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# GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM: GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 15, 2025

# FISCAL 2026 and 2027 WATER & SEDIMENT QUALITY (WSQ) PROJECTS



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# FISCAL 2026 WSQ PROJECTS

## **Native Channel Revegetation and Habitat Restoration within the Double Bayou Watershed**

**Lead:** Houston Advanced Research Center/Geotechnical Research Institute

**Proposed Amount:** \$123,848.00

**Description:** This project implements best management practices, in support of the Double Bayou Watershed Protection Plan, by restoring 60 acres of native coastal prairie vegetation.

## **Feasibility Study for a Bioretention Wetland Demonstration Site**

**Lead:** University of Houston-Clear Lake

**Proposed Amount:** \$39,274.00

**Description:** The project proposes a 9-month feasibility study to determine the feasibility, scope, and cost of converting an under-utilized retention basin located on the UHCL campus into a bioretention storm water wetland.



# FISCAL 2027 WSQ PROJECTS

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

**Lead:** Houston-Galveston Area Council

**Proposed Amount:** \$99,304.00

**Description:** This project will 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.

## **Effect of Native Plants on Soils of Constructed Stormwater Drainages: Pilot Study Expansion**

**Lead:** University of Houston-Clear Lake

**Proposed Amount:** \$108,958.00

**Description:** The objective of this project is to expand on current pilot study survey efforts to gather data related to stormwater quality benefits based on soil composition in areas with native plant communities.



# FISCAL 2027 WSQ PROJECTS *CONTINUED*

## **Improving Contact Recreation for Galveston Bay**

**Lead:** Galveston Bay Foundation

**Proposed Amount:** \$110,883.00

**Description:** This project will raise public awareness of contact recreation standards and the available resources that help individuals make informed decisions about where to safely recreate in local waterways.

## ***Alternative #1: Health and Performance Monitoring of Green Infrastructure BMPs: A Pathway for High School Intern Career Exploration***

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

**Proposed Amount:** \$241,966.00

**Description:** This project would include best management practices monitoring by local high school student interns under the supervision of GIFT staff at up to nine existing stormwater BMP sites and one control site in the lower Galveston Bay watershed.



# FISCAL 2027 WSQ PROJECTS *CONTINUED*

***Alternative #2: Enumeration Methods Comparison and Evaluation of Nature-Based Stormwater Infrastructure to Reduce Microplastic Pollution in Galveston Bay***

**Lead:** Houston-Galveston Area Council

**Proposed Amount:** \$191,352.00

**Description:** The proposed project would expand on a current GBEP-funded project by integrating a methods comparison study to provide critically needed standardization of and comparisons among microplastic enumeration methods.



# FISCAL 2026 AND 2027 NATURAL RESOURCES USES (NRU) PROJECTS



# FISCAL 2026 NRU PROJECTS

## **Building Coastal Resilience on Bolivar Peninsula (Bolivar Flats Acquisition)**

**Lead:** Houston Audubon Society

**Proposed Amount:** \$250,000

**Description:** This project will acquire 52 acres of coastal habitat within Bolivar Flats that is at imminent threat of development.

## **Upper Armand Bayou Protection Project: Baywood Golf Course Acquisition**

**Lead:** Armand Bayou Nature Center

**Proposed Amount:** \$50,000

**Description:** This project will support the acquisition of 106 acres of coastal habitat within the Armand Bayou subwatershed.

## **Tidwell Park Riparian Restoration Project**

**Lead:** Houston Parks and Recreation Department

**Proposed Amount:** \$120,000

**Description:** This project will enhance 56 acres of coastal habitat through invasive species management and native planting at Tidwell Park in Harris County, Texas.

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# FISCAL 2027 NRU PROJECTS

## **Fiscal 2027-2028 Conservation Assistance Program**

**Lead:** Galveston Bay Foundation

**Proposed Amount:** \$250,000 (\$125,000 Fiscal 2027, \$125,000 Fiscal 2028)

**Description:** This long-running project will support GBEP and its partners' efforts to preserve wetlands, prairies, and other important coastal habitats to protect the long-term health and productivity of Galveston Bay through fee simple acquisition and conservation easements.

