

Houston Audubon BPNT Project 12/3/25



**Bolivar
Peninsula**
Nature Trail



HoustonAudubon.org

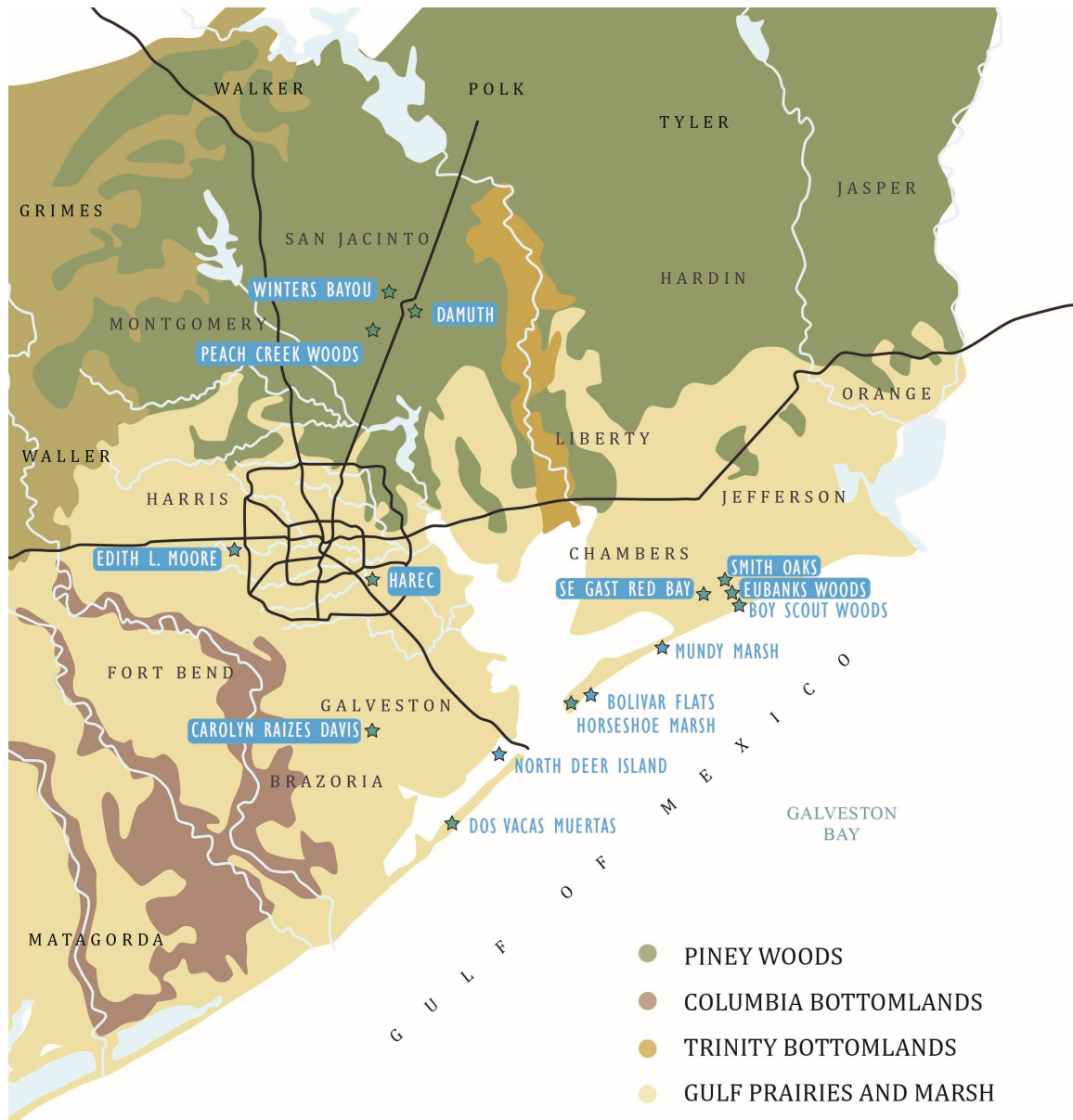
Today's Topics

- Houston Audubon Update
- Bolivar Peninsula Nature Trail Overview
- BPNT Community Outreach



Houston Audubon

- Founded in 1969
- Land Trust Alliance Accreditation in 2017
- 4,300 acres conserved – 18 sanctuaries
- Added ~ 167 acres in 2025
- Staff
 - 14 full-time
 - 6 part-time
 - 3 full-time, seasonal
- Mission- To advance the conservation of birds and their habitats in the Greater Houston Gulf Coast region



Houston Audubon Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary

Red Alert Tipping Point
Species – Black Rail

Orange Alert Tipping Point
Species – Red Knot, Piping Plover

Phase 1 acquired July 2025

Phase 2 - January 2026

(Phase 2 is an additional 25
acres for a total of 192 acres in
2025 or early January).





