

Natural Resource Uses (NRU) Subcommittee

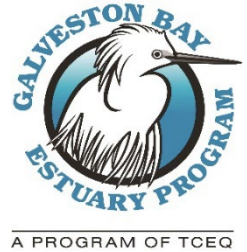
Fiscal 2028 Proposal Summaries

1-(Implementation)

Project	Lead Implementer
<i>Fiscal 2027-2028 Conservation Assistance Program (APPROVED IN FISCAL 2027)</i>	<i>Galveston Bay Foundation</i>
1. West Galveston Bay Floating Nesting Platform Demonstration Project	Galveston Bay Foundation
2. East Bay Oyster Reef Restoration: Engineering, Design, and Permitting	Galveston Bay Foundation
3. Restoration of Critical Stopover Habitat in High Island	Houston Audubon Society
4. Bayou Greenways Conservation Plan Implementation - Wetlands	Houston Parks Board
5. Artist Boat Coastal Heritage Preserve Land Acquisition Project	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
6. Armand Bayou Nature Center Tall Grass Prairie and Wetlands Restoration	Texas RICE

Galveston Bay Estuary Program

Fiscal 2028 Project Proposal



Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by **July 24, 2026**. 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 2028 (FY 2028) Priority Area Actions that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for FY 2028 at the June 2026 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY 2028 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 22, 2026
Proposals Due	July 24, 2026
Send Proposals to Subcommittees Members for Review	August 12, 2026
Present Proposals to Subcommittees for Council Recommendation	September 2, 2026 (NRU and PPE) September 9, 2026 (M&R and WSQ)
Present Proposals to B&P Subcommittee for Final Recommendation	September 30, 2026
Present Proposals to Galveston Bay Council for Approval	October 14, 2026

SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Project Name:

West Galveston Bay Floating Nesting Platform Demonstration Project
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Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF)

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

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Jeffrey Fato
Project Representative Phone	(832)536-2258
Project Representative Email	jfato@galvbay.org

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2027 – ending no later than May 31, 2030) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

September 1, 2027 – May 31, 2030

Amount Requested from GBEP:

[\$]50,000.00

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒

Is the project scalable? ☒

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2028 (09/01/2027-08/31/2028)	\$0.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-08/31/2029)	\$0.00
FY 2030 (09/01/2029-05/31/2030)	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00

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

[\$]57,081.36

Is this an estimate? ☒

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

GBF recycles oyster shells from restaurants in the Houston-Galveston area and will provide the shell required for the cultch material on the bird nesting platform. Currently, oyster shell is valued at \$65 per C.Y. Based on the design for the platform, approximately 40 C.Y. of crushed shell is needed to complete the project. GBF will leverage \$2,600 worth of shell.
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Volunteers will assist in the construction of the bird nesting platform. To construct the bird nesting platform, approximately 124 hours of volunteer labor will be provided. Currently, the national value of volunteer time is \$36.14 per hour. GBF will leverage \$4,481.36 worth of volunteer labor.

SECTION THREE: GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the FY 2028 Subcommittee Priorities (Section Four) will be considered above others. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* Action Plans are found at:

<https://gbep.texas.gov/ensure-safe-human-and-aquatic-life-use/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/protect-and-sustain-living-resources/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/engage-communities/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/inform-science-based-decision-making/>

Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:

Plan Priority 1: Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

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

Plan Priority 2: Protect and Sustain Living Resources

HC-1 ☐ HC-2 ☒ HC-3 ☐
SC-1 ☒ SC-2 ☐
FWI-1 ☐ FWI-2 ☐ FWI-3 ☐

Plan Priority 3: Engage Communities

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

Plan Priority 4: Inform Science-based Decision Making

RES-1 ☐ RES-2 ☐ RES-3 ☐ RES-4 ☐
RES-5 ☐ RES-6 ☐ RES-7 ☐ RES-8 ☐
ACS-1 ☐ ACS-2 ☐ ACS-3 ☐

Plan Priority Area Actions Detail:

HC-2: Habitat Restoration

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

SC-1: Native Species Management

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

SECTION FOUR: SUBCOMMITTEE PRIORITIES / FACTORS TO BE USED TO SELECT AWARDS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(6)]

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

Subcommittee Identified Priorities:

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 through adaptive management, workforce development, and technical assistance.
- ☐ WSQ: Improve knowledge and accessibility of pollution reporting tools to empower the community.
- ☐ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
- ☐ NRU: Habitat Acquisition.
- ☐ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration-conservation efforts. Special emphasis on:
 - ☐ Adaptive management for previously completed projects; and
 - ☐ Projects that may have lost/delayed funding from other federal sources.
- ☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
- ☐ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost.
- ☐ PPE: Connecting new audiences to existing/completed on-the-ground projects in the watershed.
- ☐ PPE: Empowering K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.
- ☐ PPE: Opportunities to host workshops/networking events to provide technical assistance for local leadership (local governments, MUDs, schoolboards, the public) on key topics.
- ☐ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
- ☐ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially research and monitoring for diamondback terrapin and best management projects, WSQ, PPE).
- ☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay at an adequate timeline and spatial range to provide useful information.
- ☐ 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.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION FIVE: PROPOSAL DETAILS

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

Project Summary:

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

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

The goal of the proposed project is to use innovative techniques to increase colonial waterbird ground nesting habitat in Galveston Bay, Texas. While the habitat may be utilized by several species of ground nesting colonial waterbirds, this project targets nesting habitat for Black Skimmers and Least Terns, both listed as state of Texas Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

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

The Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) is submitting this proposal requesting funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Galveston Bay Estuary Program (TCEQ GBEP) to support the creation of a floating bird nesting platform and to monitor the nesting activities of colonial waterbirds on the platform. The primary objective of this proposal is to create up to 1,024 square feet of habitat for Black Skimmers and Least Terns and monitor the platform infrastructure and nesting success. GBF will partner with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Coastal Program, the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO), the American Bird Conservancy, Houston Audubon, and other project partners to accomplish the project objectives identified below. Services provided by GBF will include creation and deployment of the platform, project management activities, site visits for monitoring, and to provide technical expertise and support.

The Black Skimmer and Least Tern are two colonial waterbird species listed in the Texas Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Black Skimmer populations in Texas had declined by as much as 70% in the past 40 years, and GCBO has been monitoring natural island colonies in the Galveston Bay Estuary System since 2018 to determine the cause of their population decline. Their efforts indicate a steep decline in reproduction success, predominantly due to a lack of viable nesting habitat and disturbance by anglers. Black Skimmers breeding populations in Texas are recognized by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) as imperiled in Texas. Least Terns are a beach nesting species like Black Skimmers whose populations have declined by 79% since 1966 according to the North America Breeding Bird Survey. In years past, two of the three subspecies of Least Terns have been listed as federally Endangered. Breeding populations of Least Terns are recognized by TPWD as imperiled in Texas. Both Black Skimmer and Least Tern nesting habitat along the Texas coast has declined due to submerged nesting islands, high tide event washing away beach nests, and human disturbance resulting in failed nesting and fledging. To support Black Skimmer and Least Tern populations in Galveston Bay, GBF proposes the creation of a floating bird nesting platform using social attraction methods to target these species.

This project is a re-creation of a successful bird nesting platform project conducted in Chincoteague Bay, Maryland, in 2021, which targeted Black Skimmers and Common Terns. In the first year of deployment of the Chincoteague Bay bird nesting platform, 20 active Common Tern nests were observed. Through the

creation of a floating bird nesting platform, the West Galveston Bay Floating Nesting Platform Demonstration project will support Black Skimmers and Least Terns. This project will increase the surface area of available nesting habitat for these species in Galveston Bay up to 1,024 square feet. Black Skimmers and Least Terns will be drawn to the bird nesting platform with various social attraction methods including species specific bird decoys, egg decoys, and audio recordings of bird calls if needed. Shade structures may be attached to the island will allow for nestling and fledgling birds to shelter. Additionally, the project seeks to monitor the success of the platform over two nesting seasons. The bird nesting platform may be remotely monitored via a game camera for the presence of waterbirds, as well as in person from a boat during colonial waterbird nesting season to document colonial waterbird nesting at the site. GBF would further refine monitoring protocols incorporating expertise from project partners.

A potential location for the West Galveston Bay Floating Nesting Platform Demonstration Project is within the Chocolate Bay Preserve. Nearby the Chocolate Bay Preserve are historic colonial waterbird nesting habitat that have been lost or degraded. Least Terns have been observed nesting at the USACE beneficial use dredge material placement area near Grassy Point, west of the Chocolate Bay Preserve. Southeast of the potential location at the Chocolate Bay Preserve, Least Terns and Black Skimmers have been observed nesting within Carancahua Cove.

Project Urgency:

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

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.]

Partners¹ and Their Roles:

Audubon Texas - Advisory role
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory - Advisory role
American Bird Conservancy - Advisory role
US Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program - Advisory role

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.

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

[TBD.]

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

Chocolate Bay Preserve: 29°12'54.90" N, 95°02'59.70" W

Location:

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.

The potential location for the West Galveston Bay Floating Nesting Platform Demonstration project is at the Chocolate Bay Preserve, located on the northwest end of West Galveston Bay. Within the Preserve, the nesting platform would be stationed in open water habitat near the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

Projects Map

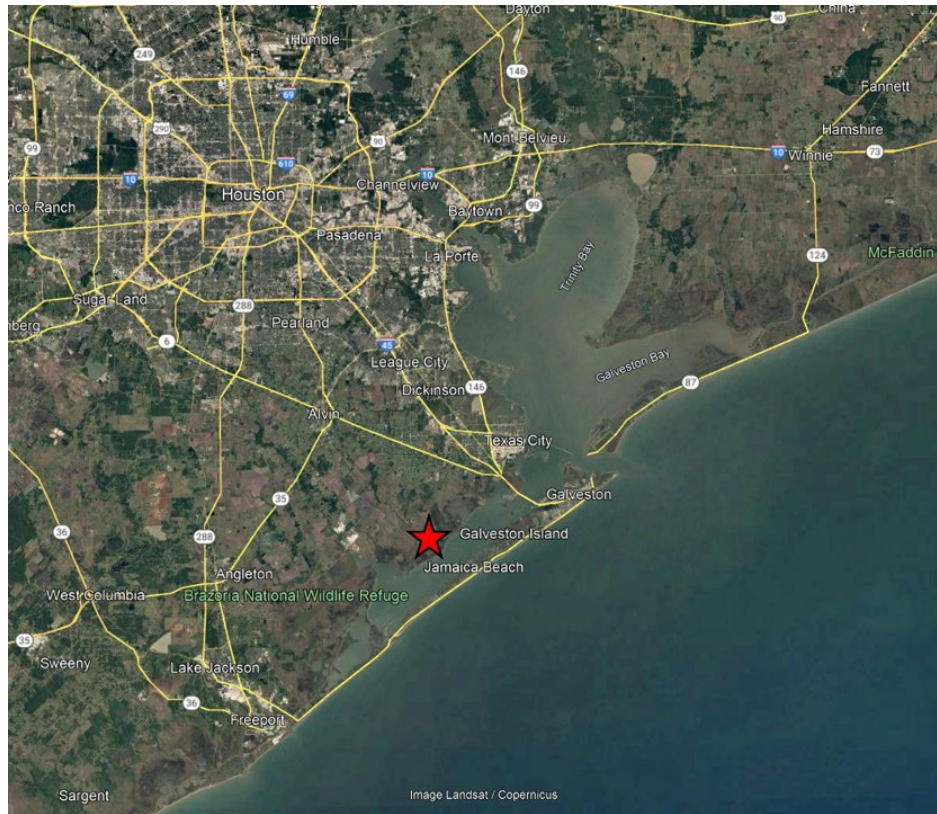


Figure 1. Potential location of the West Galveston Bay Floating Nesting Platform Demonstration Project within the Galveston Bay Estuary System.