## **The 11<sup>th</sup> Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve**

**Lead:** Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (Artist Boat)

**Proposed Amount:** \$117,308

**Description:** This project will acquire 40 acres of coastal habitat on Galveston Island that is at imminent threat of development. The purchased tract would be added to and be managed as part of the 1,039-acre Coastal Heritage Preserve.



# FISCAL 2027 NRU PROJECTS

## CONTINUED

### Jocelyn Nungaray NWR Tall Grass Prairie and Freshwater Wetlands Restoration

**Lead:** Texas RICE

**Proposed Amount:** \$50,000

**Description:** This project will enhance 500 acres of coastal habitat through invasive species management and native planting at Jocelyn Nungaray (formerly Anahuac) National Wildlife Refuge in Chambers County, Texas.

### Shoreline Restoration at Galveston Island State Park & Prairie Restoration/Wetland Creation at UH Coastal Center

**Lead:** Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (University of Houston Coastal Center)

**Proposed Amount:** \$200,000

**Description:** This project will restore eroding shoreline at Galveston Island State Park by transporting and placing oyster shell material excavated from the Coastal Center in Galveston County, Texas; the excavation site will then be restored to coastal prairie and freshwater wetlands.



# FISCAL 2027 NRU PROJECTS

## CONTINUED

### ***NRU Alternate #1: Coastal Prairie Restoration and Habitat Enhancement***

**Lead:** Coastal Prairie Conservancy

**Proposed Amount:** \$225,000

**Description:** Should additional funding become available, this project would enhance up to 2,570 acres of coastal prairie and freshwater wetlands through invasive species management and native planting at several Coastal Prairie Conservancy properties in Harris County, Texas.



# FISCAL 2027 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & EDUCATION (PPE) PROJECTS



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# FISCAL 2027 PPE PROJECTS

## **Cultivating Watershed Resilience Ambassadors Through Civic Science in Grades 6-12**

**Lead:** Children’s Environmental Literacy Foundation

**Proposed Amount:** \$185,794.00

**Description:** This project applies Children’s Environmental Literacy Foundation Civic Science Inquiry to Action framework through place-based education and hands-on activities for middle and high school students. This project also provides paid internships and professional development for teachers.

## **Regional Watershed Education and Outreach**

**Lead:** Galveston Bay Foundation

**Proposed Amount:** \$197,161.00

**Description:** This project provides multifaceted watershed education for over 18,000 through school programs, teacher professional development, and workshops for volunteer training and education and outreach practitioners.



# FISCAL 2027 PPE PROJECTS

## *CONTINUED*

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

**Lead:** Houston-Galveston Area Council

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

**Description:** This project provides continued support for Trash Bash, the largest, single-day waterway cleanup in the state. In 2027, Trash Bash will host its 33<sup>rd</sup> litter cleanup event, which will include educational displays to increase knowledge of participants.

### **Wings of Discovery: Teaching STEAM Through Birds and Journaling**

**Lead:** University of Houston-Clear Lake

**Proposed Amount:** \$82,464.00

**Description:** This project fosters environmental literacy through birds and nature journaling. It also provides teacher education and stipends to build bird habitats in schools.



# FISCAL 2027 PPE PROJECTS

## CONTINUED

### Connecting Communities to Houston's Prairie Ecosystems

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

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

**Description:** This project restores native prairie habitat across six City of Houston parks while connecting local residents, school groups, and community organizations through 15 community-based volunteer stewardship opportunities such as on-the-ground restoration and education.

### *Alternative #1: GB Geospatial-Inquiry: Empowering Application of Relevant Understanding of Place (GB GEAR UP!)*

**Lead:** University of Houston-Clear Lake

**Proposed Amount:** \$38,304.00

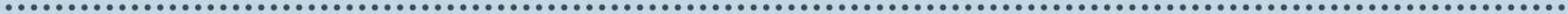
**Description:** This project supports educators using GIS tools to design inquiry-based social studies instruction, integrating scientific literacy with community impact.



