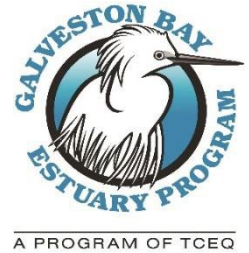


Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Fiscal 2027 Section 320/State Proposals

**Public Participation and Education (PPE)
Subcommittee
Fiscal 2027 Proposal Summaries**

Project	Lead Implementer	Total Request
1. Cultivating Watershed Resilience Ambassadors through Civic Science in Grades 6-12	CELF	\$185,794.00
2. Regional Watershed Education and Outreach	GBF	\$197,161.00
3. Coordination of the River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash	H-GAC	\$10,000.00
4. Sea Aggie Turtle Patrol- Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research	TAMUG	\$111,347.00
5. Wings of Discovery: Teaching STEAM through Birds and Journaling	UHCL	\$82,464.00
6. GB Geospatial-Inquiry: Empowering Application of Relevant Understanding of Place (GB GEAR UP!)	UHCL	\$38,304.00
7. Connecting Communities to Houston's Prairie Ecosystems	HPARD	\$100,000.00
8. Health and Performance Monitoring of Green Infrastructure BMPs: A Pathway for High School Intern Career	AgriLife	\$241,966.00
9. How's the Water - Public Health Risk Awareness Outreach Campaign	H-GAC	\$99,303.55
10. Salt Lake Native Marsh Shoreline Protection Project	FOBWR	\$48,000.00
11. <i>Feasibility Study for a Bioretention Wetland Demonstration Site</i>	<i>UHCL</i>	<i>Sent to WSQ</i>
Total:		\$1,114,339.55

**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 ONE: INTRODUCTION

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

Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]: The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for fiscal 2027 (FY 2027) Priority Area Actions that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for FY 2027 at the June 2025 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY 2027 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

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

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

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

Timeline of Proposals:

Task	Date Due
Release of Request for Proposals	June 23, 2025
Proposals Due	July 25, 2025
Send Proposals to Subcommittees Members for Review	August 13, 2025
Present Proposals to Subcommittees for Council Recommendation	September 3, 2025 (NRU and PPE) September 10, 2025 (M&R and WSQ)
Present Proposals to B&P Subcommittee for Final Recommendation	October 1, 2025
Present Proposals to Galveston Bay Council for Approval	October 15, 2025

SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Choose an item. PPE
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Choose an item.

Project Name:

Cultivating Watershed Resilience Ambassadors through Civic Science in Grades 6-12

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CELf)

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*

N/A

Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:	ZWDKEFNQNKM5
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	CELf's EIN is 36-4540146

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Tara Stafford Ocansey
Project Representative Phone	201-771-2589
Project Representative Email	tara@celfeducation.org

Amount Requested from GBEP:

\$185,794

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒

Is the project scalable? ☒

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	\$48,914
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	\$64,664
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	\$72,216
Total	\$185,794

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

3 years spanning September 1, 2026 - May 31, 2029.

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

\$216,733

Is this an estimate? ☐

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

This project will be leveraged by a multi-year (2024-2027) grant award received last year from TC Energy that explores issues including air quality, food waste, hydroponic farming, pedestrian infrastructure, water quality, urban trees, and more.

Project details as follows:

1. Engage with STEM teachers and students through onboarding sessions, field visits, workshops and an annual student symposium
2. Provide CELF Staff professional development workshops
3. Develop and implement action plans for an Education for Sustainability (EfS) Leadership Fellows cohort of existing program participants

Portion of 3 yr Project Budget applicable toward this grant: \$30,940

This leveraging amount includes a portion of staff time in Year 1 that can be shared to prepare and deliver similar content to cohorts of teachers supported by each grant. It also includes consultant cost in Year 1 for coordination of summer interns, costs for campus garden improvements, a portion of field trip support costs, food costs & venue rental for Student Symposium, and staff travel to partner sites in Year 1.

Project Urgency:

On March 25, 2025, CELF was notified that our grant from the EPA that was part of their Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving initiative, which was supposed to last through March 31, 2027, was being terminated on the grounds that the award was “no longer consistent with EPA funding priorities.” This grant provided funding to support 15 teachers each year for 3 years to engage students in Civic Science focused on local watershed health issues, including funding for field trips and a culminating Student Symposium in Year 3. CELF is working to fill this gap by raising funds to continue supporting teachers in Greater Houston to engage their students in meaningful place-based learning to enhance watershed health and coastal resilience.

If additional funding for FY26 becomes available, CELF would be interested in advancing the start date to support ongoing Civic Science projects addressing coastal resilience and watershed health during the 2025-26 school year and/or as part of our 2026 Summer Institute that will take place in July, 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 <input type="checkbox"/>	NPS-2 X	NPS-3 <input type="checkbox"/>	NPS-4 X	
PS-1 <input type="checkbox"/>	PS-2 <input type="checkbox"/>	PS-3 <input type="checkbox"/>		
PHA-1 <input type="checkbox"/>	PHA-2 <input type="checkbox"/>	PHA-3 <input type="checkbox"/>	PHA-4 <input type="checkbox"/>	PHA-5 <input type="checkbox"/>

Plan Priority 2: Protect and Sustain Living Resources

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

Plan Priority 3: Engage Communities

SPO-1 X	SPO-2 X	SPO-3 X	SPO-4 X
PEA-1 <input type="checkbox"/>	PEA-2 X	PEA-3 X	

Plan Priority 4: Inform Science-based Decision Making

RES-1 <input type="checkbox"/>	RES-2 <input type="checkbox"/>	RES-3 <input type="checkbox"/>	RES-4 <input type="checkbox"/>
RES-5 <input type="checkbox"/>	RES-6 <input type="checkbox"/>	RES-7 <input type="checkbox"/>	RES-8 <input type="checkbox"/>
ACS-1 X	ACS-2 <input type="checkbox"/>	ACS-3 <input type="checkbox"/>	

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.]

1. **Field-based and in-service professional development with 30+ teachers of grades 6-12 over three years** focused on applying a place- and project-based framework to engage students in inquiry projects around their local watersheds. Field-based locations will include the urban prairie at New Hope Housing to learn about native prairies' role in green stormwater infrastructure, and Sylvan Beach to learn about nonpoint sources of water pollution and mitigation, and the role of coastal ecosystems in climate resilience (PEA-3, NPS-2, NPS-4);
2. **Field trips for 30+ classrooms to local green spaces and waterways** for watershed mapping, data collection and stewardship activities, along with provision of water testing kits, native seeds and gardening supplies, and other project supplies (NPS-2, NPS-4, PS-1, HC-2, SC-1, SPO-1, SPO-3, ACS-1)
3. **Green career guest speakers** connecting classrooms with experts from local government agencies and environment-focused organizations from under-resourced communities, including bilingual/multilingual guest speakers (PEA-3, SPO-1, SPO-4, NPS-2)
4. **Student-led design and implementation of participatory watershed-based community assessments** where students interview peers, family members, and community members to learn about current perceptions about watershed health and engagement with local waterways for recreation, stewardship, etc.
5. Student-led coordination of a **culminating Watershed Resilience Summit** event to be held in years 2 and 3 of the project that will engage family, community, and local government stakeholders in addressing common knowledge gaps, and fostering broader community involvement in watershed stewardship, building on students research and community assessment findings (PEA-3, PEA-2, SPO-1, SPO-2, SPO-3, SPO-4)
6. **Paid summer internships** for rising high school juniors and seniors to build upon their watershed inquiry projects by being placed with partners in CELF's network to learn about relevant workforce pathways for watershed resilience. (PEA-3)

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.

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

X PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.

X 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:

This project is designed to engage middle and high school communities (PP3) in activities that help broaden awareness of watershed resilience challenges and solutions, including nonpoint source pollution sources and opportunities to participate in habitat restoration. By applying CELF's Civic Science Inquiry-to-Action framework, this project will empower teachers to cultivate a generation of young coastal resilience ambassadors through hands-on environmental education with teachers and students from Title 1 schools in Greater Houston, and in partnership with diversified community stakeholders. The project will address the identified priorities as follows:

- 1. Empowering K-12 students and teachers to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects:** By equipping students and teachers with Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) skills, the project supports students in learning about community understanding of local watershed health, and how ongoing data monitoring of key watershed health indicators can inform adaptive and participatory decision-making regarding the effective management of local watersheds. Professional development for teachers and hands-on student activities will include developing watershed-based community assessments, data collection on key indicators of watershed health, and engagement with green careers speakers who work in watershed management and coastal resilience policy who can speak about how data informs their process. The project also aligns with watershed-based plans by incorporating green infrastructure and water conservation principles into educational content and student projects.
- 2. Connecting students, teachers, and community and corporate partners to existing/completed resilience projects and natural habitats:** The project will engage students in place-based environmental education through a series of field trips, hands-on activities, and community engagement events. During field trips to local green spaces and waterways, students will connect with their local environment, develop a deeper understanding of watershed dynamics, and actively participate in habitat restoration efforts and clean-up activities alongside a diverse array of community stakeholders from CELF's and the larger GBEP network. The project will enhance local habitats by educating students about green stormwater infrastructure concepts through field trips to sites like the urban prairie and New Hope Housing that has been restored as part of the City of Houston's green stormwater infrastructure initiative, and coastal areas like Sylvan Beach. During these field trips, students will learn about the role of native prairies and coastal ecosystems in mitigating water pollution and enhancing climate resilience. Activities such as water quality monitoring and ecosystem restoration will contribute to the conservation of critical habitats and improve local environmental conditions.
- 3. Provide opportunities for GBEP and partners to co-facilitate workshops for education and outreach practitioners on topics of watershed health, coastal resilience, and nature-based solutions:** The project will diversify strategic partnerships by collaborating with school staff, families, grassroots community organizations, corporate sustainability experts, and local and regional government agencies. Key partners include Region 4 school districts such as Channelview ISD, Aldine ISD, and Houston ISD, as well as New Hope Housing, which will host events at their urban prairie, and Stopping Plastic Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASH), which will co-facilitate educational activities at local beaches. These partnerships will enhance the project's reach and impact, fostering a collaborative approach to environmental education and advocacy.
- 4. Connect rising high school juniors and seniors to paid summer internships to explore conservation and environmental workforce development pathways:** Starting through CELF's partnership with Moonflower Farms - a hydroponic farm that uses water conserving controlled environmental agriculture (CEA) methods to grow produce for Greater Houston communities. By learning about CEA methods as alternatives to traditional agriculture methods which produce runoff that pollutes local waterways, students will get a wider systems perspective on how practical solutions like hydroponic farming can help advance watershed resilience. In

years 2-3, CELF aims to increase the number of partners that can co-host interns alongside CELF.

5. **Engage students in learning about and using existing and emerging monitoring tools and dashboards of watershed health and coastal resilience:** During teacher professional learning events, CELF will introduce teachers to public datasets and tools such as HARC's Regional Monitoring Database that is in development as a GBEP project, and NOAA's Gulf Data Atlas.

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

Because of the proposed project's focus on engaging teachers and students in stewardship actions in local green spaces and waterways to protect watershed health and promote climate resilience, including clean-up activities and learning about non-point sources of pollution, we believe this project addresses the EPA's special interest area of Reducing Trash. By involving teachers, students, and communities in exploring how various nonpoint source pollution sources from schools, households, and the agricultural sector impact watershed health, this project will help raise awareness, promote education, and foster community engagement around how waste reduction strategies in students' spheres of influence can help promote watershed 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:

This project aims to empower middle and high school students in Greater Houston to become watershed resilience ambassadors through immersive, place-based STEAM education, research, and hands-on activities. Applying CELF's Civic Science Inquiry to Action framework, the program will engage teachers, students, and community stakeholders in teacher professional development, student-led watershed-based community assessments, field trips for data collection and stewardship actions, culminating student-driven Watershed Resilience Summits modeled on CELF's Student Symposium approach, and paid summer internships, thereby cultivating a generation of committed environmental stewards with workforce ready skills, and promoting equity in addressing local watershed health and climate resilience challenges.

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

This project will cultivate the next generation of watershed resilience ambassadors through place-based inquiry projects that engage middle and high school students in exploration and research of their local watersheds, and in engagement of their communities toward greater awareness and participation in solutions. Through teacher professional learning, student field trips to local green spaces and waterways, community engagement activities, and culminating Student Symposium Watershed Summit events, middle and high school students will become equipped with Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) skills to protect local watersheds and enhance climate resilience. Leveraging CELF's Civic Science Inquiry to Action Framework, this project will deliver teacher training focused on facilitating student watershed mapping, community assessments of current watershed knowledge and perceptions, and collection and analysis of watershed health data - including by using existing public datasets such as HARC's Regional Monitoring Database, and NOAA's Gulf Data Atlas. Teachers will also receive training and support to engage their students in applying their data findings to craft compelling stories and action plans to help advance students' ideas for a resilient Galveston Bay.

Activities and outputs will include:

1. **Field-based and in-service professional development with 30+ teachers of grades 6-12 over three years** focused on applying a place- and project-based framework to engage students in inquiry projects around their local watersheds. Field-based locations will include the urban prairie at New Hope Housing to learn about native prairies' role in green stormwater infrastructure, and Sylvan Beach to learn about nonpoint sources of water pollution and mitigation, and the role of coastal ecosystems in climate resilience;
2. **Field trips for 30+ classrooms to local green spaces and waterways** for watershed mapping, data collection and stewardship activities, along with provision of water testing kits, native seeds and gardening supplies, and other project supplies;
3. Connect classrooms with **green career guest speakers** from local government agencies and environment-focused organizations from under-resourced communities, including bilingual/multilingual guest speakers;
4. **Student-led design and implementation of participatory watershed-based community assessments** where students interview peers, family members, and community members to learn about current perceptions about watershed health and engagement with local waterways for recreation, stewardship, etc;
5. Student-led coordination of a **culminating Student Symposium in year 1, and scaling up toward Watershed Resilience Summit** events to be held in years 2 and 3 that will engage family, community, industry, and local government stakeholders in addressing common knowledge gaps, and fostering broader community involvement in watershed stewardship, building on students research and community assessment findings, targeting engagement of 50+ students/year;
6. **Paid summer internships** for rising high school juniors and seniors to build upon their watershed inquiry projects through 8-week summer placements to learn about relevant workforce pathways for watershed resilience. In Year 1, placements will be with Moonflower Farm's to learn how CEA can help reduce agricultural runoff getting into waterways and conserve water use compared to traditional agricultural methods. In Years 2-3, CELF will seek to expand placement partners from amongst the GBEP and wider CELF network.

By educating students on sources of pollution, associated health risks, community perceptions of watershed health, and ways to reduce pollution and cultivate resilience, the program aims to empower students to act as watershed resilience ambassadors, translating their research findings into compelling stories and tangible actions that they can share with their communities. The program seeks to cultivate student and community engagement in implementation of practical solutions to improve local water quality and climate resilience through educational activities like designing and implementing watershed-based community surveys (modeled after grassroots [assessment tools](#) developed by Dr. Jacqueline Comitowater at Iowa State University), water quality monitoring, waste audit and clean-up activities, and management/restoration of local ecosystems that are critical for climate resilience, such as coastal wetlands and urban prairies. The project also promotes equity and inclusion by engaging underserved school communities in environmental education and stewardship.

Communities to be engaged in this project over the course of three academic years include Title 1 middle and high school communities in areas of Greater Houston that are impacted by environmental and climate issues, including along the Houston Ship Channel and in neighborhoods designated among Houston's Complete Communities. School districts with which CELF has existing relationships that will be deepened through this project include Channelview ISD, Galveston ISD, Aldine ISD, Sheldon ISD, and Houston ISD. The project will also engage key partners in hosting and co-facilitating the educational activities. These key partners include New Hope Housing who will host events at their urban prairie that is part of the City of Houston's green stormwater initiative, and the Stopping Plastic Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASh) initiative of the American Bird Conservancy, who will co-facilitate some of the student field trip events and contribute as green career guest speakers and culminating event participants.

Outcomes include teachers gaining skills for facilitating student inquiry activities aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, and awareness for how they can use public datasets in their teaching practice. Students will develop data literacy and understanding of data-driven decision-making, leading to more young people interested in future careers in watershed management and resilience. By sharing their learning and action steps during student symposiums and Watershed Resilience Summit events, students will cultivate their sense of agency for contributing to public education on local watershed resilience issues.

CELF will monitor program progress with data collection methods for tracking program participation and outcomes that will include:

- Collecting pre- and post- survey data from participating teachers at the beginning and end of each academic year
- Collecting student surveys at the end of each academic year, as well as from summer interns at the end of each internship period
- Collecting Exit Slips from participating teachers at the close of each workshop
- Collecting artifacts of student learning and research findings (i.e. community assessment responses and analysis, presentations, data reports, stories)
- Developing case studies by interviewing participating teachers to understand how the program has impacted their teaching practice and student learning.

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 project also supports key "Data & Monitoring" and "Education & Engagement" goals outlined in the Gulf of America Alliance's Governors' Action Plan IV, as well as the education of schoolchildren component of the Texas Wetland Conservation Plan, the education and outreach component of the Texas Watershed Planning project, and the City of Houston's Green Stormwater Initiative

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 EJSscreen instructions.

☐ Yes

☒ No

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

Multiple locations (see maps below)

Location:

The program will be delivered to middle and high school teachers in the following target districts: Channelview Independent School District (ISD), Galveston ISD, Houston ISD, Aldine ISD, and Sheldon ISD. The project will also take place at field trip locations including the urban prairie at New Hope Housing’s Reed Campus that is part of the City of Houston’s Green Stormwater initiative, and Sylvan Beach for clean-up and waste audit activities. Internships will take place at Moonflower Farms in Sunnyside.