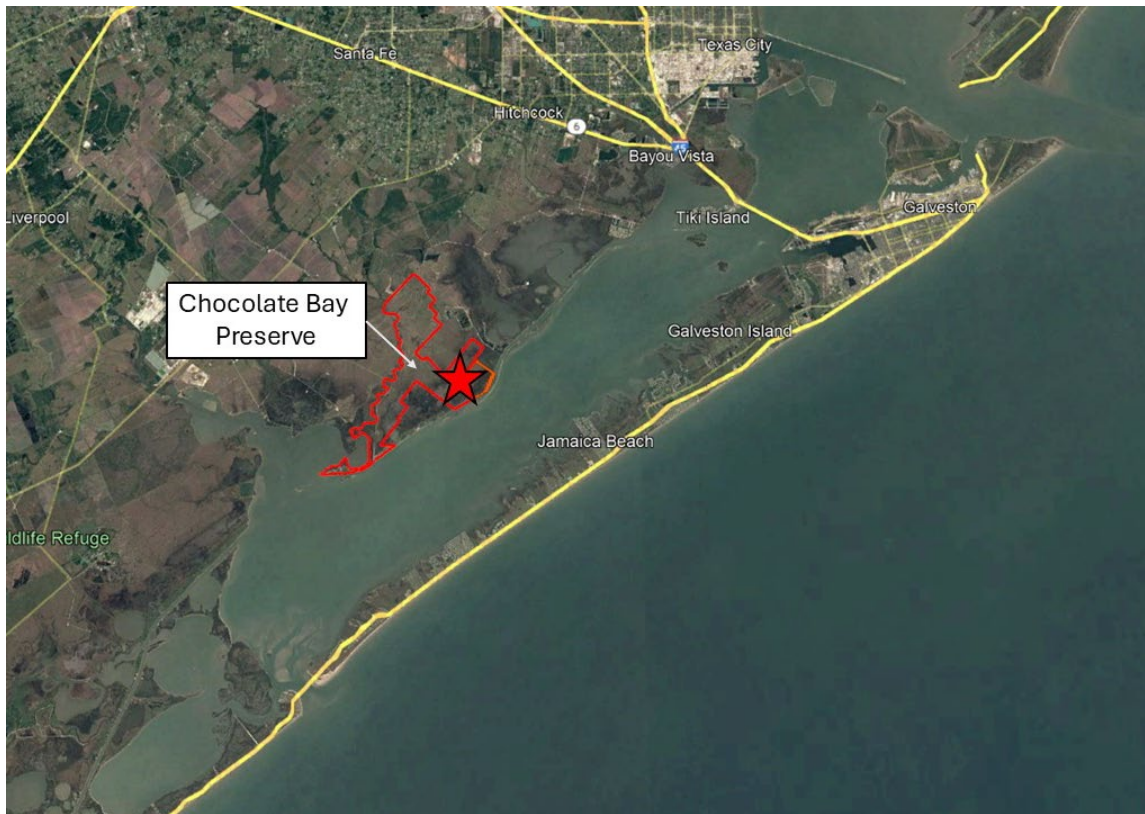


Figure 2. Potential location of the bird nesting platform in West Galveston Bay.



Figure 3. Potential location of the bird nesting platform within the Chocolate Bay Preserve.

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):



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

SECTION SIX: BUDGET DETAILS

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

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

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	\$11,600.00
Fringe Benefits (18.1%) ²	\$2,100.00
Travel	\$730.00
Supplies	\$29,000.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$0.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$48.26
Total Direct Cost	\$43,478.26

b. Indirect Costs³

Distribution Base Amount (<i>identify Base type below</i>)	\$ 43,478.26
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	IDC = 15% x Modified Total Direct Cost
Total Indirect Costs	\$ 6,521.74

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	\$ 50,000.00
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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 cost 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 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 15 percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) 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

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

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.

☐ **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 (Cost Budget) section.]

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

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

Travel. In order to be reimbursable, travel costs must be specifically authorized in advance of the travel. Travel costs will be reimbursed only in the amount of actual costs, up to the maximum allowed by law for employees of the State of Texas at the time the cost is incurred.

Budget Categories. The Budget Categories above are representative of the items of cost found in TxGMS and 2 CFR Part 200, and have the definitions, requirements, and limitations found therein. Construction costs are not reimbursable without prior, specific written authorization from TCEQ.

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 post notification 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

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:

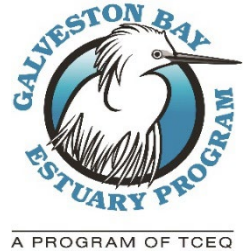
- GBEP intends to accept only complete Projected Proposals in a layout and format constituting a filled version of this proposal document with all applicable sections therein addressed; however, GBEP may, in its sole discretion, consider and accept nonconforming Project Proposals in the best interest 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 24, 2026 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 2028 Project Proposal



Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by **July 24, 2026**. 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.

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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 2028 (FY 2028) Priority Area Actions that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for FY 2028 at the June 2026 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY 2028 Priority Area Actions will be considered above others.

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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.

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

Project Name:

East Bay Oyster Reef Restoration: Engineering, Design, and Permitting

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF)

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

Contact Information:

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

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2027 – ending no later than May 31, 2030) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

1.5 to 2.0 years; September 1, 2027 – August 31, 2029

Amount Requested from GBEP:

\$ 133,000.00

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒

Is the project scalable? ☒

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2028 (09/01/2027-08/31/2028)	\$0.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-08/31/2029)	\$0.00
FY 2030 (09/01/2029-05/31/2030)	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00

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

\$1,200,000.00±

The total project cost includes planning, engineering & design, and permitting (\$200,000±) as well as the estimated cost for construction (\$1,000,000±). Please note, \$200,000 is a high-cost estimate for advancing the design to 100% and these funds would still need to be raised. Additionally, the cost for construction is preliminary and will become more defined upon finalization of the design plans. This proposal requests funding solely for the engineering and design phase to produce 50% design plans and secure the necessary state and federal permits.

Is this an estimate? ☒

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

Private Donation: \$500,000.00; potential; cash

CCA Texas has expressed interest in providing up to \$500,000 toward future reef construction, contingent upon completion of design, permitting, confirmation of constructability, and development of a defined construction budget. This prospective investment would support a subsequent construction phase and is not included as committed match for the current proposal.

SECTION THREE: GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the FY 2028 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 East Bay Oyster Reef Restoration Project will support three actions under Plan Priority 2: habitat restoration (HC-2), habitat enhancement (HC-3), and native species management (SC-1).

HC – “Support Habitat Conservation”

The proposed project identifies lost and degraded habitats (degraded oyster reef in East Galveston Bay). If awarded the GBEP-NRU FY 28 funds, GBF will deliver 50% designs for an oyster reef restoration project. Subsequent construction, supported through a separate funding phase, will result in up to 10.0 acres of oyster reef habitat. The restored habitat will contribute to the overall Plan Priority 2 goal of 2,500 acres restored and 5,000 acres enhanced within 10 years. The oyster habitat will not only provide the necessary cultch material for oysters to recruit and grow but will also provide food and shelter for finfish and invertebrates. The enhanced oyster reef complex will aid in improving the local water quality. Adult oysters can filter substantial volumes of water under favorable environmental conditions; however, water-quality improvement is considered a secondary ecological benefit rather than a quantified performance measure for this project.

SC – “Support Species Conservation”

The proposed project was developed specifically for “species needs” and will result in the conservation of aquatic habitat (oyster reefs). The protection and restoration of the oyster reef will provide vital habitat for oysters, finfish, shellfish, etc. and restore and/or protect surrounding estuarine habitat essential to native finfish, crustaceans, and waterbirds.

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 through adaptive management, workforce development, and technical assistance.
- ☐ WSQ: Improve knowledge and accessibility of pollution reporting tools to empower the community.
- ☐ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
- ☐ NRU: Habitat Acquisition.
- ☐ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration-conservation efforts. Special emphasis on:
 - ☐ Adaptive management for previously completed projects; and
 - ☐ Projects that may have lost/delayed funding from other federal sources.
- ☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
- ☐ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost.
- ☐ PPE: Connecting new audiences to existing/completed on-the-ground projects in the watershed.
- ☐ PPE: Empowering K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.
- ☐ PPE: Opportunities to host workshops/networking events to provide technical assistance for local leadership (local governments, MUDs, schoolboards, the public) on key topics.
- ☐ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
- ☐ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially research and monitoring for diamondback terrapin and best management projects, WSQ, PPE).
- ☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay at an adequate timeline and spatial range to provide useful information.
- ☐ 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.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

The project directly addresses the NRU priority of benefiting native fish and wildlife by advancing restoration of oyster reef habitat, a structurally complex estuarine habitat used by oysters, finfish, crabs, shrimp, and other invertebrates. The engineering phase will establish design criteria and measurable construction quantities needed to restore up to 10 acres of reef. Post-construction monitoring would be undertaken under the future construction and monitoring phase and is not included in the present request.

The proposed project will also enhance the native oyster population in East Bay. Although the Eastern oyster is not federally listed, Galveston Bay has lost over 60% of its oyster reefs primarily due to decades of heavy exploitation coupled with multiple storm events such as Hurricanes Ike and Harvey. Although the wild oyster larvae supply in Galveston Bay is still abundant, the removal of shells from the bay has resulted in a shortage of hard substrate, a key component for sustaining oyster populations. Once constructed, the project would return hard substrate to East Bay, including recycled oyster shells (sourced from GBF's Oyster Shell Recycling Program), river rock, concrete, and/or limestone, to increase the available oyster habitat and encourage additional spat recruitment.

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

Restoring reef structure will improve ecological resilience in East Galveston Bay by increasing the area and structural complexity of oyster habitat. Potential wave-attenuation or shoreline-protection benefits will be evaluated during the design phase.

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:

GBF requests \$133,000 to complete site investigations, engineering, final design, and regulatory authorizations for up to 10 acres of oyster reef restoration in East Galveston Bay near Frenchie's Reef. The project will advance the site to 50% design and position GBF to leverage prospective private funding for restoration of degraded oyster habitat.

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

Galveston Bay has lost more than 60% of its historic oyster reef habitat because of long-term harvest pressure, storm impacts, sedimentation, and the removal of shell from the bay system. Although oyster larvae remain abundant in much of Galveston Bay, successful recruitment depends on the availability of clean, stable hard substrate. The continued loss and degradation of reef structure limits the amount of suitable habitat available for oysters to attach, survive, and form productive reef communities. Restoring hard substrate in East Galveston Bay will support the native Eastern oyster population while providing structurally complex habitat for finfish, crabs, shrimp, and other estuarine organisms.