# FISCAL 2026 AND 2027 MONITORING & RESEARCH (M&R) PROJECTS



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# FISCAL 2026 M&R PROJECTS

## **Regional Monitoring Database (Phase IV)**

**Lead:** Houston Advanced Research Center/Geotechnology Research Institute

**Proposed Amount:** \$115,284.00

**Description:** This project integrates new data sets, develops additional web-based interactive tools to expand the Regional Monitoring Database while maintaining and updating it as an interactive web-based portal.

## **Monitoring Ecosystem Indicators for Science-Based Restoration and Enhancement**

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

**Proposed Amount:** \$8,889.00

**Description:** This project starts the operation of a long-term, continuous monitoring program to extend understanding of baseline conditions and analyze estuary stressor scenarios for carbonate system stressors to develop a framework for coastal acidification in Galveston Bay.



# FISCAL 2027 M&R PROJECTS

## **Mercury Accumulation in Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), a Sentinel Species for Estuarine and Human Health**

**Lead:** Galveston Bay Foundation

**Proposed Amount:** \$59,973.00

**Description:** This project assesses the mercury concentrations in Galveston Bay bottlenose dolphins, an estuarine sentinel species from previously collected samples.

## **Coastal Ocean Acidification Monitoring Program in Galveston Bay**

**Lead:** United States Geological Survey

**Proposed Amount:** \$130,000.00

**Description:** This project will continue the operation of a long-term, continuous monitoring program to extend understanding of baseline conditions and analyze estuary stressor scenarios for carbonate system stressors to develop a framework for coastal acidification in Galveston Bay.



# FISCAL 2027 M&R PROJECTS

## CONTINUED

### Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol – Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research

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

**Proposed Amount:** \$111,347.00

**Description:** This project supports the operation of the Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol Program and provides data to the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research’s Marine Debris and Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Programs.

### Developing a Tool to Assess Black Mangrove Distribution: A Pilot Study in Galveston Bay

**Lead:** University of Houston-Clear Lake

**Proposed Amount:** \$74,108.00

**Description:** This project provides support for the pilot creation of an assessment tool that combines citizen-science observations, deep-learning model development, a customizable online reporting tool, and agency data integration to assess the current distribution of black mangroves.



# FISCAL 2027 M&R PROJECTS

## CONTINUED

### ***Alternate #1: Evaluating Economic and Ecosystems services of Galveston Bay Estuarine Wetlands***

**Lead:** Houston Advanced Research Center/Geotechnology Research Institute

**Proposed Amount:** \$222,849.00

**Description:** This project uses data from the GBEP Habitat tool and additional identified wetland habitat to model economic and ecosystems services values of Galveston Bay estuarine wetlands.

### ***Alternate #2: Advancing Monitoring Estuarine Ecosystems through Development of Automatic Sampling Framework***

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

**Proposed Amount:** \$255,962.00

**Description:** This project continues a high-quality time series data of indicators including environmental factors, zooplankton, oyster larvae, crab larvae and other fragile organisms for better management and preparedness in response to external disturbances to the estuarine and coastal waters of Texas.



# PROPOSED GBEP BUDGETS



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# GBEP FUNDING: §320 & STATE

- Fiscal 2027 funding estimates are based on fiscal 2026 levels
- Salary, fringe, and indirect levels subject to change
- Additional fiscal 2026 federal funding from salary adjustments and project lapse on current and previous federal grant (Fiscal 2023-2025) and additional state funding from 89th Legislative Session allocation to Texas NEPs.

FY 2026 Supplemental Funding
§320 CWA Funding (Federal)
\$141,132 -- 1:1 match by TCEQ \$70,566 – EPA -- \$70,566 – TCEQ
Additional State (TCEQ) Funding
State: \$615,000

FY 2027 Funding
§320 CWA Funding (Federal)
\$1,700,000 -- 1:1 match by TCEQ \$850,000 – EPA -- \$850,000 – TCEQ
Additional State (TCEQ) Funding
State: \$924,484