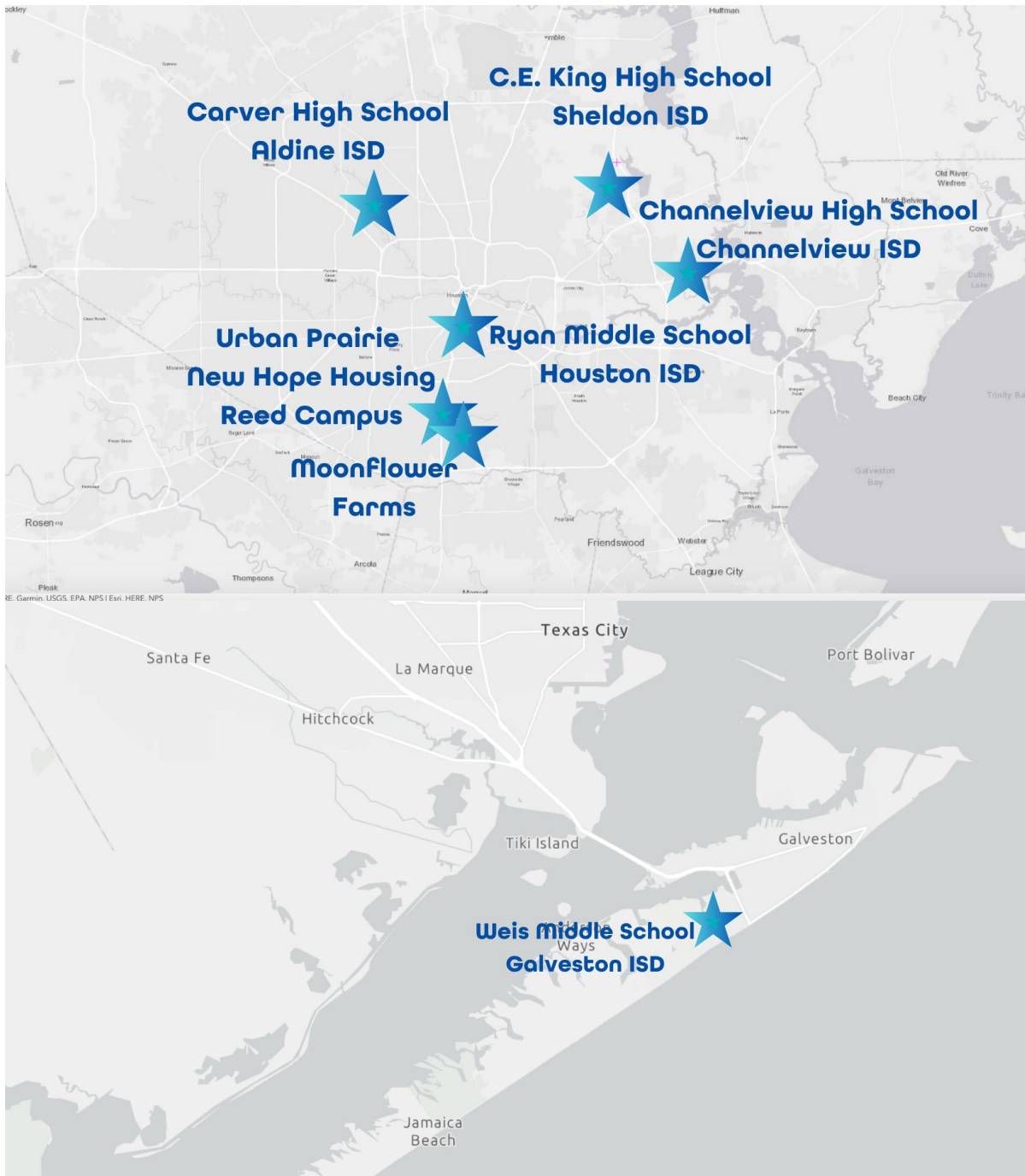
Partners¹ and Their Roles:

The project will engage key partners as subawardees in hosting and co-facilitating the educational activities. These key partners include New Hope Housing who will host events at their urban prairie that is part of the City of Houston’s green stormwater initiative, and the Stopping Plastic Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASh) initiative of the American Bird Conservancy, who will co-facilitate some of the teacher professional development and student field trip events.

Moonflower Farms will also provide support by hosting summer interns at their hydroponic farm in Sunnyside.

Projects Map

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.



Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

The following are included as appendices with this proposal:

- [Support letter from New Hope Housing](#)
- [Support letter from American Bird Conservancy's SPLASH program](#)
- [Support letter from Moonflower Farms](#)
- [CELF TX Student Symposium 2024 Recap](#)
- [Case study](#) of our Civic Science work with teachers in Channelview ISD teachers during the 2022-23 school year

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	\$69,019.00
Fringe Benefits (9.64%)²	\$6,653.00
Travel	\$1,756.00
Supplies	\$3,500.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$52,030.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$52,835.00
Total Direct Cost	\$ 185,794.00

b. Indirect Costs³

Distribution Base Amount (<i>identify Base type below</i>)	\$ 0
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	% 0
Total Indirect Costs	\$0

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	\$ 185,794.00
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Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):

☐ direct salary/wages and fringe benefits

☐ modified total direct costs

X Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

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): **N/A, no indirect costs are being requested.**

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

☐ **De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of 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.

☐ **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.”]

☒ **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:

Other Budget Category includes:

Field Trip Support Costs \$6,250 - support for school bus rentals for participating teachers to bring their students to local green spaces @ \$500/class (5 classes in Year 1 and 2 partially leveraged; 10 classes in Year 3)

Teacher stipends \$15,000 - stipends as follows (10*\$250 in Years 1 and 2; 15*\$250 in Year 3 for (a) participation in Civic Science trainings and implementation in curriculum; (b) completion of teacher and students pre/post-assessments; (c) coordination of field trips to local green spaces and coordination of green career speaker series; (d) coordination of Watershed Resilience Summit (yrs 2 and 3); (e) coordination of student data exchanges; and (f) prep for students and participation in Student Symposium

Case Study Stipends \$1,000 - stipends for teachers conducting project case studies (@\$500/teacher/year)

Campus Improvement Costs \$10,000 - (\$500 per class; 5 classes in Year 1 and 2 partially leveraged; 10 classes in Year 3)

Venue rental \$2,000 - Year 1 leveraged; costs for teacher training and symposium events (\$1000/yr)

Participant Meals \$3,000 - for teachers participating in Civic Science trainings (@ \$15x 10 teachers x 4 events in Years 1 and 2) and 15 teachers in Year 3) and for students participating in annual Symposium events each year and Climate Resilience Summit in Ys 2-3 (@ \$10 meal x 75 students/attendees).

CELF Scholar internship stipends \$14,400 over 3 years - for 2 interns each summer at \$15/hr for 20 hours for 8 weeks

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

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

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

This is acknowledged.

SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Please read and understand the following:

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

These items are understood and agreed.

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

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

SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

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

Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by July 25, 2025 to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:

WSQ Subcommittee
Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov

NRU Subcommittee

Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov

PPE Subcommittee

Zoe.Gapayao@tceq.texas.gov

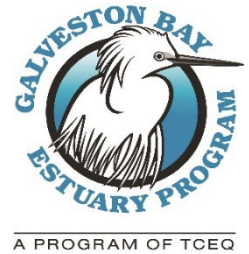
M&R Subcommittee

Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov

Programmatic Projects

Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov

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 ONE: INTRODUCTION

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

Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]: The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for fiscal 2027 (FY 2027) Priority Area Actions that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for FY 2027 at the June 2025 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY 2027 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

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

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

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

Timeline of Proposals:

Task	Date Due
Release of Request for Proposals	June 23, 2025
Proposals Due	July 25, 2025
Send Proposals to Subcommittees Members for Review	August 13, 2025
Present Proposals to Subcommittees for Council Recommendation	September 3, 2025 (NRU and PPE) September 10, 2025 (M&R and WSQ)
Present Proposals to B&P Subcommittee for Final Recommendation	October 1, 2025
Present Proposals to Galveston Bay Council for Approval	October 15, 2025

SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Choose an item.
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Choose an item.

Project Name:

Regional Watershed Education and Outreach

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*

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

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

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Cindy Wilems
Project Representative Phone	281-332-3381
Project Representative Email	cwilems@galvbay.org

Amount Requested from GBEP:

\$197,161.00

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒

Is the project scalable? ☒

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	\$93,382.00
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	\$103,778.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	\$0.00
Total	\$197,161.00

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

*This project has the ability to start 9/1/2025 and end 5/31/2027 to be considered for the FY26 funds or can run from 9/1/2026 – 8/1/2028, depending on the subcommittee's preference

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

\$203,621.00

Is this an estimate? ☐

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

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

- Barrels are donated from Coca-Cola Southwest Beverage and based on the average value per barrel the total value of donated items will be \$1,460.
- H-E-B has donated \$5,000 towards Teens 4 the Bay to allow us to purchase T-shirts for student volunteers, refreshed booth materials, and update training procedures.

Project Urgency:

This project is exceedingly urgent and has the ability to start September 1, 2025. Multiple components of this project have been proven highly successful and were to be funded via federal funding in 2025 that has now been withdrawn. Programs are ready to start as soon as possible and have support across the region. Funding allows us to provide each component of this project for FREE to participants. Without this funding, this project will not be as successful, limiting the number of participants to schools/teachers that can pay for programs, stalling continued learning for education and outreach practitioners, and reducing the overall impact of watershed education in the region. Additionally, funding will allow GBF to provide free rain barrels and help with installations at high-need sites across the community. Without this funding, GBF will not be able to embed a truly community-centered approach into its interpretive messaging and miss the opportunity to extend our volunteer advocate network into communities we have yet to reach. This gap would leave key segments of Bay users without stewards championing its health.

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:

The proposed project directly implements the following Priority Area Actions:

NPS-1: Support Watershed-Based Plan Development and Implementation: By implementing low impact development and stormwater reduction practices on the ground, we are implementing Upper Gulf Coast Oyster Waters TMDL/I-Plan. Depending on instillation locations, we may also implement the Dickinson Bayou WPP and TMDL/I-Plan, Clear Creek WPP, or Double Bayou WPP.

NPS-2: Support Nonpoint Source Education and Outreach Campaigns: The project promotes NPS outreach across the Houston Galveston Region and implementing rainwater containment systems.

PS-1: Support Stormwater Education Programs: Stormwater Impacts Education and will be completed under this project through the workshop for the public and demonstration barrels installed at public locations in the Galveston Bay Watershed.

SPO-1: Stewardship Programs and Volunteer Opportunities: Identifies new volunteers, supports intentional training for long-term volunteer stewards at GBF, and provides a replicable training framework to be used by other organizations.

SPO-2: Workshops and Events: Provides for an education and outreach practitioner survey of needs to be conducted across the region and subsequent workshops to be implemented. It also supports teacher professional development opportunities.

SPO-3: Support Regional Initiatives: Supports other regional campaigns, such as Back the Bay and GBF's Rain Barrel Program during community events.

SPO-4: Local Government Outreach: This project connects with local governments to discuss the installation of a demonstration rain barrel within their city. Other regional campaigns and conservation efforts will also be discussed, and they will be connected with the proper organizations and resources depending on programs they are interested in.

PEA-1: Key Issue Engagement: All six components of this project provide for intentional education and outreach of key issues identified across the watershed (such as water quality/quantity, marine debris, habitat biodiversity, coastal resiliency).

PEA-2: Adult Education: Four of the six components of this project include adult education, including existing successful programs and new, innovative programs.

PEA-3: K-12 Education Efforts: Two components of the project include K-12 students: Bay 2 Schools, which is a highly successful program previously funded by GBEP, and Teens 4 the Bay, which is a new program recently piloted by GBF.

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.

- By implementing low impact development and stormwater reduction practices on the ground through installation of rain barrels, we are implementing Upper Gulf Coast Oyster Waters TMDL/I-Plan. Depending on installation locations, we also be implementing the Dickinson Bayou WPP and TMDL/I-Plan, Clear Creak WPP, or Double Bayou WPP

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

- This project implements best management practices of rainwater harvesting through rain barrel installations to reduce storm water runoff and nonpoint source pollution

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

- Students gain scientific literacy skills via the Bay 2 Schools workshops, focusing on Galveston Bay related topics such as shoreline engineering, animal adaptations, watershed health, food webs, dolphin research, and more.
- Teens 4 the Bay student volunteers engage with the community multiple times a year via booth events and science nights.
- Teachers and adult participants in other components of the project are engaged in a variety of education and outreach initiatives to encourage positive environmental and conservation behaviors.

PPE: Connects new audiences to existing/completed projects or the natural habitat.

- K-12 teachers will be introduced to the nature-based solution updates and restoration initiatives at GBF's Trinity Bay Discovery Center during the proposed teacher workshops.
- Bay 2 Schools was funded via GBEP previously and was highly successful. This proposal will allow GBF to expand our reach to new audiences.
- Participants of the Volunteer Interpretive Training will connect with a variety of ecosystems throughout their training to make lasting connections.

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

- GBF will partner with TAEE will oversee a variety of workshops after implementing a survey of needs among regional practitioners, including an opportunity for other organizations to apply for mini grants to conduct some of the desired workshops.
- GBF will oversee a variety of public workshops regarding water quantity and quality, including rain barrel workshops and installations in collaboration with governmental entities.
- GBF will create a volunteer training framework and share it with practitioners.

PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.

- Teens 4 the Bay provides the opportunity for local teens to improve their scientific communication skills while conducting outreach booths for children across the region. Additionally, teens are introduced to conservation and environmental partners to learn more about potential career pathways.
- Participants of the Volunteer Interpretive Training may be young professionals and as such, will gain needed training to assist them in their career.

M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially species of concern, WSQ, PPE).

- Continued marine debris monitoring at two existing NOAA Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment Protocol (MDMAP) will help to continue to build out a long-term dataset to be able to provide insight into debris issues around Galveston Bay. This data is stored in the national and state databases for public access by research partners to use in larger studies.

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 aligns with all EPA areas of special interest in multifaceted ways:

1. Rain Barrel workshops: Providing rain barrels and installing at community sites helps reduce erosion and nutrient runoff and allows for the collection of rainwater for future use.
2. Volunteer Interpretive Framework & Training Workshop: Makes an investment that addresses coastal resiliency by creating a volunteer framework that can be shared and used amongst other environmental organizations across the region.
3. Marine debris survey & upcycling workshops: Participants will assist with debris collection surveys along the bay shoreline where select debris will be used in upcycling workshops at a later date. Not only will trash be collected and removed from the environment, but participants will also see the value of upcycling items and will be encouraged to continue this practice at home as opposed to throwing items in the trash. By looking at the system full cycle from clean up to upcycled item will encourage participants to rethink the amount of waste they produce and it is disposed. The data collected from this project will be entered into a national database to help understand the impacts of debris on a broad scale.

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, *Regional Watershed Education and Outreach*, is to provide multifaceted watershed education to audiences across the lower Galveston Bay Watershed, expanding the reach of existing programs and amplifying knowledge among all participants. The encompassing nature of this 2-year project reaches 18,200 K-12 students, K-12 teachers, education and outreach practitioners, volunteers, and community members through the six project components.

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

Regional Watershed Education and Outreach unites a multitude of GBF initiatives to provide education and outreach to all levels of participants. Through this project, over 18,000 participants will connect with the Galveston Bay Watershed, creating a more scientifically literate community and encouraging environmentally positive behaviors among participants. Additionally, crucial training will be implemented for education and outreach practitioners and volunteers to allow for increased knowledge of and confidence in education and outreach methodologies. Each project component described below will be provided for free to participants, will allow for increased reach and maximum impact, and continues the concept that we're "better together".

1. Bay 2 Schools: GBF will facilitate at least 200 workshops over the project period, providing Galveston Bay Watershed education to K-12 students across the Houston-Galveston region. Students participate in a variety of hands-on activities brought to their classroom by trained GBF educators. Topics include watershed health, ecosystems, marine debris, human impacts, living shorelines, coastal resiliency, and more.
2. Teens 4 the Bay: A program dedicated to connecting with teens through service and outdoor activities, T4B teens work together to plan and implement outreach booths at local children's festivals and school science nights. Teens gain science communication and event planning skills, learn about environmental career pathways, and earn volunteer hours through this school-year program. During the project period, up to fifteen teens will participate in the program, facilitating up to 20 outreach events and taking part in a variety of team building and career exploration activities.
3. Teacher Professional Development: Teachers will investigate the health of the Galveston Bay Watershed and connect with various GBF educational materials during these single-day workshops held at either GBF's Trinity Bay Discovery Center or Gessner Center. GBF will provide up to three workshops, with teachers receiving continuing education and gifted/talented credit, and a small scholarship for participating.
4. Practitioner Education and Outreach Workshops: Local nonformal and informal education and outreach practitioners have expressed interest in attending targeted professional development workshops to gain skills and knowledge in a variety of topics. To determine workshop topics, the Texas Association for Environmental Education (TAEЕ) will first conduct a needs assessment, surveying practitioners across the region. Although topics are unknown at this time, it is expected that at least one of the workshops provided to practitioners will be one of the Guidelines of Excellence Trainings produced by the North American Association for Environmental Education. Based on the results of the survey, TAEЕ will implement the following:
 - a. A minimum of four in-person or virtual TAEЕ-led workshops
 - b. Local partners will be invited to apply for mini-grants to host practitioner workshops, reinforcing the idea that we all learn from each other. Up to eight mini grants will be awarded by TAEЕ for a total of \$6,000.
 - c. Assisting regional partners with ongoing EE Coffee and Chats as well as Houston regional meetups with partners biannually.

- d. Attendance at state and national conferences to share information
- e. Promotion of the Texas Certified Environmental Educator program
- 5. Community Education and Outreach Workshops: GBF will conduct the following tasks to engage the community and increase their understanding of water quality/quantity and how human behaviors can impact the watershed:
 - a. Public rain barrel installations: GBF will work with public locations, such as public libraries, businesses, community gardens, to install up to two painted rain barrels during the project period. These barrels will be painted by college art students or professional artists, sealed to preserve the work and installed with an informational sign about water conservation. Once the barrels are installed, workshops will be hosted at the installation locations and 20 barrels will be distributed to residents for free (40 total).
 - b. Marine debris survey & upcycling workshops: host up to three MDMAP surveys each year along shorelines in Galveston Bay to engage adults, kids, and students. During these surveys, select debris will be retained, cleaned and sorted to be used at a later date to create upcycled craft items. MDMAP Survey participants will be invited to the upcycle workshop and encouraged to preselect items they may wish to incorporate into their craft item. Additional debris will be retained for other community members to use during the workshops. Up to six workshops will be hosted during the project period.
- 6. Volunteer Interpretive Framework & Training Workshop: To increase volunteer knowledge, confidence, and connection to the bay, GBF will develop a replicable interpretive framework and training model for volunteers, blending content from GBEP's Back the Bay and GBF programs (Water Protection & Education). The framework will be presented at a state or local conference to encourage utilization by other organizations. A single 2-day workshop for 25 participants will be implemented as part of the volunteer training, followed by an outdoor experience to provide participants with an extended experience in a natural setting through which they can transform abstract concepts into lived understanding. Training includes elements from hands-on demonstrations (bio-blitz, water sampling, etc.) for activities they will interpret and will foster peer support and social bonding. Volunteers will receive a GBF uniform and a scholarship. The volunteer journey will be showcased via GBF communications, and upon certification/completion of the workshop, volunteers will be celebrated at GBF's annual volunteer appreciation event.