The Galveston Bay Foundation proposes to advance the planning and preliminary engineering of an oyster reef restoration project of up to 10 acres in East Galveston Bay near Frenchie's Reef. GBF submitted an application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for a Certificate of Location (COL) for the proposed restoration area. TPWD has accepted the application into the COL process; however, final issuance is contingent upon completion of required site investigations, agency review, and satisfaction of applicable design and resource-protection requirements. Depending on the final project configuration and regulatory pathway, GBF may also need to obtain a surface lease from the Texas General Land Office and authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

GBEP funding will support the field investigations, technical analyses, and engineering necessary to advance the project to approximately 50% design. Anticipated site investigations may include bathymetric, magnetometer, geotechnical, cultural-resource, and other surveys required by the project engineers or regulatory agencies. These investigations will provide information about water depths, existing bay-bottom conditions, sediment characteristics, potential obstructions, existing oyster resources, and other environmental or constructability constraints within the proposed project area.

Survey results will be used to evaluate potential reef locations and configurations and to develop preliminary design plans for the project. The engineering team will assess factors such as suitable substrate, material settlement, navigation, existing habitat, construction access, anticipated oyster recruitment, and potential impacts to surrounding aquatic resources. The exact acreage, footprint, elevations, material types, and arrangement of the proposed reef will be refined through this process. Potential cultch materials may include recycled oyster shell from GBF's Oyster Shell Recycling Program, limestone, river rock, concrete, or a combination of suitable materials.

The project will incorporate avoidance and minimization measures to prevent or reduce impacts to existing oyster reef, seagrass, navigation routes, and other sensitive resources identified during the site investigations and agency coordination. GBF and its engineering consultant will continue coordinating with TPWD, the Texas General Land Office, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other applicable resource agencies as the design progresses. The project will also develop the technical information needed to support subsequent authorization requests and future design phases.

At the completion of the proposed project, GBF expects to have completed the necessary site investigations and developed approximately 50% engineering plans, preliminary quantities, an updated opinion of probable construction cost, and submittal of regulatory permits. These will provide the foundation needed to pursue funding for final design, permitting, and construction.

CCA Texas has expressed interest in providing up to \$500,000 toward a future construction phase once the project has progressed sufficiently to demonstrate feasibility, constructability, and anticipated cost. Other potential funders have similarly indicated that a more developed project is needed before construction funding can be considered. Although the proposed GBEP award will not result in a fully designed or

construction-ready project, it will complete a critical phase of project development and substantially improve GBF's ability to secure the remaining funds needed for final design and construction.

Once fully designed, permitted, and funded, the project could restore up to 10 acres of oyster reef habitat in East Galveston Bay. The future restored reef would increase the availability of stable hard substrate for oyster settlement, enhance habitat for native fish and wildlife, and improve the ecological resilience and productivity of the surrounding estuarine system.

Project Urgency:

TPWD has accepted the project into the Certificate of Location process, but final authorization depends upon completion of required site investigations and design. In addition, prospective construction funders require confirmation of constructability, quantities, permitting, and estimated cost before committing funds. FY 2028 funding will maintain project momentum and convert the current site opportunity into a defined, permit-ready construction project. Any specific COL deadline, expiration date, or funding decision deadline will be included once confirmed.

Other Plans Implemented:

This is a new project and therefore did not have a chance to be included as a Tier 1 Project in the Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan (TCRMP). However, the proposed oyster reef creation and enhancement aligns directly with R1-45: Galveston Bay Oyster Reef Planning & Restoration. This activity will achieve key "Ecological Resiliency Strategies" identified by the Master Plan: Oyster Reef Planning, Restoration and Monitoring.

Partners¹ and Their Roles:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - COL review and advisory role
Texas General Land Office - regulatory review and advisory role
CCA - prospective construction funder
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - technical advisory role

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

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

n/a

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.

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

n/a

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

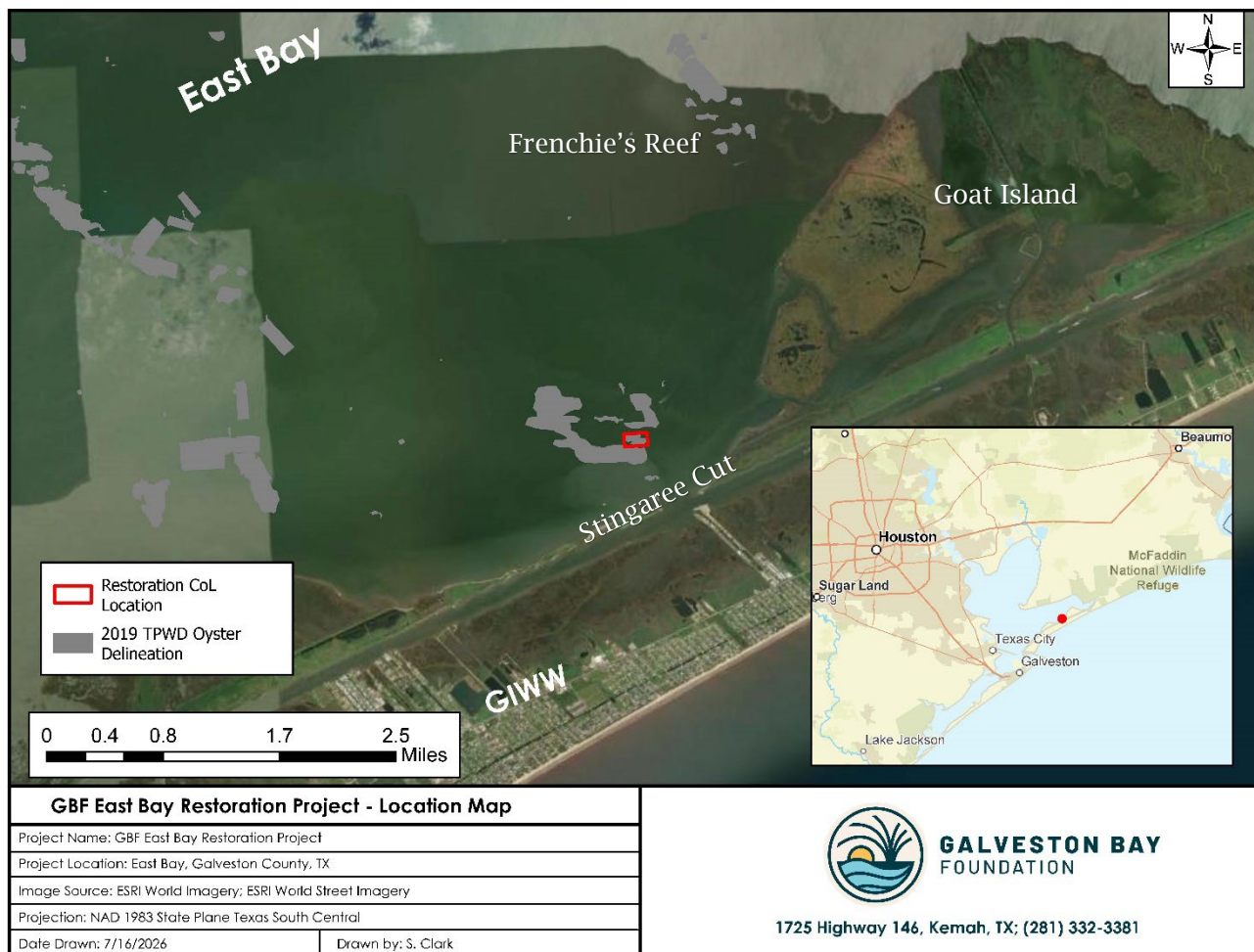
29° 29' 21.8832"N, -94° 36' 44.766"W

Location:

The proposed project is located in East Galveston Bay, located southeast of Houston in Galveston County, Texas. The proposed restoration site is located just north of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) by the Stingaree Cut and immediately west of Goat Island.

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):



An example oyster reef restoration project completed by barge. Recycled oyster shell was being deployed at Dickinson Bay Reef in 2022.



An example oyster reef restoration project completed by barge. Rock was being deployed at Beezley Reef in 2026.

SECTION SIX: BUDGET DETAILS

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

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

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	\$11,400.00
Fringe Benefits (21.1%) ²	\$2,400.00
Travel	\$400.00
Supplies	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$109,112.50
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$50.00
Total Direct Cost	\$123,362.50

b. Indirect Costs³

Distribution Base Amount (<i>identify Base type below</i>)	\$ 64,250.00
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	% 15
Total Indirect Costs	\$ 9,637.50

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	\$ 133,000.00
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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 cost 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 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 15 percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) 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

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

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.

☐ **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 (Cost Budget) section.]

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

The contractual funds would be broken into four tasks with the engineers; project management, data collection, preliminary engineering, and permit drawings.
--

Costs associated with other could include printing materials, etc.
--

Travel. In order to be reimbursable, travel costs must be specifically authorized in advance of the travel. Travel costs will be reimbursed only in the amount of actual costs, up to the maximum allowed by law for employees of the State of Texas at the time the cost is incurred.

Budget Categories. The Budget Categories above are representative of the items of cost found in TxGMS and 2 CFR Part 200, and have the definitions, requirements, and limitations found therein. Construction costs are not reimbursable without prior, specific written authorization from TCEQ.

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 post notification 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

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:

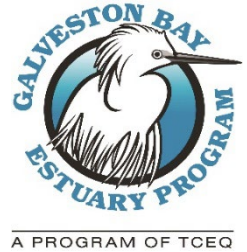
- GBEP intends to accept only complete Projected Proposals in a layout and format constituting a filled version of this proposal document with all applicable sections therein addressed; however, GBEP may, in its sole discretion, consider and accept nonconforming Project Proposals in the best interest 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 24, 2026 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 2028 Project Proposal



Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by **July 24, 2026**. 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 2028 (FY 2028) Priority Area Actions that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for FY 2028 at the June 2026 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY 2028 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 22, 2026
Proposals Due	July 24, 2026
Send Proposals to Subcommittees Members for Review	August 12, 2026
Present Proposals to Subcommittees for Council Recommendation	September 2, 2026 (NRU and PPE) September 9, 2026 (M&R and WSQ)
Present Proposals to B&P Subcommittee for Final Recommendation	September 30, 2026
Present Proposals to Galveston Bay Council for Approval	October 14, 2026

SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Project Name:

Restoration of Critical Stopover Habitat in High Island

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

Houston Audubon Society

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:	MUREZZ74E4A5
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	23-7011870

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Peter Deichmann
Project Representative Phone	713-932-1639 x115
Project Representative Email	pdeichmann@houstonaudubon.org

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2027 – ending no later than May 31, 2030) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

9/1/2027-5/31/2030

Amount Requested from GBEP:

\$111,718.88

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒

Is the project scalable? ☒

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2028 (09/01/2027-08/31/2028)	\$37,239.63
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-08/31/2029)	\$37,239.63
FY 2030 (09/01/2029-05/31/2030)	\$37,239.62
Total	\$111,718.88

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

\$365,977

Is this an estimate? ☒

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

[Please indicate source, amount, and status (secured, potential, etc.)]			
Item	Source	Amount	Status

HAS Provided Technician Housing (3 Techs * 180 days*\$111/day GSA rate*3 yrs)	In-kind	\$179,820	Potential
Equipment use (\$10/hr, Tractor 20hrs/yr, UTV 20 hrs/year, * 3 yrs)	In-kind	\$1,200	Potential
Volunteer labor (20 volunteers * 6 Workdays* 8 hrs/workday*\$25.43/hr*3 yrs)	In-kind	\$73,238	Potential
TOTAL IN-KIND LEVERAGING		\$254,258	

SECTION THREE: GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the FY 2028 Subcommittee Priorities (Section Four) will be considered above others. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* Action Plans are found at:

<https://gbep.texas.gov/ensure-safe-human-and-aquatic-life-use/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/protect-and-sustain-living-resources/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/engage-communities/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/inform-science-based-decision-making/>

Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:

Plan Priority 1: Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

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

Plan Priority 2: Protect and Sustain Living Resources

HC-1 ☐ HC-2 ☒ HC-3 ☒
SC-1 ☒ SC-2 ☒
FWI-1 ☐ FWI-2 ☐ FWI-3 ☐

Plan Priority 3: Engage Communities

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

Plan Priority 4: Inform Science-based Decision Making

RES-1 ☐ RES-2 ☐ RES-3 ☐ RES-4 ☐
RES-5 ☐ RES-6 ☐ RES-7 ☐ RES-8 ☐
ACS-1 ☐ ACS-2 ☐ ACS-3 ☐

Plan Priority Area Actions Detail:

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

HC-2, Habitat Restoration: Remove/treat invasive species on 10 acres of critical migrant stop-over habitat in High Island.

