: Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program.
☐ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost
☒ PPE: Empowers K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.
☒ PPE: Connects new audiences to existing/completed projects or the natural habitat.
☐ PPE: Opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops/networking for education and outreach practitioners on key topics.
☐ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
☐ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially species of concern, WSQ, PPE).
☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay.
☐ M&R: 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.

☐ Investigate ecosystem services and economic valuation of bay resources.

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. Breakwater protects 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, there is more habitat for birds and fish to thrive. The refuge supports many plant and animal species and protecting habitat is key to their survival.

Visitors to the refuge will also be able to drive and visually see the project. An information sign will be placed in the Salt Lake Parking lot to educate the public on the need to conserve the marsh and what the refuge is doing to protect habitat and the species who use it.

Does the Project align with any EPA Areas of Special Interest?

☐ Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health
☒ Make Investments that Address Coastal Resiliency
☐ Reduce Trash

The breakwater will stabilize the marsh shoreline allowing it to revegetate and accrete sediment. This project is part of many shoreline protection projects the refuge is doing to address coastal shoreline resiliency.

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.

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.

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

☐ Yes
☒ No

[TBD.]

Is the project subject to Title VI requirements?

To meet federal nondiscrimination guidance and laws (Title VI), TCEQ requires information and services to be provided in languages other than English when significant numbers of beneficiaries are of limited English-speaking ability (LEP). If 5% or more of the population within your project area is LEP and share a common language, then you are required to provide outreach in the alternative language. For statewide projects, Spanish language outreach is required. As Title VI compliance could impact the project budget, please reach out to the primary subcommittee coordinator for this application with questions on determining applicability and EJScreen instructions.

☐ Yes
☒ No

[TBD.]

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

95°15'38" W, 29°2'40" N

Location:

Austin/Bastrop Bayou Watershed

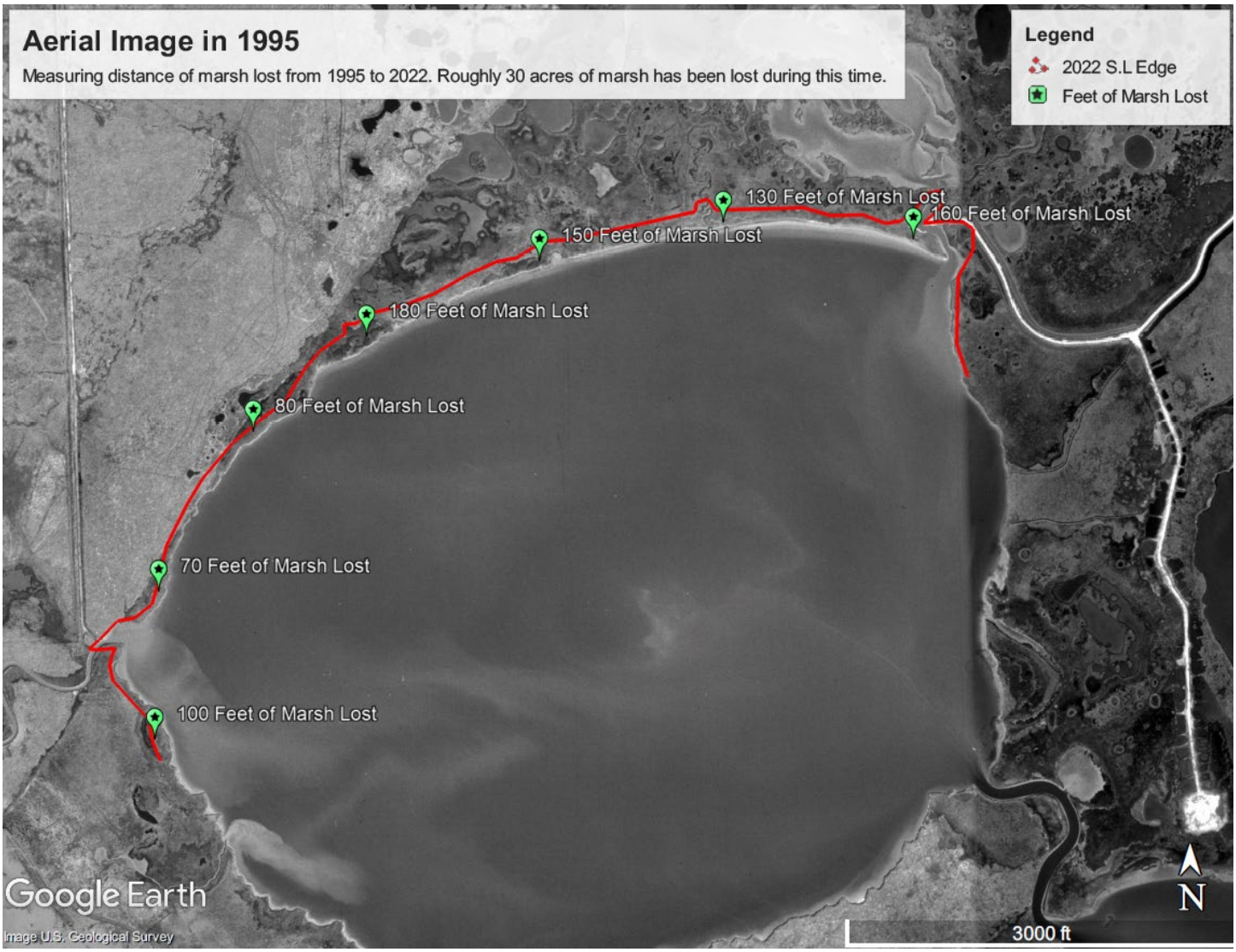
Partners[1] **and Their Roles**:

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.

[1] If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted as an appendix with the application.

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:

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	$0.00
Fringe Benefits **(##%)**[2]	$0.00
Travel	$0.00
Supplies	$0.00
Equipment	$0.00
Contractual	$46,080.00
Construction	$0.00
Other	$0.00
Total Direct Cost	$46,080.00

b. Indirect Costs[3]

Distribution Base Amount *(identify Base type below)*	$ 1,920.00
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	%
Total Indirect Costs	$ 1,920.00

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	$

Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):

☒ Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

The indirect cost rate is (check one):

☒ **Other:** [Examples: De Minimis Rate with a base of direct salary and wages (less than or equal to actual indirect costs) or Provisional Rate. If this is a Provisional Rate, include the following language: Provisional Rate: The subsequent adjustment of the indirect cost rate is subject to the requirements of Article 9 of this section.]

[2] If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.
[3] Please attach Indirect Cost Agreement as an appendix if applicable

Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Fiscal 2027 Project Proposal

Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by July 25, 2025. 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 TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Natural Resource Uses (NRU)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Choose an item.

Project Name:

GBF Bird Nesting Platform

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

Galveston Bay Foundation

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*

Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:	WQMNK4LCT9N6
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	76-0279876

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Sally Clark
Project Representative Phone	979-255-8628
Project Representative Email	sclark@galvbay.org

Amount Requested from GBEP:

$48,875.00

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒
Is the project scalable? ☒

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	$0.00
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	$0.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	$0.00
Total	$0.00

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2026 – ending no later than May 31, 2029) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

September 1, 2026 – May 31, 2029

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

$48,875.00

Is this an estimate? ☒

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

GBF recycles oyster shells from restaurants in the Houston-Galveston area and will provide the shell required for the cultch material on the bird nesting platform. Currently, oyster shell is valued at $65 per C.Y. Based on the design for the platform, approximately 40 C.Y. of crushed shell is needed to complete the project. GBF will leverage $2,600 worth of shell.

Volunteers will assist in the construction of the bird nesting platform. To construct the bird nesting platform, approximately 124 hours of volunteer labor will be provided. Volunteer labor is currently valued at $34.79 per hour. GBF will leverage $4,313.96 worth of volunteer labor.

Project Urgency:

Due to shoreline erosion, relative sea level rise, and human disturbance, populations of certain colonial nesting bird species have declined. Black Skimmers and Least Terns are listed in the Texas Species of Greatest Conservation Need whose declining populations are tied with their vanishing nesting habitat. This project will construct a bird nesting platform to increase the available nesting area for these species in Galveston Bay.

SECTION THREE: *GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION* IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the Fiscal 2027 Subcommittee Priorities (Section Four) will be considered above others. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* Action Plans 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/

Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:

Plan Priority 1: Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

NPS-1 ☐	NPS-2 ☐	NPS-3 ☐	NPS-4 ☐	
PS-1 ☐	PS-2 ☐	PS-3 ☐		
PHA-1 ☐	PHA-2 ☐	PHA-3 ☐	PHA-4 ☐	PHA-5 ☐

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 3: Engage Communities

SPO-1 ☐	SPO-2 ☐	SPO-3 ☐	SPO-4 ☐
PEA-1 ☐	PEA-2 ☐	PEA-3 ☐	

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:

HC-2: Habitat Restoration

Many of the rookery islands in Galveston Bay have been lost to erosion and relative sea level rise. While large-scale habitat restoration can restore the function of degraded rookery islands to support colonial waterbird nesting, restoration of lost rookery islands can be costly and require tons of material to elevate the island to a functional level. A novel means of restoring the function of lost rookery islands is through the creation of bird nesting platforms. These bird nesting platforms, constructed similar to floating docks, are covered in crushed shells and provide suitable nesting habitat for colonial waterbirds. Bird nesting platforms are resilient, as they rise with sea level rise and can be relocated if necessary. This project seeks to construct one bird nesting platform, the first of its kind in Texas, to restore the function of lost rookery islands through the artificial expansion of colonial waterbird nesting habitat.

SC-1: Native Species Management

Through the creation of a bird nesting platform, this project will support Black Skimmers and Least Terns, two colonial waterbird species listed in the Texas Species of Greatest Conservation Need. This project will increase the available nesting habitat for these species in Galveston Bay. Black Skimmers and Least Terns will be drawn to the bird nesting platform with various social attraction methods including species specific bird decoys, egg decoys, or audio recordings of bird calls. Shade structures attached to the island will allow for nestling and fledgling birds to shelter. Additional species of long-legged wading birds could utilize the available 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.

Subcommittee Identified Priorities

☐ WSQ: Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans.
☐ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
☐ WSQ: Public health risk awareness outreach campaigns related to contact recreation and/or seafood consumption.
☐ NRU: Habitat acquisition.
☐ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts with special emphasis on:
  ☐ Adaptive management for previously completed projects;
  ☐ Projects that have lost funding from other federal sources; and
  ☐ Nonnative species management.
☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
☐ NRU: Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program.
☐ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost
☐ PPE: Empowers K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.
☐ PPE: Connects new audiences to existing/completed projects or the natural habitat.
☐ PPE: Opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops/networking for education and outreach practitioners on key topics.
☐ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
☐ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially species of concern, WSQ, PPE).
☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay.
☐ M&R: 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.
☐ Investigate ecosystem services and economic valuation of bay resources.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife

The creation of a bird nesting platform is a resilient way to increase the available nesting area for colonial waterbirds. This project's bird nesting platform will support Black Skimmer and Least Tern populations; both listed in the Texas Species of Greatest Conservation Need. As many of the rookery islands in Galveston Bay have been degraded by or lost to erosion, subsidence, and relative sea level rise, this project presents an alternative to large-scale rookery islands, with the potential to scale. This project is a resilient means of increasing nesting habitat, as the bird nesting platform can rise with the sea level rise and can be relocated if necessary.

Does the Project align with any EPA Areas of Special Interest?

☐ Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health
☐ Make Investments that Address Coastal Resiliency
☐ Reduce Trash

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:

Many of the rookery islands that support colonial waterbird species, such as Black Skimmers and Least Terns, in Galveston Bay have been degraded by or lost to erosion, subsidence, and relative sea level rise, resulting in declining colonial waterbird populations. The creation of a bird nesting platform is a resilient, scalable way to increase the available area of colonial waterbird nesting habitat in Galveston Bay.

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

Many of the rookery islands in Galveston Bay have been lost to erosion, subsidence, and relative sea level rise. While large-scale habitat restoration can restore the function of degraded rookery islands to support colonial waterbird nesting, restoration of a lost rookery island can be costly and require tons of material to elevate the island to a functional level. Additionally, the time required to finalize design, secure permits, and obtain funding for a large-scale island restoration project can be incredibly long. A novel means of restoring the function of lost rookery islands is through the creation of a bird nesting platform. The bird nesting platform, constructed in segments and assembled similar to floating docks, is covered in crushed shells, imitating the characteristics of an ideal nesting beach, and can be moored in locations that provide protection from people, predators, and extreme weather. Bird nesting platforms are resilient, as they rise with sea level rise and can be relocated if necessary, and bird nesting platforms are modular and scalable. This project seeks to construct one bird nesting platform, the first of its kind in Texas, to restore the function of lost rookery islands through the artificial expansion of colonial waterbird nesting habitat.

This project is a recreation of a successful bird nesting platform project conducted in Chincoteague Bay, Maryland, in 2021; the first bird nesting platform in the United States. In the first year of deployment of the Chincoteague Bay bird nesting platform, 20 active Common Tern nests were observed. Through the creation of a bird nesting platform, the GBF Bird Nesting Platform project will support Black Skimmers and Least Terns, two colonial waterbird species listed in the Texas Species of Greatest Conservation Need. This project will increase the surface area of available nesting habitat for these species in Galveston Bay by 1,024 square feet. Black Skimmers and Least Terns will be drawn to the bird nesting platform with various social attraction methods including species specific bird decoys, egg decoys, or audio recordings of bird calls. Shade structures attached to the island will allow for nestling and fledgling birds to shelter. Additionally, the project seeks to monitor the success of the platform over two nesting seasons. The bird nesting platform will be remotely monitored via a game camera for the presence of waterbirds, and the platform will be monitored in person from a boat during colonial waterbird nesting season to document colonial waterbird nesting at the site. GBF would further refine monitoring protocols incorporating expertise from project partners.

Two potential locations for the GBF Bird Nesting Platform are the Dollar Bay Marsh Restoration site and the Chocolate Bay Preserve. Both locations are nearby historic colonial waterbird nesting habitat that have been lost to erosion and relative sea level rise. At the Dollar Bay Marsh Restoration site, Black Skimmers and Least Terns were observed nesting at the restored marsh terraces of this site prior to the establishment of marsh grass on the terrace crowns.

Other Plans Implemented:

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

[TBD.]

Is the project subject to Title VI requirements?
To meet federal nondiscrimination guidance and laws (Title VI), TCEQ requires information and services to be provided in languages other than English when significant numbers of beneficiaries are of limited English-speaking ability (LEP). If 5% or more of the population within your project area is LEP and share a common language, then you are required to provide outreach in the alternative language. For statewide projects, Spanish language outreach is required. As Title VI compliance could impact the project budget, please reach out to the primary subcommittee coordinator for this application with questions on determining applicability and EJScreen instructions.

☐ Yes
☒ No

[TBD.]

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

Dollar Bay Marsh Restoration site: 29°25'09.7"N 94°54'46.2"W
Chocolate Bay Preserve: 29°12'54.9"N 95°02'59.7"W

Location:

The two potential locations for the GBF Bird Nesting Platform are the Dollar Bay Marsh Restoration site and the Chocolate Bay Preserve. The Dollar Bay Marsh Restoration site is located within the Dollar Bay-Moses Lake complex. The Chocolate Bay Preserve is located on the northwest end of West Galveston Bay.

Partners[1] **and Their Roles**:

Audubon Texas – Advisory role
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory – Advisory role
American Bird Conservancy – Advisory role

[1] If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted as an appendix with the application.

Projects Map

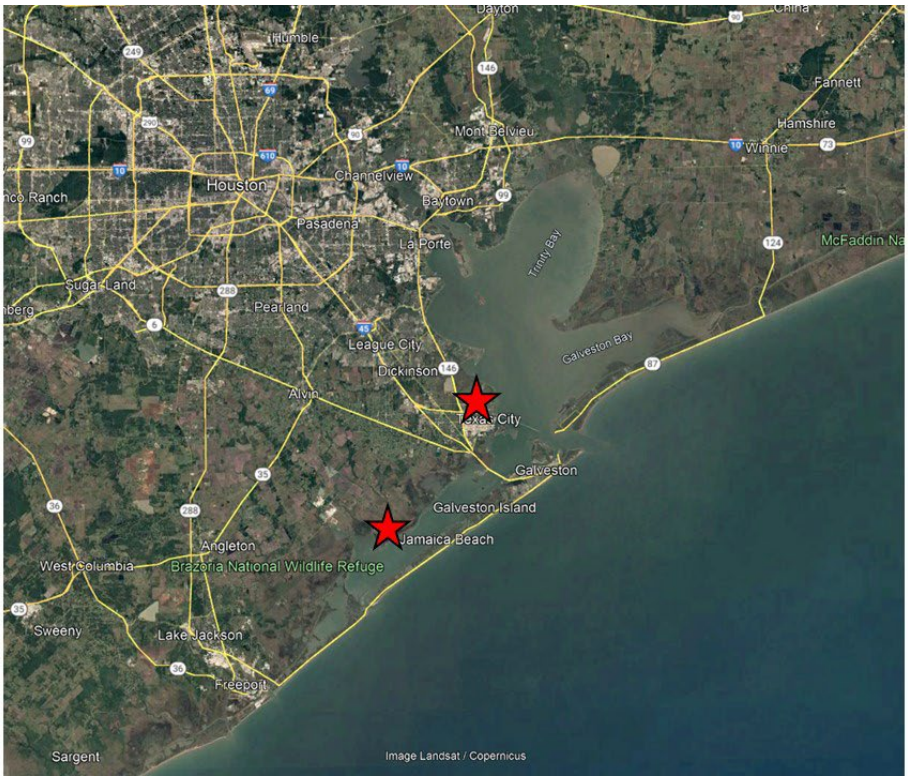


Figure 1. Potential locations of the bird nesting platform in Galveston Bay.

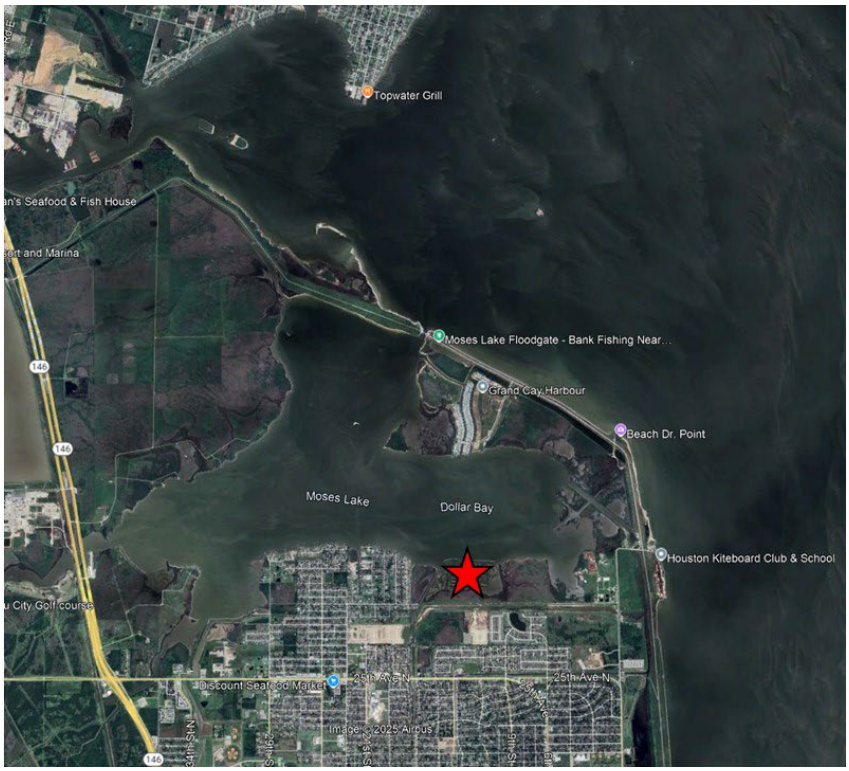


Figure 2. Potential location of the bird nesting platform in Moses Lake-Dollar Bay complex.

Figure 3. Potential location of the bird nesting platform in the Dollar Bay Marsh Restoration site.

Figure 4. Potential location of the bird nesting platform in West Galveston Bay.

Figure 5. Potential location of the bird nesting platform in Chocolate Bay Preserve.

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

Figure 6. Example bird nesting platform from Chincoteague Bay project. Photo credit: David Harper.

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:

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	$11,900.00
Fringe Benefits **(##%)**[2]	$2,200.00
Travel	$300.00
Supplies	$28,000.00
Equipment	$0.00
Contractual	$0.00
Construction	$0.00
Other	$100.00
Total Direct Cost	$42,500.00

b. Indirect Costs[3]

Distribution Base Amount *(identify Base type below)*	$42,500.00
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	IDC = 15% x Total Direct Cost
Total Indirect Costs	$6,375.00

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	$ 48,875.00

Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):
☒ modified total direct costs

The indirect cost rate is (check one):

☒ **De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of fifteen percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)[4] in lieu of determining the actual indirect costs of the service. Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs.

Fringe Calculation Explanation: "Fringe benefits are calculated on an individual basis. Benefits will vary depending on which benefits the individual chooses and whether they are full time or part time. Fringe rates can be comprised of FICA, State Unemployment, Long Term Disability Insurance, Retirement Contribution, and Health Insurance."

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[2] If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.
[3] Please attach Indirect Cost Agreement as an appendix if applicable
[4] https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/section-200.1#p-200.1(Modified%20Total%20Direct%20Cost%20(MTDC))

Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Fiscal 2027 Project Proposal

Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by July 25, 2025. 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 TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Natural Resource Uses (NRU)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Choose an item.

Project Name:

Conservation Assistance Program – '27 & '28

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☒ No ☐

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

Galveston Bay Foundation, Inc.

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*

Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:	WQMNK4LCT9N6
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	76-0279876

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Matt Singer, Director of Land Conservation
Project Representative Phone	281-332-3381
Project Representative Email	msinger@galvbay.org

Amount Requested from GBEP:

$250,000

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒
Is the project scalable? ☒

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	$125,000.00
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	$125,000.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	$0.00
Total	$0.00

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2026 – ending no later than May 31, 2029) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2028

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

$250,000

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, Texas Farm and Ranchlands (TPWD), Coastal Management Program, GOMESA, NRCS Agricultural Land Easements, 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.

Additionally, USFWS Coastal Program has provided contractual funding for due diligence costs associated with approved CAP Workgroup priority land protection projects. These funds are managed by GBF for the benefit of CAP workgroup members.

Project Urgency:

Growth and development in the lower Galveston Bay watershed continue to accelerate land use change from traditional open space, agricultural, and recreational uses toward 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 are increasing as the availability of land is reduced and demand increases. Purchasing ecologically significant parcels of land at today's prices will help us maximize the federal and state conservation funding sources.

Conservation easements are currently very popular with landowners within our priority conservation initiative areas. Additionally, there are several large funding opportunities that support land acquisition as a priority action to increase coastal resiliency. This project will aim to secure other federal funding to meet the demand for conservation outcomes within the region.

SECTION THREE: *GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION* IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the Fiscal 2027 Subcommittee Priorities (Section Four) will be considered above others. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

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https://gbep.texas.gov/protect-and-sustain-living-resources/
https://gbep.texas.gov/engage-communities/
https://gbep.texas.gov/inform-science-based-decision-making/

Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:

Plan Priority 1: Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

NPS-1 ☐ NPS-2 ☐ NPS-3 ☐ NPS-4 ☐
PS-1 ☐ PS-2 ☐ PS-3 ☐
PHA-1 ☐ PHA-2 ☐ PHA-3 ☐ PHA-4 ☐ PHA-5 ☐

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 3: Engage Communities

SPO-1 ☐ SPO-2 ☐ SPO-3 ☐ SPO-4 ☐
PEA-1 ☐ PEA-2 ☐ PEA-3 ☐

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:

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 opportunities for habitat restoration and wildlife management.

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.

Subcommittee Identified Priorities

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

☐ WSQ: Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans.
☐ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
☐ WSQ: Public health risk awareness outreach campaigns related to contact recreation and/or seafood consumption.
☒ NRU: Habitat acquisition.
☐ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts with special emphasis on:
  ☐ Adaptive management for previously completed projects;
  ☐ Projects that have lost funding from other federal sources; and
  ☐ Nonnative species management.
☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
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☒ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost
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☐ PPE: Connects new audiences to existing/completed projects or the natural habitat.
☐ PPE: Opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops/networking for education and outreach practitioners on key topics.
☐ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
☐ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially species of concern, WSQ, PPE).
☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay.
☐ M&R: 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.
☐ Investigate ecosystem services and economic valuation of bay resources.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

- The CAP is primarily focused on acquisition of high-quality habitat and natural resources within the Galveston Bay system. Partner organizations are targeting priority parcels within the watershed to provide maximum habitat and water quality benefits.
- The CAP is a long-term conservation effort functioning to increase the pace of land protection within the Galveston Bay system. The program is designed to develop new and support ongoing land conservation efforts.
- The CAP's priority conservation targets include habitat for native fish, wildlife, and plant communities. This includes listed species and SGCN. The CAP workgroup regularly meets to discuss priority projects and ensures the conservation values promote regional priorities.
- CAP projects attract large sums of state, federal, and private 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 try and protect the remaining quality habitats around the bay at today's land prices.

Does the Project align with any EPA Areas of Special Interest?

☒ Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health
☒ Make Investments that Address Coastal Resiliency
☐ Reduce Trash

Land protection efforts remove the threat of land use change, which has the potential to degrade local water quality for the tributaries and estuarine system. Open spaces, agriculture, and wildlife management provide greater resiliency for coastal communities by increasing quality of life, decreasing threats from flooding or other natural disasters, and promotes overall public health.

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 2021. 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 to 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 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.

This proposal seeks to continue a long-standing program supported by GBEP and many members of the NRU subcommittee. GBF continues to seek out and secure matching funds for due diligence tasks that support land acquisition projects. GBF is also seeking acquisition funding from federal sources that will be directed toward priority land conservation projects within the region. These matching funds are typically disseminated via consensus achieved within the CAP workgroup structure and applied to the highest priority land conservation projects throughout the watershed.

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 Master Plan
- Texas Coastal Management Plan

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

The CAP workgroup seeks to engage local governmental agencies and programs to develop new conservation projects surrounding Galveston Bay. Local government agencies may not have the capacity to develop and implement land conservation projects that promote priority open space and recreation goals for communities. The CAP will seek to promote land conservation objectives and work collaboratively with local partners to support new projects and foster new partnerships within the region.

Is the project subject to Title VI requirements?

To meet federal nondiscrimination guidance and laws (Title VI), TCEQ requires information and services to be provided in languages other than English when significant numbers of beneficiaries are of limited English-speaking ability (LEP). If 5% or more of the population within your project area is LEP and share a common language, then you are required to provide outreach in the alternative language. For statewide projects, Spanish language outreach is required. As Title VI compliance could impact the project budget, please reach out to the primary subcommittee coordinator for this application with questions on determining applicability and EJScreen instructions.