The impact and success of project components will be evaluated via a variety of post-surveys by teachers, practitioners, volunteers, and public participants. Expected outcomes include:

- 1. Reaching 18,200 students and adults.
- 2. Increased knowledge of the Galveston Bay Watershed among participants.
- 3. Improved understanding of human impacts on the watershed and how participants can reduce them.
- 4. Enhanced education for practitioners to build skills and confidence in education and outreach methodologies.
- 5. The creation of a volunteer framework to be shared with other organizations to encourage effective volunteer training procedures.
- 6. Empowered volunteers who are committed and knowledgeable.
- 7. Reduced marine debris along the bay shoreline.
- 8. Reduced stormwater runoff and increased rain containment in local communities.
- 9. Connecting emergent local artists with environmental sustainability initiatives.

Other Plans Implemented:

The proposed project plan aligns with the following regional and national plans:

Governors' Action Plan IV for Healthy and Resilient Coasts (2021 – 2026)

Gulf of Mexico Alliance

The Plan's Marine Debris Cross Team Initiative is dedicated to addressing marine debris issues along the Gulf of Mexico through prevention, research, and removal efforts (Pages 43 – 46). The specific goal of this initiative is to “assess, prevent, remove, and eliminate marine debris and litter in the Gulf of Mexico and its watersheds to enhance wildlife, fisheries, habitats, water resources, humans and the Gulf economy.”

An aspect of this project is to facilitate the removal of marine debris in Galveston Bay waterways and preventing it from continuing into Gulf of Mexico. As part of this project, GBF will work with volunteers on litter removal and communicate opportunities with local communities on how to become involved in project efforts, both of which are key components of the Plan's Removal focus area. As citizen science this part of this project GBF's efforts align with the Research focus area, specifically on actions that support citizen science initiatives focused on marine debris. Additionally, in alignment with the Prevention focus area of the plan, GBF will work to increase awareness and engage communities to become stewards for their waterways.

2020 Galveston Bay Watershed Aquatic Debris Action Plan (AD Action Plan)

Partners in Litter Prevention

The AD Action Plan serves as a guidance document and reference point for stakeholder collaboration and coordination across the Greater Houston-Galveston region. This includes goals focused on the importance of understanding the sources, types, and amounts of litter, establishing baselines of data for the region, and monitoring the outcomes of these efforts. Throughout this project, GBF will catalogue the quantity and types of debris found through the NOAA Marine Debris Monitoring Assessment Protocol (MDMAP). These results will be shared via the Texas Litter Database, GBF's web-based platforms, and in communications with community groups.

NOAA Marine Debris Program FY 2021-2025 Strategic Plan

GBF's proposed plan is in alignment with a number of goals and objectives highlighted in the NOAA Marine Debris Program FY 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. This includes alignment with Goal 1: Prevention, Goal 2: Removal, and Goal 6: Coordination. In alignment with Goal 1, page 7, as part of GBF's initiative to engage community members through events and cleanups, GBF will be able to increase the number of youths and adults participating in marine debris education and outreach. For Goal 2, page 8, GBF will contribute to marine debris removal efforts by collecting and disposing of trash along Galveston Bay Shorelines. This disposal includes working to increase the percentage of alternative disposed debris. Related to Goal 6, page 12, GBF will share project findings and data with the public via social media platforms and outreach events.

**Texas Coastal Management Program Section 309 Assessment and Strategies Report 2021-2025
Marine Debris Section**

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) – K-12th grade science standards.

Bay 2 Schools aligns directly with all state standards. The connected TEKS are too long to list here.

North American Association for Environmental Education's Guidelines of Excellence

All of GBF Education's programs align with NAAEE's Guidelines of Excellence. Additionally, TAAEE is an affiliate of NAAEE and will provide guidelines trainings as workshop options to regional practitioners.

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

The Texas Association for Environmental Education is a subaward partner on this project. The association has never had a formal partnership with or received funding from GBEP and is excited for this opportunity.

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

Galveston Bay Foundation's Rain Barrel workshop video that is distributed to participants contains subtitles in Spanish. Signage installed at each public rain barrel instillation location will be translated to ensure the Title VI requirements are met.

Ad-hoc translation will be provided by bilingual volunteers during outreaches and during hands-on demos. (The rubric used for GBF volunteer recruitment will award extra points for proficiency in non-English languages.) Volunteers whose primary language is English will receive a quick "key-phrases" guide for Spanish speakers and training on how to access translated resources. Translation of printed materials can be provided by existing GBF volunteers with demonstrated proficiency in non-English languages.

Bay to Schools workshops can be facilitated in Spanish by the request of the teacher/school.

T4B may use GBF materials that are translated as deemed necessary by the organizers of each festival/science night, etc.

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

N/A

Location:

Project components will occur across the entire lower Galveston Bay Watershed.

Partners¹ and Their Roles:

Texas Association for Environmental Education: Will be responsible for the education and outreach for practitioner's component of the project. TAEE will hire a part-time coordinator to assist with planning and implementing the bimonthly coffee/chat meetings and the regional environmental education meet-ups. TAEE will spearhead the regional survey of needs and workshop mini-grant application process, provide NAAEE guidelines trainings, promote the promote the Texas Certified Environmental Educator program, and share environmental education initiatives at state/national conferences. The purpose of the Texas Certified Environmental Educator (TCEE) Program is to recognize an individual that demonstrates the competencies that an exemplary environmental educator should have, based on recognized knowledge and skills.

Projects Map

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

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.

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

Please see appendix

SECTION SIX: BUDGET DETAILS

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

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

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	\$75,300.00
Fringe Benefits (##%) ²	\$8,464.00
Travel	13,172.00
Supplies	\$6,030.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$71,735.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$6,100.00
Total Direct Cost	\$180,801.00

b. Indirect Costs³

Distribution Base Amount (<i>identify Base type below</i>)	\$ 109,066.00
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	15% of modified total direct costs
Total Indirect Costs	\$ 16,360.00

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	\$ 197,161.00
--	---------------

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

- ☐ direct salary/wages and fringe benefits
☒ modified total direct costs
☐ Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

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

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

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

☒ **De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of 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.

☐ **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.”]

☐ **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:

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

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

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

SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Please read and understand the following:

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

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

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

SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

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

Submittal Process and Deadline [see 30 TAC § 14.7(8) and 30 TAC § 14.7(9)]:
Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by July 25, 2025 to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:

WSQ Subcommittee
Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov

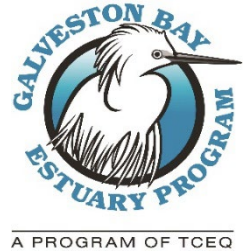
NRU Subcommittee
Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov

PPE Subcommittee
Zoe.Gapayao@tceq.texas.gov

M&R Subcommittee
Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov

Programmatic Projects
Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov

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 ONE: INTRODUCTION

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

Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]: The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for fiscal 2027 (FY 2027) Priority Area Actions that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for FY 2027 at the June 2025 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY 2027 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

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

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

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

Timeline of Proposals:

Task	Date Due
Release of Request for Proposals	June 23, 2025
Proposals Due	July 25, 2025
Send Proposals to Subcommittees Members for Review	August 13, 2025
Present Proposals to Subcommittees for Council Recommendation	September 3, 2025 (NRU and PPE) September 10, 2025 (M&R and WSQ)
Present Proposals to B&P Subcommittee for Final Recommendation	October 1, 2025
Present Proposals to Galveston Bay Council for Approval	October 15, 2025

SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Public Participation and Education (PPE)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Choose an item.

Project Name:

Coordination of the River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☒ No ☐

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

Houston-Galveston Area Council

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 (UED) Number:	VZFJDZCKG8C7
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	1-74-155-7575

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Kendall Guidroz
Project Representative Phone	713-993-2469
Project Representative Email	Kendall.guidroz@h-gac.com

Amount Requested from GBEP:

\$10,000

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒

Is the project scalable? ☐

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	\$10,000.00
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	\$0.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	\$0.00
Total	\$10,000.00

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

One year request for Trash Bash® 2027 (approximately September 1, 2026 – August 31, 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):

Trash Bash® has multiple funding streams, including a TCEQ SEP, and cash and in-kind donations from individuals, businesses, corporations, and organizations, through the Texas Conservation Fund, combining to make the event possible each year. The amount of funding raised each year is dependent upon the state of the economy - especially the oil/gas and chemical industries. The Houston-Galveston Area Council also provides some additional logistical personnel support through water quality and solid waste projects. In 2025, 16 sponsors donated \$5,000 in cash or in-kind donations.

Project Urgency:

Having funding dedicated to helping offset the year-round coordination of Trash Bash® is vital to the continuity of the event, and maintenance and expansion of event education and outreach. While Texas Conservation Fund works annually to secure funding for the event, most of the funds go directly into the events costs and logistics, and the sources are heavily dependent on the state of the economy. The requested funds are the primary source of funding for educational efforts and materials.

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:

SPO-1 Stewardship Programs and Volunteer Opportunities: Trash Bash is one of the oldest and most well-known stewardship and volunteer programs in the region. When new Trash Bash® sites are proposed, several factors are considered before approval, including if the site would serve a new or underserved community.

SPO-2 Workshops and Events: GBEP has been a supporter of Trash Bash for at least the past 10 years, getting big returns in outreach and education for a minimal investment.

SPO-3 Support Regional Initiatives: Trash Bash GBEP funding includes maintenance of educational materials about nonpoint source pollution – used at Trash Bash and outreach events throughout the rest of the year, and available for loan out to local governments, schools, nonprofits and other entities. These materials identify and support other regional campaigns and have been translated into Spanish and Vietnamese. An instructional guide is available, and since 2017 these materials have been part of more than 120 events tracked by H-GAC and partners.

PEA-1 Key Issue Engagement: Trash Bash is an excellent resource for engaging the public on litter and illegal dumping, plastic pollution, and non-point sources of pollution. Engagement occurs through the cleanup as well as the interactive exhibits on pet waste, FOG, low-impact development, and litter prevention. The goal is to have the cleanup, combined with the education, better instill the information about how small actions can have a positive impact on the health of local waterways and Galveston Bay.

PEA-2 Adult Education, NPS-1 Support Watershed-based Plans, and NPS-2 Nonpoint Source Education: Proposed activities for the 2027 Trash Bash coordination also include collaborating with watershed-based plan implementation efforts. Collaboration will include presenting at stakeholder meetings and/or hosting trainings on how to use and check-out the developed Trash Bash educational materials. Most materials have already been translated into Spanish and Vietnamese, but additional translations may be developed as needed.

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:

In 2027 the River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash will host its 33rd litter cleanup event. While the event is held concurrently at multiple sites in the Galveston Bay watershed, each site has its own coordination team and dedicated volunteers who show up each year to help with the cleanup of “their” waterway. The local ownership of the site allows for a greater sense of connection to the waterway. During the event, the educational displays developed for Trash Bash provide a deeper understanding of the ways individual actions impact local waterways. The volunteers who work the displays also have the educational guide to refer to for facts on the topics or have gone through a training on the displays to increase their knowledge. This information is then passed on to the audience each volunteer interacts with. By hosting presentations or trainings for stakeholders in watershed-based plan areas, this sharing of knowledge expands beyond the event.

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

Trash Bash helps to reduce litter in two main ways. The first is the litter cleanup event itself which takes place at 14-16 sites across the lower Galveston Bay watershed. Thousands of volunteers help to remove trash from in and around local waterways, on average between 30-50 tons of trash each year. The second way the event helps to reduce trash is through education. One of the interactive games showcased at trash bash lets participants “fish” for common litter items and discuss how the litter could have been prevented. Key topics include recycling right and reducing and reusing items to reduce the generation of 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:

The River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash® - the largest, single day volunteer-based waterway cleanup - is set to celebrate its 33rd annual event in 2027. This proposal seeks support for coordination of the event to allow for continuation of its award-winning cleanup efforts in the lower Galveston Bay watershed and its efforts to introduce educational resources to more stakeholders.

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

The River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash® will celebrate its 33rd annual litter cleanup event in March 2027. Consistent and responsive coordination and organizational support has been vital to the event's longevity and growth. There are a lot of moving parts to both the coordination and implementation of the event. The Texas Conservation Fund manages Trash Bash® and the Gulf Coast Authority provides leadership and financial management. A steering committee made up of volunteers representing industries and corporations, nonprofit and civic organizations, local government and school districts, and private citizens interested in cleaner waterways helps to make decisions and manage individual sites. Thousands of volunteers of all ages come out each year (some of them every year) to donate their time and effort to removing trash from the Galveston Bay watershed. The Houston-Galveston Area Council helps to bring all of these efforts together by providing regional coordination and planning for all aspects of Trash Bash®.

The H-GAC regional coordinator handles a variety of tasks to implement Trash Bash® and although the peak planning time is September through April, the coordination of the event is a year-round process. The ongoing planning, maintenance and coordination tasks include (percentages indicate an estimation of the time required for each category):

- Working with site coordinators - 20%
- Outreach, public relations, and volunteer retention - 20%
- Working with vendors, ordering supplies, and researching options - 20%
- Planning and executing event and committee meetings - 10%
- Miscellaneous administrative duties - 10%
- Working with sponsors - 10%
- Program inventory and maintenance, including educational displays - 10%

Supporting the personnel costs of the H-GAC regional coordinator for Trash Bash® helps ensure continuity in the coordination process and consistency from year to year for the fun, family-friendly, and meaningful litter cleanup event that volunteers are used to. However, Trash Bash® is more than just a litter cleanup event. The mission of Trash Bash® is "to promote environmental stewardship of our watershed through public education by utilizing hands-on educational tools and by developing partnerships between environmental, government, and private organizations." Promoting environmental stewardship goes beyond a single-day event and requires behavior changes beyond not littering or illegal dumping to help protect a clean water future. To foster these behaviors, Trash Bash® has expanded over the years to include education and interactive exhibits, posters, and pledges at every cleanup site. The educational items promote everyday changes volunteers can make at home to improve water quality: picking up pet waste; disposal of fats, oils, and grease; preventing common sources of pollution and reducing runoff; and proper disposal for commonly littered items. The educational signage and give away items also highlight other regional campaigns like Cease the Grease.

Previous TCEQ.GBEP funding has allowed Trash Bash® to expand these efforts further by translating the educational posters and brochures used at events into Spanish and Vietnamese and creating a streamlined user guide for the educational materials that is now available in English and Spanish. This proposal would assist with the maintenance or repair of these items as necessary.

In addition to maintaining the educational materials and coordinating the event, with this proposal H-GAC seeks to coordinate with and support area watershed-based plan (WBP) efforts by presenting to stakeholders and hosting trainings on the Trash Bash® educational materials. Many WBPs in our area are nearing or in their implementation phase. The educational materials would assist stakeholders with nonpoint source education and allow the materials to reach audiences outside of the Trash Bash event. The project would coordinate with and present to audiences for two to three watershed-based plans in or near implementation.

Other Plans Implemented:

This project would work with the coordinators of local watershed-based plans to highlight the educational materials as tools for plan implementation. The goal would be to coordinate with 2-3 plans in or approaching their implementation phase.

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

The educational materials have previously been translated into both Spanish and Vietnamese, and the educational guide is also available in Spanish.

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

[degrees, minutes, and seconds format]

Location:

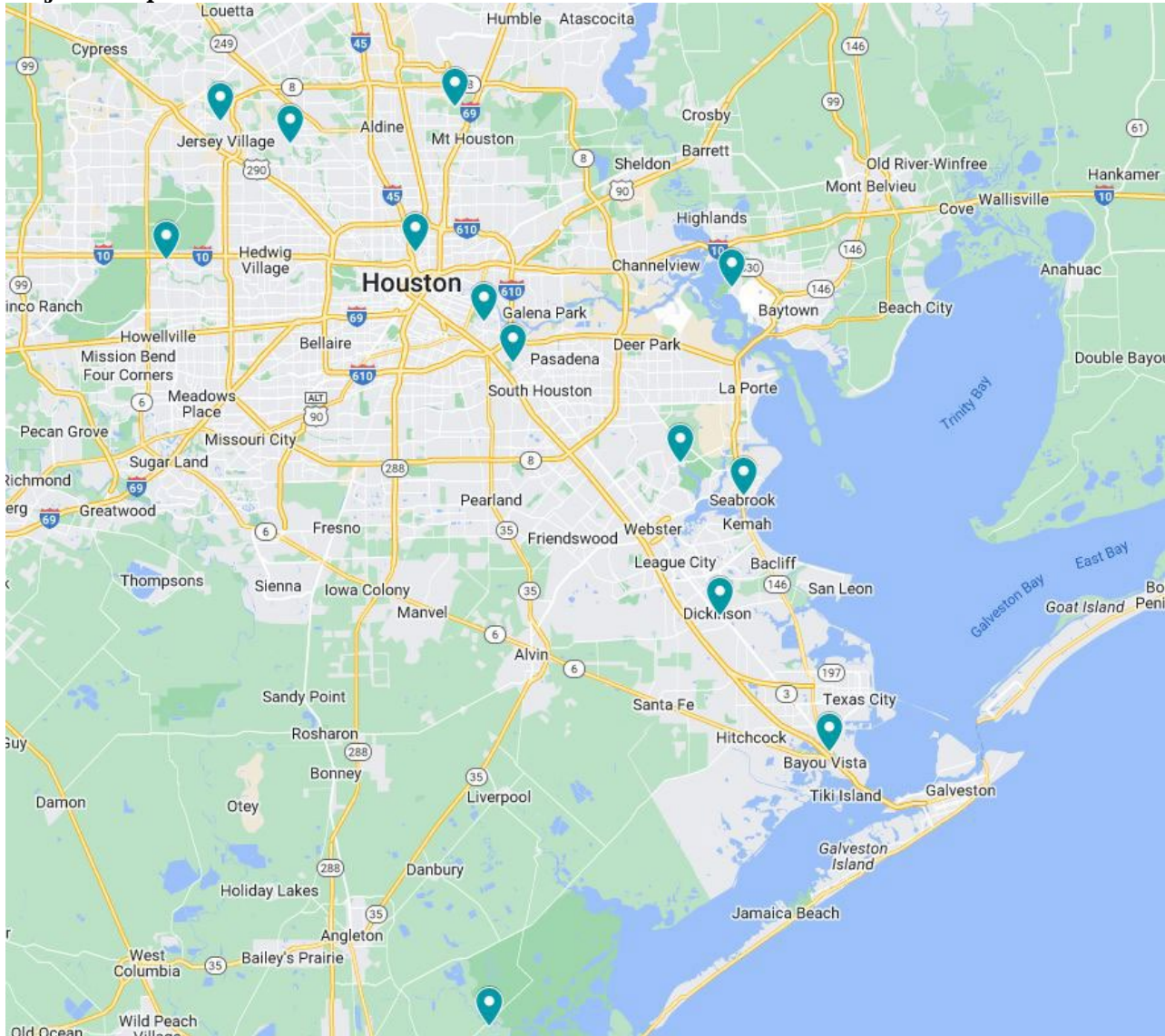
Trash Bash® has multiple cleanup locations across the region. In 2025 there were 14 locations (see map below). The sites range from urban, to suburban, to rural, drawing volunteers from six counties. Sites are located along bayous, rivers, bays, and lakes. The only areas Trash Bash® does not clean are beaches. Many sites have satellite locations that are not shown on the map. Attendance and trash volume trends at each site are evaluated yearly to determine if new locations are required or if it is possible to clean different locations from existing sites using satellite locations.