HC-3, Habitat Enhancement: Enhance 10 acres of newly restored areas with native plant material propagated in-house at Houston Audubon's Coastal Natives Nursery.

SC-1, Native Species Management: Restored/enhanced areas will better support migrant bird populations by providing the habitat needed to sustain native insect populations, and fruit producing native plants that fuel and sustain neotropical/nearctic migrant birds and other wildlife.

SC-2, Invasive Species Control: Remove/treat invasive species on 10 acres of critical migrant stop-over habitat in High Island.

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 through adaptive management, workforce development, and technical assistance.
- ☐ WSQ: Improve knowledge and accessibility of pollution reporting tools to empower the community.
- ☐ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
- ☐ NRU: Habitat Acquisition.
- ☒ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration-conservation efforts. Special emphasis on:
 - ☒ Adaptive management for previously completed projects; and
 - ☐ Projects that may have lost/delayed funding from other federal sources.
- ☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
- ☐ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost.
- ☐ PPE: Connecting new audiences to existing/completed on-the-ground projects in the watershed.
- ☐ PPE: Empowering K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.
- ☐ PPE: Opportunities to host workshops/networking events to provide technical assistance for local leadership (local governments, MUDs, schoolboards, the public) on key topics.
- ☐ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
- ☐ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially research and monitoring for diamondback terrapin and best management projects, WSQ, PPE).
- ☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay at an adequate timeline and spatial range to provide useful information.
- ☐ 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.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

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

Habitat restoration and enhancement is a fundamental goal of HAS land management practices. Over the past 30+ years staff and volunteers have used adaptive management strategies to target and treat degraded areas, monitor those areas to assess next steps, and annually follow up with re-treatment and native plantings based on the specific target area and desired outcomes. Ongoing restoration and monitoring is essential to maintaining and increasing the quality of habitat available for birds and other wildlife.

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

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

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

Invasive species management and habitat enhancement is essential in addressing coastal resiliency in Texas by preserving ecosystem function and restoring native diversity; species of concern by providing and

managing critical habitat; enabling responsible public access through maintained trails; and ensuring general property upkeep and security via staff and volunteer efforts.

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:

[In 1-2 sentences, please describe the objective of your proposal.]

Houston Audubon aims to restore and enhance a minimum of 10 acres of critical stopover habitat in High Island, Texas.

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

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

Houston Audubon has been actively engaged in habitat restoration of its High Island Sanctuaries for the past 30+ years. Prior to 2013, invasive species management occurred almost exclusively through volunteer efforts concentrated over just 6 workdays each year. With additional projects aimed at maintaining public access (clearing trails, maintaining parking areas/bathroom facilities) that supports the 10,000+ visitors to High Island each year, invasive species management efforts were holding the line, but not making significant progress to provide high-quality habitat for neotropic/nearctic migrants that use High Island as a stopover site during migration. In 2013, adapting to the inadequacy of those efforts, HA hired a full-time Sanctuaries Manager to be based in High Island and lead more concerted efforts to restore habitat, monitor species, and manage infrastructure and facilities on its 3,000+ acres of coastal sanctuaries on the Bolivar Peninsula, including High Island.

Since 2013, Houston Audubon has honed and perfected an adaptive management model of habitat restoration which uses HA staff to lead full-time, seasonal employees, volunteers, and contractors to treat and remove invasive species on 5-10 acres each year with most work occurring from September to March. The method of invasive species management depends on the specific target species and desired end result but typically involves a combination of mechanical removal (mowing, chainsaw cutting, hand cutters) coupled with chemical treatment (cut stump, hack and squirt, foliar spray) followed by monitoring and retreatment where needed and when appropriate. Following initial invasive species removal, staff and volunteers enhance these degraded areas with native plant material propagated at HA's Coastal Native's Nursery (CNN) in High Island to support the wildlife that use these sanctuaries. Success has been achieved in areas where native plantings are outcompeting non-native invasive species, and follow up treatment is unnecessary. Our properties are annually monitored for invasive species encroachment and yearly restoration targets are established.

If funding is secured, HAS intends to restore and enhance a minimum of 10 acres over a 3-year period using this adaptive management approach to invasive species control. Three conservation technicians will live on site at HAS's Coastal Operations Center in High Island from October through March spending ~75% of their time on habitat restoration and enhancement. This action will be supplemented by 6 volunteer workdays per year aimed at additional invasive species removal and enhancement through planting of native vegetation propagated at HAS's CNN. Each year, two weeks of supplemental work will be contracted to provide additional support with invasive species removal in heavily degraded areas. Included are yearly costs for equipment (chainsaws, hand tools, sprayers) and supplies (fuel, herbicide).

Project Urgency:

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

Funding for invasive species management and habitat enhancement is critical to maintaining ground gained and minimize expensive initial removal and treatment costs. Funding is also critical to increasing the quantity and quality of habitat available to migrant birds using these sanctuaries each year.

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.]

GLO- Texas Coastal Management Plan

GLO- Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan
TPWD- State Wildlife Action Plan
TPWD- Texas Conservation Action Plan
TPWD- Texas Wetlands Conservation Plan

Partners¹ and Their Roles:

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

The Nature Conservancy holds a conservation easement over four of our High Island sanctuaries and are annually updated and consulted on habitat restoration and enhancement efforts.

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.

☐ Yes

☒ No

[TBD.]

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

[degrees, minutes, and seconds format]

Location:

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

High Island, Galveston County, Texas on the Bolivar Peninsula in the lower Galveston Bay watershed.

Projects Map

Attached as Appendix 1 to the end of this proposal is a map of current HAS owned lands in High Island, Texas and the most recent habitat restoration and enhancement maps showing work completed from 7/1/2025 to 12/31/2025.

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	\$45,000.00
Fringe Benefits (9.65%) ²	\$4,342.50
Travel	\$0.00
Supplies	\$1,500.00
Equipment	\$1,500.00
Contractual	\$48,000.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Total Direct Cost	\$100,342.50

b. Indirect Costs³

Distribution Base Amount (<i>identify Base type below</i>)	\$ 75,842.50
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	% 15
Total Indirect Costs	\$ 11,376.38

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	\$ 111,718.88
--	---------------

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

- ☐ direct salary/wages and fringe benefits
☒ modified total direct costs
☐ other direct cost 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 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 15 percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) 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

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

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.

☐ **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 (Cost Budget) section.]

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

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

Travel. In order to be reimbursable, travel costs must be specifically authorized in advance of the travel. Travel costs will be reimbursed only in the amount of actual costs, up to the maximum allowed by law for employees of the State of Texas at the time the cost is incurred.

Budget Categories. The Budget Categories above are representative of the items of cost found in TxGMS and 2 CFR Part 200, and have the definitions, requirements, and limitations found therein. Construction costs are not reimbursable without prior, specific written authorization from TCEQ.

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 post notification 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

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:

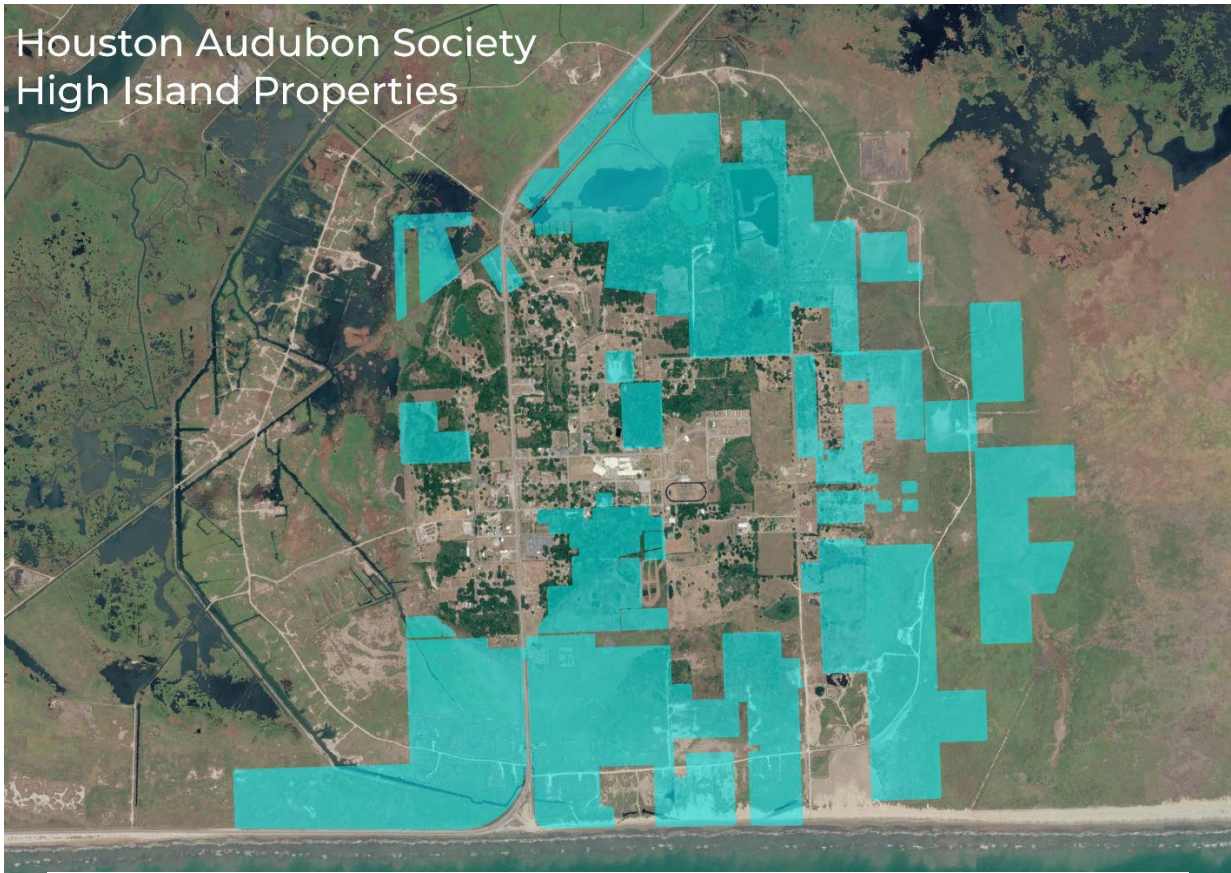
- GBEP intends to accept only complete Projected Proposals in a layout and format constituting a filled version of this proposal document with all applicable sections therein addressed; however, GBEP may, in its sole discretion, consider and accept nonconforming Project Proposals in the best interest 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 24, 2026 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