☐ Yes

☒ No

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

No specific location.

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.

Partners[1] and Their Roles:

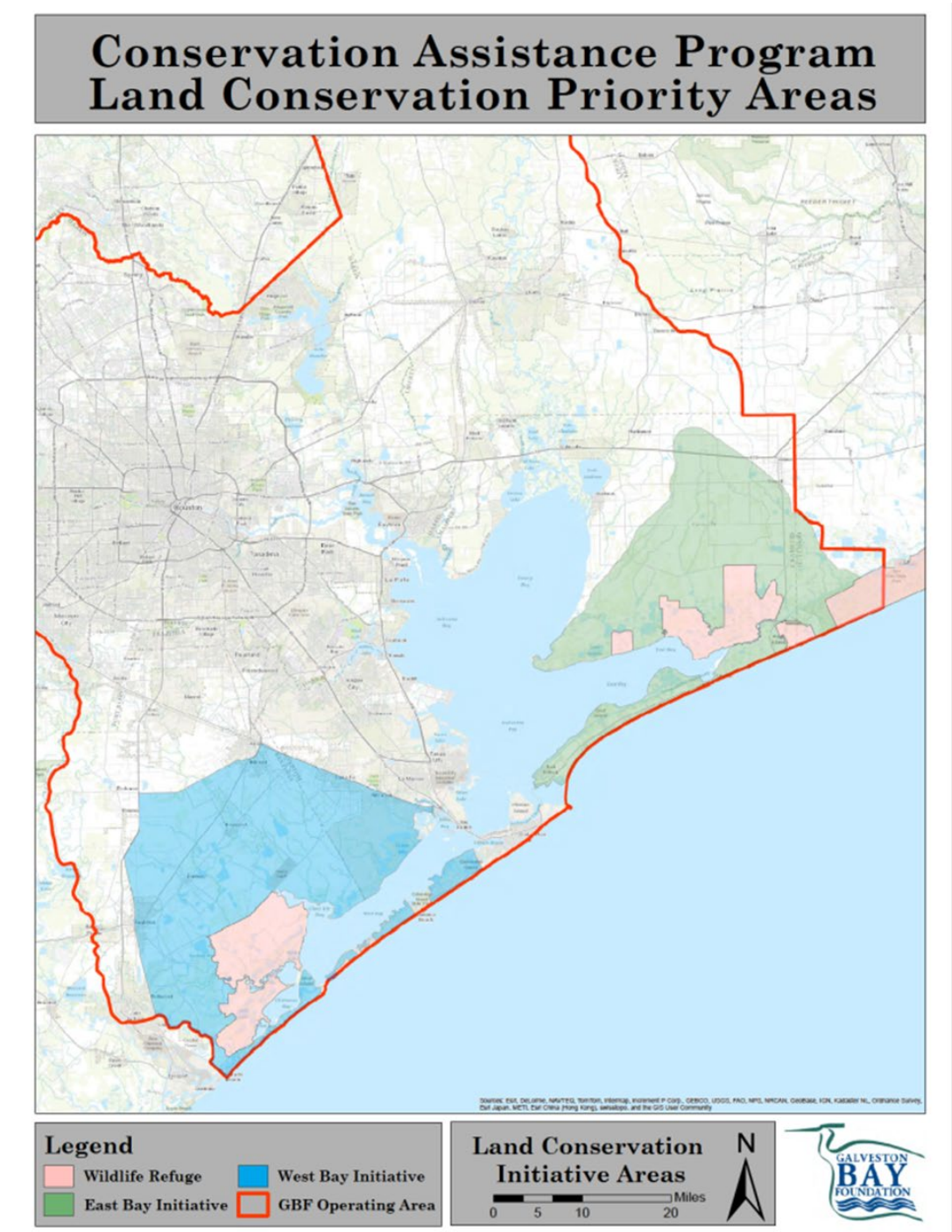
The Conservation Workgroup is comprised of partner organizations and agencies working on land protection initiatives throughout the Galveston Bay Watershed. These partners are eligible for grant funding support for due diligence, assistance with funding schemes and applications, and participate in setting regional land conservation priorities. Partners include:

- Galveston Bay Estuary Program
- Galveston Bay Foundation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service – Coastal Program
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- General Land Office
- Armand Bayou Nature Center
- Artist Boat
- Coastal Prairie Conservancy
- The Conservation Fund

[1] If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted as an appendix with the application.

- Houston Audubon Society
- Houston Wilderness
- Scenic Galveston
- Shead Conservation Services
- Texas Coastal Partnerships

Projects Map



Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

N/A

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:

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	$130,000.00
Fringe Benefits **(15%)**[2]	$19,500.00
Travel	$8,000.00
Supplies	$1,500.00
Equipment	$0.00
Contractual	$75,000.00
Construction	$0.00
Other	$0.00
Total Direct Cost	$234,000.00

b. Indirect Costs[3]

Distribution Base Amount *(identify Base type below)*	$234,000
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	% 6.8376
Total Indirect Costs	$ 16,000

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	$ 250,000

Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):

☒ Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify: **6.8376%** of the total direct costs associated with the grant.

The indirect cost rate is (check one):

☒ **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. [If this is a Partial Provisional Rate, include the following language: "This is a Partial Provisional Rate. Any adjustment is subject to the requirements of Article 9 of this section; however, no adjustment will be made unless the finally determined actual indirect costs are lower than the Partial Indirect Cost reimbursement made under the Contract."]

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[2] If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.

[3] Please attach Indirect Cost Agreement as an appendix if applicable

Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Fiscal 2027 Project Proposal

Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by July 25, 2025. 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 TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Natural Resource Uses (NRU)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Choose an item.

Project Name:

Building Coastal Resilience on Bolivar Peninsula

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

Houston Audubon

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*

Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:	
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	23-7011870

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Pete Deichmann
Project Representative Phone	314-330-8538
Project Representative Email	pdeichmann@houstonaudubon.org

Amount Requested from GBEP:

250,000

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒
Is the project scalable? ☐

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	$250,000
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	$0.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	$0.00
Total	$250,000.00

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2026 – ending no later than May 31, 2029) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

September 2026-June 2027

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

$6,224,465

Is this an estimate? ☐

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

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

Knobloch Family Foundation	$1,500,000.00	Received
Individuals	$360,000.00	Received to date
Wortham Foundation	$250,000.00	Received
J.W. Couch Foundation	$250,000.00	Received
Houston Audubon	$200,000.00	Received
The Brown Foundation	$200,000.00	Received
John P. McGovern Foundation	$25,000.00	Received
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory	$20,000.00	Received
TOTAL RECEIVED	$2,805,000.00	

Horizon Foundation	$500,000.00	conditional support approved
Fondren Foundation	$500,000.00	Proposal submitted
Phillips66	$100,000.00	Proposal submitted
Entergy	$50,000.00	Proposal submitted
Union Pacific	$30,000.00	Proposal submitted
Malcolm C. Damuth Foundation	$35,000.00	Proposal submitted
TOTAL PENDING	$1,215,000.00	

Project Urgency:

[Please indicate the need for receiving funding during this cycle; such as loss of other funding secured, loss of opportunity to implement project, potential of breach, etc.]

Houston Audubon has a signed contract with the landowner to purchase the property by January 15, 2026. We aim to raise the funds by this date. However, if a future fund is committed in writing, such as the GBEP grant funding, we can secure a no interest loan from Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation to cover the funds until received.

SECTION THREE: *GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION* IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the Fiscal 2027 Subcommittee Priorities (Section Four) will be considered above others. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* Action Plans 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/

Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:

Plan Priority 1: Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

NPS-1 ☐ NPS-2 ☐ NPS-3 ☐ NPS-4 ☐
PS-1 ☐ PS-2 ☐ PS-3 ☐
PHA-1 ☐ PHA-2 ☐ PHA-3 ☐ PHA-4 ☐ PHA-5 ☐

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 3: Engage Communities

SPO-1 ☐ SPO-2 ☐ SPO-3 ☐ SPO-4 ☐
PEA-1 ☐ PEA-2 ☐ PEA-3 ☐

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:

[Please identify action items and state how the project implements actions of the Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition Action Plans.]

Houston Audubon's project to purchase and permanently protect 52 acres on Bolivar Peninsula that is an inholding to our Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary and is slated for a housing development supports Galveston Bay's Plan for land acquisition by reducing the threat of construction that poses a critical threat to habitat on Bolivar Peninsula. With GBEP's support we can make this strategic purchase that creates contiguous habitat and improves the ecosystem on Bolivar Peninsula.

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.

Subcommittee Identified Priorities

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

☐ WSQ: Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans.
☐ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.

☐ WSQ: Public health risk awareness outreach campaigns related to contact recreation and/or seafood consumption.
☒ NRU: Habitat acquisition.
☒ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts with special emphasis on:
    ☐ Adaptive management for previously completed projects;
    ☐ Projects that have lost funding from other federal sources; and
    ☒ Nonnative species management.
☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
☒ NRU: Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program.
☒ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost
☐ PPE: Empowers K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.
☐ PPE: Connects new audiences to existing/completed projects or the natural habitat.
☐ PPE: Opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops/networking for education and outreach practitioners on key topics.
☐ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
☐ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially species of concern, WSQ, PPE).
☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay.
☐ M&R: 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.
☐ Investigate ecosystem services and economic valuation of bay resources.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

Houston Audubon aims to protect the critical habitat of Bolivar Flats and improve the Bolivar Peninsula's ecosystem by purchasing land slated for a housing development. We have a critical need for funds as we have signed a purchase sales agreement to acquire the land for $6 million. To date, $3 million has been secured, and we are seeking funding to complete the purchase by the deadline of January 15, 2026. Once acquired, the tract will be added to Bolivar Flats and protected in perpetuity under the current management plan which includes these five key goals: preserving ecosystem function by protecting and restoring native diversity; conserving natural communities by restoring degraded uplands within property; protecting species of concern by providing and managing critical habitat; enabling responsible public access through maintained trails; and ensuring general property upkeep and security via staff and volunteer efforts including fence maintenance, trash removal, and activity monitoring.

Does the Project align with any EPA Areas of Special Interest?
☐ Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health
☒ Make Investments that Address Coastal Resiliency
☐ Reduce Trash

The acquisition project supports coastal resiliency through significant positive outcomes, primarily focused on the long-term health of coastal ecosystems and the preservation of diverse bird populations. With this acquisition, we will preserve critical habitat, protect both migratory and resident bird species including those on the threatened and endangered list, increase the biodiversity of the Upper Texas Coast, and provide additional opportunities for people to experience a wide range of nature-based activities.

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 the project is to protect critical habitat on Bolivar Peninsula. Specific targets include adding 52 acres to Bolivar Flats through acquisition, providing protection for Bolivar Flats that would be threatened by the housing development, and creating a safe place for over 25 bird species to rest, nest, and raise their young.

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

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

Natural coastal systems are the most resilient form of storm protection and resilience is best achieved through providing natural habitat for wildlife in a protected area with limited residential and commercial development. In the face of climate change and growing development in our region, Houston Audubon has a sizeable role to play in addressing biodiversity and climate challenges we are facing by advancing the protection of high priority properties and restoration of critical habitat on the Upper Texas Coast while developing a greater community that is aware of and concerned about birds and wildlife and their supporting habitats. Houston Audubon's conservation actions include restoring habitat, building ecological resilience through land protection and land management practices, and creating spaces to connect people to nature.

A proposed 52-acre, 30-lot housing development and subdivision that is directly adjacent to Bolivar Flats poses an imminent threat to critical habitat. Without immediate protection, the ecological integrity of Bolivar Flats will be irrevocably damaged by the harmful effects of construction. Houston Audubon has signed a contract for $6 million to purchase the property and protect it in perpetuity by adding the acreage to Bolivar Flats. Preventing this development will safeguard the area's natural hydrological cycles, protect water quality from harmful chemicals and stormwater runoff, and mitigate the negative impacts on wildlife, such as increased disturbance, artificial lighting, traffic noise, and the disruption of bird migration and breeding patterns.

Bolivar Flats is a site of International Importance designated by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network and a Globally Important Bird Area, the highest designation established by BirdLife International. The property includes 1,218 acres of salt marsh, coastal prairie, dunes, mud flats, and beach along the south side of Bolivar Peninsula just east of the North Jetty. Common species include Roseate Spoonbills, Reddish Egrets, Long-billed Curlews, Seaside Sparrows and Clapper Rails as well as wintering shorebirds including American Avocets, Short-billed Dowitchers, Willets, Dunlin, Western Sandpipers, and American Oystercatchers. Large numbers of federally threatened Piping Plovers, Red Knots, and Snowy Plovers use the area as a migratory stopover and wintering location. Endangered Black Rails have also been identified.

The property to be acquired is currently managed by Johnson Beach Development LLC and contains tidal wetlands, high marsh, coastal prairie and a freshwater pond. The landowners have added infrastructure including water, sewer, above-the-ground electric lines, and road access. Despite these recent alterations, the habitat is relatively undisturbed. The predominant vegetation observed during site visits is Saltgrass, Gulf Cordgrass, and Saltmarsh Cordgrass. These are native grass species indicative of wetlands and present throughout Bolivar Flats. The developers have suppressed the natural growth of these species with regular mowing, making the habitat less suitable to many bird species including Black Rails. Upon acquiring the property, Houston Audubon would allow the property to grow naturally, remove any invasive species, and supplement the habitat with plant material from our Coastal Natives Nursery. The road added by the developer will provide improved access for visitors to experience the sanctuary.

Other Plans Implemented: Applicable?

GLO- Texas Coastal Management Plan
GLO- Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan
TPWD- State Wildlife Action Plan
TPWD- Texas Conservation Action Plan
TPWD- Texas Wetlands Conservation Plan
GCJV- Mottled Duck Conservation Plan

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

☐ Yes
☒ No

[TBD.]

Is the project subject to Title VI requirements?

To meet federal nondiscrimination guidance and laws (Title VI), TCEQ requires information and services to be provided in languages other than English when significant numbers of beneficiaries are of limited English-speaking ability (LEP). If 5% or more of the population within your project area is LEP and share a common language, then you are required to provide outreach in the alternative language. For statewide projects, Spanish language outreach is required. As Title VI compliance could impact the project budget, please reach out to the primary subcommittee coordinator for this application with questions on determining applicability and EJScreen instructions.

☐ Yes
☒ No

[TBD.]

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

29.382917° N, -94.731484° W (29°22'58.50"N, 94°43'53.34"W)

Location:

[Description of area(s) of Galveston Bay watershed addressed by proposal]
The property to be acquired is located west of the Bolivar ferry along Highway 87 and Retillon Road. 15 lots are located along the beach and 15 lots are on a second row and adjacent to critical habitat on Houston Audubon's Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary.

Partners[1] **and Their Roles**:

[Please identify project partners and detail what roles they will play in project implementation.]

- Mike Lange – Conservation Land Consultant, Texas Conservation Partners.
- Bob Sweeney - Real Estate Attorney reviewing contract (Protect against seller default)

[1] If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted as an appendix with the application.

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:

1. **Direct Costs**

Budget Category	**Cost for Work to be Performed**
Salary / Wages	$0.00
Fringe Benefits **(##%)**[2]	$0.00
Travel	$0.00
Supplies	$0.00
Equipment	$0.00
Contractual	$32,000.00
Construction	$0.00
Other	$6,192,465.00
Total Direct Cost	$6,224,465.00

b. Indirect Costs[3]

Distribution Base Amount *(identify Base type below)*	$
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	% 0
Total Indirect Costs	$ 0.00

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	$

Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):
N/A

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

The primary budget category is the purchase of the property; $3 million has been paid as of July 15, 2025. An additional $3 million is due at closing on or before January 15, 2026.

[2] If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.
[3] Please attach Indirect Cost Agreement as an appendix if applicable

Building Coastal Resilience on Bolivar Peninsula
Acquisition Tract Maps and Images

Image 1: Acquisition site-Sanderling Subdivision Location
Bolivar Peninsula

Image 2: Bolivar Flats and property boundary-aerial

Image: 3 Housing development lots to be purchased in phases

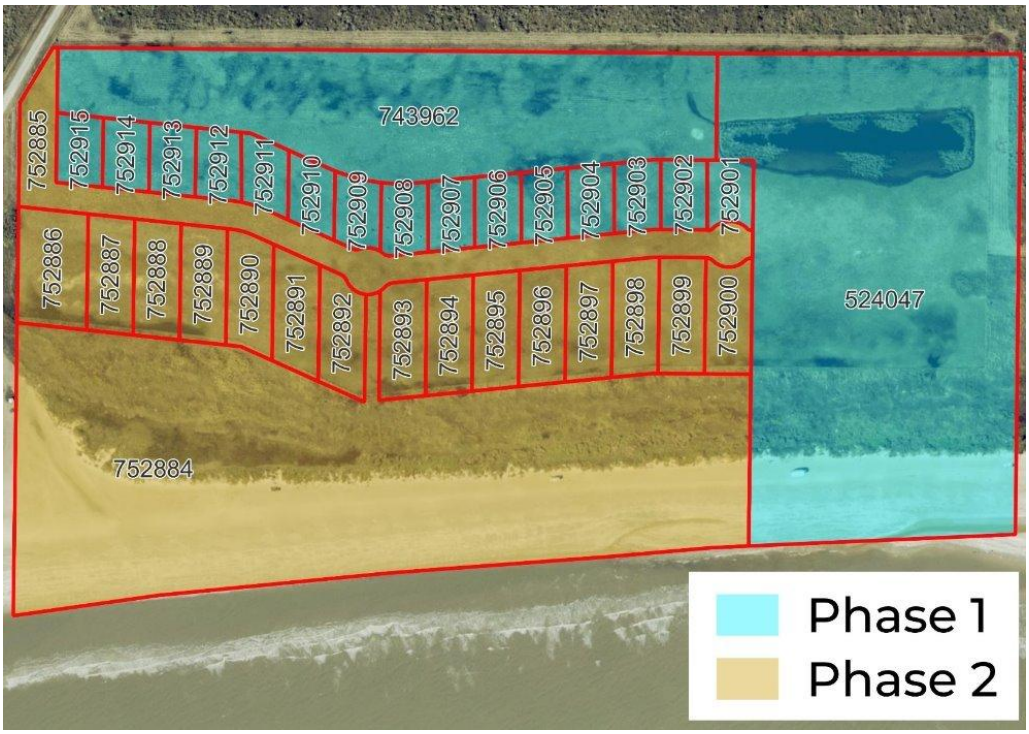


Image 4: Current entrance along Rettilon Road

Image 5: Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary
Habitat Types

Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Fiscal 2027 Project Proposal

Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by July 25, 2025. 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 TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Natural Resource Uses (NRU)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Choose an item.

Project Name:

Tidwell Park Riparian Restoration Project

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department

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*

Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:	LZLQKKFNBLN3
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	746001164

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Kelli Ondracek
Project Representative Phone	832-942-3740
Project Representative Email	Kelli.ondracek@houstontx.gov

Amount Requested from GBEP:

$120,000

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒
Is the project scalable? ☐

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	$120,000
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	$0.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	$0.00
Total	$120,000

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2026 – ending no later than May 31, 2029) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

September 1, 2026 – May 31, 2029

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

$120,000

Is this an estimate? ☐

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

All HPARD staff time to work on the project and to administer the grant will be in-kind.

Project Urgency:

HPARD is working to restore all riparian buffers in parks by 2030 to meet Houston's resilience goals of providing clean water in adjacent waterways, reducing urban heat, and supporting native wildlife.

SECTION THREE: *GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION* IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the Fiscal 2027 Subcommittee Priorities (Section Four) will be considered above others. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* Action Plans 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/

Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:

Plan Priority 1: Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

NPS-1 ☐	NPS-2 ☐	NPS-3 ☒	NPS-4 ☐	
PS-1 ☐	PS-2 ☐	PS-3 ☐		
PHA-1 ☐	PHA-2 ☐	PHA-3 ☐	PHA-4 ☐	PHA-5 ☐

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 3: Engage Communities

SPO-1 ☒	SPO-2 ☐	SPO-3 ☐	SPO-4 ☐
PEA-1 ☐	PEA-2 ☐	PEA-3 ☐	

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:

NPS-3: Implement NPS Best Management Practices
The proposed project will restore the forested riparian habitat along Halls Bayou, resulting in a vegetated buffer that will filter nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality in the adjacent waterway.

HC-2: Habitat Restoration:
The proposed project will restore historic native riparian forest along Halls Bayou where it has been impacted by fragmentation, invasive species, and storm events.

HC-3- Habitat Enhancement:
The proposed project will enhance a degraded natural area along Halls Bayou through the removal of existing non-native trees and replacement with a diverse mix of native canopy and understory species.

SC1- Native Species Management:
The proposed project will install a diverse mix of canopy, understory, and shrub species into the riparian restoration site. The restored areas will provide habitat for many species of native wildlife, including those that are listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need due to the loss of habitat along the upper Texas coast.

SC-2: Invasive Species Control:
The proposed project will remove invasive species, including Chinese Tallow (*Triadica sebifera*) and Privet species (*Ligustrum* sp.), and numerous native and nonnative vines.

SPO-1: Stewardship Programs and Volunteer Opportunities:
The proposed project will offer volunteer planting, trash cleanup, and invasive species removal events for the community to be involved in the restoration of their local park.

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.

Subcommittee Identified Priorities

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

☐ WSQ: Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans.
☒ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
☐ WSQ: Public health risk awareness outreach campaigns related to contact recreation and/or seafood consumption.
☐ NRU: Habitat acquisition.
☒ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts with special emphasis on:
- ☐ Adaptive management for previously completed projects;
- ☐ Projects that have lost funding from other federal sources; and
- ☒ Nonnative species management.

☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
☒ NRU: Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program.
☐ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost
☐ PPE: Empowers K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.
☒ PPE: Connects new audiences to existing/completed projects or the natural habitat.
☐ PPE: Opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops/networking for education and outreach practitioners on key topics.
☐ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
☐ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially species of concern, WSQ, PPE).
☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay.
☐ M&R: 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.

☐ Investigate ecosystem services and economic valuation of bay resources.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

Restoration of the forested habitat along Halls Bayou will implement BMPs that address non-point source pollution. The habitat enhancement will target the removal of nonnative vegetation and the installation of native vegetation. The riparian restoration project will provide benefits to native fish and wildlife by enhancing the habitat for migratory birds and many nongame wildlife species. This project will bring multiple priority areas together through habitat enhancement, community engagement, and addressing nonpoint source pollution. Throughout the project, numerous volunteer events will be hosted to connect community members to nature through volunteer planting, trash cleanup, and invasive species removal opportunities.

Does the Project align with any EPA Areas of Special Interest?

☒ Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health
☒ Make Investments that Address Coastal Resiliency
☒ Reduce Trash

The project will enhance 56 acres of riparian forest along Halls Bayou, which will help to reduce nutrient pollution from nonpoint source runoff and improve the quality of the adjacent waterway.

This project is a component of the City of Houston Riparian Restoration Initiative, which is targeting 70 parks for restoration and enhancement of forested habitat along Houston's waterways. This initiative is included in the Texas General Land Office Coastal Resiliency Master Plan. This project will enhance a large, urban riparian forest to improve the resilience of the natural habitat and benefit adjacent and downstream communities.

This project will reduce litter from entering the adjacent waterway, and ultimately Galveston Bay, through litter removal. During the project period, crews, interns, and community volunteers will hand-collect and remove trash from the project area. Additionally, education efforts will teach the community about the impacts of litter to waterways and natural environments.

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 Tidwell Park Riparian Restoration Project involves enhancement of forested riparian habitat within a 56-acre City of Houston Nature Preserve along Halls Bayou. The restored habitat will improve water quality within Halls Bayou, remove invasive species that are negatively impacting the native forest, and improve habitat for native wildlife.

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

The Tidwell Park Riparian Restoration Project will enhance 56 acres of riparian forest at Tidwell Park. The park contains historic riparian habitat along Halls Bayou, as seen on aerial imagery from the 1940's, with disturbance throughout the park over the last century. The park now contains a mix of native and invasive trees and understory plants, with some areas containing high volumes of invasive species and poor habitat quality. While many of the large canopy trees are native, significant canopy cover was lost in Hurricane Beryl. In addition, vines have taken over the fallen trees and continue to encroach within the forest, impacting healthy, native trees. The mid-story and understory trees are dominated by invasive species, notably glossy privet and Chinese tallow.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) is proposing to restore Tidwell Park by removing non-native species and creating a forest composition of native canopy, understory, shrub and herbaceous species. This will enhance the riparian forest along approximately 2,500 linear feet of Halls Bayou.

This project is a component of the larger Houston Parks Riparian Restoration Initiative where all City of Houston parks that are adjacent to a waterway are targeted for creation or enhancement of forested riparian buffers. This initiative will restore and enhance Houston's historic riparian habitat in 70 parks by the year 2030. As of 2025, 35 sites in the Riparian Restoration Initiative have been completed or are in progress.

The Riparian Restoration Initiative aims to reestablish this important habitat in parks where the trees have been completely removed, enhance riparian areas through the targeted removal of invasive plants, and reestablish native canopy and understory trees. This initiative is focused on improving water quality in Houston's impaired waterways and utilizes a diverse mix of trees that support wildlife species. Since the reforestation projects are located adjacent to Houston's major bayou systems, the plantings help reduce nonpoint source pollution, prevent erosion, and mitigate flooding.

HPARD will contract a vegetation consultant to conduct a vegetation survey of the exiting conditions of the park. Restoration areas will be monitored to measure changes in the composition and diversity of plant material and provide an indicator of future management needs.

Staff and contractors will conduct invasive species removal throughout the site. Two, six-month interns will work directly with HPARD to implement habitat restoration goals within the site.

HPARD will host a community planting event at the park to educate residents on the importance of riparian habitat and promote stewardship and appreciation of nature preserves in local communities. Additionally, interpretive signage will be installed along the perimeter trail system within the park to support the continued education of park visitors and encourage further exploration of the Nature Preserves across the city.

Other Plans Implemented:

Resilient Houston, Houston Climate Action Plan, Texas Coastal Management Plan, Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, Gulf Houston Regional Conservation Plan (RCP), City of Houston Riparian Restoration Initiative

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

☒ Yes
☐ No

This is the first riparian restoration project along Halls Bayou and within this area of Houston.

Is the project subject to Title VI requirements?

To meet federal nondiscrimination guidance and laws (Title VI), TCEQ requires information and services to be provided in languages other than English when significant numbers of beneficiaries are of limited English-speaking ability (LEP). If 5% or more of the population within your project area is LEP and share a common language, then you are required to provide outreach in the alternative language. For statewide projects, Spanish language outreach is required. As Title VI compliance could impact the project budget, please reach out to the primary subcommittee coordinator for this application with questions on determining applicability and EJScreen instructions.