Partners¹ and Their Roles:

The Trash Bash coordination efforts under this project would be completed by the Houston-Galveston Area Council. However, the event itself has many partners who serve to provide cleanup site coordination and in-kind services. These partners include nonprofits, city and county governments, and industry staff.

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



*Sites shown on the map are from a previous event, the 2027 sites will be finalized in fall 2026.

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

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

SECTION SIX: BUDGET DETAILS

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

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

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	\$4,186.00
Fringe Benefits (47.02%)²	\$1,968.00
Travel	\$325.00
Supplies	\$500.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$0.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$2,330.00
Total Direct Cost	\$9,309.00

b. Indirect Costs³

Distribution Base Amount (<i>identify Base type below</i>)	\$ 6,164.00
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	% 11.22
Total Indirect Costs	\$ 691.00

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	\$ 10,000.00
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Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):

- ☒ direct salary/wages and fringe benefits
☐ modified total direct costs
☐ Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

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

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

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

☐ **De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of 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.

☐ **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.”]

☐ **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:

The Other category includes H-GAC allocations for items such as leased space and utilities, internal services (personnel or payroll related functions, centralized purchasing and office operating function, and printing operations), network and GIS Administration (such as standard office software, hardware, and information technology support, and telephone and communication systems).

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

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

SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Please read and understand the following:

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

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

- There are no pre-submittal meetings scheduled.

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

- For requests for additional, pre-submittal information [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13)], please contact the corresponding Subcommittee Coordinator listed on this page.

SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

Submittal Process and Deadline [see 30 TAC § 14.7(8) and 30 TAC § 14.7(9)]:
Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by July 25, 2025 to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:

WSQ Subcommittee
Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov

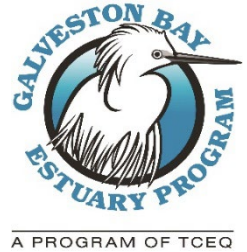
NRU Subcommittee
Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov

PPE Subcommittee
Zoe.Gapayao@tceq.texas.gov

M&R Subcommittee
Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov

Programmatic Projects
Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov

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 ONE: INTRODUCTION

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

Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]: The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for fiscal 2027 (FY 2027) Priority Area Actions that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for FY 2027 at the June 2025 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY 2027 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

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

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

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

Timeline of Proposals:

Task	Date Due
Release of Request for Proposals	June 23, 2025
Proposals Due	July 25, 2025
Send Proposals to Subcommittees Members for Review	August 13, 2025
Present Proposals to Subcommittees for Council Recommendation	September 3, 2025 (NRU and PPE) September 10, 2025 (M&R and WSQ)
Present Proposals to B&P Subcommittee for Final Recommendation	October 1, 2025
Present Proposals to Galveston Bay Council for Approval	October 15, 2025

SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Public Participation and Education (PPE)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Monitoring and Research (M&R)

Project Name:

Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol- Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

Texas A&M University at Galveston

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:	G8Y3L8JV2588
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	74-6000541

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Christopher D. Marshall, Ph.D.
Project Representative Phone	409-740-4884
Project Representative Email	marshalc@tamug.edu

Amount Requested from GBEP:

\$111,347

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

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	\$111,347
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	\$0.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	\$0.00
Total	\$111,347

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

12 months

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

\$111,347 (GBEP)+\$50,545 (NRDA TIG) = \$161,892 Total Cost

Is this an estimate? ☐

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

The Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol has been funded by NRDA/Deepwater Horizon funds for the past 10 years. This is the official last year of this funding. However, the Texas Trustee Implementation Group (TIG) that oversees the expenditure of these funds will fund the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol at a minimal level for the next three years. This funding is in hand, but the GCSTR requires additional funding sources to fully operate the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol program. Once the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research's Educational Facility is constructed, revenue from ecotourism will fund the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol in the future. The GCSTR is requesting assistance during these gap years.

Project Urgency:

The need for funding this cycle is urgent since the NRDA funding for this work is greatly reduced. While plans are being executed to replace this funding, delays in the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research's Educational Facility construction that will supply such funds requires the GCSTR to seek funding in this gap year.

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 proposal implements the Galveston Bay Priority Plan, focusing on three key Priority Plans: Protect and Sustain Living Resources (Priority 2), Engage Communities (Priority 3), and Inform Science-based Decision Making (Priority 4). These implementations also coincide with current TCEQ funded projects to provide updated demographic baseline data for *species of greatest conservation need*. This program currently enhances existing and ongoing conservation efforts for sea turtle species that utilize all areas of Galveston Bay, focusing on adaptive management strategies.

Priority Plan 2: Protect and Sustain Living Resources

SC-1 (support projects that sustain and restore native species populations).

The primary goals of the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol is to 1) restore sea turtle populations by increasing the recruitment of Kemp's ridley hatchling to the adult population, and by reducing sea turtle egg and hatchling mortality through continued support for nest detection and protection efforts and 2) Educate the public, students, and scholars on the conservation of sea turtles in Galveston Bay, the role sea turtles play in the Galveston Bay lower watershed ecosystem, the need to create a resilient coastal environment, and to create marine conservation stewards in the community. The work of the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol actively saves hatchlings that would likely be lost to high tide inundation on the upper Texas coast. Detected nests are excavated per State of Texas protocol and eggs are carefully packed and transported to Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS), where controlled incubation conditions improve hatching success for these species of greatest conservation need (**SC-1**). Furthermore, recent data regarding sea turtle strandings, and from sea

turtles captured as part of the in-water research program, demonstrate that three species of sea turtles (Green [*Chelonia mydas*], Kemp's ridley [*Lepidochelys kempii*], and loggerheads [*Caretta caretta*]) use the Galveston Bay Estuary as both adult foraging (loggerheads), and developmental habitat (greens and Kemp's ridleys). Sea turtles that hatch in the lower Galveston watershed are presumed to return to the area for continued development and nesting.

During nest monitoring patrols, volunteers searching for sea turtles and their tracks also interact with the public raising awareness of sea turtle conservation and marine conservation. Patrollers also help clean the beach of marine debris and identify marine debris hotspot areas, which informs future cleanup events as part of the GCSTR's Marine Debris program (**HC-3: Enhance existing habitats to increase overall function and productivity**). Last, the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol also is integrated with the GCSTR's Sea Turtle Rescue and Recovery efforts along the upper Texas coast. Due to the large area covered and the high level of survey effort, patrollers often come across stranded sea turtles and assist in the process of recovery and transport to the GCSTR's rehabilitation hospital. Patrollers also report and may assist in the recovery of injured or stranded marine mammals and birds, including banded individuals.

Plan Priority 3:

The Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol has offered walking and UTV (Utility Task Vehicles) nesting survey volunteer opportunities in the Houston-Galveston area over the past 10 years, enacting **SPO-1** (Develop new and support existing stewardship programs and volunteer opportunities for stakeholders). The GCSTR has consistently recruited and trained ~350 volunteers each year and this program has grown significantly, following **SPO-1** and **SPO-2** (support and promote workshops and events that facilitate stakeholder and partner involvement). Additionally, there are volunteer opportunities for data collection and management of patrol logs for those unable to go into the field. Turtle Trails, a new component of Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol, launched in 2024, is a stewardship program for the public to join a turtle patrol without the long-term commitment. Turtle Trails attracts 300 participants each season and the program is led by our most dedicated patrollers who are educated in nesting sea turtle biology in our area (**SPO-1**). Additionally, the integration of the GCSTR's new Marine Debris Program with the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol improves the environmental quality of Galveston Bay by increasing awareness and connection to our natural resources (**SPO-3**). Last, the GCSTR frequently informs local state and federal government entities (Galveston Park Board, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Grant Land Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife) of lower Galveston Bay watershed concerns, especially as it pertains to endangered species, coastal concerns and new information (**SPO-4**). Throughout the last decade, this survey program has reported countless kills and spills concerns such as mass die off events or hazardous waste to TPWD. Additionally, major pollution incidents and larger debris items including illegal drugs, oil drums, refrigerators and boats to the respective entity to remove them from the lower watershed.

Engage Communities: PEA-1 (Key Issue Engagement), **PEA-2** (Adult Education), **PEA-3** (Kindergarten to 12th Grade (K-12) Education Efforts). The mission of the GCSTR is to educate the public on key coastal issues related to marine conservation, coastal sustainability, climate and sustainability (PEA-1). We will do so by reaching out to underrepresented ISDs (PEA-3) and communities (PEA-2) through our volunteers during patrols, regional patroller recruitment events, and through the Turtle Trails program. We currently have volunteers and public members from the Houston-Galveston metroplex and beyond.

Inform Science-based Decision Making: Continued funding for the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrols will enact FY2027 Priority Area Actions for **RES-1** (Develop new and support existing efforts to conduct biological stressor monitoring and research), and **RES-3** (Develop new and support existing efforts to conduct physical stressor monitoring and research) through direct observations of Optimal Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat metrics that are documented in the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol survey logs. These observations note and assess environmental shifts including sargassum inundation, erosion, weather, wind speed, tides, cloud cover, beach

nourishment, and beach raking, but also high tide and potential nest inundation events. Recent research on Optimal Nesting Habitat relied upon Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol observations to support the study results that stated sea turtle nests left *in situ* would be lost due to multiple high tide inundations. Such data from the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol has gained the attention of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as they plan to implement the Texas Coast Spine. Efforts from the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle patrol may help shape how beach renourishment activities of the Corps are executed. Overall analysis of these data will result in the characterized risks to coastal habitats and how endangered species respond to the changes and frequencies of tropical storms (**RES-8**). The results of this monitoring and research are conveyed to numerous audiences through outreach, scientific publications, workshops, and seminars, as well as state and federal agencies (**ACS-2**). The GCSTR maintains a social media presence with over 21,000 followers, and a reach of 400,000-975,000 views in the region.

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 Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol Program supports key goals of the Galveston Bay Estuary Program, especially in the areas of PPE, NRU, and M&R. The program plays a direct role in protecting native wildlife, most notably the critically endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle, through regular patrols, nest monitoring, and egg recovery efforts along the upper Texas coast. It offers students, university interns, and community volunteers the chance to participate in hands-on conservation work, helping to build a stronger sense of environmental responsibility and stewardship. The data collected supports long-term sea turtle recovery efforts throughout the Gulf and helps track how these species are impacted by ongoing threats like habitat loss and human activity. The program also includes a team of permitted nest responders who recover eggs from nests for our area, which is not optimal nesting habitat for sea turtles due to tides, storms, erosion and inundation of our dune systems. The eggs are transported to Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS), where controlled incubation conditions improve hatching success for these species of greatest conservation need.

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 Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol interfaces with the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research's Marine Debris Program which is funded by the EPA Texas Trustee Implementation Group. In addition to removing trash as they survey, Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol volunteers report on marine debris hotspots and are integral to the GCSTR's Marine Debris Program's decisions to focus resources for beach cleanups and removal of marine debris. During Turtle Trails, public participants also support these efforts by joining a patrol and assisting with beach trash removal.

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 primary goals of the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol is to 1) restore sea turtle populations by increasing the recruitment of Kemp's ridley hatchling to the adult population, and by reducing sea turtle egg and hatchling mortality through continued support for nest detection and protection efforts and 2) Educate the public, students, and scholars on the conservation of sea turtles in Galveston Bay, the role sea turtles play in the Galveston Bay lower watershed ecosystem, the need to create a resilient coastal environment, and to create marine conservation stewards in the community.

The objective of this proposal is to support the operation of the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol Program, which plays a vital role in protecting the critically endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle and other threatened and endangered species along the upper Texas coast. The program focuses on early detection of nesting activity, nest protection, and monitoring beaches for undetected nests and emerging hatchlings, while also engaging students, volunteers, and the community in meaningful conservation work and raises awareness, creates public stewardship, and contributes data to regional and Gulf-wide efforts. The Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol also provides data to the GCSTR's Marine Debris Program and the Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Program.

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

The primary goals of the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol is to 1) restore sea turtle populations by increasing the recruitment of Kemp's ridley hatchling to the adult population, and by reducing sea turtle egg and hatchling mortality through continued support for nest detection and protection efforts and 2) Educate the public, students, and scholars on the conservation of sea turtles in Galveston Bay, the role sea turtles play in the Galveston Bay lower watershed ecosystem, the need to create a resilient coastal environment, and to create marine conservation stewards in the community. The Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research (GCSTR) at Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG) is the lead for all sea turtle activities along the upper Texas coast between the TX-LA boarder and Surfside Beach, TX. The GCSTR coordinates training for beach patrols, leads nest recovery efforts, and organizes and conducts nesting surveys. These surveys occur six days a week, from April 1 through July 15 and routes range from Rollover Pass in Bolivar to Surfside Beach. Patrols are conducted by GCSTR staff, TAMUG students, staff, and a cadre of community volunteers. This patrollers use either Utility Task Vehicles (UTVs) or conduct walking patrols, depending on the route. When sea turtle tracks are found, responders assess whether nesting occurred, locate and excavate the nest cavity, and carefully remove the eggs. The eggs are packed in sand either from the original nest and are transported to Padre Island National Seashore's incubation facility per State of Texas protocols. All GCSTR staff, contractors, and volunteers follow all required permits, authorizations, methodologies, and agency protocols outlined by the State of Texas nesting and stranding coordinator, Dr. Donna Shaver, Padre Island National Seashore, Sea Turtle Science and Recovery Division. The GCSTR reports nesting data to Dr. Shaver and TPWD NRDA Trustees that have funded the program.

The Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol Program plays a critical role in conserving sea turtles in the lower Galveston Bay watershed along the upper Texas coast. Over the past 10 years this program was funded through a Deep-Water Horizon Early Restoration grant which ends in 2025. Although some minimal funding is being provided, the GCSTR is seeking alternate funding mechanisms to fully operate the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol at its current effort level. As the GCSTR continues to lead these efforts, the need to enhance patrol coverage, volunteer coordination, and data collection remains vital. The program protects the critically endangered Kemp's ridley and other threatened and endangered sea turtles through early detection of nesting activity, nest protection, and monitoring for undetected nests and emerging hatchlings. Additionally, this program works in tandem with the GCSTR's Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Program that enables the rescue of many stranded sea turtles found washed ashore during the surveys. This program also acts in tandem with the GCSTR's Marine Debris program to report marine hot spots for subsequent beach cleanups. The work of the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol actively involves students, volunteers, and the broader community in conservation and contributes essential data to regional and Gulf-wide efforts; the program regularly trains ~350 volunteers per season.

The Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol Program supports the goals of the Galveston Bay Estuary Program by helping protect endangered and threatened sea turtles through active nest detection and monitoring along the lower Galveston Bay watershed. (i.e., Protect and Sustain Living Resources). The lower Galveston Bay watershed is an important developmental and nesting habitat for sea turtles. Research funded by GBEP has shown important connections among the habitats sea turtles use in Galveston Bay and nearby beachfront areas (Galveston Bay Estuary System – GBES). These links among bays and beachfront play a vital role in supporting a healthy and functioning coastal ecosystem overall. In the past 10 years, this program has collected detailed patrol logs containing data such as wind speed, tides, cloud cover, beach nourishment, beach raking, high tide inundation events and the impact of numerous tropical storms and hurricanes on our coast. This information supports our conservation work but can also show how environmental factors affect sea turtle behavior and all marine life.

The GCSTR actively recruits volunteers through outreach events and directly with the public on the beach during nesting season and throughout the year. The public is fascinated with sea turtles and the 8.1 million tourists that visit Galveston per year, learn about marine conservation and the issues of Galveston Bay, its marine life as well as sea turtles. These activities allow the GCSTR to grow its volunteer base and educate the public on sea turtle conservation, coastal stewardship, and marine ecosystem health. Strengthening this program fosters a more informed and conservation-minded coastal community, and communities far from the coast, while supporting the long-term recovery of sea turtle populations.

In addition to monitoring endangered sea turtles, patrol personnel are extensively trained to identify and report sightings of federally protected shorebirds, including piping plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) and red knots (*Calidris canutus*), as well as to document and mitigate potential negative interactions between wildlife and the public. Each year, over a dozen injured birds and other marine or coastal wildlife are rescued, while incidents such as mass fish die-offs and stranded cetaceans are promptly reported to the appropriate regulatory agencies. This program is currently the longest running survey operating within the lower Galveston watershed and has played a pivotal role in raising awareness and informing response efforts related to regional environmental issues. As the primary gateway to the Gulf, the survey area occupies a strategically vital position in tracking the movement of endangered species, marine debris and hazardous material spills into and out of the Galveston Bay Estuary System.