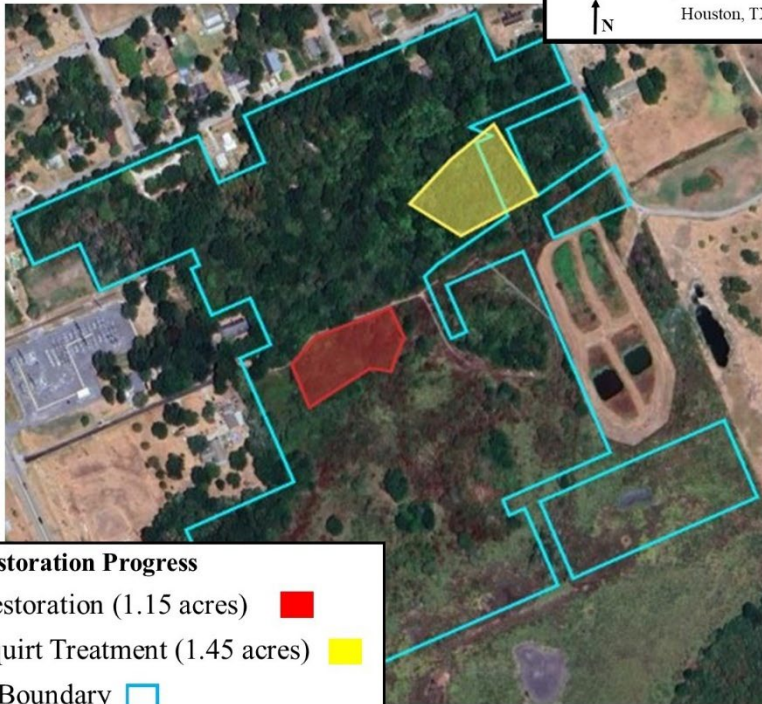
Houston Audubon Society High Island Properties



Habitat Restoration: Boy Scout Woods Sanctuary

January 2026

Houston Audubon
440 Wilchester Blvd
Houston, TX 77079

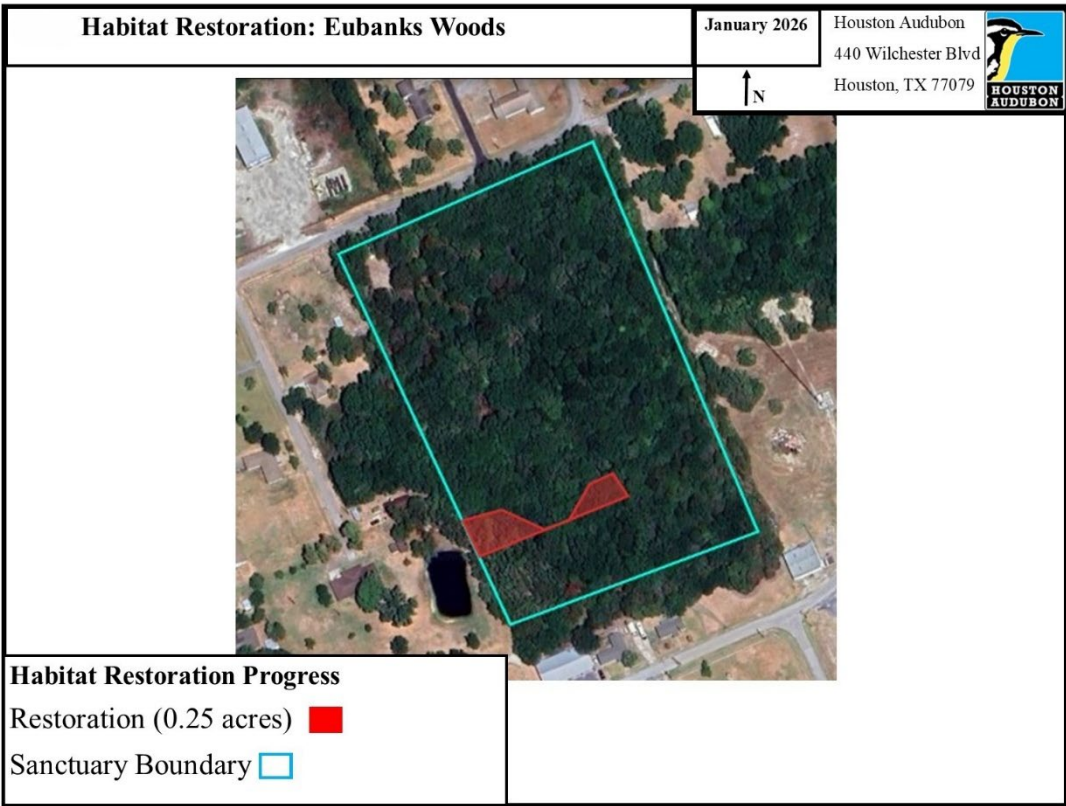
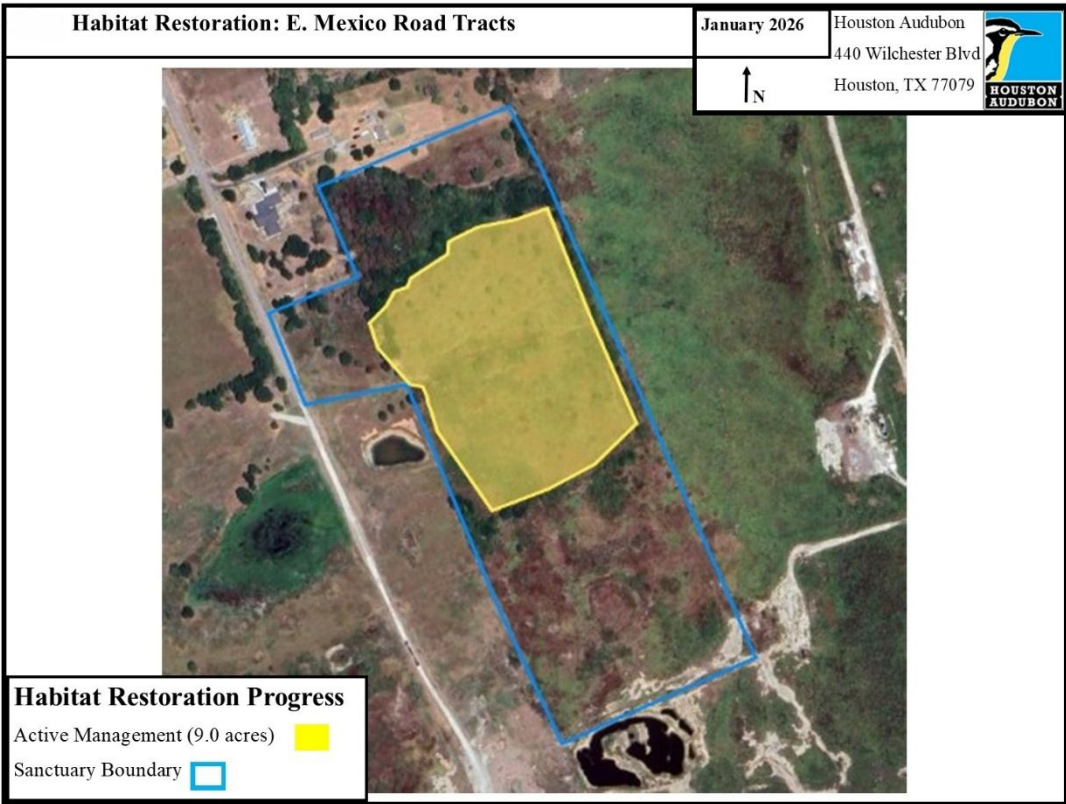


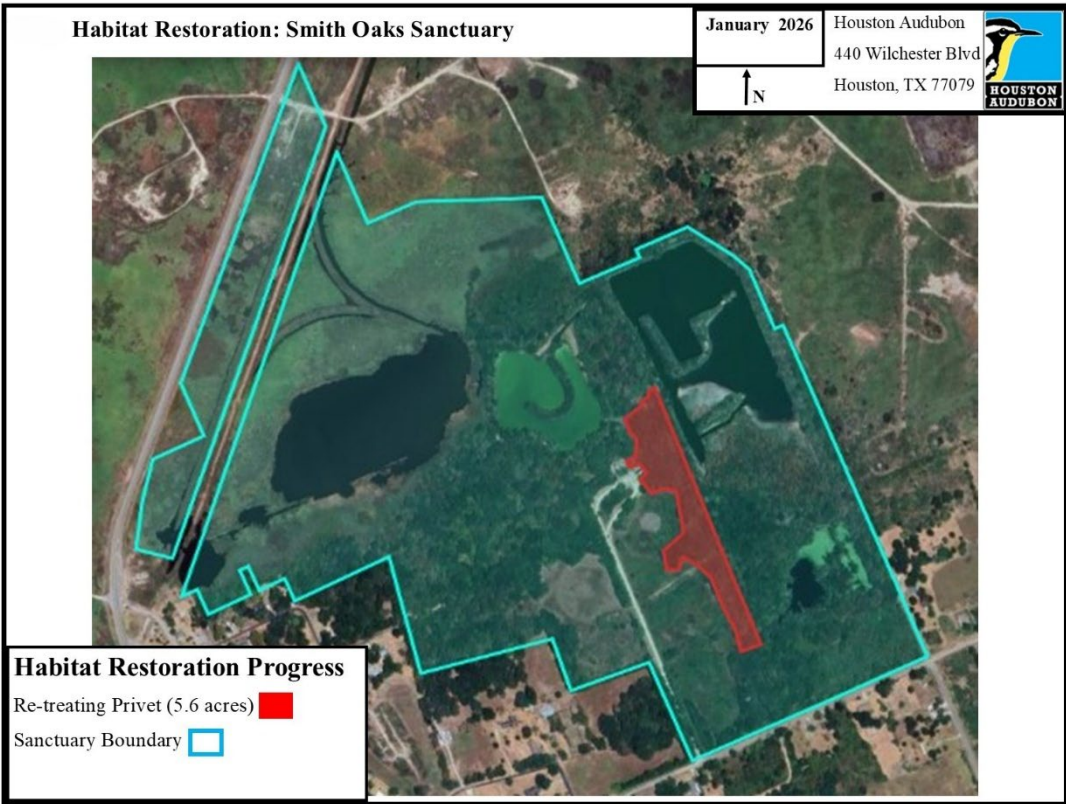
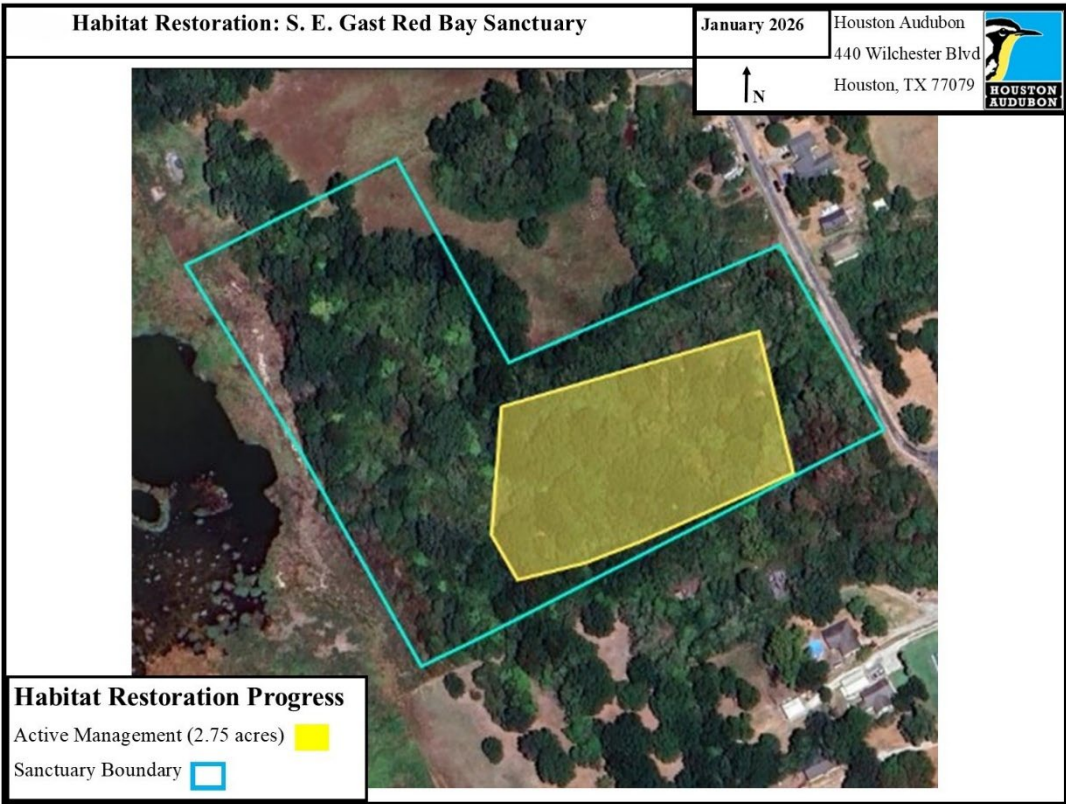
Habitat Restoration Progress