☒ Yes
☐ No

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

29°51'17.62" N, 95°18'24.35" W

Location:

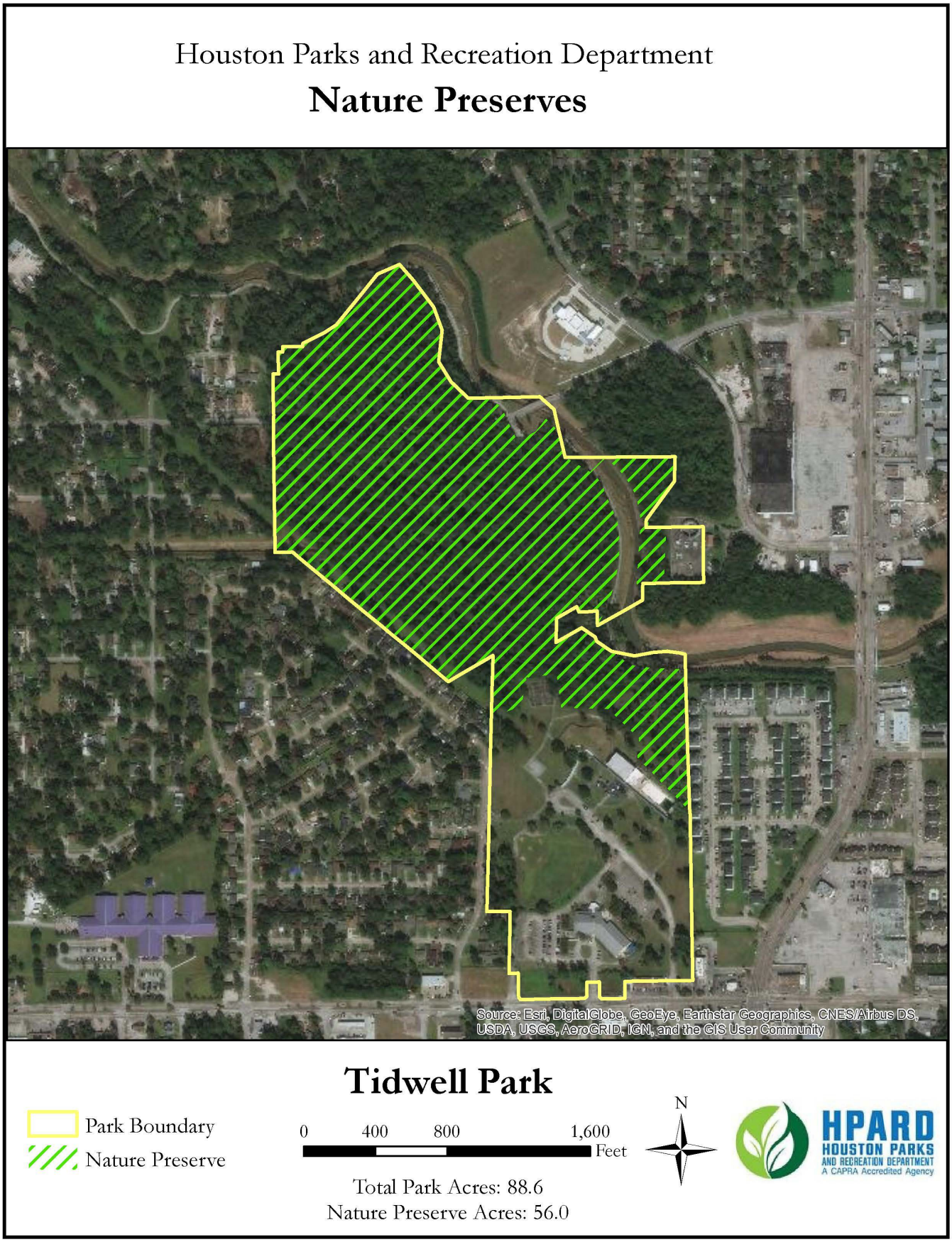
USGS HUC 12: Halls Bayou watershed (HUC 120401040604)
TCEQ Stream Segment Assessment Unit 1006D: Halls Bayou and 1006K: Unnamed Tributary of Halls Bayou

Partners[1] **and Their Roles**:

N/A

[1] If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted as an appendix with the application.

Projects Map



Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

Tidwell Park Riparian Forest- mix of native and nonnative species.

Tidwell Park Riparian Forest is being negatively impacted by vines.

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:

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	$0.00
Fringe Benefits **(##%)**[2]	$0.00
Travel	$0.00
Supplies	$10,000
Equipment	$0.00
Contractual	$110,000
Construction	$0.00
Other	$0.00
Total Direct Cost	$120,000

b. Indirect Costs[3]

Distribution Base Amount *(identify Base type below)*	$
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	%
Total Indirect Costs	$ 0

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	$ 120,000

Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):
N/A

[2] If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.
[3] Please attach Indirect Cost Agreement as an appendix if applicable

Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Fiscal 2027 Project Proposal

Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by July 25, 2025. 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 TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Natural Resource Uses (NRU)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Water and Sediment Quality (WSQ)

Project Name:

Jocelyn Nungaray NWR Tall Grass Prairie and Freshwater Wetlands Restoration

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

Texas RICE

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*

Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:	SW8JV6MBBWH1
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	76-0447336

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Bill Stransky
Project Representative Phone	979-531-9746
Project Representative Email	txrice@att.net

Amount Requested from GBEP:

$50,000

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒
Is the project scalable? ☒

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	$50,000
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	
Total	$50,000

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2026 – ending no later than May 31, 2029) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

09/01/26-11/30/2027

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

80,000

Is this an estimate? ☒

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

[Please indicate source, amount, and status (secured, potential, etc.)]
Cash from Texas RICE **$15,000**
In kInd services from Jocelyn Nungary NWR **$15,000**

Project Urgency:

To restore tall grass prairie/freshwater wetlands by eliminating noxious and invasive species before they become too dense and thick to effectively treat without far more expensive measures. And to provide much needed high quality tall grass prairie and freshwater wetland habitat to a wide range of grassland and wetland dependent species including many which are endangered, threatened and/or species of concern.

SECTION THREE: *GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION* IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the Fiscal 2027 Subcommittee Priorities (Section Four) will be considered above others. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* Action Plans 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/

Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:

Plan Priority 1: Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

NPS-1 ☒	NPS-2 ☐	NPS-3 ☒	NPS-4 ☒	
PS-1 ☒	PS-2 ☒	PS-3 ☒		
PHA-1 ☐	PHA-2 ☐	PHA-3 ☐	PHA-4 ☐	PHA-5 ☐

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 3: Engage Communities

SPO-1 ☐	SPO-2 ☐	SPO-3 ☐	SPO-4 ☐
PEA-1 ☐	PEA-2 ☐	PEA-3 ☐	

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:

[Please identify action items and state how the project implements actions of the Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition Action Plans.]

Habitat for wildlife and conservation related objectives are a priority of the Galveston Bay Plan. The restoration of tall grass prairie and freshwater wetlands will provide much needed habitat to hundreds of species. Many of which are species of concern, threatened or endangered.

We will eliminate noxious and invasive woody species which is mostly Chinese tallow and also plant a native praire mix on abandoned rice farmland

The proposed project builds upon previous native tall grass prairie and freshwater wetland restoration work on the Jocelyn Nungaray NWR which has been very successful.

Additionally the project provides coastal resiliency by reducing sediment loading into area waterways, improved water quality and by detaining and retaining large amounts of runoff during significant rain events.

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.

Subcommittee Identified Priorities

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

☒ WSQ: Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans.
☒ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
☐ WSQ: Public health risk awareness outreach campaigns related to contact recreation and/or seafood consumption.
☐ NRU: Habitat acquisition.
☒ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts with special emphasis on:
- ☒ Adaptive management for previously completed projects;
- ☒ Projects that have lost funding from other federal sources; and
- ☒ Nonnative species management.

☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
☒ NRU: Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program.
☒ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost
☐ PPE: Empowers K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.
☒ PPE: Connects new audiences to existing/completed projects or the natural habitat.
☒ PPE: Opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops/networking for education and outreach practitioners on key topics.
☐ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
☒ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially species of concern, WSQ, PPE).
☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay.
☒ M&R: 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.

☐ Investigate ecosystem services and economic valuation of bay resources.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

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

Large expanses of tall grass prairie and freshwater wetlands are critical to the survival of many species on the list. The removal of invasive species, mainly Chinese tallow, will provide excellent habitat on a perpetually protected national wildlife refuge where the primary objective is to provide and manage habitat for wildlife.

We will also restore idled and abandoned farmland by planting a native prairie mix which is harvested locally. This will expand the habitat base for the species and concern as well as for the many other species of birds, animals, reptiles, amphibians and insects.

The mix will be a broad mix of forbs and grasses.

Species on the list of Greatest Conservation Need include ;

LeConte's Sparrow, Mottled Duck, Sprague's Pippet, Henslow's Sparrow, Northern Bobwhite, Yellow Rail, Black Rail, Reddish Egret, Swallow Tailed Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, Monarch Butterfly, Field Sparrow, Hudsonian Godwit, Wood Stork, King Rail, Eastern Meadowlark, American Bumblebee

Does the Project align with any EPA Areas of Special Interest?

☒ Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health
☒ Make Investments that Address Coastal Resiliency
☐ Reduce Trash

[If yes, please summarize how the proposal addresses EPA Areas of Special Interest.]

The project will help reduce sediment inflows into Galveston Bay. This will improve and maintain water quality.

The restored prairie and wetlands will also detain and store immense amounts of rainfall which will help reduce flooding and moderate the flow of freshwater into the Galveston Bay system during heavy rain events.

These benefits will meet the objectives of reducing nutrient pollution, improve water quality and address coastal resiliency.

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:

To restore and enhance 500 acres of native prairie and freshwater wetlands on the Jocelyn Nungaray NWR.

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

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

We will restore 500 acres of a diverse native tall grass prairie and freshwater wetlands system by eliminating woody and invasive species using approved and selective herbicides. The single most problematic species is Chinese tallow. This will allow the prairie species to grow vigorously and provide important habitat values to hundreds of species including many which are threatened, endangered or species of concern. Chinese tallow responds quickly and predictably to treatment.

We also plant at least 50 acres of abandoned farmland into tall grass prairie by using a locally collected mix. The mix will include a wide list of forbs and grasses. The species will include, little blue stem, big blue stem, bushy blue stem, Florida paspalum, Indian grass, silver blue stem, brownseed paspalum, gayfeather, Maximilian sunflower, swamp sunflower, tall dropseed, wand goldenrod, switchgrass, green milkweed, whorled milkweed, Baldwin's ironweed, fall aster, Texas coneflower, rattlesnake master, rose mallow, Halberd leaf mallow, Cherokee sedge, passionflower, prairie wild rye, spiderwort and Indian prairie plantain along with numerous other species

Very little native tall grass prairie remains on the upper Texas coast. The amount remaining is probably 1% of what existed historically. This has resulted in huge declines of many grassland and wetland dependent species.

This project helps to build upon a substantive amount of tall grass prairie restoration we have conducted on this refuge over the past 10 plus years with very good results.

We have done identical work on other national wildlife refuges, private lands and land trusts. It is very predictable and the odds of success are very high with an accompanying level of diverse quality habitat.

Other Plans Implemented:

Texas Coastal Management Plan, Texas Coastal Resiliency Plan, Comprehensive Conservation Plan of Texas Chenier Plain Refuge Complex, North American Waterfowl Plan, Texas Chenier Plan Initiative, Gulf Coast Joint Venture, Gulf Coast Joint Venture Shorebird Plan, Texas Mottled Duck Conservation Plan, North American Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Project Prairie Birds, Galveston Bay Estuary Program

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

[TBD.]

Is the project subject to Title VI requirements?

To meet federal nondiscrimination guidance and laws (Title VI), TCEQ requires information and services to be provided in languages other than English when significant numbers of beneficiaries are of limited English-speaking ability (LEP). If 5% or more of the population within your project area is LEP and share a common language, then you are required to provide outreach in the alternative language. For statewide projects, Spanish

language outreach is required. As Title VI compliance could impact the project budget, please reach out to the primary subcommittee coordinator for this application with questions on determining applicability and EJScreen instructions.

☐ Yes
☒ No

[TBD.]

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

29.661798 -94.460696

Location:

Jocelyn Nungaray NWR Chambers County, Texas

Partners[1] **and Their Roles**:

Steve Baker: Management and maintenance coordinator for the Jocelyn Nungaray NWR

Kristin Fritz: Acting project leader for the Texas Chenier Plain Complex

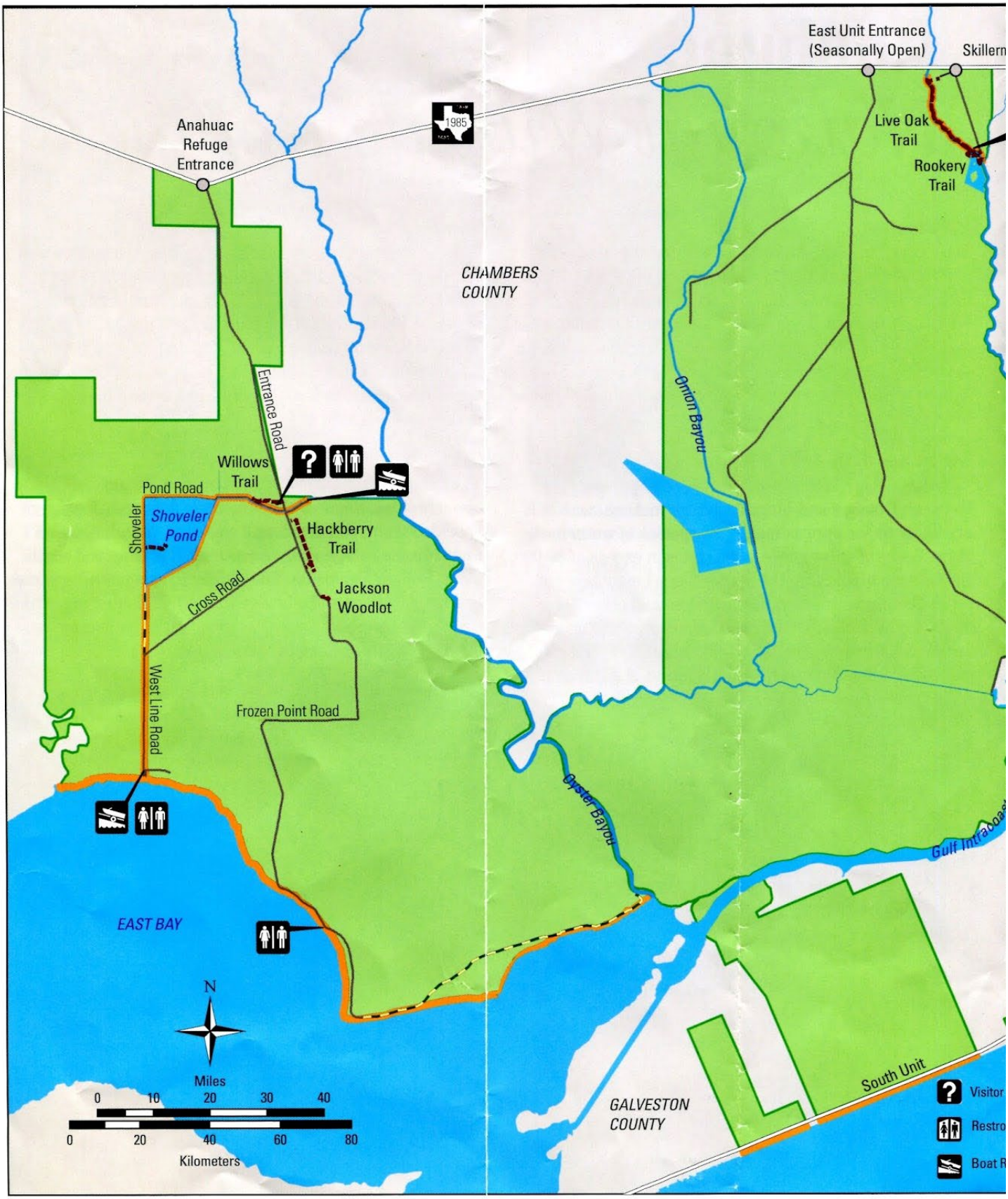
William K. Stransky: Executive Director of Texas RICE

All will be involved with planning, coordination and implementation of the work

Projects Map

Map of Jocelyn Nungaray NWR

[1] If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted as an appendix with the application.


East Unit Entrance
(Seasonally Open)
Skillern
Anahuac
Refuge
Entrance
1985
Live Oak
Trail
Rookery
Trail
CHAMBERS
COUNTY
Entrance Road
Onion Bayou
Willows
Trail
Pond Road
Shoveler
Shoveler
Pond
Hackberry
Trail
Cross Road
Jackson
Woodlot
West Line Road
Frozen Point Road
Oyster Bayou
Gulf Intracoastal
EAST BAY
N
Miles
0 10 20 30 40
0 20 40 60 80
Kilometers
GALVESTON
COUNTY
South Unit
Visitor
Restro
Boat R

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

[Insert Here or Attach as an Appendix]

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Texas Chenier Plain Refuges Complex
4017 FM 563
Anahuac, TX 77514
Phone: (409) 267-3337 Fax: (409) 267-4314

July 22, 2025

Galveston Bay Estuary Program
17041 El Camino Real #210
Houston, TX 77058

Dear Grant Reviewers,

As the Acting Project Leader of the Texas Chenier Plain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, I am writing to express my strongest support for the grant application submitted to the Galveston Bay Estuary Program to restore, enhance, and maintain 500 acres of native tallgrass prairie and wet prairie habitat at Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge.

This project is important for supporting coastal resiliency and water quality, while also providing high-quality habitat for a wide variety of native wildlife—including grassland birds, pollinators, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals. Several of these species are considered priorities for conservation due to declining populations or habitat loss across the region.

A cornerstone of this effort is our continued partnership with the Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment (Texas RICE). For more than two decades, we have collaborated closely with Texas RICE to restore and enhance thousands of acres of coastal prairie and freshwater wetlands on the refuge. Their technical expertise, ecological commitment, and consistent delivery of high-quality results have made them one of our most trusted and effective conservation partners. This proposed project builds on that strong foundation of successful collaboration.

Restoration work will include invasive species removal, re-establishment of diverse native prairie species, and wetland enhancement—practices that we have used effectively in past projects with Texas RICE. The project's location within the Galveston Bay watershed also presents an opportunity to improve water quality and stormwater retention in a high-priority conservation area.

Our team is excited about the potential impact of this project and is fully committed to its success. It aligns closely with regional and refuge-level conservation priorities and will contribute meaningful ecological benefits to the Texas Gulf Coast.

Thank you for considering this proposal. Please don't hesitate to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Kristin Fritz-Grammond
Acting Complex Manager –
Texas Chenier Plain National Wildlife Refuges

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:

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	$4,000
Fringe Benefits **(##%)**[2]	$0.00
Travel	$0.00
Supplies	$0.00
Equipment	$0.00
Contractual	$44,000
Construction	$0.00
Other	$0.00
Total Direct Cost	$0.00

b. Indirect Costs[3]

Distribution Base Amount *(identify Base type below)*	$ 2,000
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	%
Total Indirect Costs	$2,000

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	$50,000

Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):

☒ Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify: X

The indirect cost rate is (check one):

☒ De Minimis Rate— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of fifteen percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)[4] in lieu of determining the actual indirect costs of the service. Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs.

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[2] If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.

[3] Please attach Indirect Cost Agreement as an appendix if applicable

[4] https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/section-200.1#p-200.1(Modified%20Total%20Direct%20Cost%20(MTDC))

Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Fiscal 2027 Project Proposal

Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by July 25, 2025. 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 TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Natural Resource Uses (NRU)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Choose an item.

Project Name:

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

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☒ No ☐

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

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

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*

Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:	EVA9NVGH2K85
Vendor Identification Number (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:

$100,000

Federal ☐ State ☒ No Preference ☐
Is the project scalable? ☒

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	$100,000.00
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	$0.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	$0.00
Total	$0.00

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2026 – ending no later than May 31, 2029) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

09/01/2026 – 12/31/2027

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

$3,920,215

Is this an estimate? ☒

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

TPWD in partnership with AB has submitted a proposal to the 2026 NCWCGP funding opportunity requesting $1M cash, Artist Boat will provide the balance of the project cost $2,616,581 and required match ($303,634) in cash. Funded projects are expected to be announced in March 2026. Artist Boat has applied for a GOMESA Project of Special Merit Grant from the Texas General Land Office's (GLO) Cycle 31 CMP funding for $2,000,000, funded projects are expected to be announced in August 2025.

Artist Boat has received financial commitment from the Knobloch Foundation for $400,000 which will support the acquisition of this tract and the 10th Addition project, funded by GBEP NRU in FY2026. Artist Boat has also received financial commitment from 10 individual donors and foundations for $25,700, letters of commitment are in Appendix B. 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!"

Project Urgency:

Galveston Island and the proposed project are in Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes Region (Appendix A, 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 it encompasses 40-acres of undeveloped wetland (38.225 acres) and coastal prairie (1.775 acres) habitat (Appendix A, Figure 2). 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 (Appendix B, Table 5-6, Photographs 24-26).

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. One hundred and sixty-two acres of CHP land, directly adjacent to the acquisition, protects 19,000 linear feet of a brackish to freshwater slough that runs through the middle of the west end and supports important freshwater emergent marsh habitat (Appendix A, Figure 3). The purchase and protection of this tract alongside an ongoing acquisition (10th Addition to the Preserve) would complete the protection of this portion of the slough, add an additional 1,600 linear feet to the CHP, and maintain connection to the water systems along the west end of Galveston Island (Appendix A, Figure 3). If not purchased, these tracts and already conserved habitats could be impacted by the conversion of this land into 163 residential units. This would greatly impact adjacent conserved lands through the fragmentation of the slough and wetland habitats, non-point source runoff, as well as light and noise pollution.

Artist Boat has been successful at conserving 1,039 acres (Appendix A, Figure 2). 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 $3,822,515 by December of 2027. 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 (Appendix B).

SECTION THREE: *GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION* IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the Fiscal 2027 Subcommittee Priorities (Section Four) will be considered above others. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* Action Plans 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/

Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:

Plan Priority 1: Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

NPS-1 ☐	NPS-2 ☐	NPS-3 ☐	NPS-4 ☐	
PS-1 ☐	PS-2 ☐	PS-3 ☐		
PHA-1 ☐	PHA-2 ☐	PHA-3 ☐	PHA-4 ☐	PHA-5 ☐

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 3: Engage Communities

SPO-1 ☒	SPO-2 ☒	SPO-3 ☐	SPO-4 ☐
PEA-1 ☒	PEA-2 ☒	PEA-3 ☒	

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:

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.

HC3 - Through active management of preserved property, the native habitats are continually being enhanced and managed to promote habitat quality, such as invasive species removal. Artist Boat implements this through their onsite habitat management position and through the development and updating of the CHP Habitat Management Plan alongside an interagency technical advisory committee.

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. Artist Boat implements this through their onsite habitat management position and through the development and updating of the CHP Habitat Management Plan alongside an interagency technical advisory committee.

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.

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 by providing additional access to protected lands that can be used in the development of stewardship programs and volunteer opportunities, such as activities like 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 educating 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.

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.

Subcommittee Identified Priorities

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

☐ WSQ: Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans.
☐ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
☐ WSQ: Public health risk awareness outreach campaigns related to contact recreation and/or seafood consumption.
☒ NRU: Habitat acquisition.
☒ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts with special emphasis on:
- ☒ Adaptive management for previously completed projects.
- ☐ Projects that have lost funding from other federal sources; and
- ☒ Nonnative species management.

☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
☒ NRU: Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program.
☒ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost
☒ PPE: Empowers K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.
☒ PPE: Connects new audiences to existing/completed projects or the natural habitat.
☒ PPE: Opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops/networking for education and outreach practitioners on key topics.
☒ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
☐ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially species of concern, WSQ, PPE).
☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay.
☐ M&R: 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.

☐ Investigate ecosystem services and economic valuation of bay resources.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

NRU: Habitat acquisition.

The project will acquire undeveloped habitats within the Galveston Bay watershed as a whole and will permanently preserve them from development.

NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts with special emphasis on:
☒ *Adaptive management for previously completed projects*
☒ *Nonnative species management.*

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. 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 CHP are developed by a technical advisory committee consisting of resource agencies and local communities.

☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.

Habitats within the acquisition tract supports rich plant and insect biodiversity, as well as many resident birds, birds identified as species of concern, and neotropical migratory birds. Native species on the island use these habitats in concert for foraging, nesting, and migration. This project will also provide and support habitats that benefit both federally and state listed threatened and endangered species and species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) in the Texas Conservation Action Plan (TCAP). Specifically, there is a known population of black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis)* a federally and state listed species within adjacent CHP lands and directly adjacent tracts contain suitable habitats. Additionally, the state threatened scissor-tailed fly catcher (*Tyrannus forficatus)* and northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus)* have been observed on the acquisition tract.

☒ NRU: Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program.

This project will implement multiple of the FY2027 priority action areas and subcommittee benefits, described in Section Three and Section Four. 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. Please see Figure 2 and Table 1 of Appendix A for leveraged funds from past phases of this project.

☒ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost

If not purchased by the agreed deadline in 2027, these tracts and already conserved habitats could be impacted by the conversion of this land into 163 residential units. This would greatly impact adjacent conserved lands through the fragmentation of the slough and wetland habitats, non-point source runoff, as well as light and noise pollution.

☒ PPE: Empowers K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.

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.

☒ PPE: Connects new audiences to existing/completed projects or the natural habitat.
☒ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.

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.

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.

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

☒ PPE: Opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops/networking for education and outreach practitioners on key topics.

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.

Does the Project align with any EPA Areas of Special Interest?
☒ Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health
☒ Make Investments that Address Coastal Resiliency
☐ Reduce Trash

The project directly invests in coastal resiliency as the project acquires and permanently protects undeveloped habitats that strengthen the ecological function and adaptive capacity of coastal environments, aligning strongly with EPA's goals for enhancing coastal resiliency.

The project will protect native coastal prairie and freshwater wetland habitat in a FEMA special hazard area for flooding. The restoration of native habitats will increase the landscape's capacity to withstand and recover from flooding events as well as absorb floodwaters, preventing nutrient pollution into the bay.

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 1,039-acre (one ongoing project would add another 164 acres) 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 1,039-acre (one ongoing project would add another 164 acres) Coastal Heritage Preserve.