Other Plans Implemented:

Texas Coastal Management Plan, Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Girl and Boy Scout Groups, Visitors to Galveston

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):

From (28.9376454, -95.2955976) to (29.5068112, -94.5002928)

Location:

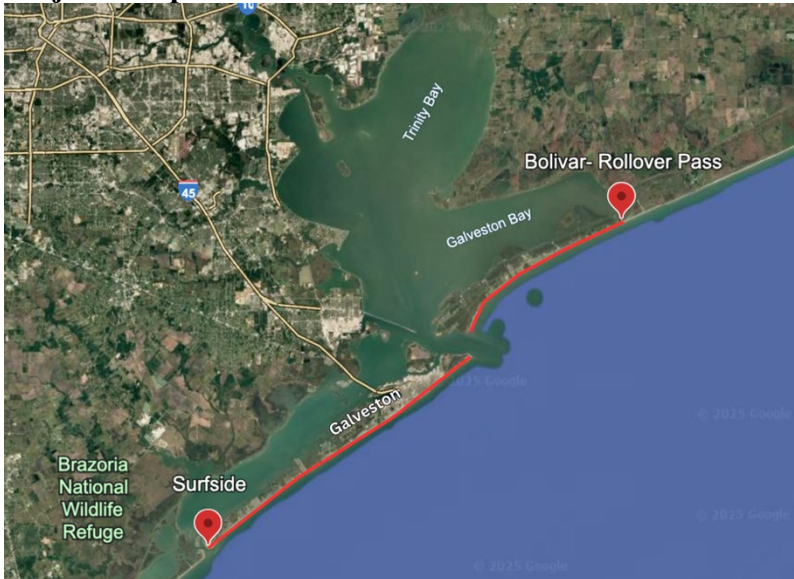
Lower Galveston Bay watershed ranging from the Rollover Pass on the Bolivar Peninsula to Surfside, TX

Partners¹ and Their Roles:

The Bay Area Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists groups provide many volunteers to our program, TAMUG provides students, scholars, and staff volunteers for our program. The GCSTR works closely with Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS), U.S. Fish & Wildlife, and Texas Parks Wildlife. State level oversight is conducted by the nesting and stranding coordinator at PAIS. U.S. Fish & Wildlife and Texas Parks and Wildlife oversee the state and federal permits for the GCSTR to work with these endangered animals.

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



Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol Coverage area in red.

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):



GCSTR Excavating a Kemp's Ridley Nest.



TXMN Volunteer patrolling with a UTV.

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	\$34,811
Fringe Benefits (###)% ²	\$16,092
Travel	\$0.00
Supplies	\$5,600
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$0.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$15,800
Total Direct Cost	72,303

b. Indirect Costs³

Distribution Base Amount (<i>identify Base type below</i>)	\$
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	54.0%
Total Indirect Costs	\$ 39,044

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	\$ 111,347
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Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):

☐ direct salary/wages and fringe benefits

X modified total direct costs

☐ Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

The indirect cost rate is (check one):

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

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

☐ **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.

☐ **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.”]

☐ **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:

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

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

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

SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Please read and understand the following:

- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge that information on how grant payments will be made is contained in the Budget Details section describing direct and possibly indirect costs. You further acknowledge that grant payments will be reimbursements on the basis of allowable costs incurred and that selected recipients will receive contract documents addressing allowable costs, unallowable costs, and reimbursement.
- By submitting this Project Proposal, you acknowledge your understanding that Project Proposals do not require matching funds and that a TCEQ director does not need to adjust or waive any matching funds requirement.
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SECTION NINE: QUESTIONS AND PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETINGS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(13) and 30 TAC § 14.7(14)]:

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

SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

- GBEP intends to accept only complete Projected Proposals in a layout and format constituting a filled version of this proposal document with all applicable sections therein addressed; however, GBEP may, in its sole discretion, consider and accept nonconforming Project Proposals in the best interest of the state.
- Unless otherwise specified by GBEP, formal signatures are not required on Project Proposals.
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Submittal Process and Deadline [see 30 TAC § 14.7(8) and 30 TAC § 14.7(9)]:
Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by July 25, 2025 to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:

WSQ Subcommittee
Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov

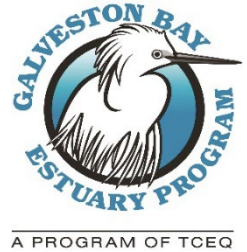
NRU Subcommittee
Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov

PPE Subcommittee
Zoe.Gapayao@tceq.texas.gov

M&R Subcommittee
Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov

Programmatic Projects
Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov

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 ONE: INTRODUCTION

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

Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]: The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for fiscal 2027 (FY 2027) Priority Area Actions that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for FY 2027 at the June 2025 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY 2027 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

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

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

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

Timeline of Proposals:

Task	Date Due
Release of Request for Proposals	June 23, 2025
Proposals Due	July 25, 2025
Send Proposals to Subcommittees Members for Review	August 13, 2025
Present Proposals to Subcommittees for Council Recommendation	September 3, 2025 (NRU and PPE) September 10, 2025 (M&R and WSQ)
Present Proposals to B&P Subcommittee for Final Recommendation	October 1, 2025
Present Proposals to Galveston Bay Council for Approval	October 15, 2025

SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: PPE Choose an item.
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Choose an item.

Project Name:

Wings of Discovery: Teaching STEAM through Birds and Journaling

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

Wendy Reistle

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*

n/a

<u>Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:</u>	RD74AUNCTZJ1
<u>Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:</u>	74-60001399

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Wendy Reistle
Project Representative Phone	281-283-3045
Project Representative Email	reistle@uhcl.edu

Amount Requested from GBEP:

\$82,464

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒

Is the project scalable? ☐

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-08/31/2027)	\$73,979.37
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-08/31/2028)	\$8,484.63
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-08/31/2029)	\$0.00
Total	\$82,464

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

1 July 2027 – 31 December 2028 (18 months)

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

\$82,464

Is this an estimate? ☒

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

n/a

Project Urgency:

This program is a unique environmental education opportunity for middle school teachers and their students. The focus will be on making birdwatching and journaling opportunities available to teachers outside the school year by hosting three full day summer classes. Focus will be on cross curriculum connections with the middle school TEKS. Now is the time to learn about the natural environment and take action by going outside for birdwatching and journaling in natural landscapes in the Galveston Bay watershed.

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:

Engage Communities

Preserve Galveston Bay Through Stakeholder and Partner Outreach (SPO)

SPO-1: Stewardship Programs and Volunteer Opportunities. Learning how to become a birdwatcher will allow teachers and students the opportunity to learn about and to attend bird counts and other bird watching volunteer opportunities in the greater Galveston Bay ecosystem. Tree planting and aftercare will provide stewardship opportunities for teachers, students, and volunteers.

SPO-2: Workshops and Events. Three-day teacher summer workshops, field trips and tree planting events.

Learning to birdwatch can lead to many stewardship opportunities as teachers and students become aware of the different types of birds and their habitats. This will open many opportunities for them to become stewards. Researching and identifying native shrubs and trees that are beneficial to birds will allow students and teachers to learn more about our native plants and how wildlife depends on them. Planting and caring for the trees will provide direct stewardship opportunities.

We will host three days of teacher workshops in summer 2027, focusing on learning about birds, birdwatching, and nature journaling. We will also include two days of birding field trips to places such as Brazos Bend State Park and High Island. We will incorporate bird banding as a teacher event as well.

Public Education and Awareness (PEA)

PEA-1: Engage the Public. Teachers participate in a new program to learn about birds and nature journaling and are able to engage their students and their students' parents in this dialogue.

PEA-2: Adult Education. Three-day summer teacher workshop and two field trips during the fall and spring.

PEA-3: K-12 Education efforts. Teachers will bring their learning back to campus to benefit K-12 students.

The proposed program covers key environmental issues that are important to the Galveston Bay watershed as well as the entire state of Texas. This program is aimed at teaching middle school teachers how to engage their students and the public (parents of their students) by learning and journaling about birds and their unique environments in Galveston Bay. Teachers will be able to present this Galveston Bay Estuary-related curriculum across disciplines and relay to their students how to think critically about the environmental issues facing our world today. Teacher workshops and field trips are key to bringing this program opportunity to middle school students.

Protect and Sustain Living Resources

Support Habitat Conservation (HC)

HC-3: Habitat Enhancement. The planting of native trees and shrubs on school grounds will provide areas of bird habitat.

The naturally existing habitats at the schools will be enhanced to increase overall function and productivity. Native trees and shrubs will be chosen that benefit wildlife, particularly birds. We will assist with the selection of appropriate native plants based on parameters such as soil and light conditions, as well as the practicality of locations based on the school's needs.

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: *Benefit to native fish and wildlife.* The bird habitat improvement projects on school campuses will benefit many species of birds by providing habitat and food.

PPE: *Empowers K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.* A positive experience with birds can help foster a lifelong interest in observing and conserving bird species, greater environmental literacy, and an interest in habitat conservation. The students will be involved in the school campus habitat improvement project and will take new knowledge and skills home and into the community.

PPE: *Connects new audiences to existing/completed projects or the natural habitat.* Teachers attending this workshop will be introduced to the new GBF facility in Kemah, Exploration Green, Brazos Bend State Park, Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary, and the rookery on High Island. All of these are wonderful examples of good birding habitat. The teachers will also see birds up close with bird banding as part of the curriculum.

PPE: *Opportunities for GBEP and partners to host workshops/networking for education and outreach practitioners on key topics.* This teacher workshop will be hosted at the new GBF facility in Kemah. We will be partnering with GBF, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Exploration Green, and the Master Naturalists, providing each partner with an opportunity to reach out with their conservation priorities.

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

n/a

SECTION FIVE: PROPOSAL DETAILS

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

Project Summary:

Birds and nature journaling can provide a gateway to teaching STEAM subjects, encourage a connection to nature, and foster environmental literacy. We will provide five days of teacher education for ten K-12 teachers (priority to middle school teachers), stipends for teachers, classroom supplies, and fund a bird habitat improvement project on the campus where they teach.

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

This project promotes the use of ornithology to teach science, technology, engineering, art, writing, and mathematics in K-12 education. (STEAM). Birds and nature journaling can provide a gateway to teaching STEAM subjects, encourage a connection to nature, and foster environmental literacy. Birding is a place-based activity that requires no specialized equipment and can be done anywhere, including on a school campus. Teaching with birding will encourage familiarity with local birds among schoolchildren, as well as promote environmental literacy through awareness of local habitats (including aquatic habitats) and their health, conservation, and /or restoration.

We propose a three-day teacher workshop in the summer of 2027 hosted at the new GBF facility in Kemah for ten teachers (proposed agenda attached), followed by a day field trip in the fall of 2027 to a State Park, and a day field trip in the spring of 2028 to a local favorite such as High Island or Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary for a total of five days of teacher education which will connect participants to local birding habitat including areas where habitat has been improved. The workshop will be geared towards middle school TEKS, but teachers from other grades, as well as informal educators, can apply to attend. Teachers will take this learning back to their classrooms to benefit K-12 students.

The project will include habitat improvement for birds on up to ten school campuses. We will ask each campus to plant at least ten native trees or shrubs of at least five species. We will assist with planning and plant selection; however, we envision that the students from each school and the local community will be involved in the planning and execution (providing volunteer opportunities) of the habitat improvement projects. Tree planting will take place in the fall of 2027 and the fall of 2028. These trees will provide food and habitat for birds and enhance bird-watching opportunities on campus for students.

Teachers will receive a stipend of \$900 for attending the five days of continuing education and all the materials needed to participate in the workshop, including a pair of binoculars. They will also receive a classroom set of bird field guides, curriculum materials, and a budget to purchase trees and have them delivered to their campus. Their tree budget also allows for the purchase of other materials that will be required, including tree supports, protective wire guards, and watering equipment.

Other Plans Implemented:

- **Texas Coastal Management Plan:** Supports protection of natural habitats and wildlife
- **National Audubon Society Flight Plan:** Inspire, Influence, Innovate
- **North American Association for Environmental Education Guidelines of Excellence**
- **Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills: Science, Mathematics**
- **2021 – 2040 NOAA Education Strategic Plan:**
Goal 1: Science-informed Society
Goal 3: Ready, Responsive, Resilient

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

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Up to ten school campuses will be involved in habitat improvement for birds.

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 EJSscreen instructions.

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

n/a

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

n/a

Location:

School campuses TBD in Galveston and surrounding counties.

Partners¹ 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.

Professional Partners:

Galveston Bay Foundation will host the summer workshops and present at the teacher workshops. Gulf Coast Bird Observatory will assist with teacher workshops and field trip as well as bird banding. Both organizations will partner with us on this proposal.

Teachers and School Administrators:

Participating teachers and school administrators who support students participating in birding, nature journaling and tree planting on their school campuses partner with us. Teachers will receive a \$900 stipend for attending the summer teacher workshops and field trips.

Community Partners:

Volunteers from the Master Naturalists, Exploration Green, and the Native Plant Society will help facilitate field trips and tree plantings.

Projects Map

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

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

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

SECTION SIX: BUDGET DETAILS

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

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

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	\$18,937.50
Fringe Benefits	\$6,022.13
Travel	\$500.00
Supplies	\$20,100.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$12,746.32
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$9,050
Total Direct Cost	\$67,356

b. Indirect Costs²

Distribution Base Amount (<i>identify Base type below</i>)	\$ 58,356 (modified total direct costs)
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	50% on campus and 16% off campus
Total Indirect Costs	\$ 15,108

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	\$ 82,646
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Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):

- ☐ direct salary/wages and fringe benefits
- ☐ modified total direct costs
- ☐ Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

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

² Please attach Indirect Cost Agreement as an appendix if applicable

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

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

Teacher Stipends (\$9000)

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

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

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WSQ Subcommittee
Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov

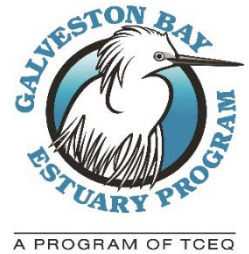
NRU Subcommittee
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PPE Subcommittee
Zoe.Gapayao@tceq.texas.gov

M&R Subcommittee
Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov

Programmatic Projects
Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov

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.

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SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

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

Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]: The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for fiscal 2027 (FY 2027) Priority Area Actions that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for FY 2027 at the June 2025 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY 2027 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

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

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

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

Timeline of Proposals:

Task	Date Due
Release of Request for Proposals	June 23, 2025
Proposals Due	July 25, 2025
Send Proposals to Subcommittees Members for Review	August 13, 2025
Present Proposals to Subcommittees for Council Recommendation	September 3, 2025 (NRU and PPE) September 10, 2025 (M&R and WSQ)
Present Proposals to B&P Subcommittee for Final Recommendation	October 1, 2025
Present Proposals to Galveston Bay Council for Approval	October 15, 2025

SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Public Participation and Education (PPE)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Choose an item.

Project Name:

GB Geospatial-Inquiry: Empowering Application of Relevant Understanding of Place (GB GEAR UP!)

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

Mary Curtis, PhD (UHCL College of Education)

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*

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<u>Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:</u>	74-6001399 (University of Houston-Clear Lake)
<u>Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:</u>	

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Sandra Metoyer (Grant Admin.)
Project Representative Phone	281-283-3961
Project Representative Email	Metoyer@uhcl.edu

Amount Requested from GBEP:

\$38,304

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒

Is the project scalable? ☐

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	\$38,304
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	\$0.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	\$0.00
Total	\$38,304

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

September 30, 2026 – September 30, 2027 (12-month period)

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

\$38,304

Is this an estimate? ☐

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

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

Not Applicable.

Project Urgency:

Important but not immediately urgent.

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:

The primary plan priority addressed with this project is “inform science-based decision making.”

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:

This project explicitly addresses [we argue] the most difficult to achieve GBEP plan priority: Inform science-based decision making related to the Galveston Bay region.

Part of addressing the big-picture priority of informed science-based decision making is (1) key issue engagement (PEA-1); (2) adult education (PEA-2), (3) K-12 education efforts (PEA-3); (4) local government outreach (SPO-4); (5) inquiry-based learning; (6) place-based education; (7) next generation Earth system science; and (8) most importantly, elementary students and their teachers empowered by an understanding of key socio-environmental issues (such as superfund sites in the Houston-Galveston region) and informed by geospatial research data to become critical thinkers, decision-makers, and future science-literate citizens.

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

Not directly applicable.

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 Galveston Bay Geospatial-Inquiry: Empowering Application of Relevant Understanding of Place (GB GEAR UP!) project is designed to leverage the relationship between pre-service and in-service teachers while building capacity for educators to strategically use GIS digital tools to design inquiry-based K-6 social studies instruction that authentically integrates scientific literacy into lessons regarding civic responsibility, environmental stewardship, and community impact. Geospatial tools aid teachers and students alike to develop an awareness of the socio-environmental challenges of where they live, thus making learning more relevant and important to the learner. Additionally, employing geospatial tools (e.g., GIS maps, StoryMaps, etc.) from Galveston Bay regional organizations, such as the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), will help connect new social studies audiences to Galveston Bay Estuary Program initiatives and partners.

This project aims to support pre-service and in-service teachers' understanding of the Galveston Bay region as a place in which they live and a place where active citizenship makes a real difference. Developing citizens who can make inferences and use data to make informed decisions is a critical, fundamental part of social studies and science education. The GB GEAR UP! project aims to equip educators with the knowledge and skills to foster such citizenship capacity in their students.

Full Project Description (1,000 words or less): (967 words)

The Galveston Bay Geospatial-Inquiry: Empowering Application of Relevant Understanding of Place (GB GEAR UP!) project is designed to leverage co-designed learning between pre-service and in-service teachers (Battacharya, 2024) while building capacity for elementary educators to strategically use GIS digital tools to design inquiry-based social studies instruction that authentically integrates scientific literacy into lessons regarding civic responsibility, environmental stewardship, and encourages elementary students to evaluate Best Management Practices (RES-6). Geospatial tools aid teachers and students alike to develop an awareness of the socio-environmental challenges of where they live, thus making learning more relevant and important to the learner.

Additionally, employing geospatial tools (e.g., GIS maps, StoryMaps, etc.) from Galveston Bay Estuary Program's regional organizations, such as the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), Houston Area Research Council (HARC), and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), will help connect new social studies audiences to Galveston Bay Estuary Program projects and partners.

The project aims to support pre-service and in-service teachers' understanding of the Galveston Bay region as a place in which they live and a place where active citizenship makes a real difference. Developing citizens who can make inferences and use data to make informed decisions is a critical, fundamental part of social studies and science education. The GB GEAR UP! project will optimize existing monitoring and research data through GBEP and GBEP partner resources to equip educators (both pre-service and in-service) with the knowledge and skills to foster such citizenship capacity in their students.

The project explicitly addresses [we argue] the most difficult to achieve GBEP plan priority: Inform science-based decision making related to the Galveston Bay region. Part of addressing the big-picture priority of informed science-based decision making is (1) key issue engagement (PEA-1); (2) adult education (PEA-2), (3) K-12 education efforts (PEA-3); (4) local government outreach (SPO-4); (5) inquiry-based learning; (6) place-based education; (7) next generation Earth system science; and (8) most importantly, elementary students and their teachers empowered by an understanding of key socio-environmental issues (such as superfund sites in the Houston-Galveston region) and informed by research data to become critical thinkers, decision-makers, and future science-literate citizens.