ChipCo Restoration (1.15 acres) ■

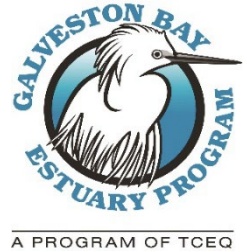
Hack & Squirt Treatment (1.45 acres) ■

Sanctuary Boundary □





Galveston Bay Estuary Program Fiscal 2028 Project Proposal



Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by **July 24, 2026**. 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 2028 (FY 2028) Priority Area Actions that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for FY 2028 at the June 2026 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY 2028 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 22, 2026
Proposals Due	July 24, 2026
Send Proposals to Subcommittees Members for Review	August 12, 2026
Present Proposals to Subcommittees for Council Recommendation	September 2, 2026 (NRU and PPE) September 9, 2026 (M&R and WSQ)
Present Proposals to B&P Subcommittee for Final Recommendation	September 30, 2026
Present Proposals to Galveston Bay Council for Approval	October 14, 2026

SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Project Name:

Bayou Greenways Conservation Plan Implementation - Wetlands

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

Houston Parks Board

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:	
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	74-1860046

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Marissa Llosa
Project Representative Phone	713-808-5819
Project Representative Email	Marissallosa@houstonparksboard.org

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2027 – ending no later than May 31, 2030) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

September 1, 2027 – August 31, 2028

Amount Requested from GBEP:

\$86,250

Federal ☐ State ☐ No Preference ☒

Is the project scalable? ☒

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2028 (09/01/2027-08/31/2028)	\$86,250.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-08/31/2029)	\$0
FY 2030 (09/01/2029-05/31/2030)	\$0
Total	\$86,250.00

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

[\$]136,250

Is this an estimate? ☒

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

HPB staff time and maintenance costs will be in kind, totaling \$50,000

SECTION THREE: GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the FY 2028 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 + HC-3 Habitat Enhancement

The proposed project will enhance two existing wetlands along Brays and Greens Bayous respectively. Both sites have been impacted by storm events, change in species diversity, and encroaching development of the surrounding areas which has significantly and negatively impacted the plant community.

We will enhance the sites through the removal of non-native and invasive species, utilizing herbicide where necessary and replacing unwanted plant species with a diverse native palette along these wetlands. This project will also fund the upkeep and maintenance of both sites during the grant term.

SC-1 Native Species Management + SC-2 Invasive Species Control

The proposed project will install a diverse mix of wetland species which will provide natural habitat and resources for wildlife.

Specifically, we will remove invasive species, like Elephant Ear and Vasey grass, and remediating algal growth as needed. Natives will be installed to stabilize and revitalize the wetland edges and shelves.

FWI-3 – Water Conservation and Education + PEA-2 Adult Education + SPO-1 Stewardship Programs

The proposed project will include the creation of a Mason Park Storymap, highlighting the history of the park, the wetland work HPB is doing, and the subsequent benefits for the people and wildlife. Additionally, Thomas Bell Foster improvements will be added to the HPB Conservation Wetlands Storymap.

The proposed project will aim to engage the public in long-term stewardship and awareness via the Mason Park Storymap that will be linked on signage near the site. Thomas Bell Foster Park tidal wetland will also have signage that links to the Conservation Wetlands Page.

Volunteer opportunities will exist at both sites as part of the Conservation Green Team opportunities.

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 through adaptive management, workforce development, and technical assistance.
- ☐ WSQ: Improve knowledge and accessibility of pollution reporting tools to empower the community.
- ☐ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
- ☐ NRU: Habitat Acquisition.
- ☒ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration-conservation efforts. Special emphasis on:
 - ☒ Adaptive management for previously completed projects; and
 - ☐ Projects that may have lost/delayed funding from other federal sources.
- ☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
- ☐ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost.
- ☐ PPE: Connecting new audiences to existing/completed on-the-ground projects in the watershed.
- ☐ PPE: Empowering K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.
- ☐ PPE: Opportunities to host workshops/networking events to provide technical assistance for local leadership (local governments, MUDs, schoolboards, the public) on key topics.
- ☐ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
- ☐ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially research and monitoring for diamondback terrapin and best management projects, WSQ, PPE).
- ☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay at an adequate timeline and spatial range to provide useful information.
- ☐ 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.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

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

Both proposed project sites are previously completed wetland restoration projects which have experienced significant impacts altering the plant community. Our efforts are intended to provide critical interventions (re-establish native vegetation) to realign the restoration in a positive direction.

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

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

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

The Mason Park project site is a treatment wetland by its original design. The proposed interventions would allow the system to continue providing inline water quality improvements by removing sediments and nutrients from inflows into Brays Bayou.

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 proposed project will enhance two existing wetlands, totaling 4.45 acres, along major Houston waterways (Brays and Greens Bayous), restoring the native plant community. Upon completion of the project, HPB will be able to maintain the sites as part of our existing maintenance program and ensure the project sites continue to function properly.

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

Public access spaces are vital to many communities across Houston, providing a place to explore, learn, and immerse yourself in nature. Houston Parks Board (HPB) will restore two wetlands, in separate parks and bayous, to improve water retention, revitalize wildlife habitat, and provide enhanced natural places for people to be in nature.

The Mason Park wetland ponds, originally created as a treatment wetland, will be restored by removing invasive species and algae from the surface of the pond, thus enhancing the aquatic system and surrounding habitat. Native plants will be reestablished along the shoreline to improve water quality and reduce erosion from localized flooding. The original wetland project was a multi-agency effort as part of the larger federal flood reduction project to demonstrate the effectiveness of inline wetlands as part of a floodway. The wetland provided significant treatment of stormwater prior to entering Brays Bayou. This proposal will return the wetland to its original treatment capacity with removal of excess and noxious material.

Similar to Mason Park, the Thomas Bell Foster Park (TBF) tidal wetland was established to reduce pollutants entering Greens bayous due to localized flooding and major stormwater events. This project funding will support enhancement of the site to increase plant diversity and improve water retention.

The invasive removal, native plantings, and ongoing maintenance are included into the project cost to ensure the success of the restoration sites. HPB will engage our Green Team volunteers to participate in the restoration work, in addition to the support from other HPB staff and contractors.

HPB has previously hosted successful large-scale planting efforts at Thomas Bell Foster Park and would add an additional public planting opportunity as part of this project. HPB would reach out to the surrounding communities and invite them to join in this stewardship event. At the last TBF planting HPB hosted, over 40 volunteers installed nearly 1,600 plants. Similar efforts will be created for the Mason Park project site.

While HPB aims to provide on-site improvements for community members to enjoy these wetlands, we will also provide online access to the projects using GIS StoryMaps and signage. These resources will highlight the importance of wetland restoration, the local and downstream impacts, and provide real life examples for Houstonians to visit in person. Continual community engagement and stewardship are main pillars of Conservation work, and these online resources will be shared to broaden our impact and audiences.

Project Urgency:

There is no immediate or pressing deadline for the proposed project.

Other Plans Implemented:

This project implements aspects of the Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, through the ecological resiliency strategy of wetland planning, restoration and monitoring.

Partners¹ and Their Roles:

HPARD (Landowner), all proposed restoration activities will be vetted directly with the landowner for the Mason Park location. HPB is the landowner for the Thomas Bell Foster Park location.

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

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.

☐ 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.

☒ Yes

☐ No

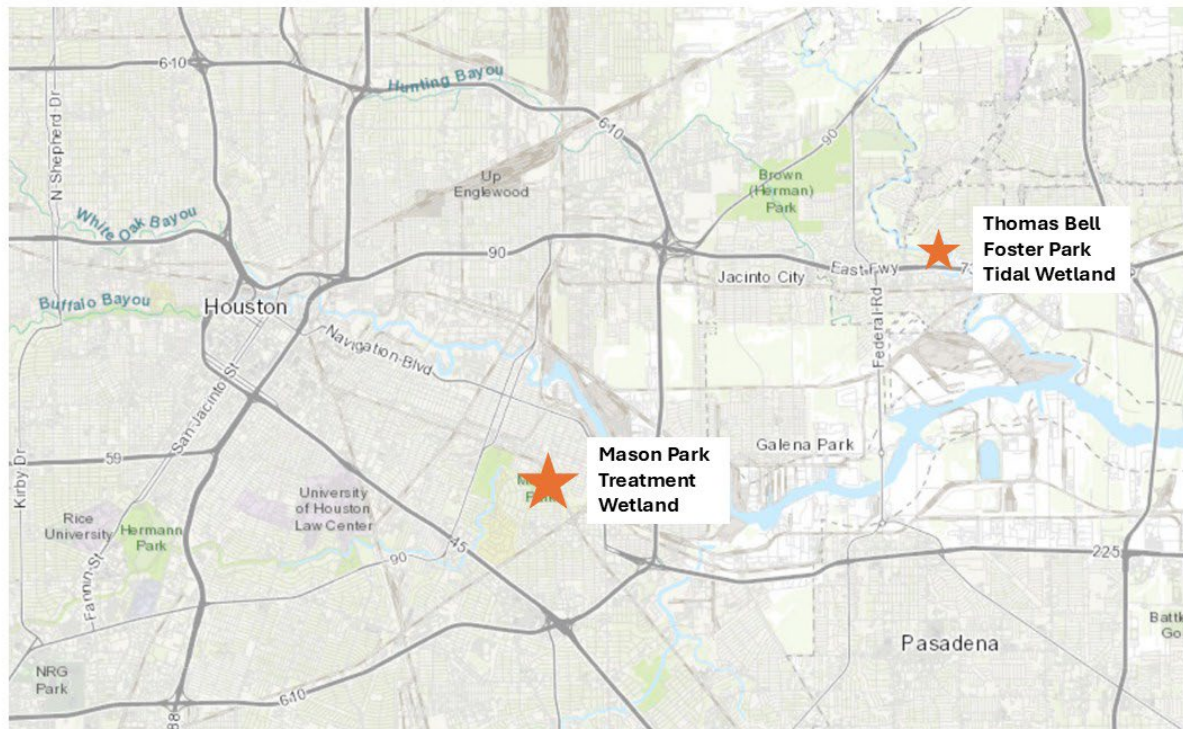
Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

[degrees, minutes, and seconds format]

Location:

Brays Bayou at Mason Park; Greens Bayou at Thomas Bell Foster Park

Projects Map



Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

Mason Park, Treatment Wetland overgrowth, July 2026



Thomas Bell Foster overgrowth, July 2026



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	\$34,000.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$41,000.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Total Direct Cost	\$75,000.00

b. Indirect Costs³

Distribution Base Amount (<i>identify Base type below</i>)	\$ 75,000.00
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	% 15
Total Indirect Costs	\$ 11,250

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	\$ 86,250
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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 cost 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 15 percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) 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.