The proposed acquisition tract (Figures 2-4 and Table 1 of Appendix A) will directly benefit and protect approximately thirty-eight (38) acres of wetlands and two (2) acres of coastal prairie. The proposed Acquisition Tract has been identified as containing 38.225 acres of palustrine emergent wetland (PEM1A) habitats. TPWD applied to the FY2026 round of funding for this tract and at that time it was not considered to have wetland habitats according to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) protocol (2013). In 2024, Artist Boat's habitat manager performed three delineation samples on the site and determined there to be hydric soils (Appendix B, Photograph 14, Mustang-Galveston series) and obligate wetland plant species (Appendix B, Ohana Tract Coastal Prairie Ecology Assessment). However, in 2025, TPWD and USFWS performed a site visit and felt the project warranted further review based on the NWI classification adapted from Cowardin, Carter, Golet and LaRoe (1979). Therefore, the project team requested a state botanist review the plant community to determine if the tract contained a hydrophytic plant community. The attached report in Appendix B (Ohana Assessment) describes the sampling effort that was completed on May 12, 2025, which included the assessment of plant communities within 10, 10-m radius plots across the site. At each site, a soil sample was taken, and the soil is consistent with past conclusions that the soil is hydric within the project site. The report concluded that the plant community on the tract is estimated to be 95% palustrine emergent wetland. A review of available aerial photography in Google Earth documented several years where standing water is present across the tract. As a result of the 10 plots examined, a single plant community concentrated on a single soil type was documented, that meets the Cowardin et al (1979) classification of wetland habitat. Very few upland patches (6, roughly 5x5 meters) were encountered and these features and are not mappable on the scale of Figure 4. Considering the site meets the temporarily flooded conditions during rainfall and storm events and the delineations confirmed the presence of a hydrophytic plant community and presence of hydric soils in April 2024 and May 2025, TPWD and USFWS concluded that this property will directly acquire and protect 38.225 acres of palustrine emergent wetland habitats (95% of property).

The project will indirectly protect adjacent slough and wetland habitats by providing a critical buffer and preventing habitat fragmentation within the CHP. The acquisition will acquire coastal habitats that will provide habitat to avian and mammalian species and potentially threatened and endangered species described in Table 5-6 of Appendix B. 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 (Appendix B, Tables 3 and 4) 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.

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 4 of Appendix B.

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.

Is the project subject to Title VI requirements?

To meet federal nondiscrimination guidance and laws (Title VI), TCEQ requires information and services to be provided in languages other than English when significant numbers of beneficiaries are of limited English-speaking ability (LEP). If 5% or more of the population within your project area is LEP and share a common language, then you are required to provide outreach in the alternative language. For statewide projects, Spanish language outreach is required. As Title VI compliance could impact the project budget, please reach out to the primary subcommittee coordinator for this application with questions on determining applicability and EJScreen instructions.

☒ Yes
☐ No

Artist Boat provides programming to area schools and many are ESL Learners. Artist Boat does provide waivers and parent information for participation in the program in Spanish. However, ESL students learn in English and we are required to speak English during our program delivery and their teacher provides translations as needed.

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

Partners[1] **and Their Roles**:

[1] If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted as an appendix with the application.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Coastal Fisheries Department – Pass-through funding partner, grant management for NCWGCP 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.

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.

Projects Map

Please refer to Appendix A

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

Please refer to Appendix B

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:

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	$0.00
Fringe Benefits **(##%)**[2]	$0.00
Travel	$0.00
Supplies	$0.00
Equipment	$0.00
Contractual	$100,000.00
Construction	$0.00
Other	$0.00
Total Direct Cost	$100,000.00

b. Indirect Costs[3]

Distribution Base Amount *(identify Base type below)*	$ 0.00
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	%
Total Indirect Costs	$ 0.00

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	$ 100,000

Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):
N/A

[2] If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.
[3] Please attach Indirect Cost Agreement as an appendix if applicable

Appendix A
Figures and Tables

Figure 1. The proposed project location. Between West Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico along the south shoreline of West Galveston Island, in the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes ecoregion of Texas.

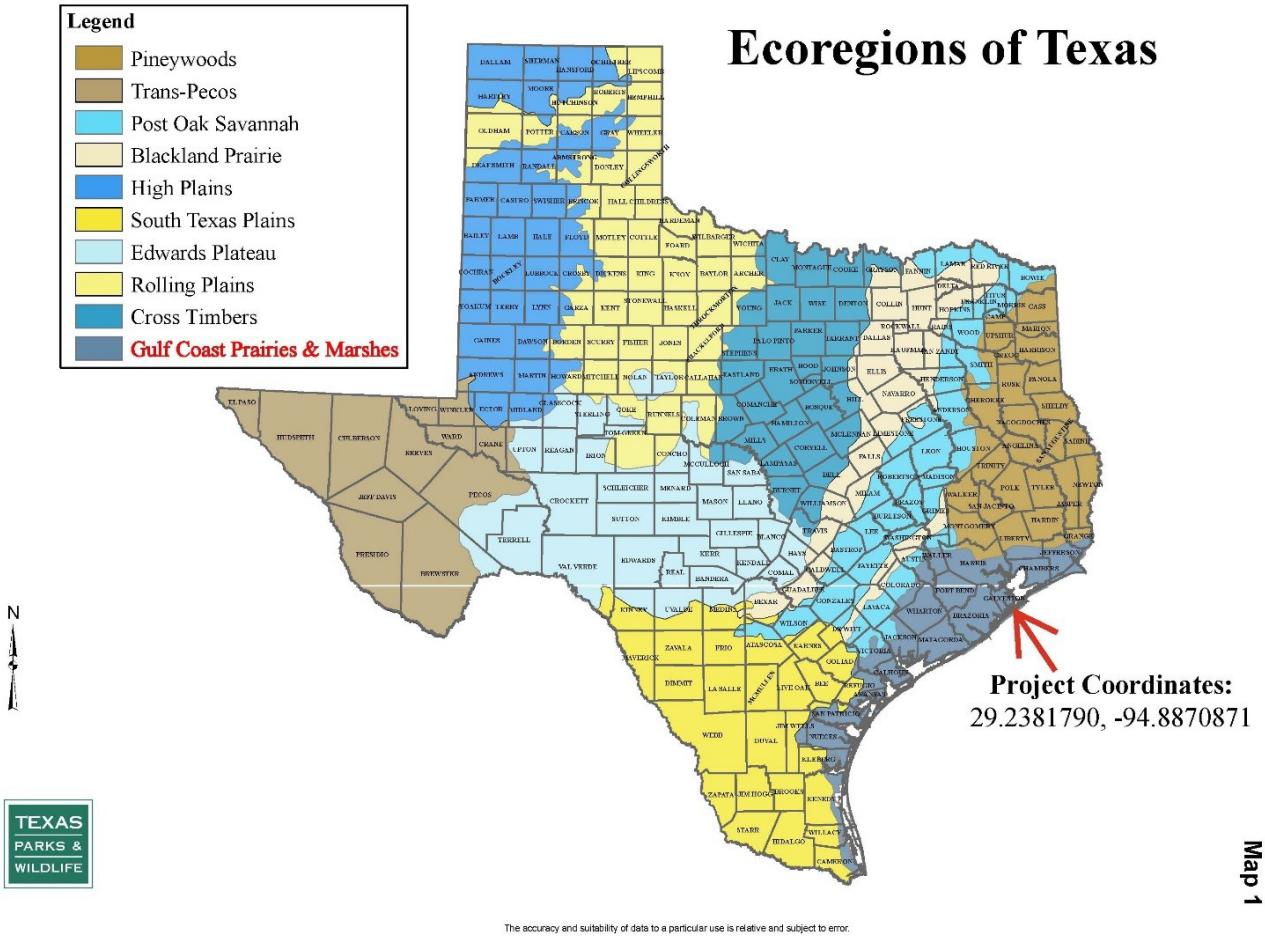

Figure 1. The proposed project is located between West Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico along the south shoreline of West Galveston Island, Texas.

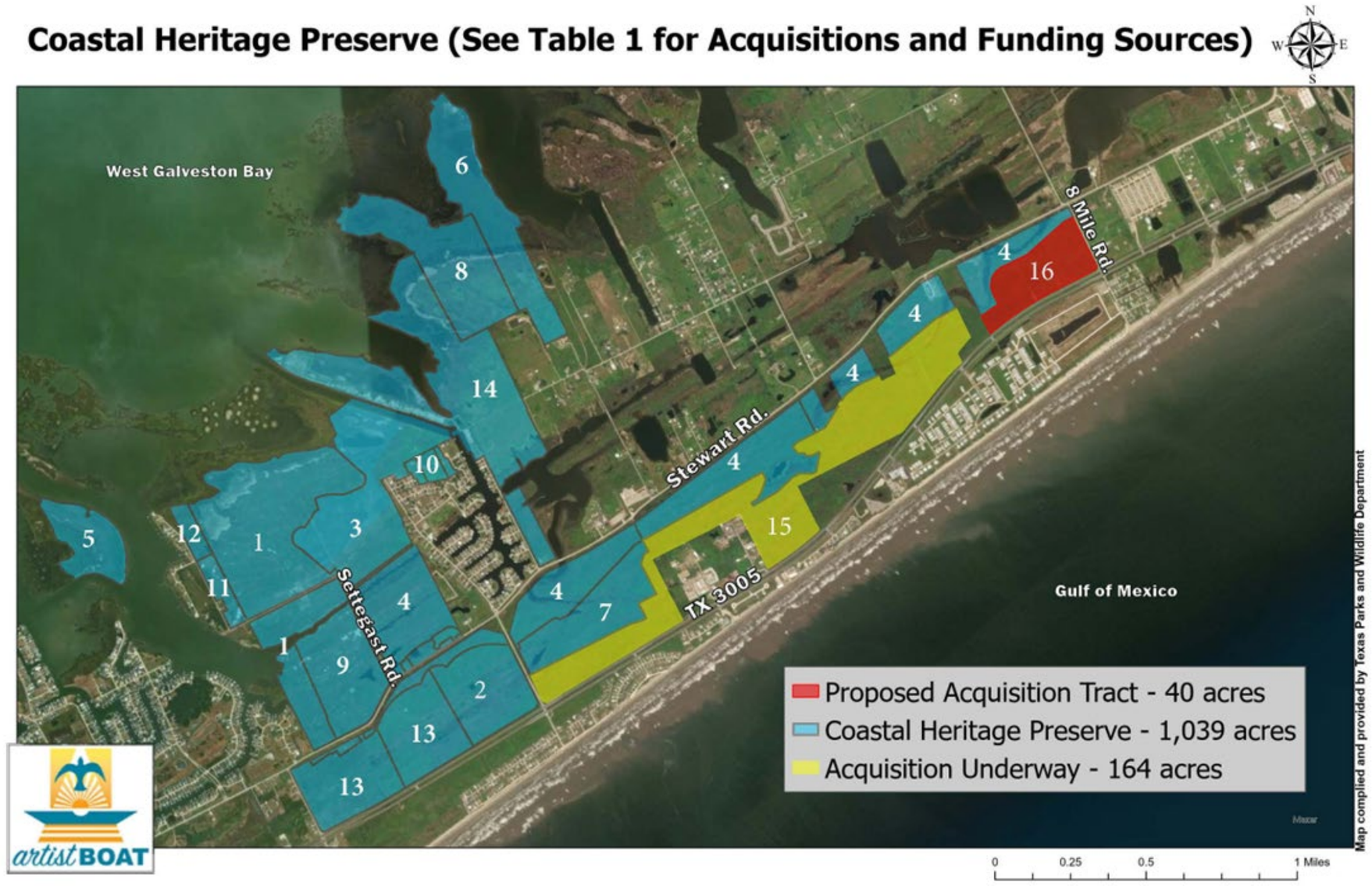

Figure 2: Acquisition history, funding sources, and acreages of the Coastal Heritage Preserve.

Table 1. Acquisitions at the Coastal Heritage Preserve and their Funding Sources.

Number	Tract	Conserved (year)	Conserved (acres)	% Wetlands	Cost (including due diligence)	Funding Sources
1	1st Addition of Middle Tracts (Galveston Preserve at West Beach)	2013	157	54	$3,213,000.00	Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP)
2	2nd Addition of Middle Tracts (Galveston Preserve at West Beach)	2014	46	58	$1,134,198.00	National Coastal Wetland Grant Program (NCWGCP)
3	3rd Addition of Middle Tracts (Galveston Preserve at West Beach)	2016	99	27	$2,320,000.00	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) – Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF)
4	4th Addition of Middle Tracts (Galveston Preserve at West Beach)	2015	216	51	$1,877,695.00	Mitigation Area Donated
5	Moore Island	2017	26	36	$30,121.00	Donated as NCWGCP match
6	1st Addition of Anchor Bay Tracts	2017	68	50	$1,025,000.00	NCWGCP
7	5th Addition of Middle Tracts (Galveston Preserve at West Beach)	2018	46	50	$1,070,000.00	CIAP
8	2nd Addition of Anchor Bay Tracts	2019	75	50	$1,350,000.00	NCWGCP

9	6th Addition of Middle Tracts (Galveston Preserve at West Beach)	2022	45	50	$1,350,000.00	NCWGCP
10	Peake Land	2019	8	0	$204,000.00	Moody Permanent Endowment Fund
11	13330 Settegast Headquarters	2019	10	25	$670,000.00	
12	Moore Family Tracts	2019	11	100	$13,116.00	Moore Family Estate Donation
13	7th and 8th Addition - Middle Tracts (Galveston Preserve at West Beach)	2022	88	25	$2,750,000.00	NCWGCP (tracts purchased separately with 2 grants)
14	9th Addition - Anchor Bay Tract	2024	140	50	$6,707,701.00	NCWGCP, TX TIG, TCEQ Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation, Galveston Bay Foundation, TX General Land Office
15 *Proposed*	10th Additions of Middle Tracts (Galveston Preserve at West Beach)	Est. 2026	164	22	*estimated*	NCWGCP, TCEQ GBEP
16 *Proposed*	11th Additions of Middle Tracts (Galveston Preserve at West Beach)	Est. 2026	40	95	*estimated*	TCEQ GBEP

Figure 3. Existing Acreage and Wetland Habitats within the Coastal Heritage Preserve and Proposed Acquisition Tract.

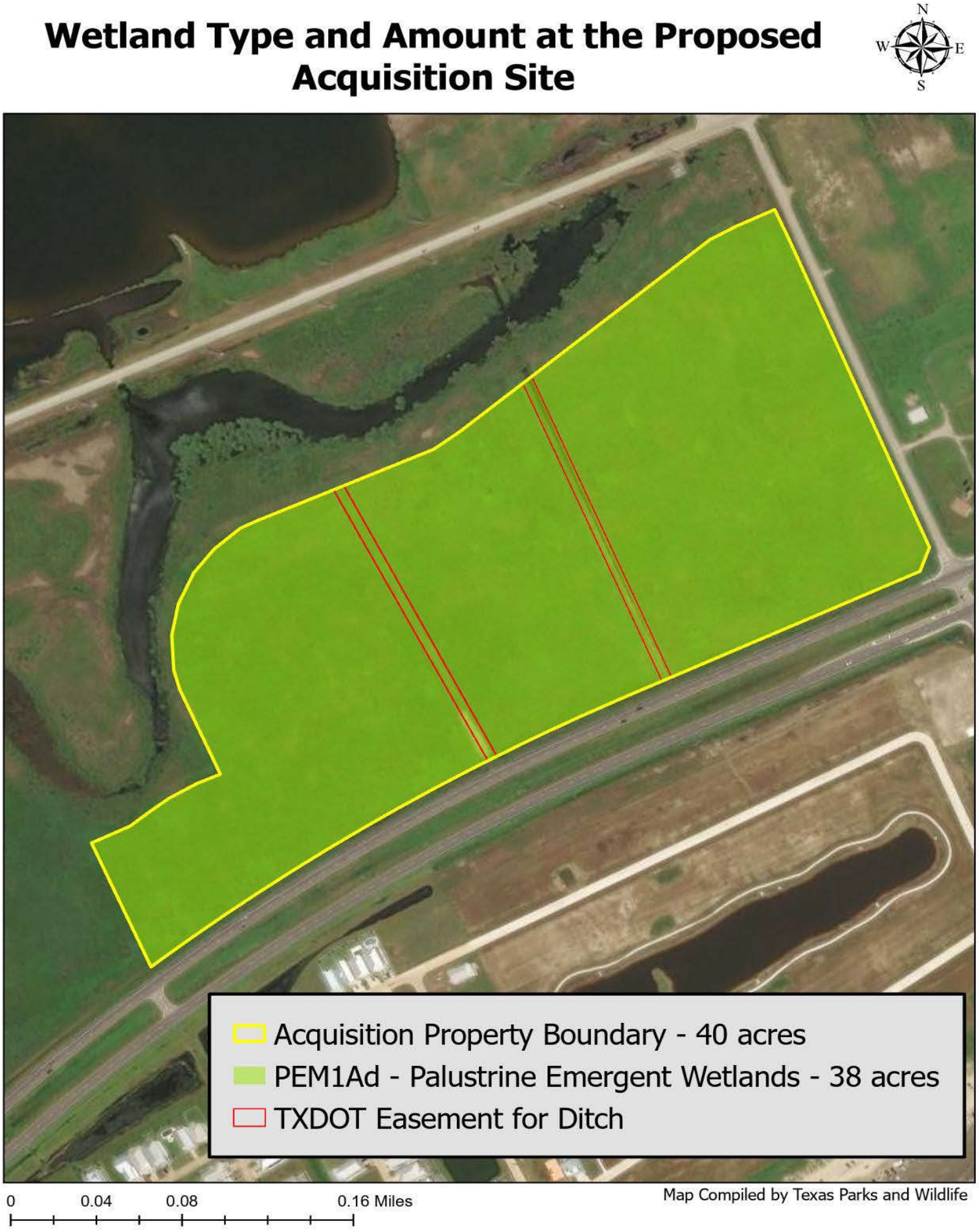

Figure 4: Habitat types and amounts within the proposed acquisition tract.

Table 2. Habitat types and amounts within the acquisition tract that would be protected by the requested funding. *Wetland acreage determined through field assessment with TPWD and USFWS that sampled vegetation at 10 locations in 10-meter radius plots across soil type. Please see the attached field report for more detailed information (Appendix B).

Habitat Types	NWI Codes	Acreage*
Upland Coastal Prairie	-	2.012
Palustrine Emergent Wetland (intermittently flooded, partially ditched)	PEM1Ad	38.225
Total	**0.00**	**40.237**

Appendix B
Supplemental Information, Graphics, and Photos

Table 3. 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
Hall's Lake Restoration	Galveston Bay Estuary Program		475	2,500
West Bay Bird Island	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
McAllis Point Land Acquisition Phase I	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
Jumbile Cove Phase I and II Marsh Restoration	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department		97/89	2,800
Galveston Island State Park Restoration	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		930	13,500
Galveston Island State Park	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	1,930		
Delehide Cove	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department		200	10,500
Bob Moore Island	Galveston Bay Foundation / Cabeza de Vaca / Artist Boat	26		
Lafitte's Cove Nature Preserve	Lafitte's Cove Nature Society	20		
Starvation Cove Marsh Restoration	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		384	3,200
Sweetwater Lake Preserve	Galveston Bay Foundation	458	5	1,000

Project	Lead Conservation Entity(s)	Conserved (acres)	Restored / Protected (acres)	Shoreline Protected (linear feet)
North Deer Island Bird Sanctuary	Houston Audubon Society Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	7	2/151	9,000
Starvation Gap Restoration	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department		38/23	1,400
Bird Island Cove Restoration	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
♦ Coastal Heritage Preserve	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 4. Coastal Watershed Management

This project supports the natural resource goals of numerous coastal ecosystems and watershed management plans including both statewide plans and plans specific to the Galveston Bay system and West Galveston Bay.

Management Plan or effort	How this plan implements management plan goals
Texas Coastal Management Program	Preserves, restore, and enhances the diversity, quality, quantity, functions and values of coastal natural resource areas.
Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan	This project is a Tier 1 project within the March 2023 Region 1 Upper Texas Coast Project List as Project 240.
Texas Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan	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.
Texas Wetlands Conservation Plan	Enhances wetland resources with respect to function and value through voluntary conservation of the quality, quantity, and diversity of Texas wetlands.
Coastal Wetlands Acquisition Plan for Texas	Assists in the goal on no net loss of coastal wetland functions and values through preservation.
Galveston Bay Estuary Program's Galveston	Protect [and restore] wetlands, the number one management action of the Galveston Bay system.

Management Plan or effort	**How this plan implements management plan goals**
Bay Plan	
Galveston Bay Foundation Habitat Conservation Blueprint	Restore and protect important Galveston Bay habitats, including estuarine intertidal marsh. Supports conservation of habitat identified as a priority conservation site.
Gulf Coast Joint Venture's Texas Mid-Coast and Chenier Plain Initiative Plans and Mottled Duck Conservation Plan	Conserves migratory birds and their habitats along the western U.S. Gulf of Mexico.
Texas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy 2005-2010	Conserves habitats within the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes Ecoregion and conserves coastal area in the Galveston Bay system.
U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan Lower Mississippi/Western Gulf Coast Shorebird Planning Region	Conserve Gulf coastal habitat, one of the most important regions in the United States for migratory shorebirds, and waterbirds.
West Galveston Island Greenprint for Growth	Conserves Galveston Island's west end prairies and marshes and is in the priority habitat conservation area of the Greenprint.
The Nature Conservancy's Coast Prairies & Marshes Ecoregional Conservation Plan	Preserves habitat within the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes ecoregion.
West [Galveston] Bay Conservation Initiative	Protect habitats along Galveston Bay.
Comprehensive Plan a Shared Vision for Galveston Island	Preserves and protect sensitive natural resources, including wetlands and permanently protect open space on Galveston Island.
Long-Term Community Recovery Plan-City of Galveston, Texas	Implements one of the projects in the plan, addressing land conservation for ecological services and hazard mitigation during storms.

Table 5: 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 Adjacent Wetland Habitats (✓)	Status	Project Benefits	Recovery Plan Supported
Piping plover Charadrius melodus	▪ ✓▪	Federally and State threatened	The CHP protects migratory and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Yes
Rufa red knot *Calidris canutus rufa*	✓▪	Federally threatened, S3 (non-breeding)	The CHP protects migratory and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Recovery Outline
White-faced ibis *Plegadis chihi*	✓▪	State threatened	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects year-round foraging, roosting and nesting habitat	N/A
Reddish egret *Egretta rufescens*	✓▪	State threatened	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects juvenile foraging habitat	N/A
Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis*	✓▪	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 *Circus cyaneus*	✗▪	S3 (non-breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	N/A
Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*	▪ ✓▪	S2	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*	▪ ✗▪	S3 (breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects spring	N/A

			foraging, roosting, and nesting habitat	
Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*	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 *Ammodramus henslowii*	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 *Malaclemys terrapin littoralis*	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
Eastern box turtle *Terrapene carolina triunguis*	Observed on the west end of Galveston Island	S3	The CHP protects year-round habitat including nesting habitat	N/A
Ornate box turtle *Terrapene ornata ornata*	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 *Pelecanus occidentalis*	▪ ✓▪	S3 (breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects year-round habitat	N/A
Snowy Plover *Charadrius nivosus*	▪ ✓▪	S3 (breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*	▪ ✓▪	S3	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*	▪ ✓▪	S3	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*	▪ ✓▪	S2, S3	The acquisition tract and the	N/A

			CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	
Franklins Gull Leucophaeus pipixcan	▪ ✓▪	S2 (non-breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Black Tern *Chlidonias niger (surinamensis)*	▪ ✓▪	S3	The acquisition tract and CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
King Rail *Rallus elegans*	▪ ✓▪	S3 (breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects year-round habitat including nesting habitat	N/A
Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*	▪ ✓▪	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 6: 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 adjacent wetlands (✓) Observed at the Acquisition Site (✗)**	**Project Benefits**	**Specific Management Plan or List**
Mottled Duck *Anas fulvigula*	✗· (nesting on acquisition tract)	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 *Anas discors*	✓·	Protects foraging roosting habitat for migrating and wintering	Wetland Dependent Bird
Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*	✓·	Protects foraging roosting habitat for migrating and wintering	Wetland Dependent Bird
Common Loon *Gavia immer*	✓·	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
Pied-billed Grebe Podilymbus podiceps	✓·	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Brown Pelican *Pelicanus occidentalis*	✓·	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Bird
Neotropic Cormorant\ *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*	✓·	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 *Phalacrocorax auritis*	✓·	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*	✓·	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 *Egretta rufescens*	✓·	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 *Ardea alba*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging and roosting habitat	GBEP (significant decline); Coastal Dependent Bird
Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging habitat	TCAP-SGCN; GCJV Priority Species; Wetland Dependent Bird
Roseate Spoonbill *Ajaia ajaja*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Bird
Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging habitat	State listed threatened species; TCAP-SGCN; GBEP (moderately decreasing); Coastal Dependent Bird
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nyctocorax nyctocorax*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging and roosting habitat	GBEP (significant decline); Wetland Dependent Bird
Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging and roosting habitat	Wetland Dependent Migratory Bird
White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Grassland Dependent Bird
Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Red-tailed Hawk Buteo jamaicensis	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Crested Caracara	✗·	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Migratory Bird
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrines*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; State Listed Threatened; Migratory Bird
American Kestrel *Falco sparvarius*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*	✓·	Protects fall through spring foraging and roosting habitat	Wetland Dependent, Migratory Bird
Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis*	✓·	Protects fall winter foraging habitat	Migratory Bird
Clapper Rail *Rallus Longirostris*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, nesting and breeding habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, and breeding habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Bird
Yellow Rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; Migratory Bird
American Coot *Fulica americana*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialus squatarola*	✓·	Protects migrating and wintering foraging and roosting habitat	Coastal Dependent Migratory Bird
American Golden-Plover *Pluvialis dominica*	✓·	Protects migrating habitat	Wetland Dependent Migratory Bird
Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; GCJV Priority Species; Coastal Dependent Migratory Bird
Wilson's Plover *Charadrrius wilsonia*	✓·	Protects spring through fall foraging, roosting, and breeding habitat	BCR 37; Shorebird Conservation Plan (SCP); TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Migratory
Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*	✓·	Protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Federal and State listed threatened species; SCP; GCJV Shorebird Plan; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*	✓·	Protects migrating, foraging and breeding habitat	Migratory Bird
American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging and roosting, habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Bird
Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*	✓·	Protects migrating, foraging, breeding and roosting habitat Spring through Fall	Wetland Dependent Bird
Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP; Migratory Bird
Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*	✓·	Protects year round foraging, roosting nesting, and breeding habitat	Coastal Dependent and Migratory Bird
Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*	✗·	Protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP; Migratory Bird

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP
Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP; Migratory Bird
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Semipalmated Sandpiper- *Calidris pusilla*	✓·	Protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutella*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*	✓·	Protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*	✓·	Protects stopover habitat during migration	Grassland Dependent Bird
Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*	✓·	Protects stopover habitat during migration	Migratory Bird
Dunlin *Calidris alpine*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*	✓·	Protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*	✓·	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; SCP; Migratory Bird
Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*	✓·	Protects migrating foraging and roosting habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	Coastal Dependent
Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent
Least Tern *Sterna antillarum*	✓·	Protects spring through fall foraging, roosting, and breeding habitat	BCR 37; Migratory Bird
Royal Tern *Sterna maxima*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and nesting habitat	Coastal Dependent
Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*	✓·	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and nesting habitat	BCR 37; Coastal Dependent
Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*	✓·	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to openwater feeding and loafing habitat	GBEP (moderately decreasing); Coastal Dependent
Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*	✓·	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	BCR 37: TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent
Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*	✓·	Protects wintering forage habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*	✓·	Protects migrating habitat during migration	Migratory Bird

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*	✓▪	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Migratory Bird
Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*	✓▪	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	Migratory Bird
Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*	✓▪	Protects migrating and breeding habitat	Migratory Bird
Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*	✓▪	Protects migrating and wintering habitat	Migratory Bird
Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*	✗▪	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, nesting and breeding habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN
American Robin *Turdus migratorius*	✗▪	Protects winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*	✗▪	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	State Bird of and Migratory Bird
Common Yellowthroat *Geothylypis trichas*	✓▪	Protects year-round foraging, roosting and breeding habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Seaside Sparrow *Ammodramus maritimus*	✓▪	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, nesting and breeding habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow *Ammodramus nesloni*	✓▪	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; Migratory Bird
Le Conte's Sparrow *Ammodramus leconteii*	✓▪	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustri*	✓▪	Protects year-round habitat for foraging, roosting and breeding	Wetland Dependent Bird
Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis*	✓▪	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Dickcissel *Spiza Americana*	✗▪	Protects spring through fall foraging, roosting, and breeding habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Eastern Meadowlark *Strunella magna*	✗▪	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, nesting and breeding habitat	TCAP-SGCN
Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*	✓▪	Protects migrating foraging and resting habitat	BCR 37; TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*	✗▪	Protects migrating foraging and resting habitat	Migratory Bird

Ohana Tract Coastal Prairie Ecology Assessment
Galveston County, Texas
12 May 2025

Ohana Tract (40 acres) Coastal Prairie Ecology Assessment
Galveston County, Texas
12 May 2025

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Ohana Tract Wet Coastal Prairie

This report covers activities carried out on documenting the flora and a globally rare wet coastal prairie survey on 12 May 2025 at Ohana Tract in Galveston County, Texas. It provides a description of a previously undescribed wet coastal prairie plant community and list of flora as a separate document in excel format.