Houston Audubon FY 2024 SNAPSHOT

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024



6,000+
native plants
sold, donated, and
planted at our sanctuaries



393
bird species
documented on
our sanctuaries

315
bird species
documented
this fiscal year

298 bird surveys
23 locations
296 species
identified

115 acres
treated and
under active
habitat
management

4,112 acres
owned and
under
management

641 volunteers
12,061 hours
served



1,209
members

1,268
donors



291 education programs
10,395 individuals
reached

Mission Pillars

- Land conservation
- Education
- Conservation Advocacy
- Monitoring
- Research
- Community Engagement

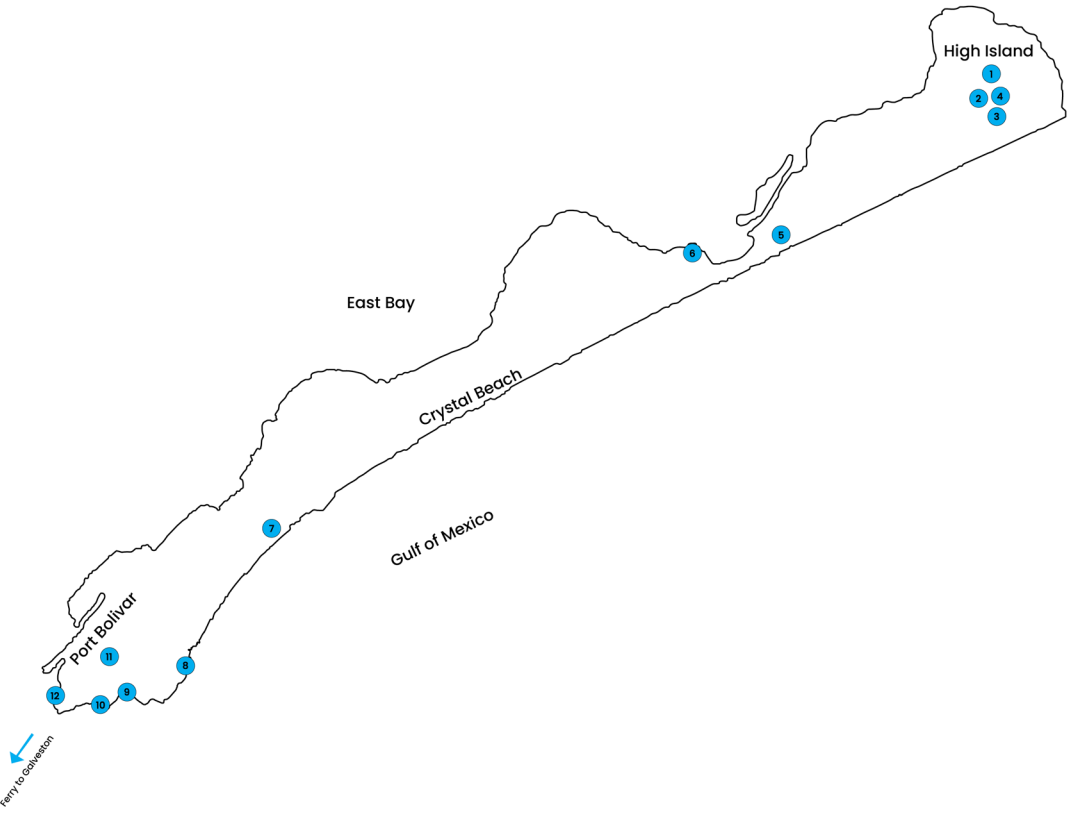
250 additional acres
of Bird-Friendly Spaces

32 new participants

16 new zip codes



BPNT Update



**Bolivar
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Nature Trail





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**A nature-based conservation,
education and economic
development initiative – construct a
tourism route connecting 12 world-
class sites on Bolivar Peninsula**