☐ **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 (Cost Budget) section.]

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

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

Travel. In order to be reimbursable, travel costs must be specifically authorized in advance of the travel. Travel costs will be reimbursed only in the amount of actual costs, up to the maximum allowed by law for employees of the State of Texas at the time the cost is incurred.

Budget Categories. The Budget Categories above are representative of the items of cost found in TxGMS and 2 CFR Part 200, and have the definitions, requirements, and limitations found therein. Construction costs are not reimbursable without prior, specific written authorization from TCEQ.

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 post notification 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

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:

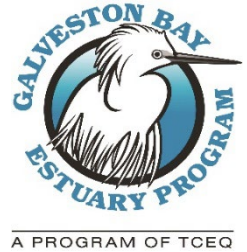
- GBEP intends to accept only complete Projected Proposals in a layout and format constituting a filled version of this proposal document with all applicable sections therein addressed; however, GBEP may, in its sole discretion, consider and accept nonconforming Project Proposals in the best interest 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 24, 2026 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 2028 Project Proposal



Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by **July 24, 2026**. 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 2028 (FY 2028) Priority Area Actions that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for FY 2028 at the June 2026 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY 2028 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 22, 2026
Proposals Due	July 24, 2026
Send Proposals to Subcommittees Members for Review	August 12, 2026
Present Proposals to Subcommittees for Council Recommendation	September 2, 2026 (NRU and PPE) September 9, 2026 (M&R and WSQ)
Present Proposals to B&P Subcommittee for Final Recommendation	September 30, 2026
Present Proposals to Galveston Bay Council for Approval	October 14, 2026

SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Project Name:

Artist Boat Coastal Heritage Preserve Land Acquisition Project
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Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☒ No ☐

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

Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD)

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*

Artist Boat, Inc. (AB)

Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:	EVA9NVGH2K85
Vendor Identification Number (VIN) or Tax ID:	74-1680372

Contact Information:

Project Representative Name	Savannah Horton
Project Representative Phone	346-733-3400
Project Representative Email	savannah.horton@tpwd.texas.gov

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2027 – ending no later than May 31, 2030) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

09/01/2027 to 09/01/2030

Amount Requested from GBEP:

[\$] 200,000

Federal ☐ State ☒ No Preference ☐

Is the project scalable? ☒

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2028 (09/01/2027-08/31/2028)	\$200,000
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-08/31/2029)	\$0.00
FY 2030 (09/01/2029-05/31/2030)	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00

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

\$9,721,615.00

Is this an estimate? ☒

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

This project will leverage \$9,721,615 in cash. Artist Boat has submitted a requested workplan to the TCEQ RESTORE Program for \$6M. Work plans will be approved in September 2026 and begin work in September 2027; Artist Boat will contribute an additional \$3,721,615 for due diligence and land acquisition costs. To acquire funding towards the \$3,712,615 cash goal, TPWD plans to submit proposals to upcoming NCWCGP funding opportunities requesting \$2M cash with AB as subgrantee. Artist Boat will provide the required match (\$303,634 per grant). Artist Boat will also submit requests for funding from the Knobloch Foundation for \$400,000, The Brown foundation for \$200,000, the Mitchell Foundation for \$190,000, and the Partnership for
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Gulf Coast Land Conservation for \$190,000. The remainder \$541,615 cash required for this project will be accomplished by a combination of state and private funding opportunities, private fundraising and Artist Boat's fundraising campaigns (Appendix B).

SECTION THREE: GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the FY 2028 Subcommittee Priorities (Section Four) will be considered above others. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* Action Plans are found at:

<https://gbep.texas.gov/ensure-safe-human-and-aquatic-life-use/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/protect-and-sustain-living-resources/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/engage-communities/>

<https://gbep.texas.gov/inform-science-based-decision-making/>

Galveston Bay Plan Priority Area Actions Addressed:

Plan Priority 1: Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

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

Plan Priority 2: Protect and Sustain Living Resources

HC-1 ☒ HC-2 ☐ HC-3 ☒
SC-1 ☒ SC-2 ☒
FWI-1 ☐ FWI-2 ☐ FWI-3 ☒

Plan Priority 3: Engage Communities

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

Plan Priority 4: Inform Science-based Decision Making

RES-1 ☐ RES-2 ☐ RES-3 ☐ RES-4 ☐
RES-5 ☐ RES-6 ☐ RES-7 ☐ RES-8 ☐
ACS-1 ☐ ACS-2 ☐ ACS-3 ☐

Plan Priority Area Actions Detail:

HC1- Develops a grant proposal and funding strategy for an acquisition project and plans to acquire land that preserves habitat vital to the Galveston Bay watershed.

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

SC1 & SC2- The project acquires land that preserves habitat vital to the Galveston Bay watershed. Once land is acquired, the property will be managed to sustain and restore native species populations, including the control and reduction of invasive species populations. Artist Boat implements this through their onsite habitat management position and through the development and updating of the CHP Habitat Management Plan alongside an interagency technical advisory committee.

FWI3 - Artist Boat teaches K-Grey learners in all its programs about water quality and conservation. The land is used for these programs and to demonstrate how land and wetland filter and improve water quality, how humans use and compete with nature for freshwater through discussions about importance of maintaining freshwater inflows to the bay, how humans impact and degrade water through actions related to overuse or waste and non-point source pollution.

SPO1, SPO2, PEA1, PEA2, PEA3, NPS-2: Artist Boat's mission, and Artist Boat's programs are all specifically designed to increase environmental awareness and to develop support for coastal wetlands conservation. Artist Boat's vision is to pioneer educational programming and partnerships for integrated artistic and scientific exploration, interpretation, and preservation of coastal margins and marine ecosystems. This project will help facilitate their mission and their educational programs by providing additional access to protected lands that can be used in the development of stewardship programs and volunteer opportunities, such as activities like habitat restoration adventures. They also host workshops and events, such as world ocean day festival, seawall interpretive trail, etc. that promote stakeholder and partner engagement in stewardship and conservation. They have programs specifically dedicated to educating K-12 students but also have programs that are open to adult education and participation. They engage in key issues that are impacting the Galveston Bay watershed and provide educational opportunities for participants to learn how they can change behaviors and attitudes to positively affect the Galveston Bay estuary. These programs include education on water conservation and nonpoint source pollution.

SECTION FOUR: SUBCOMMITTEE PRIORITIES / FACTORS TO BE USED TO SELECT AWARDS [see 30 TAC § 14.7(6)]

Grant recipient activities must implement the Plan. Additional recipient selection criteria includes whether a project addresses a subcommittee priority. This selection criteria provides for the selection of multiple recipients as needed.

Subcommittee Identified Priorities:

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

- ☐ WSQ: Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans through adaptive management, workforce development, and technical assistance.
- ☐ WSQ: Improve knowledge and accessibility of pollution reporting tools to empower the community.
- ☐ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
- ☒ NRU: Habitat Acquisition.
- ☒ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration-conservation efforts. Special emphasis on:
 - ☒ Adaptive management for previously completed projects; and
 - ☐ Projects that may have lost/delayed funding from other federal sources.
- ☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
- ☒ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost.
- ☒ PPE: Connecting new audiences to existing/completed on-the-ground projects in the watershed.
- ☒ PPE: Empowering K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.
- ☒ PPE: Opportunities to host workshops/networking events to provide technical assistance for local leadership (local governments, MUDs, schoolboards, the public) on key topics.
- ☒ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
- ☐ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially research and monitoring for diamondback terrapin and best management projects, WSQ, PPE).
- ☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay at an adequate timeline and spatial range to provide useful information.
- ☐ 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.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

NRU: Habitat acquisition.

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

NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts with special emphasis on:

☒ *Adaptive management for previously completed projects*

The acquisition of additional tracts will enhance the existing habitats previously preserved within Preserve lands and add to the preservation of a complete coastal complex within the Galveston Bay watershed. It will protect adjacent lands and the slough running through the Middle Tracts from development, fragmentation, and any associated runoff and light pollution. Artist Boat is the permanent steward of the habitats within the Preserve, and they actively manage the land to sustain and enhance native species and remove invasives from the property. Maintenance and management projects implemented within CHP are developed by a technical advisory committee consisting of resource agencies and local communities.

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

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

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

If not purchased by the RESTORE grant three-year deadline in 2029, the funds providing this opportunity to acquire and conserve additional tracts of land and associated habitats could be lost.

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

Artist Boat's mission, and Artist Boat's programs are all specifically designed to increase environmental awareness and to develop stewardship for coastal wetlands conservation for K-Grey participants. Artist Boat is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting awareness and preservation of coastal margins and the marine environment through the disciplines of the sciences and the arts. Artist Boat's vision is to pioneer educational programming and partnerships for integrated artistic and scientific exploration, interpretation, and preservation of coastal margins and marine ecosystems. This project will help facilitate their mission.

The CHP will serve as a platform for delivery of Artist Boat's environmental educational programs. These programs have a strong emphasis on place-based and experiential learning and are centered on creating foundational knowledge of estuarine ecology, human uses and human impacts of estuarine and coastal resources, and how humans can take actions to protect and enhance coastal habitats and the environmental quality of Galveston Island and West Galveston Bay. These programs include education on water conservation and nonpoint source pollution. Artist Boat's programming has served 225,000+ participants over the last 24 years. Specific programs Artist Boat will deliver at the Preserve will include K-12 eco-art workshops and adventures, public and private eco-art adventures (birding, kayaking, world ocean day festival etc.), eco-art public art program (bucket brigade, seawall interpretive trail), habitat restoration adventures (K-Grey).

The Preserve provides low impact public use opportunities, bird and nature watching and trail walking and has plans to increase public use opportunities. Such as creating a three-mile low impact walking trail.