Purpose of Survey

Texas Parks and Wildlife Departments Wildlife Diversity Program collects biological information on rare and declining plants, animals, and plant community associations state-wide. An **association** is defined as "a plant community of definite floristic composition, uniform habitat conditions, and uniform physiognomy". By identifying different plant community associations during a field survey and the plants that are restricted to them, this data informs land stewards to recognize different habitat types that occur on their lands. Documenting plant communities also supports an inventory of the overall plant diversity (number of plant species) that occurs on a parcel of land. The focus of this biological assessment was to document the Ohana Tract coastal prairie, a previously undescribed wet coastal prairie plant community, the overall flora and any rare or Texas endemic plants encountered.

Survey Method and Results

The method of assessing the Ohana Tract habitat type(s) included vegetation sampling 10- meter radius plots at 10 locations. All plant species encountered in each 10-meter radius plot were documented to determine the number of species (species richness) and calculate their relative abundance (species evenness) across the Ohana Tract. Percent (%) cover classes were also documented for the top 5 dominants. Vegetation cover classes were characterized based on the percentage of vegetation in the plot. These classes included:

- Less than 5% cover
- 5 - 25% cover
- 25 - 50% cover
- 50 - 75% cover
- Greater than 75% cover

As a result of the 10 plots examined, a single plant community concentrated on a single soil type was documented, which included a previously undescribed wet coastal prairie plant community. This plant community association needs further investigation on the Ohana Tract as this site

in mostly natural condition with very few invasive plants present. No rare or Texas endemic plants were encountered.

PLANT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

Long's Sedge - Path Rush - Bushy Goldentop - Bushy Bluestem - Saltmeadow Cordgrass Wet Prairie Fringe

Common Name: Texas Upper Coastal Wet Prairie Marsh Fringe

The Texas Upper Coastal Wet Prairie Marsh Fringe appears to be a very specialized coastal prairie type, occupying low Pleistocene Prairie Terrace exposures within or adjacent to fresh marsh zones in the upper coast of Texas. This is the first time the lead author of this report has ever encountered this plant community along the Texas coast after more than 30 years of documenting the flora and plant community ecology of Texas. The example observed includes wet coastal prairie and swales with infrequent linear sandier ridges that appear to be deposited from nearby dunes on the beach front. There were slight wetland dominance differences between the relatively flat wet prairie and swales; however, for the purpose of this report we lumped for now into a single type. This plant community developed on Galveston – Nass soils that is an occasionally ponded complex, receives occasionally flooding and infrequent storm surge. This wet prairie remnant observed supports a broad diversity of species. This prairie association is dominated by Long's sedge (*Carex longii*), path rush (*Juncus tenuis*), bushy Goldentop (*Euthamia leptocephala*), bushy bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*), and saltmeadow cordgrass (*Spartina patens*). Other characteristic flora included green flatsedge (*Cyperus virens*), bighead rush (*Juncus megacephalus*), Roemer' rush (*Juncus roemerianus*), round-fruited rosette-panicgrass (*Dichanthelium sphaerocarpon*), Nealley's sprangletop (*Leptochloa nealleyi*), marsh bristlegrass (S*etaria parviflora*), western ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya*), spot flower (*Acmella oppositifolia*), eastern baccharis (*Baccharis halimifolia*), marsh elder (*Iva frutescens*), seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*), hispid buttercup (*Ranunculus hispidus*) and southern dewberry (*Rubus trivalis*). A few swales that were encountered were dominated by largeleaf pennywort (*Hydrocotyle bonariensis*), three-square bullrush (*Schoenoplectus pungens*), climbing hempvine (*Mikania scandens*), Drummond rattlebox (*Sesbania drummondii*), swamp smartweed (*Polygonum hydropiperoides*), and stiff marsh bedstraw(*Galium tinctorium*).

The wet prairie included a few scattered colonies of the invasive Chinees tallow (*Triadica sebiferum*), Guinea grass (*Megathyrsus maximus***)**, and Vassey grass (*Paspalum*

urvillei). Historically, coastal prairies were maintained by infrequent burning and soil conditions generally inhospitable to the growth of trees and shrubs.

FIGURE 1. Ohana Tract Wet Coastal Prairie.

Discussion

Based on sampling efforts of the plant community, the Ohana tract is identified to consist of a single plant and soil community and is estimated to be 95% palustrine emergent wetland. Very few upland patches (6, roughly 5x5 meters) were encountered, and all 10 sampling plots would meet the Cowardin, et al (1997) classification of wetland habitat. Less than four percent of wet coastal prairie landscape in Texas remains. Much of the suitable landscape has been converted to agriculture, and only a few examples, most in small hay meadows, remain. Threats from rural residential development, exotic species invasion, and fire suppression are increasing. Few examples currently receive formal protection. However, a

few small sites occur on National Wildlife Refuges and Nature Conservancy Preserves and are regularly burned.

We highly encourage conserving the Ohana Tract as it is primarily ecologically intact and contains good plant diversity. Prairie sites like this are irreplaceable and should be permanently conserved for future Texas generations to enjoy forever.

MAP 1. Ohana Tract (blue polygon) in on Galveston Island in Galveston County, Texas.

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Photographs

Photographs 1-5 are of amenities currently existing on the Coastal Heritage Preserve.

Photographs 6-10 are of the habitat at and adjacent to the proposed acquisition tract.

Photographs 11-14 are of a wetland delineation data sheet (point 3) used to collect data at the acquisition tract.

Photographs 15-23 are of avian species using habitat like those at the proposed acquisition tract.

Photographs 24-26 are of coyotes on Galveston Island and a map showing coyote tracts on Galveston Island that show evidence of red wolf genes using habitat like those at the proposed acquisition tract.

Photograph 1. Kayak pavilion constructed in the 2017.

Photograph 2. Viewing platform with palustrine marsh in foreground, constructed in the winter of 2019.

Photograph 3. View of palustrine emergent marsh from the viewing platform.

Photograph 4. Outdoor classroom constructed in 2018.

Photograph 5. Outdoor classroom.

Photograph 6. Wetland Type PUBHh 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.

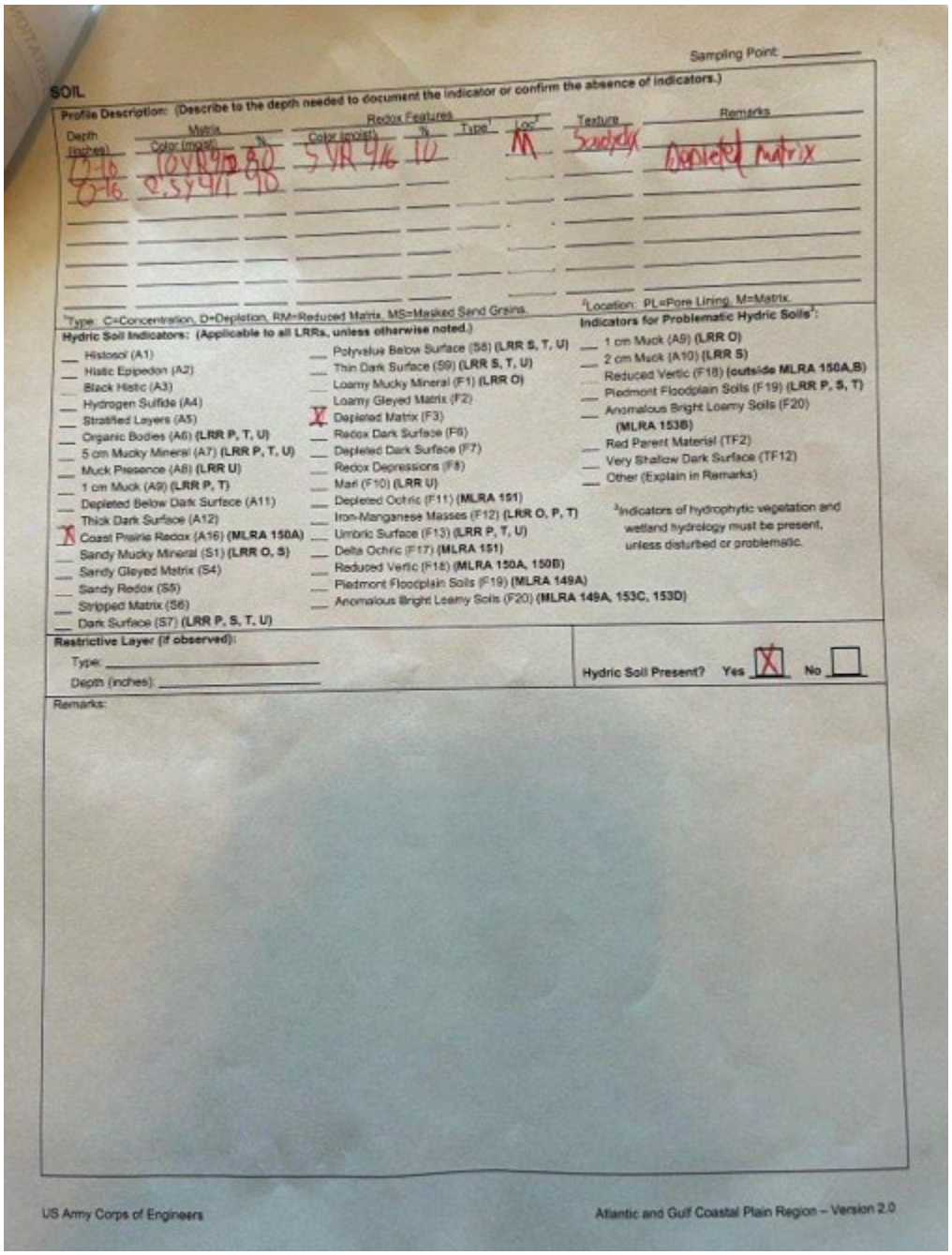
Photograph 7. Wetland Type PEM1 at the CHP adjacent to the acquisition tract. When inundated these wetlands provides breeding, nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat for resident fish species. Without regular rainfall these wetlands dry up, providing opportunistic opportunities for avian species to feed on trapped fish and invertebrates including aquatic insect larvae.

Photograph 8. Coastal prairie habitat and red winged blackbird at the acquisition tract

Photograph 9. Acquisition tract showing coastal prairie habitat and wetland plant species.

Photograph 10. Acquisition tract showing coastal prairie habitat and wetland plant species.

Photograph 11. Example of one of the Wetland Delineation Sheets used to Determine if areas with wetland plant species would meet the criteria to be considered wetland habitat. Hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soils were present.



Sampling Point: _____

SOIL

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth (inches)	Matrix Color (moist)	%	Redox Features Color (moist)	%	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
7-16	10YR 5/2	80	5YR 4/6	10	C	M	Sandy	Depleted Matrix
0-16	2.5Y 4/1	90						

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5)
- ___ Organic Bodies (A6) **(LRR P, T, U)**
- ___ 5 cm Mucky Mineral (A7) **(LRR P, T, U)**
- ___ Muck Presence (A8) **(LRR U)**
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) **(LRR P, T)**
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- X Coast Prairie Redox (A16) **(MLRA 150A)**
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1) **(LRR O, S)**
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Dark Surface (S7) **(LRR P, S, T, U)**
- ___ Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) **(LRR S, T, U)**
- ___ Thin Dark Surface (S9) **(LRR S, T, U)**
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) **(LRR O)**
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- X Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Marl (F10) **(LRR U)**
- ___ Depleted Ochric (F11) **(MLRA 151)**
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR O, P, T)**
- ___ Umbric Surface (F13) **(LRR P, T, U)**
- ___ Delta Ochric (F17) **(MLRA 151)**
- ___ Reduced Vertic (F18) **(MLRA 150A, 150B)**
- ___ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(MLRA 149A)**
- ___ Anomalous Bright Loamy Soils (F20) **(MLRA 149A, 153C, 153D)**

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) **(LRR O)**
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR S)**
- ___ Reduced Vertic (F18) **(outside MLRA 150A,B)**
- ___ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(LRR P, S, T)**
- ___ Anomalous Bright Loamy Soils (F20) **(MLRA 153B)**
- ___ Red Parent Material (TF2)
- ___ Very Shallow Dark Surface (TF12)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: _____

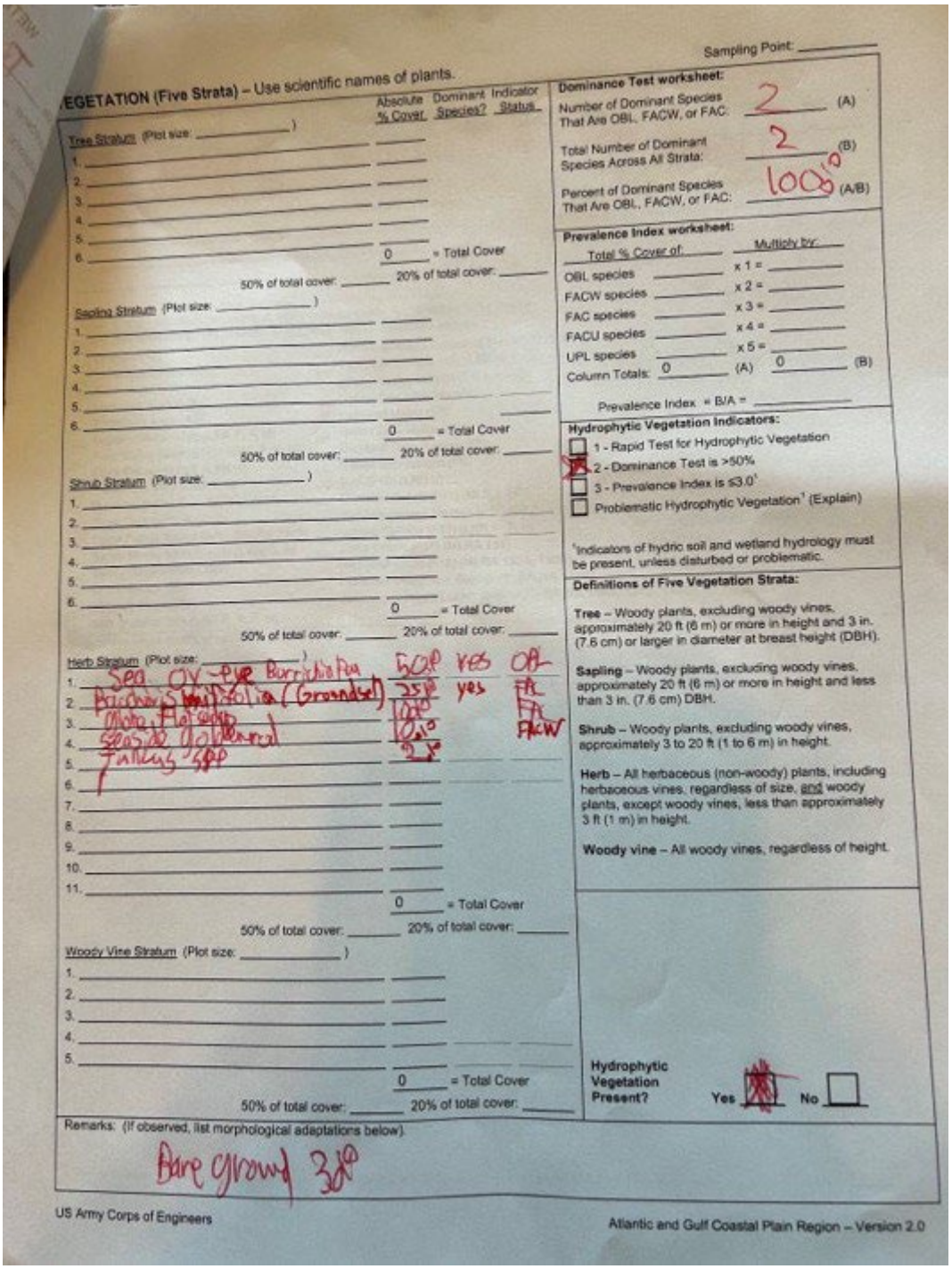
Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? Yes X No ☐

Remarks:

US Army Corps of Engineers — Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region – Version 2.0

Photograph 12. Example of one of the Wetland Delineation Sheets used to Determine if areas with wetland plant species would meet the criteria to be considered wetland habitat. Hydric soils are present.



Sampling Point: _____

VEGETATION (Five Strata) – Use scientific names of plants.

	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
Tree Stratum (Plot size: _____)			
1. _____			
2. _____			
3. _____			
4. _____			
5. _____			
6. _____			
	0 = Total Cover		
50% of total cover: _____	20% of total cover: _____		
Sapling Stratum (Plot size: _____)			
1. _____			
2. _____			
3. _____			
4. _____			
5. _____			
6. _____			
	0 = Total Cover		
50% of total cover: _____	20% of total cover: _____		
Shrub Stratum (Plot size: _____)			
1. _____			
2. _____			
3. _____			
4. _____			
5. _____			
6. _____			
	0 = Total Cover		
50% of total cover: _____	20% of total cover: _____		
Herb Stratum (Plot size: _____)			
1. Sea Ox-Eye Burrobush Pea	50%	yes	OBL
2. Baccharis halimifolia (Groundsel)	25%	yes	FAC
3. Water Hyssop	10%		FACW
4. Seaside Goldenrod	10%		
5. Juncus spp	3%		
6. _____			
7. _____			
8. _____			
9. _____			
10. _____			
11. _____			
	0 = Total Cover		
50% of total cover: _____	20% of total cover: _____		
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: _____)			
1. _____			
2. _____			
3. _____			
4. _____			
5. _____			
	0 = Total Cover		
50% of total cover: _____	20% of total cover: _____		

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 2 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 2 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 100% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:
OBL species _____	x 1 = _____
FACW species _____	x 2 = _____
FAC species _____	x 3 = _____
FACU species _____	x 4 = _____
UPL species _____	x 5 = _____
Column Totals: 0 (A)	0 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = _____

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- ☐ 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
- ☒ 2 - Dominance Test is >50%
- ☐ 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]
- ☐ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Definitions of Five Vegetation Strata:

Tree – Woody plants, excluding woody vines, approximately 20 ft (6 m) or more in height and 3 in. (7.6 cm) or larger in diameter at breast height (DBH).

Sapling – Woody plants, excluding woody vines, approximately 20 ft (6 m) or more in height and less than 3 in. (7.6 cm) DBH.

Shrub – Woody plants, excluding woody vines, approximately 3 to 20 ft (1 to 6 m) in height.

Herb – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, including herbaceous vines, regardless of size, and woody plants, except woody vines, less than approximately 3 ft (1 m) in height.

Woody vine – All woody vines, regardless of height.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes ☒ No ☐

Remarks: (If observed, list morphological adaptations below).

Bare ground 3%

US Army Corps of Engineers

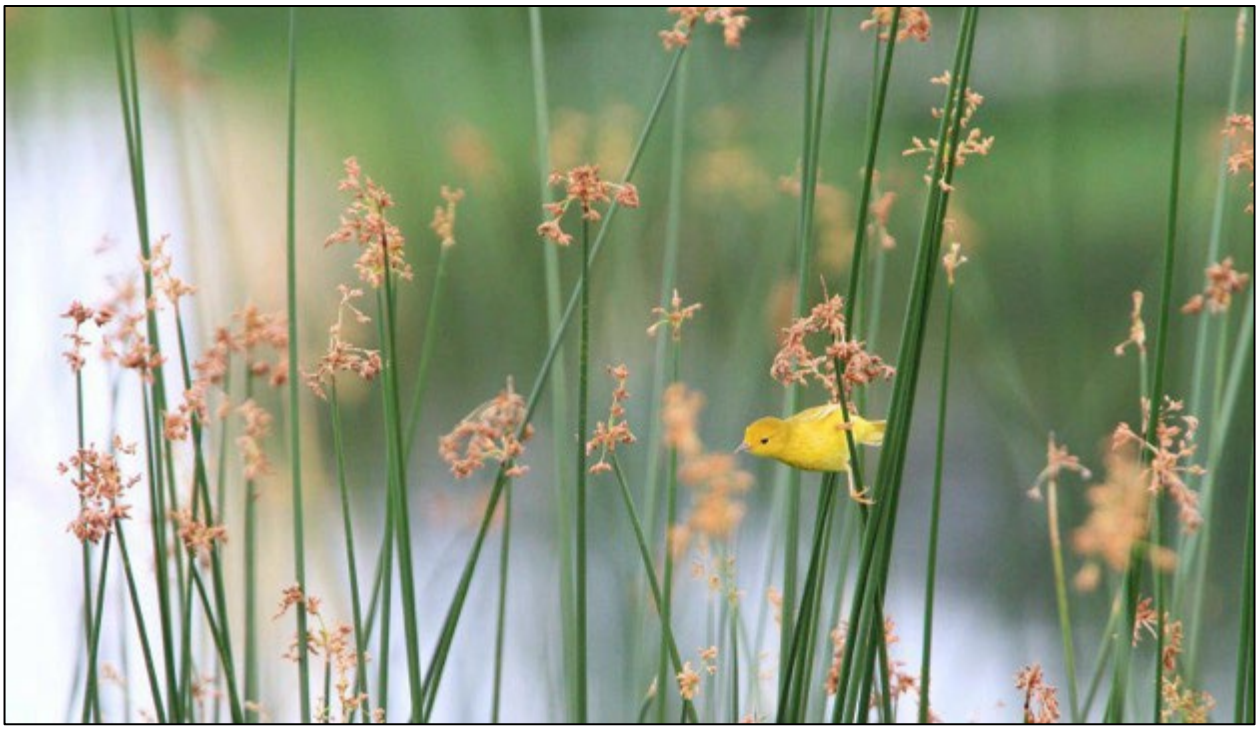
Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region – Version 2.0

Photograph 13. Example of one of the Wetland Delineation Sheets used to Determine if areas with wetland plant species would meet the criteria to be considered wetland habitat. Hydrophytic vegetation is present.

Photograph 14. Soil sample taken at sampling point from photographs 11-13 data sheet. Soil was determined to be hydric.

Photograph 15. Seaside sparrow. The acquisition would protect year-round foraging, roosting, and nesting habitat for this species.

Photograph 16. Northern Harrier. The acquisition would protect migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat.



Photograph 17. A yellow warbler foraging in and using California bulrush at Laffite's Cove Nature Preserve as stopover habitat during migration.

Photograph 18. Le Conte's sparrow depends on quality winter grounds, such as coastal prairie.

Photograph 19. Eastern meadowlark foraging on the edge of palustrine marsh.

Photograph 20. Soras are primarily a winter migrant, this sora is foraging in palustrine marsh near the acquisition tract.

Photograph 21. Wintering sandhill cranes foraging on a tract directly adjacent to the proposed acquisition tract. The West end of Galveston Island is heavily used by sandhill cranes during the winter at undeveloped areas. Hunting is limited due to the entire island being within city limits. Their presence draws birdwatchers to the island each year.

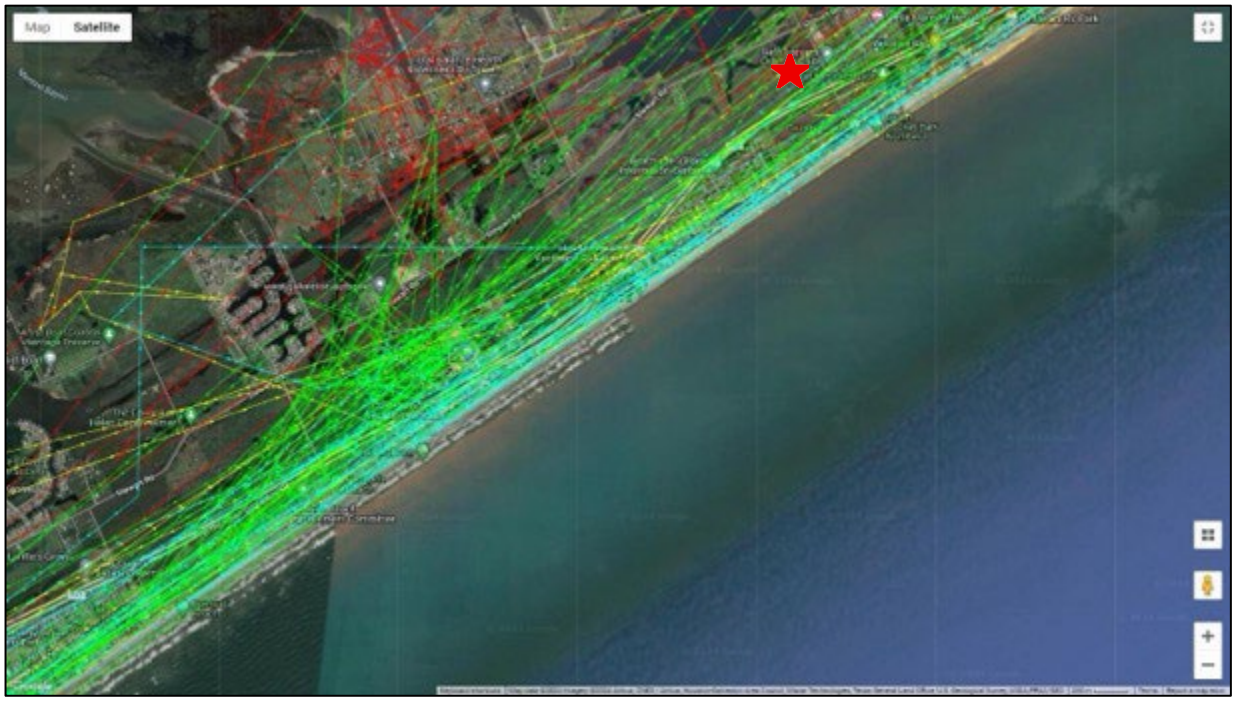
Photograph 22. Merlin on existing Coastal Heritage Preserve land adjacent to the acquisition tract.