Funding Type	§320 CWA Funding (Federal)	State	Total
Fiscal 2026 Funding	\$141,132	\$615,000	\$756,133
Fiscal 2027 Funding	\$1,700,000	\$924,484	\$2,624,484
Administration*	(\$836,346)	(\$52,748)	(\$889,094)
<b>Remaining</b>	<b>\$1,004,786</b>	<b>\$1,486,736</b>	<b>\$2,491,522</b>

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



# FISCAL 2026 SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING: B&P SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVED BUDGET

Name	Grantee	Proposal Amount	FY 26 State	FY 23-25 §320 (CE-0655008)	FY 26 §320 (CE-0655009)	Total
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>						
State of the Bay Symposium Travel	N/A	N/A	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
GBEP Office Relocation Expenses	N/A	N/A	\$21,910	\$0	\$0	\$21,910
<b>PROGRAMMATIC</b>						
Regional Monitoring Database (Phase IV) (26-00097)	HARC	N/A	\$0	\$113,112	\$2,172	\$115,284
<b>WSQ</b>						
Evaluation of Nature-Based Stormwater Infrastructure to Reduce Pollution in Galveston Bay (26-00060)	H-GAC	N/A	\$4,968	\$16,960	\$0	\$21,928
Native Channel Revegetation and Habitat Restoration within the Double Bayou Watershed	HARC-GTRI	\$123,848	\$123,848	\$0	\$0	\$123,848
Feasibility Study for a Bioretention Wetland Demonstration Site	UHCL	\$39,274	\$39,274	\$0	\$0	\$39,274
<b>NRU</b>						
Building Coastal Resilience on Bolivar Peninsula (Bolivar Flats Acquisition)	HAS	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$250,000
Upper Armand Bayou Protection Project: Baywood Golf Course Acquisition	ABNC	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
Tidwell Park Riparian Restoration Project	HPARD	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0	\$0	\$120,000
<b>PPE</b>						
No PPE Projects Selected for Fiscal 2026 Supplemental Funding	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>M&amp;R</b>						
Monitoring Ecosystem Indicators for Science-Based Restoration and Enhancement (23-40251)	TAMUG	N/A	\$0	\$8,889	\$0	\$8,889
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$615,000</b>	<b>\$138,961</b>	<b>\$2,172</b>	<b>\$756,133</b>
<b>Budget Control</b>			<b>\$615,000</b>	<b>\$138,961</b>	<b>\$2,172</b>	<b>\$756,133</b>
<b>Difference</b>			<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