The GB GEAR UP! project is designed to be integrated into the Fall 2026 elementary social studies methods courses for pre-service elementary teachers at the University Houston-Clear Lake. These courses are taught by the project PI, Mary Curtis, who has over 20 years of experience using and teaching K-12 educators to use online Geographic Inquiry Systems (GIS) applications (e.g., ArcGIS) with inquiry-based learning. Dr. Curtis will develop instruction using TCEQ digital tools to introduce pre-service teachers to geospatial tools, the TCEQ dynamic GOS website (and other GIS web-based resources), and ways to teach (e.g., pedagogy) using geospatial technology. Thus, teachers' Technological Pedagogical and Content Knowledge (TPACK) will be enhanced as the course progresses. They will apply their TPACK to analyze authentic challenges in the Galveston Bay region and relate it to the taught curriculum (e.g., place-based learning). The culminating assignment for the course will be to develop and deliver a workshop to train in-service teachers on how to use geospatial technology and apply it to the taught social studies curriculum. They will also be invited to participate in a session at the annual UHCL STEM Conference (spring term) where pre-service and in-service teachers will model how to integrate geospatial tools (e.g., GIS maps, StoryMaps, etc.) from Galveston Bay regional organizations (e.g., TCEQ) and model geographic inquiry for authentic place-based learning of socio-environmental challenges in the Galveston Bay region.

- Upon notification of funding, the following steps will occur:
 - Create a course calendar for the undergraduate and graduate EC-6 social studies methods course (TCED 4321 and TCED 5231) to embed learning about geospatial technologies and using TCEQ online tools to develop elementary social studies instruction.
 - Design instruction to introduce geospatial technologies, TCEQ tools, and inquiry-based learning to pre-service teachers.

- Design instruction to support pre-service teachers instructional design using TCEQ.
- Create student learning experiences to develop awareness of place, challenges within a place, and responsibilities of citizens within a place.
- Design instruction to develop students' understanding of inquiry and inquiry in place-based instruction.
- Create student assignments to build awareness and capacity to integrate technology into instruction using local data and to make data informed decisions for the Galveston Bay Region.
- Formative evaluation will be ongoing (e.g., observations, interviews, small-group focus sessions)
- **Project Implementation:**
 - Teach students how to design inquiry and place-based instruction in social studies using geospatial technologies and data about the Galveston Bay region as a pedagogical tool.
 - Pre-service elementary teachers design a lesson integrating online local geospatial technologies (e.g., TCEQ website) and a presentation to teach a peer in-service educator how to use the technology and apply it to their own instructional design. (The latter teaching demonstration will be the culminating assignment in mid-November.)
- **Data Analysis and Dissemination:**
 - The students will be invited to participate in a session at the annual STEM Conference hosted by the University of Houston-Clear Lake (March 2027).
 - The students will model the lessons co-developed with their in-service mentors. The PI and students will reflect on their personal and collective experiences to share what they learned, how they met challenges, and suggestions for future application to social studies education.
 - This opportunity will help students build community and collaboration with in-service teachers as they learn how to employ online local geospatial tools to develop inquiry and place-based instruction to better understand socio-environmental challenges facing the Galveston Bay region.

Project Deliverables:

- On-going Pre-service Professional Development (Fall 2026)
- Student Instructional Design (Fall 2026)
- Student Teaching Presentation (mid-November 2026)
- Pre-service and in-service teacher co-creation of knowledge (Academic Year 2026-2027)
- Pre & In-Service Collaborative PD presented at STEM Conference (early-March 2027)
- Project Evaluation (AY 2026-2027) with ongoing formative evaluation (reported quarterly)
- Final project evaluation and final report summer of FY2027

Other Plans Implemented:

The goals of this project align with the Texas state standards (TXeES) of education and facilitates the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the Next Generation Earth System Science Standards (NASEM), the State of Texas content standards for social studies, and the National Council for Geographic Education's Geography Standards.

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

- (1) Authentic collaboration among pre-service and in-service teachers for the co-design of “science-based decision making” via geospatial inquiry is an atypical collaboration.
- (2) The social studies education community among formal K-12 teachers and students is a new community of learners not previously engaged by GBEP.
- (3) The bridge between formal and informal teaching and learning opens new possibilities that will yield positive and creative outcomes (Battacharya, 2024)

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 EJSscreen instructions.

☐ Yes

☒ No

Although UHCL is a Hispanic-serving Institution with many Spanish as a first language students, all students must demonstrate English proficiency prior to enrolling in a credit-bearing university course. Thus, Title VI compliance does not apply.

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

29.58 Latitude/-95.10 Longitude

Location:

Located just a half-hour from downtown Houston, University of Houston-Clear Lake's campus resides on 524-acres of riparian, coastal grassland, and wetland habitat.

Partners¹ and Their Roles:

1. Mary Curtis, Ph.D. (College of Education at UHCL) is the project coordinator and Principal Investigator (PI). Dr. Curtis is faculty in the College of Education responsible for Social Studies pre-service teacher preparation and training. She is a qualified and experienced pre-service educator specializing in geospatial inquiry, science and social studies methods, and inquiry-based learning. She is responsible for coordinating the project and activities among the pre-service and in-service teachers.
2. Sandra Metoyer, Ph.D. (Environmental Institute of Houston at UHCL) is the grant administrator, budget manager, and primary liaison between UHCL and GBEP. She has fiscal and reporting responsibility for the grant and leads the project evaluation, invoicing, and reporting to GBEP.
3. Project Evaluator (TBD) will report to Project Admin. (Metoyer) to provide mixed-method evaluation measures for reporting purposes. Metoyer has substantial experience in leading project evaluation and is well qualified to act as financial and overall grant administrator.
4. In-service teacher partners (n=up to 5) (TBD) will act as mentors to the pre-service teachers (n=up to 15) to co-design geospatial inquiry activities and will be paid \$500.00 stipend for the fall term.

Note: None of the project partners are subgrantees.

Projects Map – Not Applicable

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.

[Insert Map Here or Attach as an Appendix if Applicable]

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

[Insert Here or Attach as an Appendix]

SECTION SIX: BUDGET DETAILS

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

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

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	\$13,208.33
Fringe Benefits (##%) ²	\$2,750.83
Travel	\$500.00
Supplies	\$3,000.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$4,410.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$2,500.00
Total Direct Cost	\$26,369.17

b. Indirect Costs³

Distribution Base Amount (<i>identify Base type below</i>)	\$ 23,869.17
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	% 50.0
Total Indirect Costs	\$ 11,934.58

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	\$ 38,303.75
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Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):

- ☐ direct salary/wages and fringe benefits
☒ modified total direct costs
☐ Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

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

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

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

☐ **De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of 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.

☐ **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.”]

☐ **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:

Not Applicable.

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

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

SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Please read and understand the following:

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

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

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

SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

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

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

Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by July 25, 2025 to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:

WSQ Subcommittee

Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov

NRU Subcommittee

Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov

PPE Subcommittee

Zoe.Gapayao@tceq.texas.gov

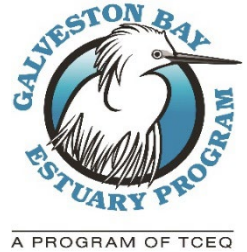
M&R Subcommittee

Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov

Programmatic Projects

Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov

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 ONE: INTRODUCTION

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

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

Timeline of Proposals:

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Present Proposals to B&P Subcommittee for Final Recommendation	October 1, 2025
Present Proposals to Galveston Bay Council for Approval	October 15, 2025

SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Public Participation and Education (PPE)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Choose an item.

Project Name:

Connecting Communities to Houston's Prairie Ecosystems

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*

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

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:

\$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
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	\$0.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	\$0.00
Total	\$100,000

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):

\$100,000

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:

The project will help to support existing habitat restoration sites and manage those to prevent invasive species and to enhance species diversity.

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:

The proposed project will restore coastal prairie and riparian habitat within existing restoration sites throughout Houston.

HC-3- Habitat Enhancement:

The proposed project will enhance habitat through removal of non-native species and will result in the planting of a diverse mix of native vegetation.

SC1- Native Species Management:

The proposed project will result in the planting of thousands of native plants into Houston's prairie restoration sites through volunteer planting events with local communities. The restored areas will provide habitat for many species of native wildlife, including many 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 from existing prairie restoration sites.

SPO-1: Stewardship Programs and Volunteer Opportunities:

The proposed project will offer numerous volunteer planting and invasive species removal events for the community to be involved in the restoration of their local habitats.

PEA-2: Adult Education:

The proposed project will provide planting opportunities for corporate groups and community organizations for adults to learn about and restore prairie habitat.

PEA-3: K-12 Education Efforts

The proposed project will offer volunteer planting opportunities to K-12 students, where students will learn how to plant plants, the efforts across Houston to restore native habitat, and the benefits of preserving and restoring natural spaces.

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:

This project connects local residents to native prairie habitats through on-the-ground restoration and education, directly addressing PPE priorities by empowering K-12 students and adults to positively impact their environment and by introducing new audiences to existing restoration sites and natural habitats. HPARD will implement best management practices (BMPs) that mitigate nonpoint source pollution during the prairie management process, aligning with WSQ priorities. The project supports NRU priorities through habitat enhancement that includes removal of nonnative vegetation, installation of native plant species, and adaptive management of previously completed restoration sites. By integrating habitat improvement, community engagement, and water quality strategies, the project contributes to multiple priority areas, strengthening programmatic impact. Volunteer events, including planting days, trash cleanups, and invasive species removals, will foster sustained community involvement and build long-term stewardship of restored habitats.

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 native prairie habitat which will help to reduce nutrient pollution from nonpoint source runoff. Three of the six prairies are in parks that are adjacent to waterways.

This project will enhance Houston's prairie habitat, improving coastal resiliency through nature-based solutions that address, heat, flooding, air quality, and improvements for native wildlife.

This project will reduce trash throughout natural areas and prevent it from entering adjacent waterways, 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 areas. 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 Houston Parks and Recreation Department will lead a community-focused project to restore native prairie habitat and engage residents through volunteer stewardship events across six City of Houston parks. The project will connect new audiences to Houston's natural habitat through outreach, education, and workforce development, while advancing ecological goals of existing prairie restoration sites.

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

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) proposes a community-centered project to increase engagement with prairie ecosystems across Houston. This project will introduce native habitats to local Houston communities, expand environmental education, and support ecological restoration within city parks. Through a combination of volunteer events, youth engagement, ecological management, and community outreach, HPARD will enhance both the ecological diversity of prairie habitats and the environmental literacy of Houston residents.

HPARD currently manages over 160 acres of prairie habitat across six City of Houston parks: Sylvan Rodriguez Park, Blackhawk Park, Robert C. Stuart Park, Ann Taylor Park, Clinton Park, and Hobart Taylor Park. These prairies represent nature-based infrastructure within Houston's urban landscape, providing essential ecosystem services such as flood mitigation, native biodiversity preservation, and reduced urban heat.

To increase public access and involvement with these spaces, HPARD will host a total of 15 community-based planting and stewardship events across the six prairie sites over the project period. These events will provide hands-on opportunities for local residents, school groups, and community organizations to participate in prairie restoration activities, including native plant installation, seeding, invasive species removal, and trash removal. Each event will be designed to build local stewardship and raise awareness of the critical role native prairies play in Houston's coastal resilience.

A key component of this project is workforce development and capacity building through the hiring of two full-time, year-long interns. These interns will support HPARD staff with event coordination, community engagement, and site-based ecological work. They will assist in prairie maintenance activities, help propagate native prairie species in the HPARD greenhouse, and create connections with local schools and community groups. These positions will also provide early-career training opportunities in the fields of conservation, urban ecology, and public outreach.

Restoration and ongoing management of prairie sites will be supported by contracted services for targeted invasive species treatment. Community planting events will support the installation of diverse, native species to increase species diversity into the prairie sites.

In addition to hands-on restoration and volunteer engagement, this project includes a focused effort to expand community outreach and participation, targeting neighborhoods and schools that have not previously been involved in HPARD's prairie initiatives. Outreach strategies will include direct engagement with school districts, faith-based organizations, neighborhood associations, corporate groups, and workforce programs. HPARD will lead the events, emphasizing the importance of native prairies as nature-based solutions for flooding, heat resilience, air quality, and supporting native wildlife.

This project will significantly broaden the reach and impact of HPARD's prairie program, fostering a sense of ownership and appreciation for native landscapes while advancing the city's broader nature-based

infrastructure goals. Long-term, this initiative will support the resilience of Houston's green spaces and communities through continued restoration, workforce development, and public engagement. Outcomes of the project will include:

- Hosting 15 community planting and stewardship events in six park-based prairie habitats.
- Hiring and mentoring two year-long interns to support outreach and restoration activities.
- Propagation and planting of native prairie species to enhance biodiversity at all six sites.
- Invasive species management through contractor services to improve habitat quality.
- Expansion of outreach to new communities and school groups, increasing environmental education and participation across the city.
- Increased public understanding of the role of nature-based solutions in climate resilience and impacts to local waterways and Galveston Bay.

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

HPARD will engage with new schools and groups throughout Houston by expanding outreach efforts to involve new communities in the community volunteer projects.

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):

[degrees, minutes, and seconds format]

Location:

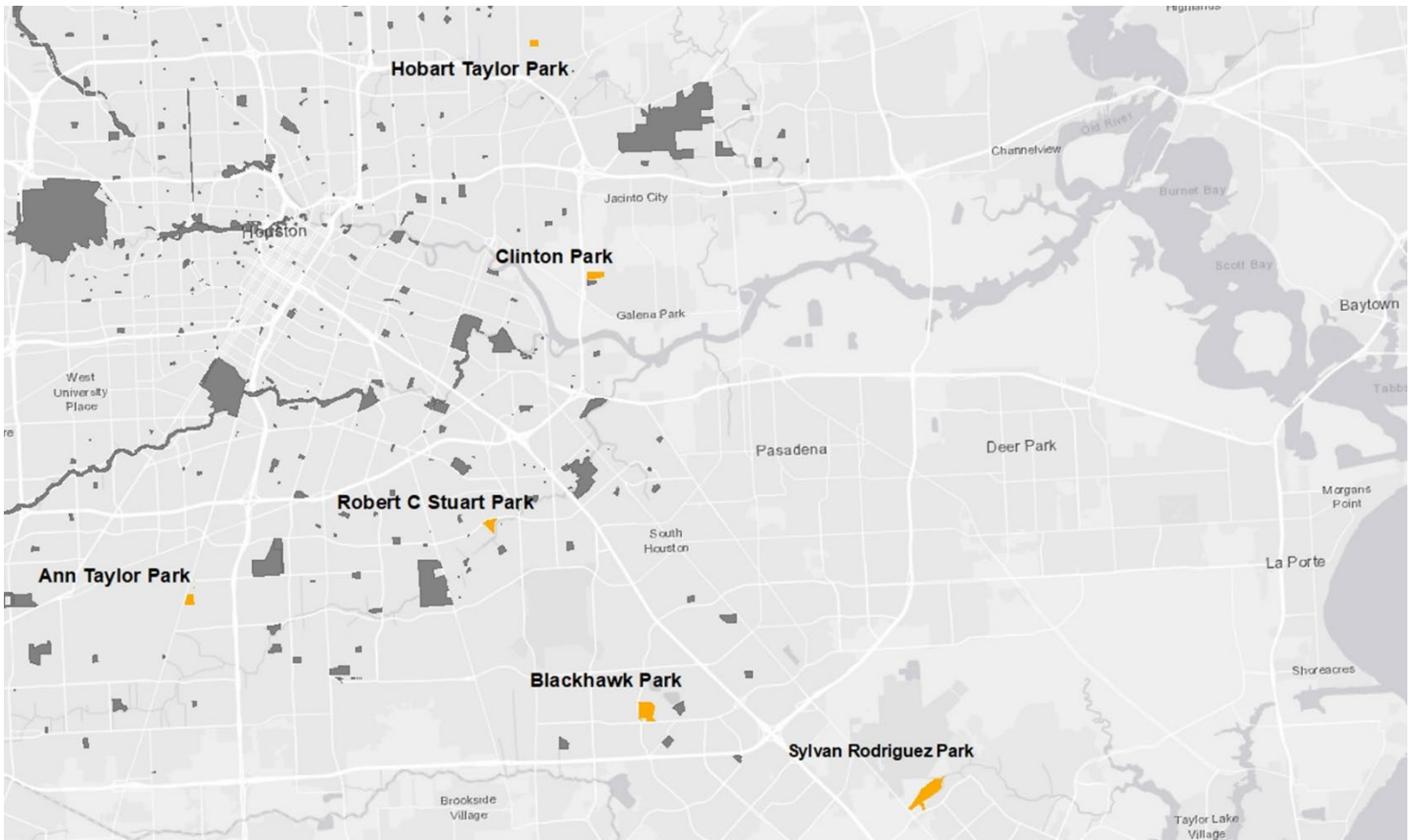
Sylvan Rodriguez Park; Ann Taylor Park; Blackhawk Park; Clinton Park; Hobart Taylor Park

Partners¹ and Their Roles:

N/A

Projects Map

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.



Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):



Sylvan Rodriguez Park Prairie



Volunteers plant at Sylvan Rodriguez Park



Student volunteer planting at Blackhawk Park

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	\$90,000
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Total Direct Cost	\$100,000

b. Indirect Costs³

Distribution Base Amount (<i>identify Base type below</i>)	\$
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	%
Total Indirect Costs	\$ 0

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

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

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

- ☐ direct salary/wages and fringe benefits
- ☐ modified total direct costs
- ☐ Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

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

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

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

☐ **De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of 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.

☐ **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.”]

☐ **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:

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

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

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

SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Please read and understand the following:

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

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

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

SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

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

Submittal Process and Deadline [see 30 TAC § 14.7(8) and 30 TAC § 14.7(9)]:
Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by July 25, 2025 to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:

WSQ Subcommittee
Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov

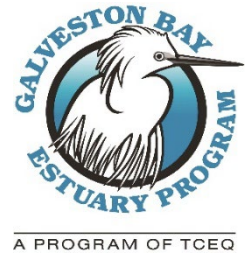
NRU Subcommittee
Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov

PPE Subcommittee
Zoe.Gapayao@tceq.texas.gov

M&R Subcommittee
Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov

Programmatic Projects
Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov

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 ONE: INTRODUCTION

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

Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]: The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for fiscal 2027 (FY 2027) Priority Area Actions that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for FY 2027 at the June 2025 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY 2027 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

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

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

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

Timeline of Proposals:

Task	Date Due
Release of Request for Proposals	June 23, 2025
Proposals Due	July 25, 2025
Send Proposals to Subcommittees Members for Review	August 13, 2025
Present Proposals to Subcommittees for Council Recommendation	September 3, 2025 (NRU and PPE) September 10, 2025 (M&R and WSQ)
Present Proposals to B&P Subcommittee for Final Recommendation	October 1, 2025
Present Proposals to Galveston Bay Council for Approval	October 15, 2025

SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Water and Sediment Quality (WSQ)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Public Participation and Education (PPE)

Project Name:

Health and Performance Monitoring of Green Infrastructure BMPs: A Pathway for High School Intern Career

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

Christie Taylor

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:	DM2CDWR8LAG3
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	3555555552049

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Christie Taylor
Project Representative Phone	979-399-4009
Project Representative Email	christina.taylor@ag.tamu.edu

Amount Requested from GBEP:

\$241,966

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒

Is the project scalable? ☐

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	\$103,787.00
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	\$138,179.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	\$0.00
Total	\$241,966.00

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, 2028

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

\$249,000

Is this an estimate? ☒

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

Much of our leveraging is in-kind equipment and previously secured.