Photograph 23. The yellow rail, often unobserved, uses coastal wet grasslands along the Texas coast for its wintering habitat. The acquisition tract and adjacent tracts owned by Artist Boat support habitat suitable for both yellow and black rails.

Photograph 24. Coyotes show evidence of red wolf genes on Galveston Island, Texas. Credit: Ron Wooten Photography.

Photograph 37. Wilson's phalarope. The acquisition would protect stopover habitat used by this species during migration.

Photograph 25. Coyotes show evidence of red wolf genes on Galveston Island, Texas. Credit: Ron Wooten Photography.



Photograph 26. 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 that are undeveloped and contain natural vegetation and refuge for multiple species. The red star indicates the location of the proposed acquisition tract.

Artist Boat Letter of Financial Commitment

13330 Settegast Road | Galveston, Texas 77554
artistboat.org | info@artistboat.org | 409-632-0388
Inspiration and education through unique coastal experiences

June 17, 2025

Ms. Savannah Horton
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
1502 FM 517 East
Dickinson, TX 77539

RE: *The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of 8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas – 40 acres*

Dear Savannah,

I am writing on behalf of The Artist Boat, Inc. (Artist Boat) to document our commitment to provide $433,334 of non-Federal match for the requested $1,000,000 grant to the National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant Program. RE: *The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of 8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas*, will support the acquisition of approximately 40 acres of coastal habitat.

The non-Federal cash match and the remainder of the funds required to purchase the 40-acre tract will come from a multitude of sources: a combination of Federal, 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!*"

Artist Boat is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to promote the awareness and conservation of coastal margins and the marine environment through the disciplines of the sciences and the arts. As noted in the application, acquisition of this tract, expanding Artist Boat's Coastal Heritage Preserve will greatly enhance Artist Boat's ability to accomplish our mission of preserving wetlands, coastal prairie, and serve the community. The Coastal Heritage Preserve is now 898 acres and will soon reach the conservation of 1,039 acres (141 acres of acquisition is currently underway) approaching our goal of conserving ~1400 acres of habitat on Galveston Island. The acquisition of this additional 164 acres of coastal habitat is significant, benefiting the ecosystem, wildlife, and people.

Artist Boat is a committed partner that will facilitate the acquisition transaction and will serve as permanent conservation steward of the land. We look forward to our role in the preservation of this example of what is now rapidly vanishing natural coastal margin on this barrier island.

We are greatly appreciative of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's partnership and for your commitment to prepare and submit the proposal to the National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant Program.

Very truly yours,

Karla Klay
Executive Director
713-569-0722, kklay@artistboat.org

Documentation of Financial Commitments

MORTON AND BRENDA VOLLER
2318 PINK ROSE WALK CT,
MISSOURI CITY, TX 77459

May, 24, 2025

Ms. Savannah Horton
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
1502 FM 517 East
Dickinson, TX 77539

RE: *The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of 8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas – 40 acres*

Dear Savannah:

I am writing on behalf of The Artist Boat, Inc. (Artist Boat) to document Morton and Brenda Voller's commitment to provide financial support for the required match of $333,334 for the proposed $1,000,000 grant to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The project, titled *"The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of 8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas",* will support acquisition of approximately 40 acres of coastal habitat. This project aligns with our goals of protecting and preserving as much as is feasible of the flora and fauna naturalness of Galveston Island.

We as private citizens will provide a minimum of $200 toward this required match.

As noted in the application, preservation of land and wetlands to expand Artist Boat's Coastal Heritage Preserve from 1,039 acres to 1,238+ will greatly enhance the Artist Boat's ability protect and preserve wetlands and coastal prairies already conserved, fulfilling its mission to promote and preserve coastal margins and the marine environment, and serve the greater Houston Galveston community of learners with inspiration and education through unique coastal experiences. This next 40 acres of the next 200 acres to add to the Preserve is critical to conserving a 3-mile long corridor of wilds in the middle of the islands ancient relic dune swale system connected to the Coastal Heritage Preserves and West Galveston Bay's hydrology of land, wetlands, sloughs, and ephemeral wetlands. These additional unique 40 acres will contribute greatly to benefits of the ecosystem for wildlife and people. We Morton and Brenda Voller are long time committed partners to Artist Boat and we know they will facilitate the acquisition transaction, and then will serve as permanent conservators and stewards of the land.

We look forward to being associated with the preservation of what is now the rapidly vanishing natural coastal margin on this barrier island. We greatly appreciate Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's partnership and for your commitment to prepare and submit the proposal to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program.

Very truly yours,

Morton D and Brenda M Voller

May, 24, 2025

Ms. Savannah Horton
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
1502 FM 517 East
Dickinson, TX 77539

RE: *The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of 8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas – 40 acres*

Dear Savannah:

I am writing on behalf of The Artist Boat, Inc. (Artist Boat) to document the West Galveston Island Property Owners Association's commitment to provide financial support for the required match of $333,334 for the proposed $1,000,000 grant to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The project, titled *"The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of 8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas",* will support acquisition of approximately 40 acres of coastal habitat. This project aligns with our goals of protecting and preserving as much as is feasible of the flora and fauna naturalness of Galveston Island.

The West Galveston Island Property Owners Association will provide a minimum of $2,500 toward this required match.

As noted in the application, preservation of land and wetlands to expand Artist Boat's Coastal Heritage Preserve from 1,039 acres to 1,238+ will greatly enhance the Artist Boat's ability protect and preserve wetlands and coastal prairies already conserved, fulfilling its mission to promote and preserve coastal margins and the marine environment, and serve the greater Houston Galveston community of learners with inspiration and education through unique coastal experiences. This next 40 acres of the next 200 acres to add to the Preserve is critical to conserving a 3-mile long corridor of wilds in the middle of the islands ancient relic dune swale system connected to the Coastal Heritage Preserves and West Galveston Bay's hydrology of land, wetlands, sloughs, and ephemeral wetlands. These additional unique 40 acres will contribute greatly to benefits of the ecosystem for wildlife and people. We Morton and Brenda Voller are long time committed partners to Artist Boat and we know they will facilitate the acquisition transaction, and then will serve as permanent conservators and stewards of the land.

We look forward to being associated with the preservation of what is now the rapidly vanishing natural coastal margin on this barrier island. We greatly appreciate Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's partnership and for your commitment to prepare and submit the proposal to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program.

Very truly yours,

Craig Vance
President
West Galveston Island Property Owners Association

June 15, 2025

Ms. Savannah Horton
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
1502 FM 517 East
Dickinson, TX 77539

RE: *The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through thk 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas - 40 acres*

Dear Savannah:

I am writing on behalfofThe Artist Boat, Inc. (Artist Boat) to document Rob and Kim Kirschner's commitment to provide financial support for the required match of$333,334 for the proposed $1,000,000 grant to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The project, titled *"The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas",* will support acquisition of approximately 40 acres ofcoastal habitat. This project aligns with our goals ofprotecting and preserving the natural resources and quality oflife on the west end ofGalveston Island.

Rob and Kim Kirschner will provide $1000 toward this required match.

As noted in the application, preservation ofland and wetlands to expand Artist Boat's Coastal Heritage Preserve from 1,039 acres to 1,238+ will greatly enhance,the Artist Boat's ability protect and preserve wetlands and coastal prairies already conserved, fulfilling its mission to promote and preserve coastal margins and the marine environment, and serve the greater Houston Galveston community oflearners with inspiration and education through unique coastal experiences. This next 40 acres ofthe next 200 acres to add to the Preserve is critical to conserving a 3-mile long corridor ofwilds in the middle ofthe islands ancient relic dune swale system connected to the Coastal Heritage Preserves and West Galveston Bay's hydrology ofland, wetlands, sloughs, and ephemeral wetlands. These additional unique 40 acres will contribute greatly to benefits ofthe ecosystem for wildlife and people. We are committed partners to Artist Boat. We know they will facilitate the acquisition transaction, and then will serve as permanent conservators and stewards ofthe land.

I look forward to our role in the preservation ofwhat is now the rapidly vanishing natural coastal margin on this barrier island. We are greatly appreciative ofTexas Parks & Wildlife Department's partnership and for your commitment to prepare and submit the proposal to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program.

Very truly yours,

GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION

June 4, 2025

Ms. Savannah Horton
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
1502 FM 517 East
Dickinson, TX 77539

RE: *The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of 8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas – 40 acres*

Dear Savannah:

I am writing on behalf of The Artist Boat, Inc. (Artist Boat) to Galveston Bay Foundation's commitment to provide financial support for the required match of $366,400 for the proposed $1,000,000 grant to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The project, titled *"The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of 8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas",* will support acquisition of approximately 40 acres of coastal habitat. This project aligns with Galveston Bay Foundation's mission to protect and preserve Galveston Bay.

Galveston Bay Foundation will provide $10,000 via the Conservation Assistance Program toward this required match.

As noted in the application, preservation of land and wetlands to expand Artist Boat's Coastal Heritage Preserve from 1,039 acres to 1,238+ will greatly enhance the Artist Boat's ability protect and preserve wetlands and coastal prairies already conserved, fulfilling its mission to promote and preserve coastal margins and the marine environment, and serve the greater Houston Galveston community of learners with inspiration and education through unique coastal experiences. This next 40 acres of the next 204 acres to add to the Preserve is critical to conserving a 3-mile long corridor of wilds in the middle of the islands ancient relic dune swale system connected to the Coastal Heritage Preserves and West Galveston Bay's hydrology of land, wetlands, sloughs, and ephemeral wetlands. These additional unique 40 acres will contribute greatly to benefits of the ecosystem for wildlife and people. Galveston Bay Foundation is a committed partner to Artist Boat, Artist Boat has demonstrated the ability to facilitate complex real estate acquisitions and to steward the land as permanent conservators.

I look forward to Galveston Bay Foundation's role in the preservation of what is now the rapidly vanishing natural coastal margin on this barrier island. We are greatly appreciative of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's partnership and for your commitment to prepare and submit the proposal to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program.

Very truly yours,

Bob Stokes, President
Galveston Bay Foundation

1725 Highway 146, Kemah, Texas 77565 • Phone 281-332-3381 • Fax 832-284-4982

Brenda Weiser
435 Eldervista Drive
Webster, Texas 77598

May 24, 2025

Ms. Savannah Horton
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
1502 FM 517 East
Dickinson, TX 77539

RE: *The 1* P" *Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas - 40 acres*

Dear Savannah:

I am writing on behalf of The Artist Boat, Inc. (Artist Boat) to document my (Brenda Weiser's) commitment to provide financial support for the required match of $333,334 for the proposed $1,000,000 grant to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The project, titled *"The 1 I th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas",* will support acquisition of approximately 40 acres of coastal habitat. This project aligns with my goals of protecting and preserving the natural resources and quality of life for wildlife on the west end of Galveston Island.

I, Brenda Weiser will provide $5,000 toward this required match.

As noted in the application, preservation of land and wetlands to expand Artist Boat's Coastal Heritage Preserve from 1,039 acres to 1,238+ will greatly enhance the Artist Boat's ability protect and preserve wetlands and coastal prairies already conserved, fulfilling its mission to promote and preserve coastal margins and the marine environment, and serve the greater Houston Galveston community of learners with inspiration and education through unique coastal experiences. This next 40 acres of the next 200 acres to add to the Preserve is critical to conserving a 3-mile-long corridor of wilds in the middle of the islands ancient relic dune swale system connected to the Coastal Heritage Preserves and West Galveston Bay's hydrology of land, wetlands, sloughs, and ephemeral wetlands. These additional unique 40 acres will contribute greatly to benefits of the ecosystem for wildlife and people. I am a committed partner to Artist Boat. I know they will facilitate the acquisition transaction, and then will serve as permanent conservators and stewards of the land.

I look forward to being associated with the preservation of what is now the rapidly vanishing natural coastal margin on this barrier island. I am greatly appreciative of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's partnership and for your commitment to prepare and submit the proposal to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program.

Very truly yours,

Brenda Weiser

Brenda Weiser

May 24, 2025

Ms. Savannah Horton
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
1502 FM 517 East
Dickinson, TX 77539

RE: *The 11[t], Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5'" Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas – 40 acres*

Dear Savannah:

I am writing on behalf of The At1ist Boat, Inc. (Artist Boat) to document the commitment of Brock and Jeri Kinnear to provide financial support for the required match of $333,334 for the proposed $1,000,000 grant to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The project, titled *"The 1J'" Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5'" Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas",* will support acquisition of approximately 40 acres of coastal habitat. This project aligns with our goals of protecting and preserving the natural resources and the quality of life of Galveston Island.

Brock and Jeri Kinnear will provide $500.00 toward this required match.

As noted in the application, preservation of land and wetlands to expand Artist Boat's Coastal Heritage Preserve from 1,039 acres to 1,238+ will greatly enhance the Artist Boat's ability protect and preserve wetlands and coastal prairies already conserved, fulfilling its mission to promote and preserve coastal margins and the marine environment, and serve the greater Houston Galveston community of learners with inspiration and education through unique coastal experiences. This next 40 acres of the 200 acres to add to the Preserve is critical to conserving a 3-mile long corridor of wilds in the middle of the islands ancient relic dune swale system connected to the Coastal Heritage Preserves and West Galveston Bay's hydrology of land, wetlands, sloughs, and ephemeral wetlands. These additional unique 40 acres will contribute greatly to benefits of the ecosystem for wildlife and people. We are committed partners to Artist Boat. We know they will facilitate the acquisition transaction, and then will serve as permanent conservators and stewards of the land.

We look forward to our role in the preservation of what is now the rapidly vanishing natural coastal margin on this barrier island. We are greatly appreciative of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's partnership and for your commitment to prepare and submit the proposal to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program.

Very truly yours,

Jeri Kinnear
409-682-7640

Jerry and Winkie Mohn
4210 Silver Reef – PBW#1
Galveston, Texas 77554

May, 24, 2025

Ms. Savannah Horton
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
1502 FM 517 East
Dickinson, TX 77539

RE: *The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of 8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas – 40 acres*

Dear Savannah,

I am writing on behalf of The Artist Boat, Inc. (Artist Boat) to document Jerry and Winkie Mohn's commitment to provide financial support for the required match of $333,334 for the proposed $1,000,000 grant to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The project, titled *"The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of 8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas",* will support acquisition of approximately 40 acres of coastal habitat. This project aligns with our goals of protecting and preserving as much as is feasible of the flora and fauna naturalness of Galveston Island.

We as private citizens will provide a minimum of $2,500 toward this required match.

As noted in the application, preservation of land and wetlands to expand Artist Boat's Coastal Heritage Preserve from 1,039 acres to 1,238+ will greatly enhance the Artist Boat's ability protect and preserve wetlands and coastal prairies already conserved, fulfilling its mission to promote and preserve coastal margins and the marine environment, and serve the greater Houston Galveston community of learners with inspiration and education through unique coastal experiences. This next 40 acres of the next 200 acres to add to the Preserve is critical to conserving a 3-mile long corridor of wilds in the middle of the islands ancient relic dune swale system connected to the Coastal Heritage Preserves and West Galveston Bay's hydrology of land, wetlands, sloughs, and ephemeral wetlands. These additional unique 40 acres will contribute greatly to benefits of the ecosystem for wildlife and people. We Jerry and Winkie are long time committed partners to Artist Boat and we know they will facilitate the acquisition transaction, and then will serve as permanent conservators and stewards of the land.

Winkie and I look forward to being associated with the preservation of what is now the rapidly vanishing natural coastal margin on this barrier island. We greatly appreciate Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's partnership and for your commitment to prepare and submit the proposal to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program.

Very truly yours,

Jerry Mohn
Jerry and Winkie Mohn

May 24, 2025

Ms. Savannah Horton
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
1502 FM 517 East
Dickinson, TX 77539

RE: *The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas – 40 acres*

Dear Savannah:

I am writing on behalfofThe Artist Boat, Inc. (Artist Boat) to document my commitment to provide financial support for the required match of$333,334 for the proposed $1,000,000 grant to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The project, titled *"The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas",* will support acquisition ofapproximately 40 acres ofcoastal habitat. This project aligns with my goal ofprotecting and preserving the natural resources along the GulfCoast.

I will provide $2,500 toward this required match.

As noted in the application, preservation ofland and wetlands to expand Artist Boat's Coastal Heritage Preserve from 1,039 acres to 1,238+ will greatly enhance the Artist Boat's ability protect and preserve wetlands and coastal prairies already conserved, fulfilling its mission to promote and preserve coastal margins and the marine environment, and serve the greater Houston Galveston community oflearners with inspiration and education through unique coastal experiences. This next 40 acres ofthe next 200 acres to add to the Preserve is critical to conserving a 3-mile long corridor of wilds in the middle ofthe islands ancient relic dune swale system connected to the Coastal Heritage Preserves and West Galveston Bay's hydrology ofland, wetlands, sloughs, and ephemeral wetlands. These additional unique 40 acres will contribute greatly to benefits ofthe ecosystem for wildlife and people. As board chair ofArtist Boat, I am confident that our organization will competently facilitate the acquisition transaction and thereafter serve as excellent permanent conservators and stewards ofthe land.

I am greatly appreciative ofTexas Parks & Wildlife Department's partnership and for your commitment to prepare and submit the proposal to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program.

Very truly yours,

Keith Little
Board Chair, Artist Boat

Alice Anne O'Donnel, MD
13357 Settegast Road
Galveston, Texas 77554

May24,2025

Ms. Savannah Horton
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
1502 FM 517 East
Dickinson, TX 77539

RE: *The 1 p^h Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5^th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas - 40 acres*

Dear Savannah:

I am writing on behalf of The Artist Boat, Inc. (Artist Boat) to document my (Alice Anne O'Donnel's) commitment to provide financial support for the required match of $333,334 for the proposed $1,000,000 grant to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The project, titled *"The 1 J^h Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through the 5^th Acquisition at Middle Tract (west of8 Mile Road), Galveston Island, Texas",* will support acquisition of approximately 40 acres of coastal habitat. This project aligns with our goals of protecting and preserving as much as is feasible of the flora and fauna naturalness of Galveston Island.

We as private citizens will provide a minimwn of $1,500 toward this required match.

As noted in the application, preservation of land and wetlands to expand Artist Boat's Coastal Heritage Preserve from 1,039 acres to 1,238+ will greatly enhance the Artist Boat's ability protect and preserve wetlands and coastal prairies already conserved, fulfilling its mission to promote and preserve coastal margins and the marine environment, and serve the greater Houston Galveston community of learners with inspiration and education through unique coastal experiences. This next 40 acres of the next200 acres to add to the Preserve is critical to conserving a 3-mile long corridor of wilds in the middle of the islands ancient relic dune swale system connected to the Coastal Heritage Preserves and West Galveston Bay's hydrology of land, wetlands, sloughs, and ephemeral wetlands. These additional unique 40 acres will contribute greatly to benefits of the ecosystem for wildlife and people.

I am a longtime local Galveston resident and landowner with 10 acres adjacent to the Coastal Heritage Preserve. I have been a longtime supporter of Artist Boat's grant applications and fundraising programs similar to the above, with the goal of coastal preservation on Galveston's west end.

I look forward to being associated with the preservation of what is now the rapidly vanishing natural coastal margin on this barrier island. We greatly appreciate Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's partnership and for your commitment to prepare and submit the proposal to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program.

Very truly yours,

Alice Anne O'Donnel, MD

Willing Seller
Letter

VIIIIItl 6,reeVJ, LLC

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29 April 2024

Karla Klay
Artist Boat
13330 Settegast Road
Galveston, Texas 77554

Dear Ms. Klay,

Kahala Green, LLC is prepared to sell three (3) separate tracts of land it owns on West Galveston Island in a single transaction. Kahala Green, LLC is prepared to sell those tracts 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.

Kahala Green, 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.

Kahala Green, LLC owns the three tracts shown in the attached surveys and the surve s state the following for a total of 163.876 acres:

- Tract 3-67.76 acres
- Tract 4-57.515 acres
- Tract 5 - 38.601 acres

As discussed, Kahala Green, LLC is prepared to sell these tracts at $75,000/acre and is asking to be made aware of all grant applications made and all awards granted in this transaction. Kahala Green, LLC also requests copies of the yellow-book appraisal(s) that will be done on its' land. If the grants are awarded and all other necessary funds raised, Kahala Green, LLC will proceed expeditiously as the seller to complete the conveyance of the Tracts to Artist Boat, to be preserved in perpet!,lity for habitat conservation. If the Tract$ a e conveyed, Kahala Green, LLC makes a final requirement that Artist Boat maintains the existing (:frginage easements that exist and are shown on the surveys - these easements work to manage drainage not only for TxDOT but also for neighborhoods seaward of FM3005.

y;r;;;;_ mitted

Reinha&'g.,
Kahala Green, LLC

Project
Timeline

13330 Settegast Road | Galveston, Texas 77554
artistboat.org | info@artistboat.org | 409-632-0388

Inspiration and education through unique coastal experiences

Project Timeline:

Project will be completed by December of 2026.

Due diligence will occur and be completed between 10/2025 and 12/2025; Deed and Title Documents, Conservation Easement, and other items will be completed between 1/2026, and document review and approval and closing will occur by 12/2026. Fee title Galveston Independent School District. Artist Boat will hold a perpetual conservation easement and manage the land as part of the Preserve. Closing date will be adjusted to align with agency review/acceptance for purchase requirements and funds release; followed by preparation of land protection documentation, and land Closing. After Closing, signage will be installed to acknowledge funding entities.

October 1, 2025 – Escrow Earnest Money Contract with Title Company, Begin Due Diligence (Survey, UASFLA "Yellow Book" Appraisal, Phase 1 Environmental, and Title Commitment)
August 31, 2025 – Conditional Funding Notification for PSM
November 6, 2025 – Workplan (scope and deliverables), Budget Narrative, and Other Documents Due
December 1, 2025 – Due Diligence Complete
December 31, 2025 – Finalize partnership agreement with Public Governmental Entity to hold Fee Title and Artist Boat to hold Perpetual Conservation Easement and Management Agreement
January 31, 2026 – Draft Deed with Fee Title to Public Entity, Draft Perpetual Conservation Easement to Artist Boat; and Finalize
March 31, 2026 – Final Funding Notification
May 31, 2026 – Final Funding Contract
May 31, 2025 – Documents to Agencies for Review
June 2026 to December 2026 – Set Closing Date and Close

Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Fiscal 2027 Project Proposal

Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by July 25, 2025. 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 TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Natural Resource Uses (NRU)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Choose an item.

Project Name:

Shoreline Restoration at Galveston Island S.P. & Prairie Restoration/Wetland Creation at UH Coastal Center

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) in Partnership with University of Houston Coastal Center

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*

Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:	EVA9NVGH2K85
Vendor Identification Number (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:

$250,000

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒
Is the project scalable? ☐

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	$0.00
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	$0.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	$0.00
Total	$0.00

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2026 – ending no later than May 31, 2029) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

09/01/2026 – 12/31/2028

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

700,000

Is this an estimate? ☒

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

TPWD Coastal Fisheries and State Parks Divisions, in partnership with the University of Houston Coastal Center (UHCC) have received $450,000 in donated funds from the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (TPWF) to complete a coastal prairie and coastal shoreline habitat restoration project. The February 7th, 2025, letter sent to Dr. David Yaslowitz, documenting the commitment of funds is available upon request. TPWF is also providing media services through its staff and contractor to prepare an educational video of the project from start to finish which will illustrate the value of creating living shoreline and the restoration of coastal prairie. The project is also leveraging the value of the oyster shell material that UHCC is providing to TPWD from their property in exchange for a completed prairie and wetland creation restoration within the oyster shell excavation site.

Project Urgency:

While project partners are not facing imminent loss of funds, much of the funding secured for this project comes from private sources, e.g., corporations and private foundations. These private funders often reserve the right to request the return of funds for projects that are not completed according to the originally communicated timelines and scope. As a result, it is possible that if the project cannot be completed according to the original scope and/or timeline, December 2028, funders may decide to exercise their right to request the return of funds. Furthermore, these private funders collectively control significant funding for conservation efforts in general, and an inability to complete the project according to a reasonable/expected timeframe could cause a loss of confidence in project partners' abilities to competently execute projects and realize meaningful conservation gains, jeopardizing future funding for other worthy conservation initiatives.

A budget shortfall has been identified (estimates to be determined) to complete the project. If additional funding is not secured to cover the shortfall and begin project construction in 2026, there is a risk that the project will not be able to be completed by the agreed upon deadline, which is 24 months from the start date of 09/01/2026.

SECTION THREE: *GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION* IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the Fiscal 2027 Subcommittee Priorities (Section Four) will be considered above others. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* Action Plans 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/

Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:

Plan Priority 1: Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

NPS-1 ☒	NPS-2 ☐	NPS-3 ☒	NPS-4 ☒	
PS-1 ☐	PS-2 ☐	PS-3 ☐		
PHA-1 ☐	PHA-2 ☐	PHA-3 ☐	PHA-4 ☐	PHA-5 ☐

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 3: Engage Communities

SPO-1 ☒	SPO-2 ☒	SPO-3 ☒	SPO-4 ☐
PEA-1 ☐	PEA-2 ☐	PEA-3 ☐	

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:

GISP – Galveston Island State Park **UHCC – University of Houston Coastal Center**

NPS-1 (Support Watershed-Based Plan)

UHCC: Project implements Management Measure #10 of Highland/Marchand Bayou Watershed Protection Plan at UHCC by preserving and restoring coastal prairie, a natural area which is specifically noted in the WPP as needing protection.

NPS-3 (Implement NPS Best Mgmt.)

GISP: NPS-3, which seeks to reduce NPS pollutants entering water bodies, is implemented by protecting wetlands along the GISP shoreline from erosion, which absorbs and filters rainfall and runoff and slow overland flow, reducing pollutants entering Receiving streams and Galveston Bay. Additionally, by implementing an intertidal oyster reef living shoreline, water entering the bay will pass through the filter feeders, reducing the overload of nutrients entering the bay from runoff.