# FISCAL 2027 SUBCOMMITTEE FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS: §320 & STATE



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# FISCAL 2027 SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Name	Grantee	Proposed Amount
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>		
General Administrative Costs (Salaries/Fringe/Indirect, Training/Travel, Supplies, etc.)	N/A	\$878,944
GBEP Website Hosting and Domain Name Registration	Wilkins	\$10,150
<b>PRIOR FISCAL ALLOCATIONS/APPROVAL</b>		
Regional Monitoring Database (Phase IV) (26-00097)	HARC	\$115,284
Evaluation of Nature-Based Stormwater Infrastructure to Reduce Pollution in Galveston Bay (26-00060)	H-GAC	\$21,928
Monitoring Ecosystem Indicators for Science-Based Restoration and Enhancement (23-40251)	TAMUG	\$8,890
<b>WSQ</b>		
How's the Water - Public Health Risk Awareness Outreach Campaign	H-GAC	\$99,304
Native Channel Revegetation and Habitat Restoration within the Double Bayou Watershed	GTRI/HARC	\$123,848
Effect of Native Plants on Soils of Constructed Stormwater Drainages: Pilot Study Expansion	UHCL	\$108,958
Feasibility Study for a Bioretention Wetland Demonstration Site	UHCL	\$39,274
Health and Performance Monitoring of Green Infrastructure BMPs: A Pathway for High School Intern Career Exploration	AgriLife	\$241,966
Improving Contact Recreation for Galveston Bay	GBF	\$110,883
Enumeration Methods Comparison and Evaluation of Nature-Based Stormwater Infrastructure to Reduce Microplastic Pollution in Galveston Bay	H-GAC	\$191,352
<b>NRU</b>		
Fiscal 2027-2028 Conservation Assistance Program	GBF	\$250,000
Building Coastal Resilience on Bolivar Peninsula (Bolivar Flats Acquisition)	HAS	\$250,000
The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through a 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract	TPWD	\$100,000
Upper Armand Bayou Protection Project: Baywood Golf Course Acquisition	ABNC	\$50,000
Jocelyn Nungaray NWR Tall Grass Prairie and Freshwater Wetlands Restoration	Texas RICE	\$50,000
Shoreline Restoration at Galveston Island S.P. & Prairie Restoration/Wetland Creation at UH Coastal Center	TPWD	\$250,000
Coastal Prairie Restoration and Habitat Enhancement	CPC	\$225,000
Tidwell Park Riparian Restoration Project	HPARD	\$120,000
<b>PPE</b>		
Regional Watershed Education and Outreach	GBF	\$197,161
Cultivating Watershed Resilience Ambassadors through Civic Science in Grades 6-12	CELF	\$185,794
Coordination of the River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash	H-GAC	\$10,000
Connecting Communities to Houston's Prairie Ecosystems	HPARD	\$100,000
Wings of Discovery: Teaching STEAM through Birds and Journaling	UHCL - EIH	\$82,464
Sea Aggie Turtle Patrol - Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research	TAMUG	\$111,347
GB Geospatial-Inquiry: Empowering Application of Relevant Understanding of Place (GB GEAR UP!)	UHCL	\$38,304
<b>M&amp;R</b>		
Mercury Accumulation in Bottlenose Dolphins (Tursiops truncatus), A Sentinel Species for Estuarine and Human Health	GBF	\$59,973
Coastal Ocean Acidification Monitoring Program in Galveston Bay	USGS	\$130,000
Sea Aggie Turtle Patrol - Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research	TAMUG	\$111,347
Developing A Tool to Assess Black Mangrove Distribution: A Pilot Study in Galveston Bay	EIH-UHCL	\$74,108
Evaluating Economic and Ecosystems Services of Galveston Bay Estuarine Wetlands	GTRI/HARC	\$222,849
Advancing Monitoring Estuarine Ecosystems through Development of Automatic Sampling Framework	TAMUG	\$255,962
<b>Proposal Totals</b>		<b>\$4,825,090</b>
<b>Budget Control</b>		<b>\$3,380,617</b>
<b>Difference</b>		<b>(\$1,444,473)</b>