The total project costs include the use of equipment (such as rain gauges, models, infiltration rings, and tools) that we already own. It also includes support from partner organizations for site access, tools, and student intern support. Additionally, we offer in-house printing of up to 18 student research posters for future presentations.

Project Urgency:

This project was ranked as the first alternate (#2) in the FY26 WSQ proposal cycle, underscoring its competitiveness and readiness. The project allows for monitoring of green infrastructure practices installed at various times, from 2012 to 2025 (ranging in age from 1 to 13 years old). The high school intern program is partially supported, aligning with the proposed monitoring timeline. Funding the project during this cycle will replace previously awarded funding for the intern program that was lost, resulting in the cancellation of a summer cohort (and potentially six total cohorts). The timeline will coincide with professional association staff development funding to expand the internship program. The recently installed green infrastructure in Hitchcock city parks presents an opportunity to conduct baseline monitoring - data that will be lost if not captured in the next several months before conditions begin to change.

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/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
NPS-2 Support Nonpoint Source Education and Outreach Campaigns
NPS-3 Implement Nonpoint Source Best Management Practices
PS-1 Support Stormwater Education Programs
SPO-3 Support Regional Initiatives
SPO-4 Local Government Outreach
PEA-2 Adult Education
PEA-3 K-12 Education Efforts
RES-6 Evaluate BMP Projects
ACS-2 Access to Monitoring and Research Data

With GBEP funding, AgriLife Extension Green Infrastructure for Texas program staff and student interns will perform soil health and vegetation monitoring for multiple rain gardens, vegetated buffers, and stormwater wetlands in the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed (RES-6), including urban and suburban watersheds with approved watershed-based plans (NPS-1). Green stormwater infrastructure practices help reduce nonpoint source pollution and hold stormwater on-site to improve water quality and enhance local habitats. The monitoring coordination, interviews, and white paper produced through this project will engage municipalities and other property owners that are new to these practices or are concerned about organizational capacity, including the budget to maintain them and add or construct additional projects. This assessment will support the continued implementation and maintenance of these structural NPS BMPs to ensure the long-term success of these BMPs and future installations (NPS-2 and NPS-3). Furthermore, this project will promote the use of green infrastructure to mitigate stormwater impacts in multiple watersheds, including several owners and operators of MS4 permits (PS-1). Support the expansion of our existing high school (grades 9-12) program that enables students to obtain NGICP certification after graduation (PEA-3).

Monitoring that evaluates the effectiveness of green infrastructure aligns with H-GAC's Low Impact Development and GLO's Clean Coast Texas initiatives by building capacity to support local decision-makers in furthering the adoption of these best management practices (SPO-3). Local governments own several of the selected green infrastructure locations. One way these local governments will participate in the project is through partner site interviews to inform the white paper. The white paper will be accompanied by outreach messaging to support the distribution of the resource to additional local governments in the region (SPO-4). Monitoring on-the-ground installations and sharing findings through the white paper and student presentations (PEA-3) will provide an enhanced understanding of local green infrastructure that is adult-focused (PEA-2; ACS-2). Data will be made available online and shared with GBEP partners and decision-makers. Through the project, we will monitor both newly installed and older green infrastructure installations in watersheds with impaired waters to increase knowledge about BMP effectiveness for improved water quality in the region. Performance measure: project evaluation white paper. Successful implementation of RES-6 requires coordination with the WSQ Subcommittee of the Council on Action NPS-3.

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:

This project focuses on assessing the health and function of existing on-the-ground green stormwater infrastructure projects (WSQ-2, M&R-1, PPE-2) with varying maintenance approaches and at various stages of development. Management measures in watershed-based plans addressing nature-based green infrastructure approaches (WSQ-1) often include mention of practices with some description but seldom offer the level of detail necessary to facilitate implementation or measure effectiveness. One existing gap in communicating the benefits of nature-based solutions is the value of soil, its function and ability to support a healthy watershed. Applying soil health principles in suburban and urban landscapes results in increased infiltration, reduced stormwater runoff, and lower NPS loadings.

Monitoring on-the-ground installations by local GIFT high school student interns (PPE-1, PPE-4) under the supervision of GIFT staff and sharing findings through the white paper and other presentations will provide an enhanced understanding of local green infrastructure that is adult-focused (PPE-1).

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

Green stormwater infrastructure practices help reduce nutrient pollution and hold stormwater on-site to improve water quality, public health, and enhance local habitats. Improving soil health principles in suburban and urban landscapes leads to increased infiltration, reduced stormwater runoff, and lower pollutant loads, resulting in improved water quality in the region.

The monitoring coordination, interviews, student-led research, and white paper produced through this project will engage municipalities and other property owners new to these practices or concerned about organizational capacity, including the budget to maintain them and add or construct additional projects. This assessment will **support the continued implementation and maintenance** of these structural stormwater BMPs to ensure the long-term success of existing and future installations.

Furthermore, this project will promote the use of green infrastructure to mitigate stormwater impacts in **multiple watersheds**, while expanding high school intern participation will provide **hands-on technical training** to help build a future-ready local workforce for sustaining nature-based strategies. These efforts strengthen the long-term impact of infrastructure investments and embed resiliency skills in the local economy.

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:

Texas A&M Extension DAR Houston Office GIFT staff propose monitoring and data collection at up to nine existing stormwater BMP sites (including raingardens, vegetated buffers, and stormwater wetlands) and one control regular maintenance site in multiple counties in the Lower Galveston Bay watershed. Monitoring would include soil health, vegetative composition/diversity, succession stages, and other pertinent observations collected by local GIFT high school student interns under the supervision of GIFT staff. Data collected in the field and from interviews with partner organizations would then lead to the creation of a site-specific maintenance checklist for students and partner organizations, the installation of suggested maintenance (as budgets allow), follow-up data collection, and the development of a white paper and other presentations of the findings.

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

To assess the overall health and function of multiple on-the-ground green infrastructure projects with differing maintenance approaches and at various stages of development, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Disaster Assessment and Recovery (DAR) Green Infrastructure for Texas (GIFT) team proposes to monitor soil and vegetation for multiple rain gardens, vegetated buffers, and stormwater wetland areas in the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed. Data collection will occur over a nine-month period starting in late February/March and continuing through November. Samples will be collected by GIFT staff and multiple cohorts of high school interns (up to 18 students). Samples include both field-based metrics, observations, and laboratory analysis:

- Vegetation coverage and species richness
- Soil temperature and moisture (volumetric water content, VWC) - to determine soil saturation conditions (associated with rainfall events) and porosity
- Infiltration rate
- Soil health (Haney) - water extractable organic carbon, water extractable total and organic nitrogen; soil respiration (ppm CO₂), organic matter (LOI%), and more. This testing will be completed by qualified contracted laboratory personnel up to twice during the testing period.
- Water holding capacity (WHC), which is also a contracted laboratory test.

Students in each of the three cohorts from February to November will select one of the sites listed below as their project site to monitor soil and/or vegetation changes. Students will work together with their Texas A&M Extension GIFT program staff mentors to create and address a maintenance checklist for their chosen site. They will then continue to collect data for the duration of their 60-hour program. After their 60-hour program, students will create a poster presentation that can be presented at a future event, empowering students to make positive impacts in their communities through scientific literacy. In between cohorts, sites will be monitored and data collected by GIFT program staff.

Permission for monitoring received through ongoing partnerships for the following locations: Rain gardens - Armand Bayou Nature Center (Pasadena), Environmental Institute of Houston (Houston), Houston Community College-Katy Campus, Ghirardi WaterSmart Park (League City), Heritage Park (League City), Joe Moore Park (Hitchcock), South Park Baptist Church (Alvin); Stormwater wetlands - Exploration Green (Clear Lake), multiple sections.

Locations were selected based on their age, availability of design, installation, and maintenance information, and permission from the owner or operator. As a project partner during the installation of each practice, GIFT staff have access to design and construction details for each installation. The practices we propose to monitor were installed at various times (ranging from 1 to 13 years old), allowing us to compare them at different stages.

GBEP funds will allow GIFT staff to –

- Perform soil health and vegetation monitoring at 10 locations (rain garden and stormwater wetland installations and one control/conventional management) over one growing season (February – October 2026), while supervising student interns.
- Allow students to work through maintenance issues through the creation of a checklist for their project site and organize a maintenance workday for each site.
- Hold one-on-one interviews with representatives from each monitoring location on maintenance or management practices and changes to the gardens since installation.
- Develop a white paper to capture project outcomes, including monitoring results, varying levels of maintenance, and performance.
- Deliver up to 18 student presentations to multiple audiences, introducing new audiences to existing projects and BMPs in Galveston Bay.

The white paper will be accompanied by outreach messaging and broadly distributed through established communication channels, including the Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds, GIFT partner events and listserv, the Clean Coast Texas Collaborative, the Exploration Green Conservancy, and GBEP partners.

Other Plans Implemented:

Monitoring by AgriLife staff with high school interns and participation in maintenance and management interviews from on-site representatives will occur in multiple watersheds. EPA-accepted Watershed Protection Plan: Highland Bayou Coastal Basin; Watershed Based-Plans: Armand Bayou Watershed Protection Plan, Dickinson Bayou I-Plan and Bacteria Implementation Group I-Plan. High school student monitoring aligns with EPA's Green Infrastructure program, which emphasizes training and capacity-building in stormwater management. Materials and outcomes will be shared with Clean Coast Texas collaborative partners. Clean Coast Texas is included in the Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan.

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

The project engages several smaller communities in Brazoria and Galveston counties during monitoring activities, interviews on maintenance and management practices, and to share the white paper. The white paper will inform future implementation actions and contribute information for future WBPs in the region. The project includes coordination with local decision makers to bridge the gap from awareness of these best management practices and improved implementation. Having sites in multiple counties enables us to draw students from multiple schools around the area potentially introducing them to new practices and sites they have not encountered.

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):

N/A

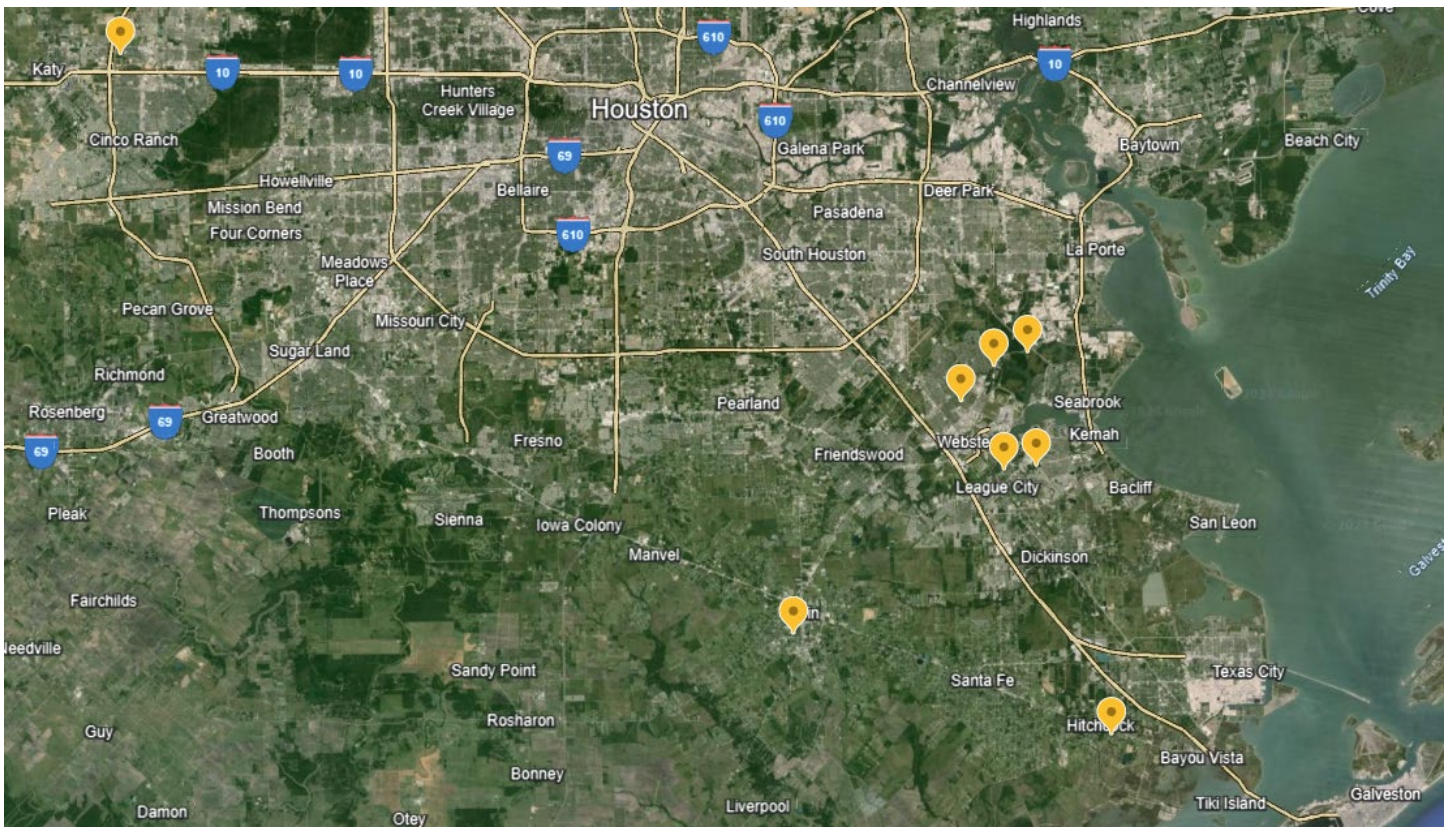
Location:

Site locations in Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris counties (yellow):
Armand Bayou Nature Center-Pasadena, Joe Moore Park-Hitchcock, Ghirardi WaterSmart and Heritage Park-League City, Environmental Institute of Houston, Exploration Green-Houston, Houston Community College - Katy Campus, South Park Baptist Church- Alvin.

Partners¹ and Their Roles:

The following partners have confirmed they will participate by providing site access, allowing the installation of stationary monitoring equipment, and participating in an interview about maintenance or management practices and any changes since installation: Armand Bayou Nature Center, City of Hitchcock, City of League City, Clear Lake City Water Authority, Environmental Institute of Houston, Exploration Green Conservancy, Houston Community College - Katy Campus, South Park Baptist Church- Alvin.

We have previously had student interns from 11 local schools from the following districts: Clear Creek ISD, Houston ISD, and Dickinson ISD.

Projects Map

Site locations in Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris counties (yellow).

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.

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):



Four of the green infrastructure site locations included in the project.

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	\$128,516.00
Fringe Benefits (18.9% plus \$1104 insurance)²	\$48,148.00
Travel	\$1,283.00
Supplies	\$4,920.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$2,000.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$7,170.00
Total Direct Cost	\$192,037.00

b. Indirect Costs³

Distribution Base Amount (<i>identify Base type below</i>)	\$ 192,037.00
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	26%
Total Indirect Costs	\$ 49,929.00

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	\$ 241,966
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Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):

☐ direct salary/wages and fringe benefits

☒ modified total direct costs

☐ Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

The indirect cost rate is (check one):

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

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

☐ **De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of 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.

☐ **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.”]

☐ **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:

N/A

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

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

SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Please read and understand the following:

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

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

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

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

SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

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

Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by July 25, 2025 to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:

WSQ Subcommittee

Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov

NRU Subcommittee

Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov

PPE Subcommittee

Zoe.Gapayao@tceq.texas.gov

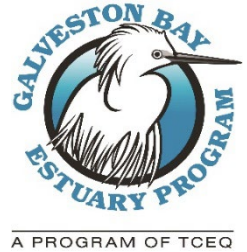
M&R Subcommittee

Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov

Programmatic Projects

Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov

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 ONE: INTRODUCTION

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

Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]: The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for fiscal 2027 (FY 2027) Priority Area Actions that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for FY 2027 at the June 2025 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY 2027 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

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

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

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

Timeline of Proposals:

Task	Date Due
Release of Request for Proposals	June 23, 2025
Proposals Due	July 25, 2025
Send Proposals to Subcommittees Members for Review	August 13, 2025
Present Proposals to Subcommittees for Council Recommendation	September 3, 2025 (NRU and PPE) September 10, 2025 (M&R and WSQ)
Present Proposals to B&P Subcommittee for Final Recommendation	October 1, 2025
Present Proposals to Galveston Bay Council for Approval	October 15, 2025

SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Subcommittee: Water and Sediment Quality (WSQ)
Secondary Subcommittee (if applicable): Public Participation and Education (PPE)

Project Name:

How's the Water - Public Health Risk Awareness Outreach Campaign

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

Houston-Galveston Area Council

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.] N/A

Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:	VZFJDZCKG8C7
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	17415575756

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Jenny W. Oakley
Project Representative Phone	713-499-6660
Project Representative Email	Jenny.Oakley@h-gac.com

Amount Requested from GBEP:

\$99,303.54

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒

Is the project scalable? ☐

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2027 (09/01/2026-05/31/2027)	\$40,945.58
FY 2028 (09/01/2027-05/31/2028)	\$58,357.97
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-05/31/2029)	\$0.00
Total	\$99,303.5455

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):

\$274,075.40

Is this an estimate? ☒

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

Tasks 4-6 of the H-GAC Texas Clean Rivers Program contract is for 4) Data Management, 5) Data Analysis and Reporting, and 6) stakeholder Participation and Outreach. These tasks support the Water Resources Information Map (WRIM) which will serve as the publicly accessible, interactive website to support data visualization and education materials. Outreach materials will point users to the WRIM. A conservative estimate of the cost for these tasks combined is \$174,771.86.