UHCC: NPS-3, which seeks to reduce NPS pollutants entering water bodies, is implemented by restoring coastal prairie which absorbs rainfall and runoff and slowing overland flow, reducing pollutants entering Receiving streams and Galveston Bay.

HC-2 (Habitat Restoration) and HC-3 (Habitat Enhancement)

GISP: Replacing failed geotextile tubes at Dana Cove with a living shoreline using oystershell material will restore and stabilize eroding shoreline and allow the planting of estuarine marsh grasses behind the oystershell mounds to enhance Galveston Bay wildlife habitat The oystershell substrate will also be used to

create a nesting island within Dana Cove, which contains substrate suitable for nesting shorebirds and potentially diamondback terrapins.

UHCC: Increasing the acreage of coastal prairie by 7.62 acres in the Highland Bayou watershed implements actions HC-2 and HC-3. Shredding/mulching of invasive species on a total of 23 acres which have displaced native prairie grasses and forbs, followed by herbicide and secondary mulching to prepare acreage to support native species is integral to restoring functional prairie habitat. Collecting local ecotype seed at UHCC for later sowing will enhance the restoration. Linking prairie units to wetland improves wildlife habitat. Creation of 1 acre wetland and linkage to existing pond benefits wildlife.

SC-1 (Sustain & restore Native Species) and SC-2 (Reduce Invasive Species)

GISP: The planting of estuarine marsh grasses behind the oystershell mounds will restore native species, supporting SC-1. The creation of oystershell mounds and a nesting island will sustain shorebirds and herpetofauna, such as oystercatchers and diamondback terrapins, by providing additional suitable nesting substrate in Galveston Bay. Diamondback terrapin are considered a species of concern in Texas. The creation of oystershell mounds will also buffer and filter the water and create conditions suitable for seagrass habitats to return to Dana Cove.

UHCC: Removal of invasive species (Chinese tallow, privet, Macartney rose) through mechanical means and herbicide and replacing them with native coastal prairie species will support SC-1 and SC-2.

SPO-1 (Stewardship and Volunteer Opportunities)

GISP: SPO-1 is implemented by the potential to use Texas Master Naturalists and other volunteers to plant estuarine marsh grass behind the oystershell mounds.

UHCC: Volunteers will support the habitat enhancement of the existing pond, which will be connected to the one acre of project-created wetland, with plantings of wetland and upland plants.

SPO-2 (Support & promote workshops & events that facilitate stakeholder and partner involvement)

GISP & UHCC: GISP will organize and promote marsh grass planting with Texas Master Naturalists that will enhance Galveston Bay habitat. GISP and UHCC will cooperate to host a dual workshop focusing on the multiple benefits of using oystershell to build a living shoreline at GISP and the process of establishing a mosaic of wetland and coastal prairie at UHCC.

SPO-3 (Support Back the Bay campaign)

GISP & UHCC: As a project partner, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation will supply media services to educate the public about the project's importance to shoreline restoration in Galveston Bay and the restoration of bay and coastal prairie 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.

Subcommittee Identified Priorities

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

☐ WSQ: Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans.
☒ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
☐ WSQ: Public health risk awareness outreach campaigns related to contact recreation and/or seafood consumption.
☐ NRU: Habitat acquisition.
☒ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts with special emphasis on:
- ☒ Adaptive management for previously completed projects.
- ☐ Projects that have lost funding from other federal sources; and

☒ Nonnative species management.

☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.

☒ NRU: Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program.

☒ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost

☐ PPE: Empowers K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.

☐ PPE: Connects new audiences to existing/completed projects or the natural habitat.

☒ PPE: Opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops/networking for education and outreach practitioners on key topics.

☐ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.

☒ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially species of concern, WSQ, PPE).

☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay.

☐ M&R: 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.

☐ Investigate ecosystem services and economic valuation of bay resources.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

GISP – Galveston Island State Park **UHCC – University of Houston Coastal Center**

☒ WSQ: Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans.

UHCC: Project implements Management Measure #10 of Highland/Marchand Bayou Watershed Protection Plan at UHCC by preserving and restoring coastal prairie, a natural area which is specifically noted in the WPP as needing protection.

☒ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.

GISP: NPS-3, which seeks to reduce NPS pollutants entering water bodies, is implemented by protecting wetlands along the GISP shoreline from erosion, which absorb and filter rainfall and runoff and slowing overland flow, reducing pollutants entering Receiving streams and Galveston Bay. Additionally, by implementing an intertidal oyster reef living shoreline, water entering the bay will pass through the filter feeders, reducing the overload of nutrients entering the bay from runoff.

UHCC: NPS-3, which seeks to reduce NPS pollutants entering water bodies, is implemented by restoring coastal prairie which absorbs rainfall and runoff and slowing overland flow, reducing pollutants entering Receiving streams and Galveston Bay.

NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts with special emphasis on:
☒ Adaptive management for previously completed projects and Non-native species management:

GISP: Previously, a geotextile tube was installed within Dana Cove to address erosion of seagrass and marsh habitat along the bayside of the Galveston Island State Park (GISP) shoreline. However, over time the geotextile tube failed and became derelict (Image 1). A rock breakwater (installation complete in 2021) was added after the geotextile tubes failed and protects habitats within Dana Cove, such as marsh and bird nesting islands. However, seagrass habitat continues to be severely degraded by poor water quality and higher energy in Dana Cove (Image 2). By creating a living shoreline through the placement of oyster shell mounds along the derelict geotextile tube, this project aims to re-establish the reduction of energy the geotextile tube provided and improve water quality to encourage conditions that support seagrass within Dana Cove. Additionally, this project will support ongoing marsh restoration effort in Dana Cove by providing excess oyster shell material to a GLO led project that is creating marsh habitat through the beneficial use of dredge material (Figure 3).

The shell will provide a living shoreline component along a proposed rock berm that will encircle the marsh material once it is placed.

UHCC: The project will remove and control non-native species from 23 acres and restore coastal prairie species on 7.62 acres within the oystershell excavation zone and create approximately 1 acre of wetland that will connect to an existing pond. It aligns with ongoing UHCC prairie restoration and wetland enhancement work and regional efforts to preserve and restore coastal prairie.

☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.

GISP: The protection of shallow waters in West Bay and the restoration of conditions that support seagrass habitat provides beneficial foraging habitat to Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle, a federally listed species. The protection of these waters and addition of shell hash islands in Dana Cove can provide valuable foraging and nesting habitat for Diamondback Terrapins, listed as vulnerable in Texas on the Species of Greatest Conservation Need List.

UHCC: The project will restore coastal prairie, which is itself a threatened ecosystem. The restored costal prairie and the created wetland will provide a biodiverse native plant habitat for wildlife, including pollinators and birds. Native milkweed, the host plant for monarch butterfly larvae, is found throughout the UHCC prairie areas. The created wetland area will be connected to an existing manmade pond that is currently being enhanced with brush piles for fish habitat and native wetland plants.

☒ NRU: Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program.

This project will leverage a previously committed $450,000 for project completion, the oyster shell provided in exchange for prairie and wetland restoration and addresses multiple priority area benefits as addressed in Section Three.

The in-kind videography and programming resources provided by TPW Foundation will extend the public education outreach of the project to a much wider audience.

☒ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost

A budget shortfall has been identified (estimate to be determined) to complete the project. If additional funding is not secured to cover the shortfall and begin project construction in 2026, there is a risk that the project will not be able to be completed by the agreed upon deadline, which is 24 months from the start date of 09/01/2026.

☒ PPE: Opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops/networking for education and outreach practitioners on key topics.

GISP & UHCC: GISP will organize and promote marsh grass planting with Texas Master Naturalists that will enhance Galveston Bay habitat. GISP and UHCC will cooperate to host a dual workshop focusing on the multiple benefits of using oystershell to build a living shoreline at GISP and the process of establishing a mosaic of wetland and coastal prairie at UHCC.

M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially species of concern, WSQ, PPE).

GISP: TPWD and UHCC are partnering with the University of Houston Clear Lake's (UHCL) Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH) to provide access to this project site for pre-and post-restoration terrapin nesting surveys. UHCL EIH has submitted a proposal (Pre- and Post-Restoration Terrapin Nesting Surveys at Galveston Island State Park) to the NRU subcommittee for this monitoring project. This project will support the surveys by providing pre-and-post restoration site conditions and access. Data compiled during pre-restoration terrapin surveys will inform this project and its design so that best management practices can be used for restoring terrapin nesting habitat. EIH will provide the project team with historic data from the UHCL Terrapin Monitoring Program and be involved in the design process for terrapin habitats. The partnership will also provide this project with meaningful monitoring data post completion.

Does the Project align with any EPA Areas of Special Interest?

☐ Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health
☒ Make Investments that Address Coastal Resiliency
☐ Reduce Trash

The project is consistent with the Texas Coastal Resilience Master Plan. It addresses the issues of Degraded or Lost Habitat, Bay Shoreline Change, and Inland Flooding.

The project directly invests in coastal resiliency as the project elements strengthen the ecological function and adaptive capacity of coastal environments, aligning strongly with EPA's goals for enhancing coastal resiliency.

The project will stabilize shorelines through the implementation of a living shoreline using oyster shell material to create intertidal oyster reef mounds. This will reduce erosion, improve water quality, and buffer storm surge impacts along the Galveston Island State Park (GISP) shoreline. This will protect and enhance key coastal habitats—including historic seagrass beds and emergent marshes.

The project will restore native coastal prairie and freshwater wetland habitat at UHCC, which is in a FEMA special hazard area for flooding. The restoration of native habitats will increase the landscape's capacity for water infiltration and slow overland flow during heavy rainfall, reducing urban flooding.

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 twofold: 1) to restore eroding shoreline on the bayside of Galveston Island State Park by transporting and placing oyster shell material excavated from UHCC property in La Marque, TX and 2) restore the oyster shell excavation site by undertaking a coastal prairie restoration on approximately 7.62 acres as well as an approximately 1.0 acres of wetland which will be connected by channel to an existing pond. The excavation site is contained within a 23-acre site where brush will be cleared and controlled.

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

This project will protect an eroding shoreline and restore seagrass and marsh habitats within Dana Cove of Galveston Island State Park (Appendix A, Figure 1) by transporting and placing approximately 11,298 cubic yards of oyster shell material excavated from UHCC in La Marque, TX (Appendix A, Figure 3) into approximately 685 intertidal oyster reef mounds (Appendix A, Figure 2). The project will also restore the oyster shell excavation site at UHCC by undertaking a coastal prairie restoration on approximately 7.62 acres of the excavation site as well as creating approximately 0.8-acre of wetland which will be connected by a channel (for a total of 1 acre of created wetland) to an existing pond. The pond is being enhanced for wildlife via a UHCC volunteer project. The excavation site is contained within a 23-acre site where woody brush and invasive species will be cleared and controlled (Appendix A, Figure 4).

The 925-acre UH Coastal Center is within the Highland Bayou and Lower Galveston Bay watersheds (Appendix A, Figure 5) in La Marque, Texas, which includes around 300 acres of coastal prairie under management or being actively restored. The remaining acreage at UHCC contains degraded prairie. manmade wetlands, and potential prairie restoration sites. One of the UHCC's prairie restoration sites is a part of WWII-era Camp Wallace that contains partially buried, suitable shell material consisting of broken, whole, and shell hash. (Appendix B, Image 3A/3B). A Tier I environmental site assessment will be performed prior to the start of any project activities to ensure the shell is not contaminated by prior site use activities.

The removal of this material from UHCC land will provide an opportunity for native prairie restoration and freshwater wetland creation as the site is currently dominated by woody brush and non-native species such as Macartney rose (*Rosa bracteata*). The prairie project will restore elevations within the site, control woody

brush and invasive species, and plant native prairie species. The restoration of coastal prairie habitat supports rich plant and insect biodiversity, including important populations of pollinators, as well as many species of birds. The wetland project will excavate a 0.8-acre site to elevations appropriate to support native freshwater wetlands and connect the wetland through the installation of a culvert to an existing channel and pond on the property (Appendix B, Image 4A/4B).

Once covering most of the Texas coastal plain, 6.5 million acres, coastal prairie is now a critically imperiled habitat and has been reduced to less than one percent of its original extent. UHCC has a slice of the remaining Gulf Coast prairie at the landscape level, providing important native habitat for wildlife species within the Texas Gulf Coastal Plain. UHCC's prairie restoration efforts seek to restore some of this lost acreage within the Texas coastal plain. Over 364 plant species have been identified at UHCC. Restoring native prairie habitats and managing the land for native species enhances vital biodiversity, provides native habitat for wildlife and pollinator species, and serves as a seed source for other coastal prairie restoration projects.

The bayside of GISP, Dana Cove and Lake Como, encompasses over 200 acres of important coastal bay habitats. Aerial imagery shows significant degradation of these habitats (Appendix B, Image 2). Previously restored marsh complexes and rock breakwaters protect estuarine habitat within the cove, such as seagrass, emergent marsh, scattered oyster shell, and mud flats. While the previously completed breakwater and marsh restoration projects have significantly slowed the loss of habitat in these areas, there is still a lot of energy within Dana Cove eroding shoreline habitats. A previously completed geotextile tube was placed within Dana Cove to protect seagrass and estuarine marsh habitats but is now derelict and is no longer performing as it was meant to (Appendix B, Image 1). Aerial imagery shows the loss of important seagrass and marsh habitats as the geotextile tube became derelict within this cove. This project will replace the derelict tube's lost function by placing oystershell mounds as a living shoreline feature along the remnant geotextile tube. Therefore, the Dana Cove project will continue to buffer the shoreline from erosional forces and restore, through planting efforts, significantly degraded marsh and seagrass habitats and associated ecological functions within the area. The project also seeks to support diamondback terrapin and oystercatcher nesting habitat through the placement of a shell hash island within Dana Cove.

The project will directly benefit avian and estuarine fish and herpetofauna species by enhancing and supporting the recovery of emergent marsh and seagrass habitats, which will support recreational fishing and birding opportunities within the park. GISP has a list of 285 bird species that use the park and its protected habitats. Providing appropriate nesting substrate within the cove will support species such as nesting oystercatchers and diamondback terrapin. If a proposal (Pre- and Post-Restoration Terrapin Nesting Surveys at Galveston Island State Park) being submitted by UH-Clear Lake/Environmental Institute of Houston to GBEP is funded, a complementary project will monitor for nesting diamondback terrapins at the GISP project site both pre- and post-construction. The hard substrate will be suitable for oyster and encrusting species (e.g. bryozoans and barnacles) attachment and enhance oyster habitat in these protected coves that are not open to harvest. The interstitial spaces created will support crustacean species (porcelain crab ssp., mud crab ssp., and shrimp), increasing important foraging habitat for avian and fish species.

In addition to protecting and increasing valuable habitats, the project will also improve water quality and provide flood water absorption at both project sites.

Other Plans Implemented:

Texas Coastal Management Program (GLO) - Preserves, restore, and enhances the diversity, quality, quantity, functions and values of coastal natural resource areas. The work at UHCC fulfills the Habitat and Restoration goal.
Texas Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan - 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.
Galveston Bay Foundation Habitat Conservation Blueprint - Restore and protect important Galveston Bay habitats, including estuarine intertidal marsh. Supports conservation of habitat identified as a priority conservation site.
U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan Lower Mississippi/Western Gulf Coast Shorebird Planning Region - Conserve Gulf coastal habitat, one of the most important regions in the United States for migratory shorebirds, and waterbirds.
The Nature Conservancy's Coast Prairies & Marshes Ecoregional Conservation Plan - Preserves habitat within the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes ecoregion.
West [Galveston] Bay Conservation Initiative - Protect habitats along Galveston Bay.
Comprehensive Plan a Shared Vision for Galveston Island - Preserves and protects sensitive natural resources, including wetlands and permanently protect open space on Galveston Island.
Galveston Bay Estuary Resiliency Action Plan - Preserves and protects sensitive natural resources which supports the goals of coastal resiliency in the plan.
Highland Bayou Coastal Basin Watershed Protection Plan - Restoration at UHCC is consistent with Management Measure #10 for existing natural areas.

Does the Project work with new, smaller communities/partnerships?
☒ Yes
☐ No

The project will partner with the University of Houston Coastal Center, a new funding partnership for the Galveston Bay Estuary Program.

Is the project subject to Title VI requirements?
To meet federal nondiscrimination guidance and laws (Title VI), TCEQ requires information and services to be provided in languages other than English when significant numbers of beneficiaries are of limited English-speaking ability (LEP). If 5% or more of the population within your project area is LEP and share a common language, then you are required to provide outreach in the alternative language. For statewide projects, Spanish language outreach is required. As Title VI compliance could impact the project budget, please reach out to the primary subcommittee coordinator for this application with questions on determining applicability and EJScreen instructions.

☐ Yes
☒ No

Not applicable.

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

UHCC Project Site: 29.3883083, -95.0485128
Dana Cove Project Site: 29.2135433, -94.9573680

Location:

UHCC Project Site: Gulf Coast Prairie and Marshes Ecoregion, San Jacinto-Brazos Coastal Basin – Lower Galveston Bay Watershed - Highland Bayou watershed
Dana Cove Project Site: Gulf Coast Prairie and Marshes Ecoregion, San Jacinto-Brazos Coastal Basin - Lower Galveston Bay Watershed - West Galveston Bay

Partners[1] and Their Roles:

The University of Houston Coastal Center – Texas Institute for Coastal Prairie Research and Education
Contact: Evelyn Merz, Program Director, elmerz@central.uh.edu, 713-201-4061

UHCC is the source of the oystershell material and in consideration of the value of the excavated oyster shell, the UHCC will provide the shell to TPWD at no cost and TPWD will undertake a coastal prairie restoration and wetland creation within the excavated site on UHCC property. A memorandum of agreement has been put in place between UHCC and TPWD to cooperatively work together on completing the project. The partner, UHCC, will cooperate in planning of site preparation, prairie restoration, participate in project meetings and provide input on the process, design, and monitoring of the project to ensure a successful output. The partner will also allow awarded contractors and TPWD reasonable access to the UHCC property to prepare and complete surveys, estimates, and design reports. TPWD and UHCC will cooperate to facilitate media outreach and access to UHCC property to further public education about the importance of the project.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation
Contact: Julie Shaddox, jshaddox@tpwf.org

Provided $50,000 in funding towards the project. Contact participates in project meetings and site visits, providing insight and additional fundraising efforts for the project. Partner is working towards the development of a media project with project team to educate the public about the project's importance to shoreline restoration in Galveston Bay and the restoration of bay and coastal prairie habitat.

Coastal Conservation Association
Contact: Pat Murray, pdmurray@joincca.org

Provided $400,000 in funding, administered through TPWF. Contact participates in project meetings and site visits, providing insight and additional fundraising efforts for the project.

The University of Houston Clear Lake – Environmental Institute of Houston
Contact: Mandi Gordon, Gordon@UHCL.edu; Interim Associate Director, Research Programs

Mandi will serve as a project partner. She has submitted a related proposal to the NRU subcommittee to support pre- and post-restoration terrapin nesting surveys related to the current project. Data compiled during pre-restoration surveys will be shared with UHCC and TPWD so that best management practices can be used for restoring terrapin nesting habitat areas. Mandi will also provide the project team with historic data from the UHCL Terrapin Monitoring Program, as it is needed by the current project team.

Projects Map:

See Appendix A

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

See Appendix B

[1] If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted as an appendix with the application.

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:

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	$0.00
Fringe Benefits **(##%)**[2]	$0.00
Travel	$0.00
Supplies	$0.00
Equipment	$0.00
Contractual	$250,000.00
Construction	$0.00
Other	$0.00
Total Direct Cost	$250,000.00

b. Indirect Costs[3]

Distribution Base Amount *(identify Base type below)*	$ 0.00
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	%
Total Indirect Costs	$ 0.00

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	$ 250,000

Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):
N/A

[2] If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.
[3] Please attach Indirect Cost Agreement as an appendix if applicable

Shoreline Restoration at Galveston Island S.P.
&
Prairie Restoration/Wetland Creation at UH Coastal Center

Appendix A – Project Maps

Figure 1: Overview of Galveston Island State Park Dana Cove project site.

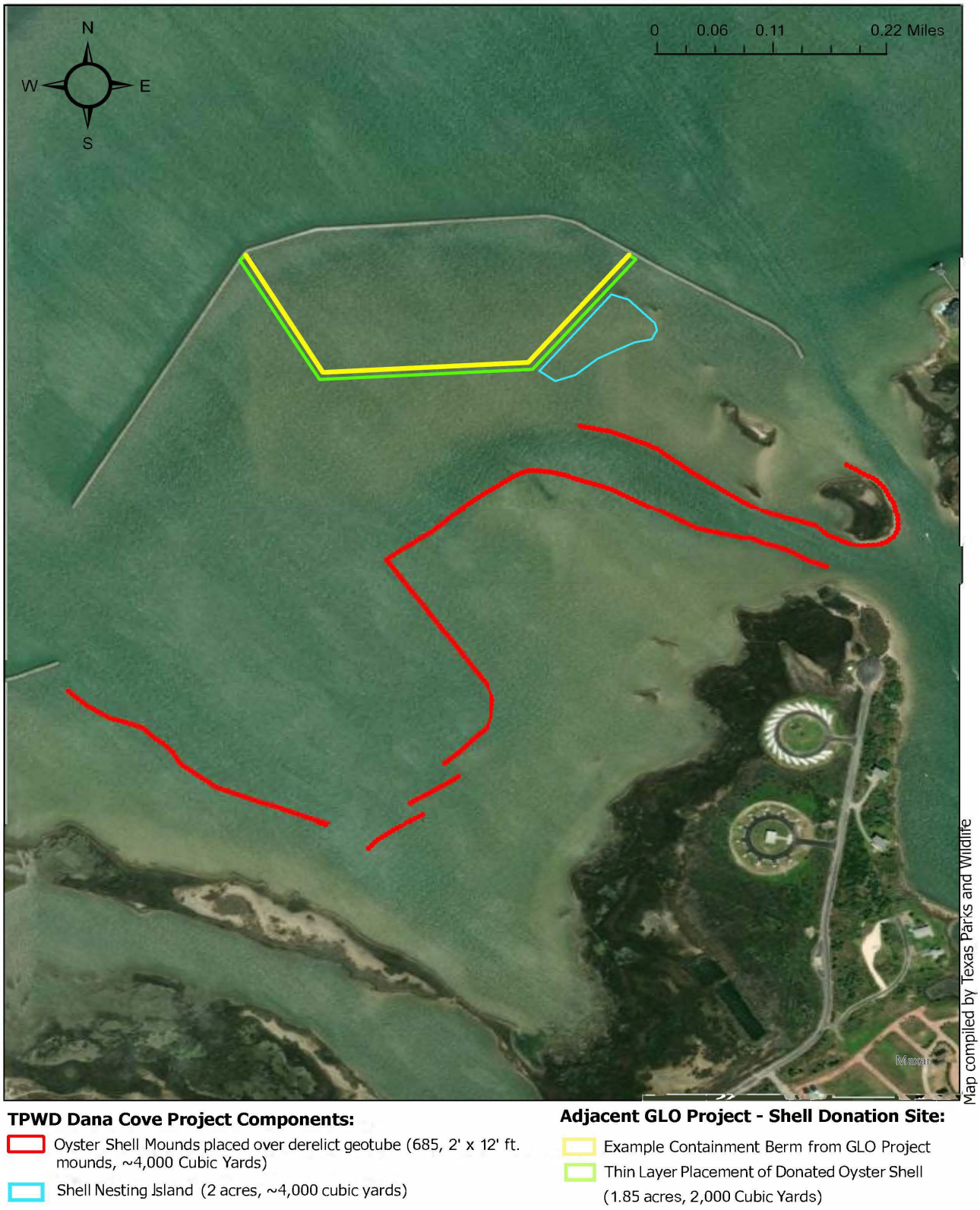

Figure 2 - Proposed project site and shell placement (2' x 12' mounds) and proposed oyster shell donation amount and location within Dana Cove.

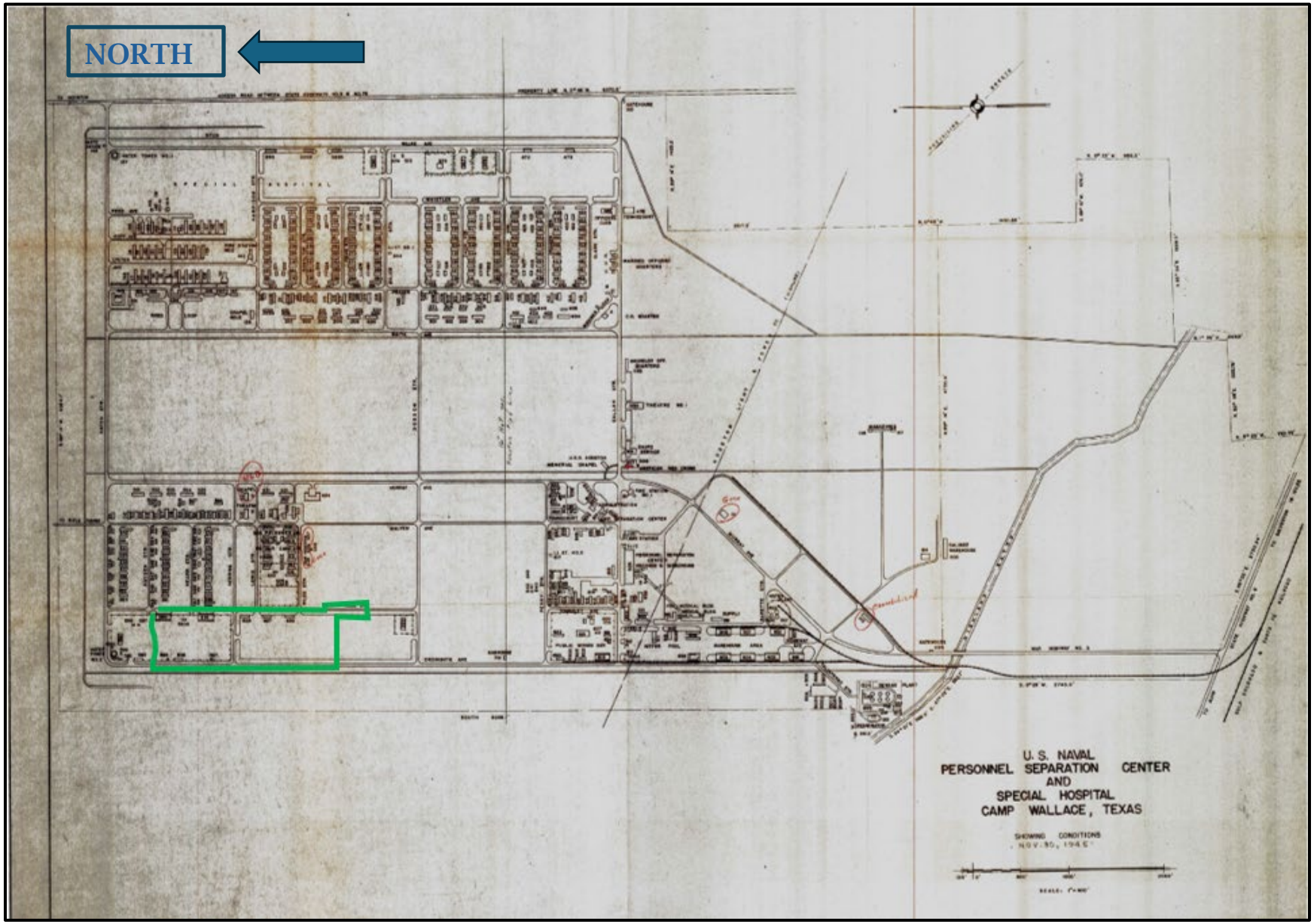

Figure 3: UH Coastal Center / 1945 Camp Wallace map with project site outlined in green.