# FISCAL 2027 BUDGET AND PRIORITIES (B&P) SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDED BUDGET: §320 & STATE



# FISCAL 2027 FUNDING: B&P SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Name	Grantee	Proposal Amount	FY 27 State	FY 27 \$320	FY 28	Total
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>						
General Administrative Costs (Salaries/Fringe/Indirect, Training/Travel, Supplies, etc.)	N/A	N/A	\$24,484	\$827,550	\$0	\$852,034
GBEP Website Hosting and Domain Name Registration	Wilkins	\$10,150	\$1,354	\$8,796	\$0	\$10,150
<b>PROGRAMMATIC</b>						
No Programmatic Projects	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>WSQ</b>						
How's the Water - Public Health Risk Awareness Outreach Campaign	H-GAC	\$99,304	\$0	\$99,304	\$0	\$99,304
Effect of Native Plants on Soils of Constructed Stormwater Drainages: Pilot Study Expansion	UHCL	\$108,958	\$0	\$108,958	\$0	\$108,958
<i>WSQ Alternate #1: Health and Performance Monitoring of Green Infrastructure BMPs: A Pathway for High School Intern Career Exploration</i>	AgriLife	\$241,966	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Improving Contact Recreation for Galveston Bay	GBF	\$110,883	\$110,883	\$0	\$0	\$110,883
<i>WSQ Alternate #2: Enumeration Methods Comparison and Evaluation of Nature-Based Stormwater Infrastructure to Reduce Microplastic Pollution in Galveston Bay</i>	H-GAC	\$191,352	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>NRU</b>						
Fiscal 2027-2028 Conservation Assistance Program	GBF	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$0	\$125,000	\$250,000
The 11 <sup>th</sup> Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through a 5 <sup>th</sup> Acquisition at Middle Tract	TPWD	\$100,000	\$117,308	\$0	\$0	\$117,308
Jocelyn Nungaray NWR Tall Grass Prairie and Freshwater Wetlands Restoration	Texas RICE	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
Shoreline Restoration at Galveston Island S.P. & Prairie Restoration/Wetland Creation at UH Coastal Center	TPWD	\$250,000	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
<i>NRU Alternate #1: Coastal Prairie Restoration and Habitat Enhancement</i>	CPC	\$225,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>PPE</b>						
Regional Watershed Education and Outreach	GBF	\$197,161	\$0	\$197,161	\$0	\$197,161
Cultivating Watershed Resilience Ambassadors through Civic Science in Grades 6-12	CELLF	\$185,794	\$0	\$185,794	\$0	\$185,794
Coordination of the River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash	H-GAC	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Connecting Communities to Houston's Prairie Ecosystems	HPARD	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Wings of Discovery: Teaching STEAM through Birds and Journaling	UHCL-EIH	\$82,464	\$0	\$82,464	\$0	\$82,464
<i>PPE Alternate #1: GB Geospatial-Inquiry: Empowering Application of Relevant Understanding of Place (GB GEAR UP!)</i>	UHCL	\$38,304	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>M&amp;R</b>						
Mercury accumulation in bottlenose dolphins ( <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> ), a sentinel species for estuarine and human health	GBF	\$59,973	\$0	\$59,973	\$0	\$59,973
Coastal Ocean Acidification Monitoring Program in Galveston Bay	USGS	\$130,000	\$0	\$130,000	\$0	\$130,000
Sea Aggie Turtle Patrol- Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research	TAMUG	\$111,347	\$111,347	\$0	\$0	\$111,347
Developing a Tool to Assess Black Mangrove Distribution: A Pilot Study in Galveston Bay	EIH-UHCL	\$74,108	\$74,108	\$0	\$0	\$74,108
<i>M&amp;R Alternate #1: Evaluating Economic and Ecosystems services of Galveston Bay Estuarine Wetlands</i>	HARC-GTRI	\$222,849	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>M&amp;R Alternate #2: Advancing monitoring estuarine ecosystems through development of automatic sampling framework</i>	TAMUG	\$255,962	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$924,484</b>	<b>\$1,700,000</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$2,749,484</b>
<b>Budget Control</b>			<b>\$924,484</b>	<b>\$1,700,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,624,484</b>
<b>Difference</b>			<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$125,000)</b>	<b>(\$125,000)</b>

**FISCAL 2026 INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND  
JOBS ACT (IIJA) B&P SUBCOMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDED PROJECTS**



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## **State of the Bay Fifth Edition**

**Grantee:** Houston Advanced Research Center/Geotechnology Research Institute

**Funding Recommendation:** \$36,000; **GBEP Total:** \$395,184

**Total Project Cost:** \$395,184

**Leveraging:** \$0

**CCMP Actions:** All

**Description:** The State of the Bay, Fifth Edition will incorporate information from GBEP's Regional Monitoring Database, Estuary Resilience Action Plan, and Habitat Mapping portal, along with data and monitoring information available through 2025. The State of the Bay, Fifth Edition will present an analysis of 2-3 key priority focus themes currently impacting the Galveston Bay ecosystem and its stakeholders, as selected by the stakeholder-led subcommittees. **Note: The additional funding is needed to host stakeholder workshops requested by GBEP.**

## **Coastal Heritage Preserve – A Platform for Conservation and Education, Connecting the Karankawa Kadla to Ancestral lands and Cultivating Stewardship Through Teacher Guided Outdoor Learning**