HoustonAudubon.org

BPNT Partnership

- Houston Audubon – 8 sites
 - Smith Oaks
 - Gast Woods
 - Boy Scout Woods
 - Eubanks Woods
 - Mundy Marsh
 - Bolivar Flats
 - Horseshoe Marsh Central
 - Horseshoe Marsh Frenchtown Rd
- Galveston County – 3 sites
 - Lauderdale Boat Ramp on Yacht Basin Road
 - North Jetty Entrance Area
 - Ft Travis
- Galveston ISD – 1 site
 - Crenshaw School of Environmental Studies



Destination High Island

Houston Audubon's vision for High Island (2012-2022 strategic plan) was to create a year-round experience for everyone:

The vision includes three rookery islands, a visitor center, skywalk, trails and interpretive amenities that will provide opportunities for visitors from around the world to experience nature, photograph wildlife, or take a leisurely break from the elements while learning about birds and their habitats in an awe-inspiring environment.



Destination High Island

RESTORE Act created the opportunity for phased implementation:

- Phase 1: Create two additional rookery islands in Smith Oaks (NFWF 2015) - COMPLETE
- Phase 2a: Smith Oaks outdoor pavilion (Phase 1), Canopy Walk, restrooms (McGovern Foundation 2017-2020) - COMPLETE
- Phase 2b: Facilities to support operations: COOP, Field Station, cottage and stewardship endowment (Campaign + Hulsey, Bettencourts 2017-2020) - COMPLETE
- Phase 3: BP land acquisition (COMPLETE - 2021) and Gulf Habitats Nature Trail, a boardwalk/trail from BSW to beach (TBD)
- Phase 3b: Bolivar Peninsula Nature Trail (2024-2027)**



RESTORE Act

- Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012
- Funding for Nature Tourism sites available from US Treasury resulting from the Deep-Water Horizon Oil Spill
- TCEQ manages projects in Texas

This project was paid for with federal funding from the Department of the Treasury through the State of Texas under the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act).

The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the State of Texas or Department of the Treasury.



Overall Project Schedule

- 2025 Activities
 - Regulatory Permitting
 - Landscape Architect Hired
- 2026 Activities
 - Detailed Design
 - Construction Bid Process Starts
- 2027 Activities
 - Finalize Construction Contracts
 - Construction
- End of 2027 - Target Completion