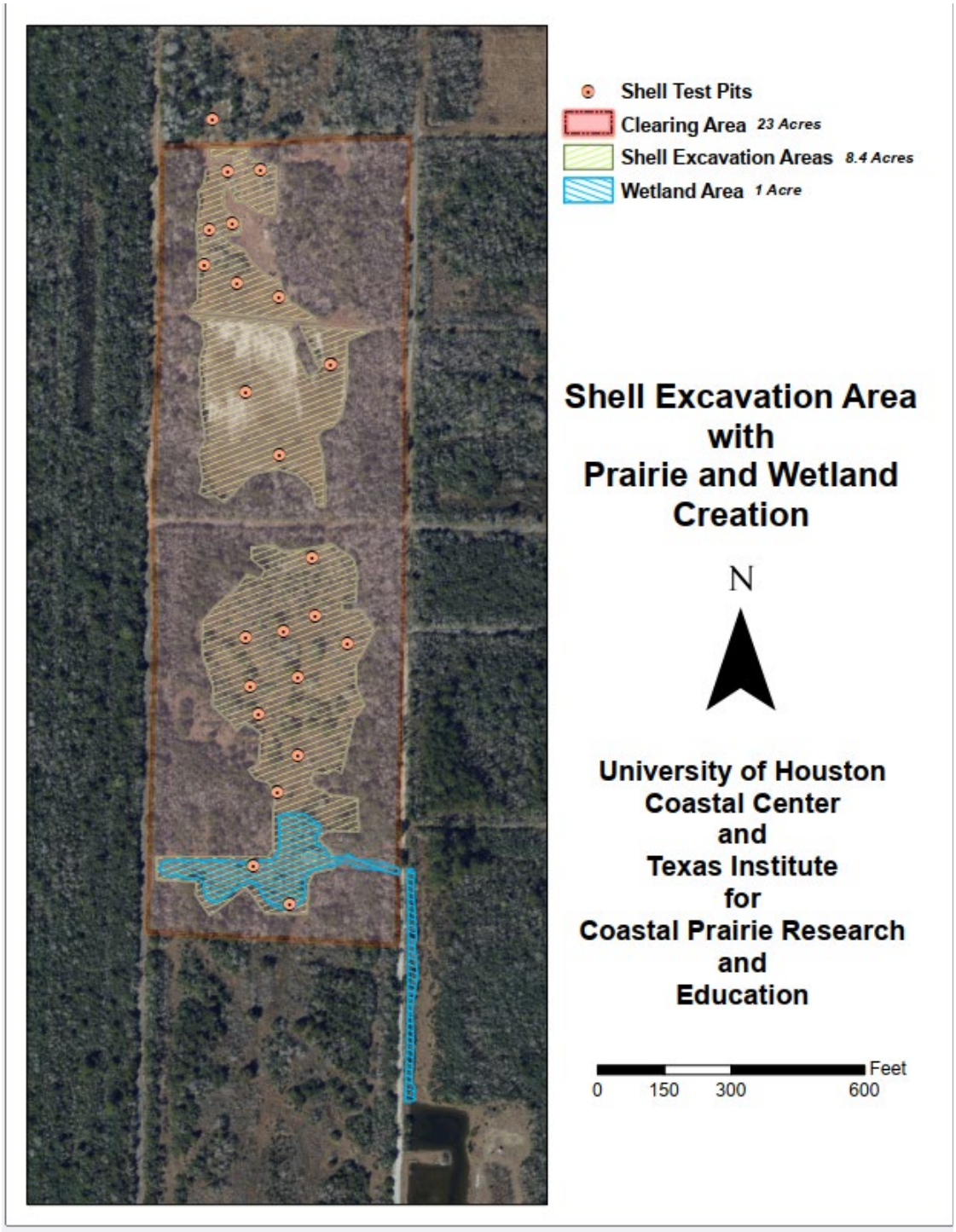

Figure 4: Detail of UH Coastal Center project site, showing 23-acres to be cleared, shell excavation area, and areas of native prairie restoration and wetland creation.

Figure 5: Topographic map of former Camp Wallace (UH Coastal Center) showing location with respect to Highland Bayou.

Shoreline Restoration at Galveston Island S.P.
&
Prairie Restoration/Wetland Creation at UH Coastal Center

Appendix B – Supplemental Photos

Image 1: Derelict geotextile tube within Dana Cove. at Galveston Island State Park.

Image 2: Galveston Island State Park Dana Cove project site in 1953, 2009, and 2023. Demonstrating the loss of marsh and seagrass habitats.

Image 3A: Aerial view of UH Coastal Center project site looking south.

Image 3B: Aerial view of UH Coastal Center project site looking due north. Project east and west boundaries are internal roads on the left and right of the photo.

Image 4A: Existing pond of approximately 2 acres that will be connected to created wetland on project site.

Image 4B: Northern end of existing pond, where the created wetland on project site will be connected. Foreground shows a 'peninsula' that projects into the pond.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Fiscal 2027 Project Proposal

Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by July 25, 2025. 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 TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Natural Resource Uses (NRU)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Monitoring and Research (M&R)

Project Name:

Pre- and Post-Restoration Terrapin Nesting Habitat Surveys at Galveston Island State Park

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

University of Houston-Clear Lake; Environmental Institute of Houston

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*

Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:	RD74AUNCTZJ1
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	State: 3-75975-9759-2; Federal: 74-6001399

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Mandi Gordon
Project Representative Phone	281-283-3794
Project Representative Email	gordon@uhcl.edu

Amount Requested from GBEP:

$ 103,613.38; *Note: this project can be started as early as September 1, 2025 (FY26) and is scalable*

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☐
Is the project scalable? ☐

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	$ 50,424.97 (Pre-restoration surveys; starting as early as FY26)
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	$ 53,188.42 (Post-restoration surveys; starting as early as FY27)
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	$ 0.00
Total	$ 103,613.38 (scalable by year)

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2026 – ending no later than May 31, 2029) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

09/01/2025-08/31/2027 if funded for FY26
09/01/2026-08/31/2028 if funded for FY27

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

$ 103,613.38

Is this an estimate? ☐

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

The Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH) at the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) maintains the longest, consistently running Terrapin Monitoring Program in the state. While Galveston Island State Park is not part of routine monitoring activities, general Terrapin Monitoring Program costs are ~$10-20K per year for bi-annual surveys (depending on frequency and available time; estimate includes staff/student salary, vessel and vehicle use rates, and supplies). Costs for the proposed study are minimized based on existing supplies and personnel expertise from our Terrapin Monitoring Program activities.

Project Urgency:

This proposal is being submitted in partnership with another proposal from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and University of Houston Coastal Center (UHCC) entitled “Shoreline Restoration at Galveston Island S.P. & Prairie Restoration/Wetland Creation at UH Coastal Center”. If the TPWD/UHCC proposal is funded for FY27, pre-restoration nesting surveys must be conducted in FY26, prior to any restoration activities.

The current project timeline for nesting surveys is from September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2027, but if restoration activities through the TPWD project are delayed, the nesting survey project timeline may need to be extended to accommodate post-restoration survey efforts. Because of this, we have made the project scalable in that “Year 1” costs represent pre-restoration survey efforts and “Year 2” costs represent post-restoration survey efforts. Should the GBEP decide to fund only one year of the study, the pre-restoration surveys must be funded ahead of restoration efforts (assuming the TPWD project is funded).

In addition to the urgency in timing with the paired TPWD/UHCC project, no formal terrapin nesting surveys have been conducted in Galveston Island State Park (GISP) within the past decade, though terrapin have been documented through informal reports and anecdotal observations. Therefore, actual use of the associated habitat(s) as viable nesting areas is largely unknown. If funded, these pre-restoration survey efforts are critical to better understanding the nesting habitat use of terrapin within GISP.

SECTION THREE: *GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION* IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the Fiscal 2027 Subcommittee Priorities (Section Four) will be considered above others. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* Action Plans 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/

Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:

Plan Priority 1: Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

NPS-1 ☐	NPS-2 ☐	NPS-3 ☐	NPS-4 ☐	
PS-1 ☐	PS-2 ☐	PS-3 ☐		
PHA-1 ☐	PHA-2 ☐	PHA-3 ☐	PHA-4 ☐	PHA-5 ☐

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 3: Engage Communities

SPO-1 ☐	SPO-2 ☐	SPO-3 ☐	SPO-4 ☐
PEA-1 ☐	PEA-2 ☐	PEA-3 ☐	

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:

Our proposal is being submitted in partnership with another proposal from the TPWD and UHCC entitled "Shoreline Restoration at Galveston Island S.P. & Prairie Restoration/Wetland Creation at UH Coastal Center". This partner project addresses priorities NPS-1, NPS-3, NPS-4, HC-2, HC-3, SC-1, SC-2, SPO-1, SPO-2, and SPO-3 (see related proposal for more details). The work included in the current proposal supplements these priorities in the following ways:

HC-2 (Habitat Restoration) and HC-3 (Habitat Enhancement)
The current proposal supports the associated restoration and enhancement plan submitted by TPWD/UHCC by compiling necessary data for determining best management practices in restoring viable terrapin nesting habitat(s). While terrapin are known to prefer shell hash and sandy beaches in areas along the Texas coast, actual use of available nesting habitat within GISP is largely unknown. The results of pre-restoration nesting surveys (including habitat assessment) will be shared with TPWD/UHCC prior to restoration efforts. Post-restoration nesting surveys will be critical in understanding how efforts may have changed or affected nesting site selection by female terrapin.

SC-1 (Native Species Management)
As a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Texas, better understanding of preferred nesting habitats for terrapin is needed by conservation managers. In Texas, formal nesting surveys have been documented only in the grey literature (two studies completed by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi researchers in the middle Texas coast, one study completed as part of a Master's thesis by a UHCL student). The proposed work will fill knowledge gaps in terrapin nesting habitat preference and structure, and will represent the first formal nesting survey conducted in GISP.

RES-3 (Conduct Physical Stressor Monitoring and Research) and RES-8 (Complete Coastal Resiliency and Acclimation Studies)
Physical stressors (such as coastal erosion or shoreline hardening) directly impact nesting habitats utilized by terrapin and other coastal wildlife. Additionally, changing sea levels and climatic activities directly impact the resiliency of coastline habitats. For conservation or resource managers to make informed decisions about habitat restoration, alteration, or management strategies, a better understanding of how these habitats are utilized by nesting terrapins is needed. The proposed study directly informs physical stressor monitoring and coastal resiliency decisions for preserving our native wildlife.

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.

Subcommittee Identified Priorities

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

☐ WSQ: Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans.
☐ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
☐ WSQ: Public health risk awareness outreach campaigns related to contact recreation and/or seafood consumption.
☐ NRU: Habitat acquisition.
☒ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts with special emphasis on:
  ☐ Adaptive management for previously completed projects;
  ☐ Projects that have lost funding from other federal sources; and
  ☐ Nonnative species management.
☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
☐ NRU: Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program.
☐ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost
☐ PPE: Empowers K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.
☐ PPE: Connects new audiences to existing/completed projects or the natural habitat.
☐ PPE: Opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops/networking for education and outreach practitioners on key topics.
☐ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
☒ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially species of concern, WSQ, PPE).
☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay.
☒ M&R: 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.
☐ Investigate ecosystem services and economic valuation of bay resources.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts
This project directly supports the proposal submitted by TWPD and UHCC for coastal prairie restoration and shoreline restoration efforts. The resulting data will be used to guide final restoration project design elements to support improvements of or addition to preferred terrapin nesting habitats.

NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including Species of Greatest Conservation Need or Nongame Wildlife
As a species of greatest conservation need in Texas, limited information about the nesting habitat preferences for the diamondback terrapin have constrained resource managers from making informed decisions related to conservation decisions. The proposed study will compile needed information about nesting habitat preference and availability.

M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially species of concern)
If funded, the TPWD and UHCC project will represent a new NRU project for shoreline and habitat restoration. The current proposed study supplements the monitoring data that will be used for restoration project design decisions to help with improving terrapin nesting habitat availability in Texas.

M&R: Assessment, exposure, and response to stressors, including Species of Greatest Conservation Need
Coastal and shoreline erosion, habitat loss, and sea level fluctuations have a direct affect on terrapin nesting habitat availability and selection. The currently proposed study will compile much needed information about preferred nesting habitats and how mitigation (e.g., restoration) efforts can be implemented to improve habitat distribution.

Does the Project align with any EPA Areas of Special Interest?
☐ Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health
☐ Make Investments that Address Coastal Resiliency
☐ Reduce Trash

While the current proposal does not directly address EPA Areas of Special Interest, the partner project submitted by TPWD and UHCC addresses investments in Coastal Resiliency. These include consistencies with the Texas Coastal Resilience Master Plan (Degraded or Lost Habitat, Bay Shoreline Change, and Inland Flooding), alignments with the EPA's goals for enhancing coastal resiliency, shoreline stabilization, and native coastal habitat restoration. More details can be found in the TPWD/UHCC full proposal.

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 directly supports the TPWD and UHCC project entitled "Shoreline Restoration at Galveston Island S.P. & Prairie Restoration/Wetland Creation at UH Coastal Center". Due to the paucity of information about preferred terrapin nesting habitat in GISP and the uncertainty of the impact that the impending shoreline restoration efforts by TPWD and UHCC may have on terrapin nesting habitat, we will conduct pre- and post-restoration nesting habitat surveys. By synergizing these projects, recommendations will be provided to resource and conservation managers to make informed decisions on improving terrapin nesting habitat in the future.

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

In coastal areas, sea level fluctuations and anthropogenic development have a major impact on shoreline structure and composition. Marine and estuarine turtles rely on beaches and their associated coastal marshes as critical nesting areas. The Diamondback Terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*; "terrapin") is a species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) in Texas and has experienced declining distributions coast-wide from habitat loss (M. Gordon, *unpublished data*). Along the middle Texas coast, formal nesting surveys have been conducted in the Nueces Estuary (Halbrook, 2003; Baxter, 2015), Mission-Aransas Estuary (Baxter, 2017), and within the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (Koza, 2006). Within Galveston Bay, little is known about preferred nesting habitats with most reports of nesting activity limited to grey literature (Hogan, 2002; George, 2014). While these formal surveys resulted in valuable information about potential nesting habitat preferences, none were successful in documenting actively nesting females except for one female observed on South Deer Island in Galveston Bay (Hogan, 2003). Potential nesting habitat types documented through these surveys include shell hash beaches, a mixture of shell and sandy shorelines, and areas adjacent to low-lying saltmarsh habitat. In May 2025, a nesting female was documented on the beach side of Galveston Island (Morris et al., *in review*). While terrapin shows a propensity for nesting in beach dune systems in other parts of the species' range, this observation in Galveston marked a novel report of preference specifically for sandy substrate. The lack of clarity in preferred nesting habitat type for terrapin in Texas is due to limitations in shoreline accessibility through private lands, anthropogenic impacts to historically utilized habitats, and limited funding for time intensive field surveys.

The nearly 2,000 acres of protected habitat within Galveston Island State Park (GISP) serves as a refuge for nesting shorebirds, and potentially terrapin (https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/galveston-island/nature). While no terrapin nesting activity has been reported within the park in recent years, terrapin observations have been reported through citizen scientists, anecdotal accounts, and iNaturalist (M. Gordon, *unpublished data*). Because the park spans the width of Galveston Island, a large amount of potential terrapin nesting habitat (e.g., saltmarsh, shell hash shorelines, sandy shorelines) are present. This variety in potential nesting habitat types provides a unique opportunity for researchers to better document the use of this park as protected nesting habitat. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and University of Houston's Coastal Center (UHCC) have submitted a proposal entitled "Shoreline Restoration at Galveston Island S.P. & Prairie Restoration/Wetland Creation at UH Coastal Center" for the FY27 Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) funding cycle. Through this funding, TPWD and UHCC are planning to restore shoreline habitats in Dana Cove at GISP through relocation of oyster shell materials from the Coastal Center's coastal prairie property. The goal of this restoration project is to restore eroding shorelines within this part of GISP, but it is unclear if this effort will also improve nesting habitat availability for terrapin.

Due to the paucity of information about preferred terrapin nesting habitat in Galveston Bay and the uncertainty of the impact that the impending shoreline restoration efforts by TPWD and UHCC may have on terrapin nesting habitat, we are requesting funds to support pre- and post-restoration nesting habitat surveys. We aim to achieve this through the following objectives:

Objective 1: Conduct pre-restoration surveys to evaluate the current use of available terrapin nesting habitat.

Objective 2: Coordinate with the TPWD and UHCC to incorporate data into restoration plans.

Objective 3: Conduct post-restoration surveys to evaluate the use of restored areas as potential nesting habitat.

Objective 4: Submit survey results to the Texas Natural Diversity Dataset (TXNDD).

During pre- and post-restoration surveys, game cameras will be installed at strategically placed locations to passively monitor nesting activities (similarly to Baxter 2015, 2017). Shoreline habitats will be surveyed by foot at least twice per week during nesting season (April-June) (see Guillen et al., 2015 for detailed transect survey methods). These surveys include access to areas of GISP by boat or by vehicle. If terrapin are encountered, habitat and morphometric data will be recorded for each individual captured following standardized protocols (see Guillen et al., 2015 for detailed methods) already permitted through TPWD (Permit Number SPR-0321-026; issued to M. Gordon) and approved by the UHCL Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC Protocol Number 0224.001.R0; issued to M. Gordon). Individuals will be marked externally (e.g., notching) and internally (e.g., PIT tag) for identification in future survey efforts.

During pre-restoration surveys, *in situ* habitat data (including sediment size, vegetation, elevation, etc.; outlined in George, 2014), will be collected in multiple locations throughout the park to best establish priority nesting area(s). These pre-restoration survey data will be paired with landscape scale geospatial data (e.g., USGS The National Map digital elevation model [DEM], the USGS National Land Cover Dataset [NLCD], the NOAA Coastal-Change Analysis Program [C-CAP] dataset, the NRCS Soil Survey Geographic Database [SSURGO], etc.) in an ArcGIS Pro geospatial database and/or model to determine trends in preferred habitat location within GISP. Pre-restoration survey results and subsequent geospatial maps will be shared with TPWD and UHCC so that best practice or management decisions may be made as part of the restoration efforts. Post-restoration surveys will be conducted along the restored shorelines of Dana Cove and other areas of priority habitat to assess potential changes in nesting habitat use. Results of pre- and post-restoration surveys will also be submitted to the TXNDD for use by conservation managers in decision making for this Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

The proposed work directly supports the proposal submitted by TPWD and UHCC. By synergizing these projects, recommendations will be provided to resource and conservation managers to make informed decisions on improving terrapin nesting habitat in the future.

Literature Cited:

Baxter, 2015. CBBEP Report; **Baxter, 2017.** CBBEP Report; **George, 2014.** M.S. Thesis (UHCL); **Guillen et al., 2015.** UHCL Report #15-001; **Halbrook, 2003**. M.S. Thesis (TAMUCC); **Hogan, 2002**. USGS Report; **Koza, 2006**. M.S. Thesis (TAMUCC); **Morris et al., *in review***. Herpetological Review.

Other Plans Implemented:

In addition to Actions addressed in the Galveston Bay Plan, the proposed study also addresses aspects of other state and Gulf-wide plans and strategies.

The proposed study addresses concerns and data deficiencies outlined in the Gulf of Mexico Diamondback Terrapin Conservation Action Plan developed by The Nature Conservancy and partnering Gulf states (including members from the proposed project team).

As part of the Texas State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), terrapin are recognized as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Resulting data from the proposed study will be provided to TPWD for inclusion in their species status reviews and ongoing monitoring database (the Texas Natural Diversity Database) to fill knowledge gaps which are integral in the development of management strategies.

Goals of the Gulf of America Alliance's Water Resources and Wildlife and Fisheries Teams (outlined in the Gulf of Mexico Alliance's Governor's Action Plan IV) include multiple actions related to interagency collaborative efforts to prioritize research on threats to species of conservation need, with multiple studies focused on impacts to terrapin already funded Gulf-wide through different incentive programs.

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

The proposed study directly supports the partner project submitted by TPWD and UHCC. While this partnership is not the first for UHCL and TPWD/UHCC, this project represents a novel partnership between the three organizations in the context of coordinated species monitoring in areas of restoration. Terrapin nesting surveys funded through the proposed project will also represent the first formal nesting surveys conducted at GISP in over a decade and fill data gaps for this species of conservation concern.

Is the project subject to Title VI requirements?
To meet federal nondiscrimination guidance and laws (Title VI), TCEQ requires information and services to be provided in languages other than English when significant numbers of beneficiaries are of limited English-speaking ability (LEP). If 5% or more of the population within your project area is LEP and share a common language, then you are required to provide outreach in the alternative language. For statewide projects, Spanish language outreach is required. As Title VI compliance could impact the project budget, please reach out to the primary subcommittee coordinator for this application with questions on determining applicability and EJScreen instructions.

☐ Yes
☒ No

N/A

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

29.21354, -94.95737 (Dana Cove Project Site for TPWD/UHCC Project)

Location:

Gulf Coast Prairie and Marshes Ecoregion → San Jacinto-Brazos Coastal Basin → Lower Galveston Bay Watershed → West Galveston Bay

Partners[1] and Their Roles:

Internal Project Personnel

Mandi Gordon (gordon@uhcl.edu); EIH, UHCL; Interim Associate Director, Research Programs – Mandi will serve as the Lead-PI for the proposed project. Mandi's primary roles will be to provide administrative oversight, assist with study design and implementation, manage contractual obligations, conduct data analyses, and reporting.

Danielle DeChellis (dechellis@uhcl.edu); EIH, UHCL; Research Technician – Danielle will serve as Co-PI for the proposed project. Danielle's primary roles will be to assist with day-to-day project management, oversight of field data collection, personnel training, assisting with data analysis, and report development.

TBD; EIH, UHCL; Graduate Research Assistant – A Graduate Research Assistant will be hired onto the project as Key Personnel. The Graduate Research Assistant's primary roles will be to assist the project PI's in day-to-day project management, data compilation, dissemination, and coordination with project partners. The graduate student will also use data collected through the proposed project to develop a Master's thesis project in completing of a M.S. degree program through UHCL.

TBD; EIH, UHCL; Undergraduate Research Assistant – An Undergraduate Research Assistant will be hired onto the project as Key Personnel. The Undergraduate Research Assistant's primary roles will be to assist project staff with data compilation, checks for quality control, dissemination, and other activities as needed. The undergraduate student may also use data collected through the proposed project in completion of an undergraduate practicum course requirement or as an undergraduate research project.

External Project Partners:

Savannah Horton (savannah.horton@tpwd.texas.gov); TPWD; Coastal Ecologist, Restoration and Artificial Reefs – Savannah has submitted a related proposal to the NRU subcommittee in partnership with the UHCC. Her proposal is focused on removal of remnant oyster shell materials from the UHCC property to restore native prairie and freshwater wetland habitats. The remnant shell material will be transported to GISP for creation of a living shoreline with intertidal oyster mounds and shell hash nesting islands within Dana Cove. TPWD will include Mandi in restoration project designs related to terrapin nesting habitat priorities. Additionally, Savannah will assist with coordination of site access within GISP and synergy of project timelines between the two related studies.

Evelyn L. Merz (elmerz@central.uh.edu); UHCC Texas Institute for Coastal Prairie Research and Education; Program Director – Evelyn will serve as the UHCC contact for the TPWD project. As part of the related TPWD project, UHCC will participate in project meetings and provide input on the process, design, and monitoring of the project to ensure a successful output. Additionally, UHCC will facilitate media outreach related to the TPWD project, which may include details about the current project proposal through UHCL.

[1] If partners are subgrantees completing work reimbursable under GBEP funding, a letter of commitment from the partner must be submitted as an appendix with the application.

Projects Map

Figure 1 Galveston Island State Park boundary (yellow polygon) with Dana Cove noted. Dana Cove is the primary area of interest for TPWD and UHCC's shoreline restoration project. Proposed terrapin nesting surveys will be conducted throughout the state park in areas of preferred habitat (e.g., shell hash shorelines, sandy shorelines, low-lying marsh areas, etc.).

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):
N/A

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:

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Year 1 (Pre-Restoration)	Year 2 (Post-Restoration)	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	$ 27,486.75	$ 27,812.21	$ 55,298.96
Fringe Benefits (23%*)[2]	$ 6,401.25	$ 6,518.42	$ 12,919.67
Travel	$ 0.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
Supplies	$ 1,706.46	$ 606.46	$ 2,312.92
Equipment	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00
Contractual	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00
Construction	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00
Other**	$ 7,036.80	$ 7,636.80	$ 14,673.60
Total Direct Cost	$ 42,631.26	$ 44,573.89	$ 87,205.15

*Fringe rates = 36% for staff, 15% for students; average rate applied to budget = 23%

b. Indirect Costs[3]

	Year 1 (Pre-Restoration)	Year 2 (Post-Restoration)	Total
Distribution Base Amount *(identify Base type below)*	$ 38,631.26	$ 40,573.89	$ 79,205.15
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	20.72 %	20.72 %	20.72 %
Total Indirect Costs	$ 7,793.71	$ 8,614.53	$ 16,408.24

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

	Year 1 (Pre-Restoration)	Year 2 (Post-Restoration)	Total
Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	$ 50,424.97	$ 53,188.42	$ 103,613.38

Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):

☒ modified total direct costs

[2] If fringe is not a single rate, please attach calculation or explanation as an appendix.
[3] Please attach Indirect Cost Agreement as an appendix if applicable

The indirect cost rate is (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.

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

Percent of total budget for Other category = 14.7%

Other costs include:

- Asset Use Rate fees for vehicles and vessels (current rates can be found on the UHCL website at this link: https://www.uhcl.edu/environmental-institute/research/equipment-capabilities/. Subject to IDC rate calculations.
- Conference registration for up to two students/staff at a related regional or local scientific conference. This cost is not included in travel estimates. Subject to IDC rate calculations.
- A $2,000 per semester stipend (4 semesters total) for a Graduate Student using the project as part of a Master's thesis project. Not subject to IDC charges.