**Grantee:** Artist Boat

**Funding Recommendation:** \$150,000

**Total Project Cost:** \$17,385,265

**Leveraging:** \$17,035,265

**CCMP Actions:** NPS-2, HC-1, HC-3, SC-1, SC-2, FWI-3, SPO-1, SPO-3, SPO-4, PEA-1, PEA-2, PEA-3

**Summary:** The objective of this project is twofold: 1) to purchase, in fee simple, and conserve in perpetuity approximately 204 acres of coastal habitats to be added to and managed as part of the 1,039-acre *Preserve* bringing it to 1,243 acres in partnership with Galveston Independent School District holding fee title and Artist Boat holding a perpetual conservation easement, and 2) Master plan, design, and deliver the *Karankawa and Teacher Guided Outdoor Learning Center* for curated public access which will include a 3-mile interpretive trail (t-head blinds, boardwalks, and bridges), permeable parking for bus/vehicles/bikes and ADA bathrooms, a gateway shade structure for Karankawa Kadla and educational purposes, storytelling interpretive trail panels/signs, and Interpretive Guide and Curriculum for 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers meeting Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills standards in Social Studies.

## **Understanding Upstream Impacts – Community Engagement and Citizen Science on the Katy Prairie**

**Grantee:** Coastal Prairie Conservancy

**Funding Recommendation:** \$137,497

**Total Project Cost:** \$225,000

**Leveraging:** \$75,000

**CCMP Actions:** FWI-2, FWI-3, SPO-1, PEA-2, RES-1

**Summary:** This project will restore and manage 2,570 acres of native prairie and wetland habitat while engaging K-12 students and adults in hands-on, place-based environmental education. Through citizen science, targeted monitoring, and collaborative research, it will improve water quality, enhance flood resilience, and strengthen the ecological health of the Cypress Creek Watershed and Galveston Bay.

## **Resiliency in Education and Nature-based Solutions – Phase II**

**Grantee:** Galveston Bay Foundation

**Funding Recommendation:** \$384,603 **GBEP Total:** \$720,603

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,184,604

**Leveraging:** \$760,000

**CCMP Actions:** NPS-2, PHA-2, HC-2, HC-3, SC-2, FWI-3, SPO-1, SPO-3, SPO-4, PEA-1, PEA-2, PEA-3, RES-4

**Summary:** The Galveston Bay Foundation proposes to implement a three-year, multi-faceted project to complete the demonstration site features at the Trinity Bay Discovery Center initiated under Phase I, TCEQ Contract No. 582-25-0053 (*Resiliency in Education and Nature-based Stormwater Infrastructure*). The Galveston Bay Foundation will expand the living shoreline and continue terrestrial and freshwater wetland habitat restoration, resulting in up to 3.50-acres of restored habitat, while also showcasing nature-based solutions to the community through ongoing educational programming and volunteer events.

**Herman Brown Park Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement Project – Phase II Grantee: Houston Parks and Recreation Department**

**Grantee:** Houston Parks and Recreation Department

**Funding Recommendation:** \$200,000 GBEP Total: \$495,000

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,260,000

**Leveraging:** TBD

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

**Summary:** Building on previous work, in Phase II the Houston Parks and Recreation Department will restore 166 acres of riparian forest habitat within Herman Brown Park, which is adjacent to Hunting Bayou. The habitat restoration will improve wildlife habitat, enhance the ecosystem services of these areas, and provide community engagement during the restoration process.

# FISCAL 2026 IIJA FUNDING: B&P SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Project Name	Grantee	Proposal Amount	Prior Allocation	FFY 2026 IIJA Funds
Administration: No associated costs	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
State of the Bay Fifth Edition	HARC/GTRI	\$36,000	\$359,184	\$36,000
Coastal Heritage Preserve - A Platform for Conservation and Education, Connecting the Karankawa Kadla to Ancestral lands and Cultivating Stewardship Through Teacher Guided Outdoor Learning	Artist Boat	\$350,000	\$0	\$150,000
Understanding Upstream Impacts - Community Engagement and Citizen Science on the Katy Prairie	CPC	\$150,650	\$0	\$139,487
Resiliency in Education and Nature-Based Solutions - Phase II	GBF	\$424,604	\$336,000	\$384,603
Herman Brown Park Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement Project - Phase II	HPARD	\$250,000	\$295,000	\$200,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$910,100</b>
<b>Budget Control</b>				<b>\$910,100</b>
<b>Difference</b>				<b>\$0</b>