Project Urgency:

The proposed project directly addresses several subcommittee identified priorities specific to this funding cycle. The need for this type of project is long-term, but with the recent redesign of the H-GAC's Water Resources Information Map (WRIM) to a more interactive and user-friendly format that incorporates educational content, it is the perfect time to make a concerted effort to make the region aware of this resource while also expanding the public's risk awareness of contact recreation and/or seafood consumption impairments and advisories.

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:

The proposed public outreach project directly or indirectly supports 12 Action Plans across three Plan Priorities (“Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use”, “Engage Communities”, “Inform Science-Based Decision Making”) of The Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition, by fulfilling specific objectives and activities related to risk communication, education, community engagement, access to information, and adaptive program evaluation.

Plan Priority 1: Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

Promote Public Health and Awareness (PHA)

- **PHA-1: Improve Seafood Advisory Awareness**

The proposed project will focus on informing communities about fish consumption advisories directly contributes to this action by increasing public understanding of when/where it is safe to eat caught fish.

- **PHA-2: Improve Regional Contact Recreation Risk Awareness**

The proposed project will address health risks associated with water recreation—especially for those living near impaired waterbodies—through multilingual, accessible messaging.

- **PHA-3-5: Improve Safety through WBPs (Watershed-Based Plans)**

The proposed project will result in the creation of educational materials and signage that supports these efforts, as they will promote behaviors and knowledge that improve public health relative to contact recreation and fish consumption. Focus areas will include those with watershed-based plans in or near the implementation phase.

Improve Water Quality through Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement (NPS)

- **NPS-2: Support Nonpoint Source Education and Outreach Campaigns**

The proposed project is a direct implementation of an NPS education and outreach campaign, targeting communities adjacent to impaired waterbodies with clear, actionable information.

Improve Water Quality through Point Source Pollution Abatement (PS)

- **PS-1: Support Stormwater Education Programs**

The proposed project will relate indirectly by raising awareness of how behaviors contribute to water quality problems.

Plan Priority 3: Engage Communities

Preserve Galveston Bay Through Stakeholder and Partner Outreach (SPO)

- **SPO-1: Stewardship and Volunteer Opportunities**

By involving the community in the design and feedback of materials (signs, surveys), the proposed project cultivates stewardship.

- **SPO-2: Workshops and Events**

The proposed project could be coupled with local events, meetings, or workshops to directly engage community members.

- **SPO-3: Support Regional Initiatives**

Expanding and supporting initiatives like the proposed project will, and incorporating community feedback, aligns with this action. The educational information provided may also highlight regional initiatives (e.g.: pump don't dump, or no wipes in the pipes) related to improving water quality.

Support Public Education and Awareness Initiatives (PEA)

- **PEA-1: Key Issue Engagement**

The proposed project specifically seeks to engage the public on water quality and health risk issues tied to their lives.

- **PEA-2: Adult Education**

The proposed project focuses on changing behaviors and attitudes in adults via education.

Plan Priority 4: Inform Science-Based Decision Making

Increase Access to Galveston Bay Ecosystem Information (ACS)

- **ACS-2: Access to Monitoring and Research Data**

The proposed project's impact survey and outreach results contribute to tracking public understanding and behavior, which can feed into data-driven decision making. It will also highlight the publicly accessible data on H-GAC's Water Resources Information Map (WRIM).

- **ACS-3: Track Galveston Bay Plan Implementation**

Measuring and reporting the reach and effectiveness of the outreach campaign via pre/post surveys supports plan tracking and adaptive 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](#).
- ☐ NRU: Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program.
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- ☒ 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 proposed project addresses subcommittee priorities by:

WSQ: Public health risk awareness outreach campaigns related to contact recreation and/or seafood consumption.

- Develops and deploys a public outreach campaign focused on water quality issues (e.g., pathogen indicator bacteria, PCBs, dioxins) that pose a risk to contact recreation (swimming, boating, fishing) and seafood consumption in Galveston Bay watersheds.
- Provides easy-to-understand, culturally and linguistically relevant materials about health risks, advisories, and actions that individuals can take to improve water quality to affected communities.
- Installs signage or distributes information at key locations where fishing, swimming, and other high-contact activities occur to directly inform the public where they are.

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

- Increases environmental and scientific literacy among adults (and potentially K-12 students if engagement is extended), by explaining water quality data, public health risks, and how individuals and communities can help improve conditions.
- Uses surveys and participatory feedback—plus location-based outreach—to involve the community in both the assessment and improvement of the campaign, fostering a sense of empowerment and stewardship.
- Encourages actions and behaviors that can reduce exposure risks and protect local water quality based on a clearer understanding of scientific information.

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

N/A

SECTION FIVE: PROPOSAL DETAILS

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

Project Summary:

The objective of this proposal is to develop and implement a community-centered public outreach campaign that increases awareness and understanding of water quality impairments and health advisories among communities in the lower Galveston Bay watershed. Focus will be given to watersheds with impairments and/or advisories, and with high rates of contact recreation and wild-caught fish consumption, to empower residents to make informed risk decisions and take actions to improve water quality.

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

A healthy aquatic ecosystem in the Galveston Bay Estuary provides substantial cultural and economic value, especially for communities who live, work, and recreate near its waters. The estuary supports diverse recreational activities and sustains a robust commercial and subsistence fishing culture, both of which are deeply tied to local identity and livelihoods.

Galveston Bay and its tributaries serve as key locations for contact recreation, including swimming, kayaking, and boating. These activities foster community engagement, support mental and physical health, and preserve coastal traditions (GBEP, 2023). Access to clean, safe water is crucial for residents who rely on the bay for family outings and nature-based experiences. Additionally, the estuary plays a role in local food traditions centered around Gulf seafood, reinforcing the region's culinary identity. Importantly, fish consumption from Galveston Bay is a critical resource for many subsistence fishers, particularly in marginalized communities. Locally caught fish provide a low-cost source of protein. However, these benefits are only fully realized when water quality supports safe fish consumption, free from contaminants like mercury or PCBs (TCEQ, 2022).

In the Houston-Galveston region, one of the most significant water quality issues faced is elevated levels of pathogen indicator bacteria in our local waterways. State pathogen indicator bacteria standards are set based on the level of recreational use assigned to the waterbody. *44% of the assessed stream miles in our region are impaired for recreational use due to elevated levels of pathogen indicator bacteria (Oakley et al. 2025).* High bacterial concentrations may cause gastrointestinal illnesses or skin infections in swimmers or others who come into direct contact with the water. Even where the concentration of pathogen indicator bacteria is less than the standard, there can still be a risk of contracting waterborne diseases.

PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, and dioxins are broad groups of synthetic organic compounds developed for industrial purposes or are by-products of industrial processes. PCBs and dioxins are toxic and carcinogenic. PCBs and dioxins are legacy pollutants, meaning they can remain in the environment long after they are introduced. Both accumulate in the fatty tissue of marine life, and humans can be exposed through consumption of contaminated fish and shellfish. *68% of the assessed tidal streams and bays in our region are impaired for PCBs and dioxins (Oakley et al. 2025).*

While there are public-facing programs such as Texas Beach Watch and the Clean Rivers Program that monitor water quality and publish results summarizing when bacteria levels exceed EPA thresholds, there are no robust estimates of how many Houston-region residents are aware of recreation impairments. A study conducted on Georgia beachgoers examined public awareness of beach water quality advisories and found that only 36.1 % of respondents were aware that the water quality was monitored, and recreation advisories were issued (Jones et al. 2024). Several studies have evaluated fish consumption advisory awareness among Gulf residents and depending on the location and surveyed group just 30% to 55% were aware of advisories (Katner et al. 2011, Karouna-Renier et al. 2008, Lincoln et al. 2010, Simon-Friedt et al. 2016). There is a clear need for targeted communication strategies to increase advisory visibility and equitable outreach in coastal communities—especially those who rely heavily on local seafood.

The proposed project will develop and deploy a public outreach campaign focused on raising awareness and understanding of contact recreation impairments and health advisories in the lower Galveston Bay watershed. Focus areas will include those with watershed-based plans in or near the implementation phase,

particularly where there are high levels of contact recreation and wild-caught fish consumption. The campaign will connect audiences to new and existing resources on impairments and advisories and provide educational materials so they can make informed personal risk decisions and take steps to improve water quality. The proposed campaign will use simple, visual, action-oriented and location-based messaging, and will tie back to H-GAC's newly updated Water Resources Information Map (WRIM) that makes water quality data submitted to TCEQ for assessment publicly available. The updated WRIM is designed to be more intuitive and user-friendly and to include educational information to help users make sense of the data in relation to their local waterway and their connection to it.

Certain aspects of the proposed campaign will include generalized messages delivered through wide-reaching avenues (e.g. news media outlets). Particular focus will be given to one to three watersheds identified as 1) having impairments or advisories, 2) likely to see high levels of contact recreation and/or wild-caught seafood consumption, and 3) having a watershed-based plan in or nearing the implementation phase. In these areas additional outreach measures will be implemented and tailored to community needs and waterway uses. Possible additional outreach methods include but are not limited to: targeted mail-outs, billboard or digital signage opportunities, physical signage near high use areas, and public workshops.

The proposed project will also utilize a combination of pre and post surveys. Pre-surveys will be utilized in the targeted watershed(s) to determine current awareness levels and inform campaign messaging and distribution methods. Post-surveys will be made available to a wider audience to determine post-campaign awareness and understanding and quantify impact.

Literature Cited see "Appendix 2 - How's the Water Literature Cited.pdf"

Other Plans Implemented:

The proposed project addresses the following third-part conservation plans by:

Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan:

- Advancing community resilience, equitably engaging coastal residents, making critical water quality and public health information accessible, and fostering an adaptive approach to risk communication and stewardship, which are key pillars of coastal resilience as outlined in the TCRMP.

Bacteria Implementation Group:

- Directly implementing targeted public outreach on bacteria impairments and associated health risks in recreational waters, which aligns with BIG's outreach and education goals.
- Providing simple, visual, multilingual educational materials and signage to inform residents—especially those near impaired waterbodies—about safe recreation and bacteria advisories, advancing BIG's strategy to increase awareness and change behaviors.
- Using surveys to track changes in public awareness, measuring the effectiveness of outreach, and informing ongoing adaptive management in line with BIG's implementation priorities.

Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds:

- Engaging and empowering local communities—especially underserved and at-risk populations—using culturally relevant, inclusive outreach about water quality issues, which advances the Coalition's mission of community-driven stewardship and education.
- Connecting residents to existing monitoring programs and advisories, and involving them through multi-pronged outreach and participatory signage, contributing to broader coalition efforts to build public engagement and awareness.
- Fostering a shared sense of responsibility and stewardship that supports both watershed protection and the coalition's collaborative approach.

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

Materials designed to be shared in communities with LEP will be translated as required.

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

N/A

Location:

The campaign will target the lower Galveston Bay watershed, with priority given to sub-watersheds where watershed-based plans are currently being implemented or are nearing implementation. Additional focus will be placed on areas with documented water quality impairments or public health advisories, particularly where there are high levels of contact recreation and wild-caught fish consumption.

Partners¹ and Their Roles:

H-GAC will develop and implement the proposed campaign. No other partners will have a direct role. However, H-GAC will coordinate with watershed-based plan coordinators and key stakeholder groups in identified focus watersheds.

Projects Map

N/A

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

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.

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	\$39,106.20
Fringe Benefits (47.02%) ²	\$18,387.74
Travel	\$210.00
Supplies	\$5,050.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$18,600.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$11,498.79
Total Direct Cost	\$92,852.72

b. Indirect Costs³

Distribution Base Amount (identify Base type below)	\$57,493.94
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	11.22 %
Total Indirect Costs	\$6,450.82

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	\$99,303.54
--	--------------------

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

*Please see attached “**Appendix 1- 2025 HGAC IDC Agreement**” for the federally negotiated indirect cost agreement for the Houston-Galveston Area Council which is 11.22% of the Salary / Wages and Fringe Benefits budget categories.*

☒ direct salary/wages and fringe benefits

☐ modified total direct costs

☐ Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

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.

☐ **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.

☐ **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.”]

☐ **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:

The Other category includes H-GAC allocations for items such as leased space and utilities, internal services (personnel or payroll related functions, centralized purchasing and office operating function, and printing operations), network and GIS Administration (such as standard office software, hardware, and information technology support, and telephone and communication systems).

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

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

SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Please read and understand the following:

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

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

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

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

SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

Submittal Process and Deadline [see 30 TAC § 14.7(8) and 30 TAC § 14.7(9)]:
Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by July 25, 2025 to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:

WSQ Subcommittee
Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov

NRU Subcommittee
Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov

PPE Subcommittee
Zoe.Gapayao@tceq.texas.gov

M&R Subcommittee
Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov

Programmatic Projects
Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov

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 ONE: INTRODUCTION

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

Objective and Allowable Activities [see 30 TAC § 14.7(4)]: The objective of this grant is to implement the GBEP stakeholder developed priorities for fiscal 2027 (FY 2027) Priority Area Actions that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for FY 2027 at the June 2025 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY 2027 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

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

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

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

Timeline of Proposals:

Task	Date Due
Release of Request for Proposals	June 23, 2025
Proposals Due	July 25, 2025
Send Proposals to Subcommittees Members for Review	August 13, 2025
Present Proposals to Subcommittees for Council Recommendation	September 3, 2025 (NRU and PPE) September 10, 2025 (M&R and WSQ)
Present Proposals to B&P Subcommittee for Final Recommendation	October 1, 2025
Present Proposals to Galveston Bay Council for Approval	October 15, 2025

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*

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

<u>Unique Entity ID (UED) Number:</u>	Tax ID 76-0440298
<u>Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:</u>	

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

Partners¹ 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.

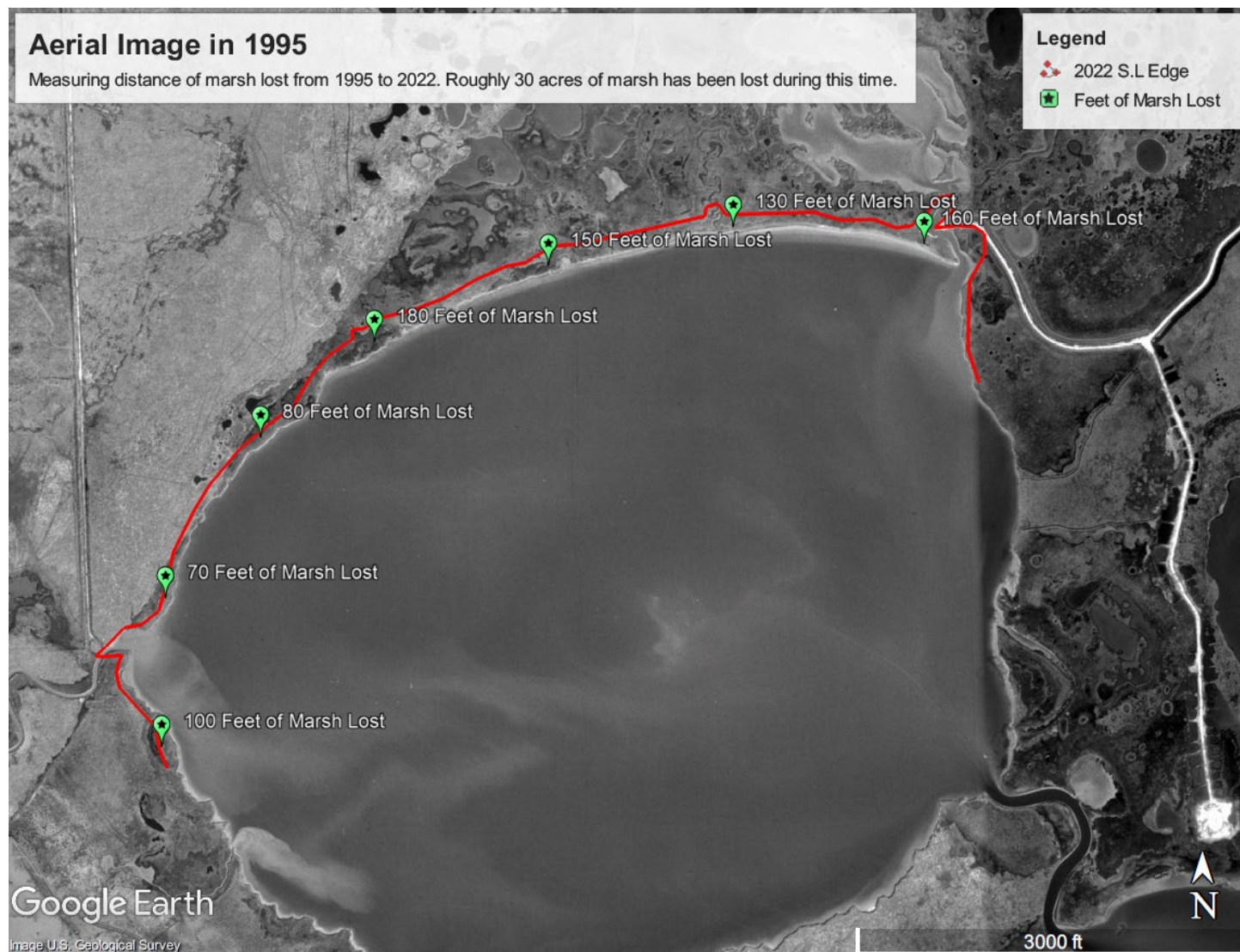
Contractor- survey area and design/engineer a barrier to protect the north shoreline of Salt Lake.

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 Costs³

Distribution Base Amount (<i>identify Base type below</i>)	\$ 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)	\$
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Indirect Cost Distribution Base. The Distribution Base above is (check one):

- ☐ direct salary/wages and fringe benefits
- ☐ modified total direct costs
- ☒ Other direct costs base

If other direct cost base, identify:

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

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

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

☐ **De Minimis Rate**— if Performing Party does not have a current negotiated indirect rate, Performing Party may use a standard rate of 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.

☐ **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.”]

☒ **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:

NA

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

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

SECTION EIGHT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Please read and understand the following:

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

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

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

SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

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

Submittal Process and Deadline [see 30 TAC § 14.7(8) and 30 TAC § 14.7(9)]:
Please Submit Project Proposals (Microsoft Word Only – No PDFs) by July 25, 2025 to the relevant Subcommittee Coordinators below:

WSQ Subcommittee
Christian.Rines@tceq.texas.gov

NRU Subcommittee
Lindsey.Lippert@tceq.texas.gov

PPE Subcommittee
Zoe.Gapayao@tceq.texas.gov

M&R Subcommittee
Jenelle.Estrada@tceq.texas.gov

Programmatic Projects
Lisa.Marshall@tceq.texas.gov