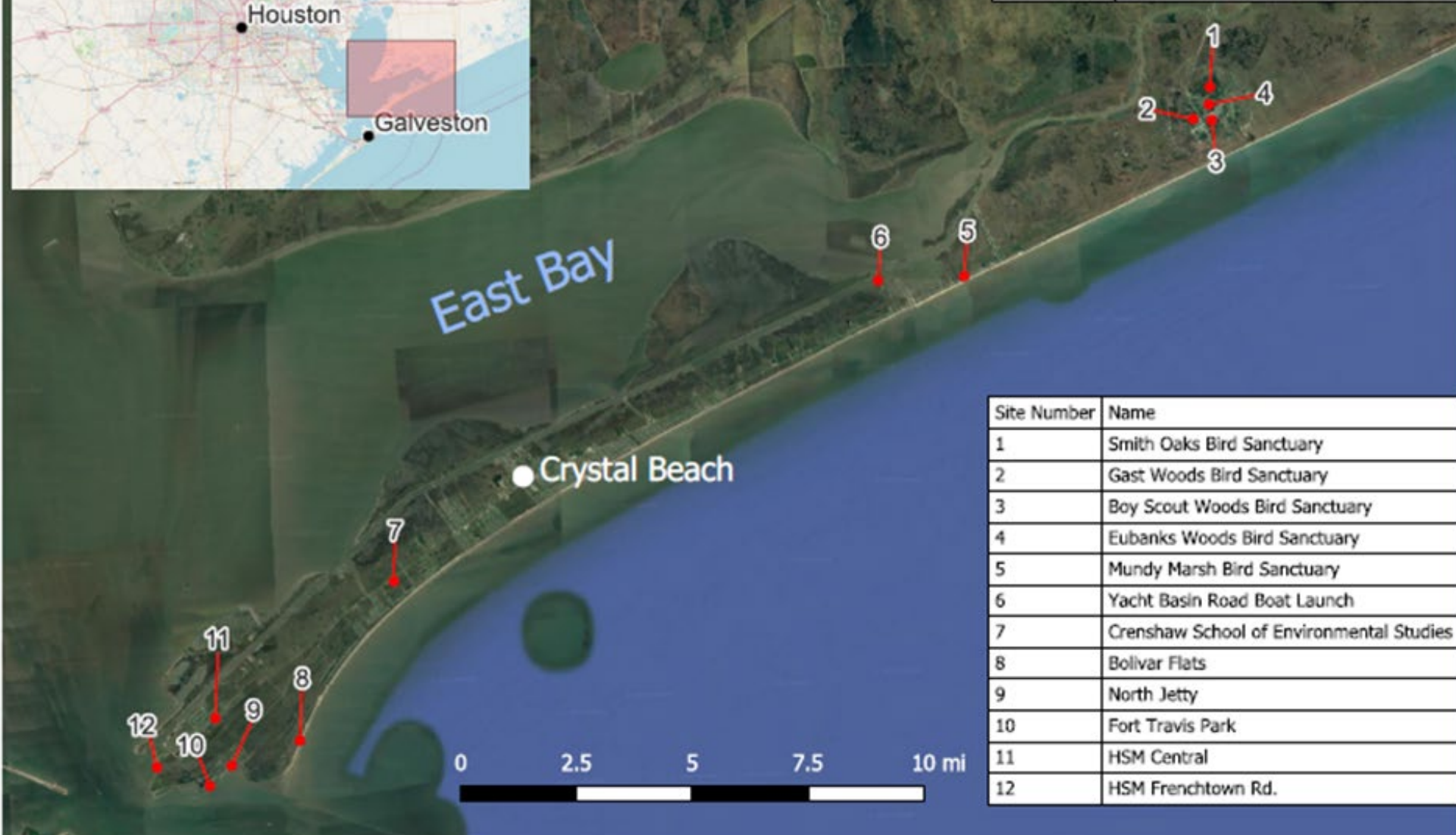
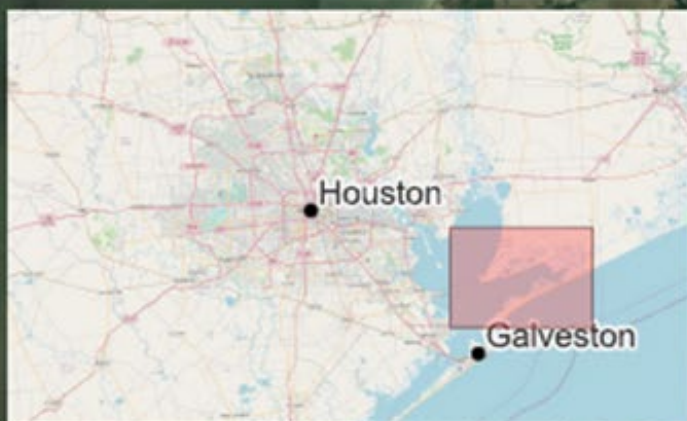


Bolivar Peninsula Nature Trail Sites

3/21/2022



Houston Audubon
440 Wilchester Blvd
Houston, TX 77079



Site Number	Name
1	Smith Oaks Bird Sanctuary
2	Gast Woods Bird Sanctuary
3	Boy Scout Woods Bird Sanctuary
4	Eubanks Woods Bird Sanctuary
5	Mundy Marsh Bird Sanctuary
6	Yacht Basin Road Boat Launch
7	Crenshaw School of Environmental Studies
8	Bolivar Flats
9	North Jetty
10	Fort Travis Park
11	HSM Central
12	HSM Frenchtown Rd.

Project Components

- Signage - Wayfinding and Interpretive Signs
- Boardwalks and Trails – Mundy Marsh, Gast
- Observation Platforms – Gast, Bolivar Flats Retillon Road
- Parking Improvements
- Smith Oaks Outdoor Pavilion and Welcome Area
- Fort Travis Septic System
- Eubanks Woods Water Feature



BPNT Community Outreach

- Community Liaison – part-time / funded by Grant
 - Discovered during project manager hiring process
 - Local Bolivar resident helps with local outreach and attends local events
 - Board member of Bolivar Peninsula Chamber of Commerce (Secretary)
 - Role has increased to include Beach Nesting Birds Program
- BPNT Community Outreach
 - BPNT Stakeholder event
 - Tables at 3 Bolivar Peninsula festivals in 2025
 - Attend Chamber events such as Brown Bag Lunches, Ft Travis Restroom opening
 - Attend Crenshaw Environmental Magnet Showcase



Thanks!

Any questions?

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