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

☒ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.

Artist Boat will provide Habitat Restoration Adventures on this land to restore prairies with students and provide Sea Citizens, Interns, and seasonal technicians with training to remove invasive species and mow to mimic fire.

As the permanent steward of the CHP, Artist Boat has been and will continue work with resource agencies and local community organizations through Technical Advisory Committees to develop stewardship and maintenance plans for the property, providing more opportunities for public involvement in the project

☒ PPE: Opportunities to host workshops/networking events to provide technical assistance for local leadership (local governments, MUDs, schoolboards, the public) on key topics.

Artist Boat will use the land to support Professional Development for teachers with new or existing developed curriculum that are integrated across disciplines to teach teachers how to teach about Galveston Bay and its public trust resources.

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

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

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

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

SECTION FIVE: PROPOSAL DETAILS

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

Project Summary:

The objective of this project is to purchase, in fee simple, conserve in perpetuity 2 to 4 additional tracts of coastal habitats West Galveston Island contiguous with the Preserve. The acquired tracts would be further protected by conservation easements and would be added to and managed as part of the 1,039-acre (one ongoing project would add another 204 acres) Coastal Heritage Preserve.

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

The Artist Boat Coastal Heritage Preserve Land Acquisition Project will conserve and protect high-quality barrier island ecosystems on West Galveston Island within Galveston County through strategic land acquisition within and adjacent to the Coastal Heritage Preserve. The project will prioritize contiguous coastal prairies, wetlands, salt marshes, living shorelines, and slough-connected habitats that protect the island's interior dune-swale complex, a highly sensitive hydrologic system where minor elevation changes significantly influence habitat function, water movement, and wetland ecology. The objective of this project is to purchase, in fee simple, and conserve in perpetuity 2 to 4 additional tracts of coastal habitats on West Galveston Island contiguous with the Preserve. The acquired tracts would be further protected by conservation easements (held by Galveston Bay Foundation) and would be added to and managed as part of the 1,039-acre (one currently ongoing project would add another 204 acres) Coastal Heritage Preserve (Figures 1-4, Appendix A).

The project will expand the Coastal Heritage Preserve through acquisition of priority properties connected to West Galveston Bay shorelines and interior slough systems to reduce habitat fragmentation, limit future development pressure, protect wetland migration corridors, and strengthen long-term coastal resilience. Conservation of these lands will protect hydrologic connectivity, improve water quality, support fisheries nursery habitat, provide storm buffering, enhance wildlife habitat, and preserve natural flood storage capacity within a FEMA Special Hazard Area.

The Preserve currently protects more than 1,039 acres of coastal habitat, with 204 acres underway for protection, on West Galveston Island. This project will further expand the Preserve from 1,243 acres to 1,363 - 1,443 acres (120 to 200 additional acres) and may protect up to an additional mile of living shoreline habitat in West Galveston Bay (Figures 2-4, Appendix A).

The acquisitions will acquire coastal habitats that will provide habitat to avian and mammalian species and potentially threatened and endangered species described in Tables 4-6 of Appendix B. This project will conserve breeding, nesting, foraging, roosting, and wintering habitats that benefit numerous coastal-dependent and migratory bird species. The project will protect an important system of sloughs connecting the middle of the island to the bay.

The overall conservation benefits of the proposed project, combined with existing and ongoing coastal habitat restoration/protection efforts (Tables 2-3, Appendix B) within West Galveston Bay will help to maintain and improve the physical and biological integrity of the coastal ecosystem along the southern shoreline of West Galveston Bay and Galveston Island including protecting and restoring functions that enhance water quality and ultimately protecting West Galveston Bay's long term productivity and biodiversity.

Artist Boat will work with longstanding federal, state, local, nonprofit, and community partners, including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas General Land Office, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, to identify and acquire high-priority conservation properties using best available science and regional coastal resilience planning frameworks. This project is also included in the 2023 Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan (TCRMP) as project number: 240.

Project Urgency:

If not purchased by the RESTORE program's three-year deadline in 2030, the funds providing this opportunity to acquire and conserve additional tracts of land and associated habitats could be lost. This is a unique opportunity to proactively identify, plan, and pursue additional conservation lands on West Galveston Island and further the goals of the RESTORE program, thus furthering the restoration of the Gulf from the DeepWater Horizon Oil Spill. The funds allocated in the workplan from RESTORE are able to leverage funds - making the funds go farther on the ground. Galveston Island is under severe development pressure. Saving

land and wetlands under the technical guidance and support of RESTORE, TCEQ, TPWD, USFWS, and other nonprofit partners will ensure the lands and wetlands saved add the highest value per dollar and biodiversity to the Preserve.

Other Plans Implemented:

The project would implement multiple natural resource goals of numerous coastal ecosystem and watershed management plans and efforts including regional plans, statewide plans and plans specific to the Galveston Bay system and West Galveston Bay. The individual management plans or efforts and how the proposed project implements the management plan's goals are provided in Table 2 of Appendix A.

Partners¹ and Their Roles:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Coastal Fisheries Department - Pass-through funding partner, grant management for NCWGCP grant (if awarded) and TCEQ GBEP NRU (if awarded) up until closing of property.

Artist Boat - Is responsible for financial costs of all expenses associated with acquiring the land (due diligence, administrative and legal, developing documents (conservation easements and memorandums of understanding and contracts), and transaction assistance., all Will hold a conservation easement and be responsible for management, monitoring, and stewardship of the property.

Galveston Bay Foundation - Working with Artist Boat to hold the conservation easements of tracts of land purchased through this project.

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Artist Boat will invite the Bayou City WaterKeepers, West Galveston Properties Owner Association, and an two island residents to join the Technical Advisory Committee that will be assessing the parcels to prioritize for acquisition. We will continue to foster partnerships and in put from the GISD School district, the Karankawa tribal council, and current partners.

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.

☒ Yes

☐ No

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

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

29°13'57.24"N, 94°55'5.6064"W

Location:

San Jacinto-Brazos Coastal Basin Watershed- Lower Galveston Bay Watershed- West Galveston Bay

Projects Map

Please refer to Appendix 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.

Supplemental Photos/Graphics (Optional):

Please refer to Appendix B

SECTION SIX: BUDGET DETAILS

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

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

a. Direct Costs

Budget Category	Cost for Work to be Performed
Salary / Wages	\$0.00
Fringe Benefits (##%) ²	\$0.00
Travel	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$200,000.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Total Direct Cost	\$0.00

b. Indirect Costs³

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

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	\$ 200,000
--	------------

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

- ☐ direct salary/wages and fringe benefits
☐ modified total direct costs
☐ other direct cost 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 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 15 percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) in lieu of determining the actual indirect costs of the service. Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs.

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

³ Please attach Indirect Cost Agreement as an appendix if applicable

☐ **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.

☐ **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 (Cost Budget) section.]

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

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

Travel. In order to be reimbursable, travel costs must be specifically authorized in advance of the travel. Travel costs will be reimbursed only in the amount of actual costs, up to the maximum allowed by law for employees of the State of Texas at the time the cost is incurred.

Budget Categories. The Budget Categories above are representative of the items of cost found in TxGMS and 2 CFR Part 200, and have the definitions, requirements, and limitations found therein. Construction costs are not reimbursable without prior, specific written authorization from TCEQ.

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 post notification 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

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 24, 2026 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

Appendix A

Figures and Tables

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

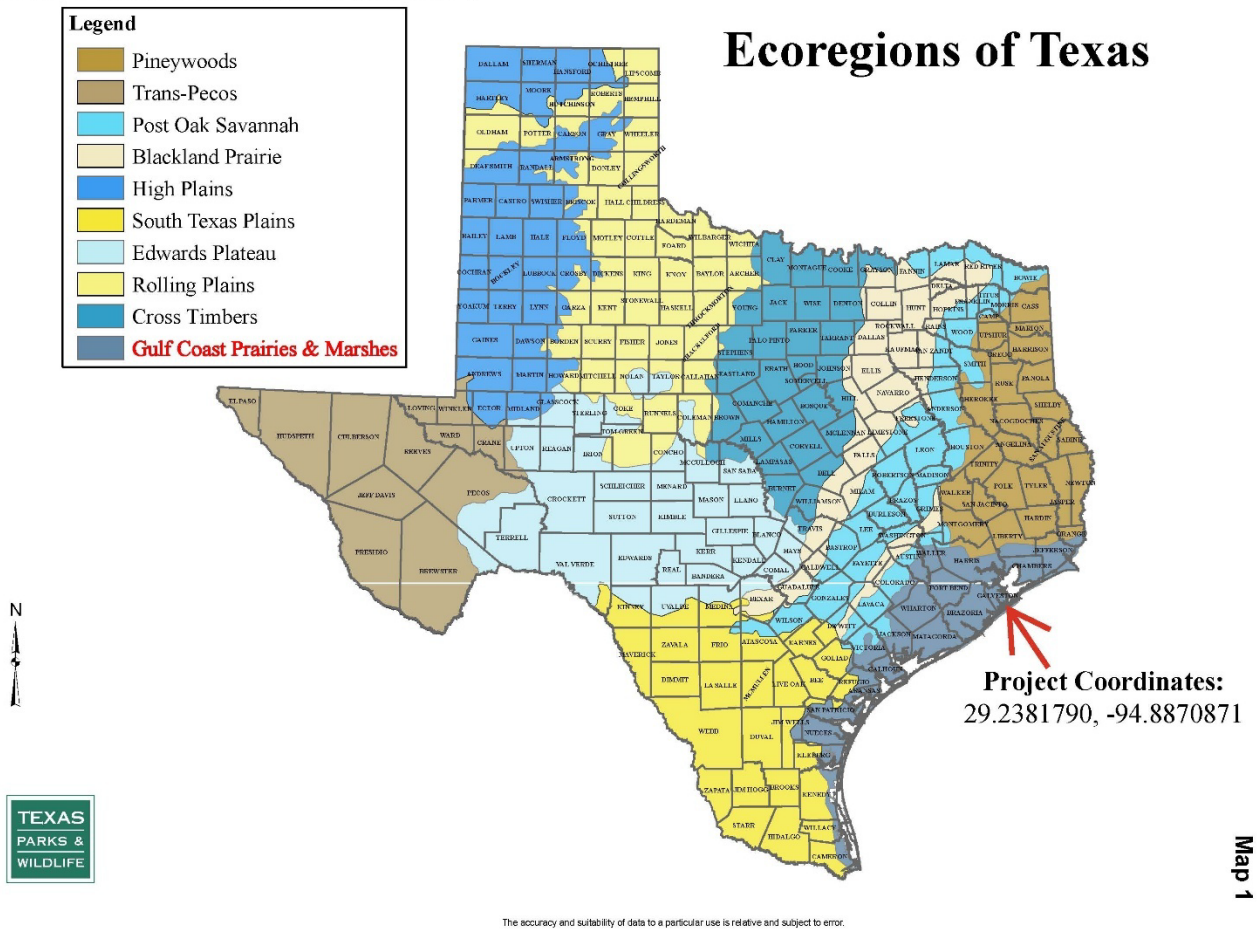
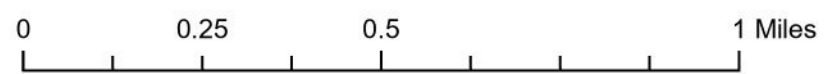
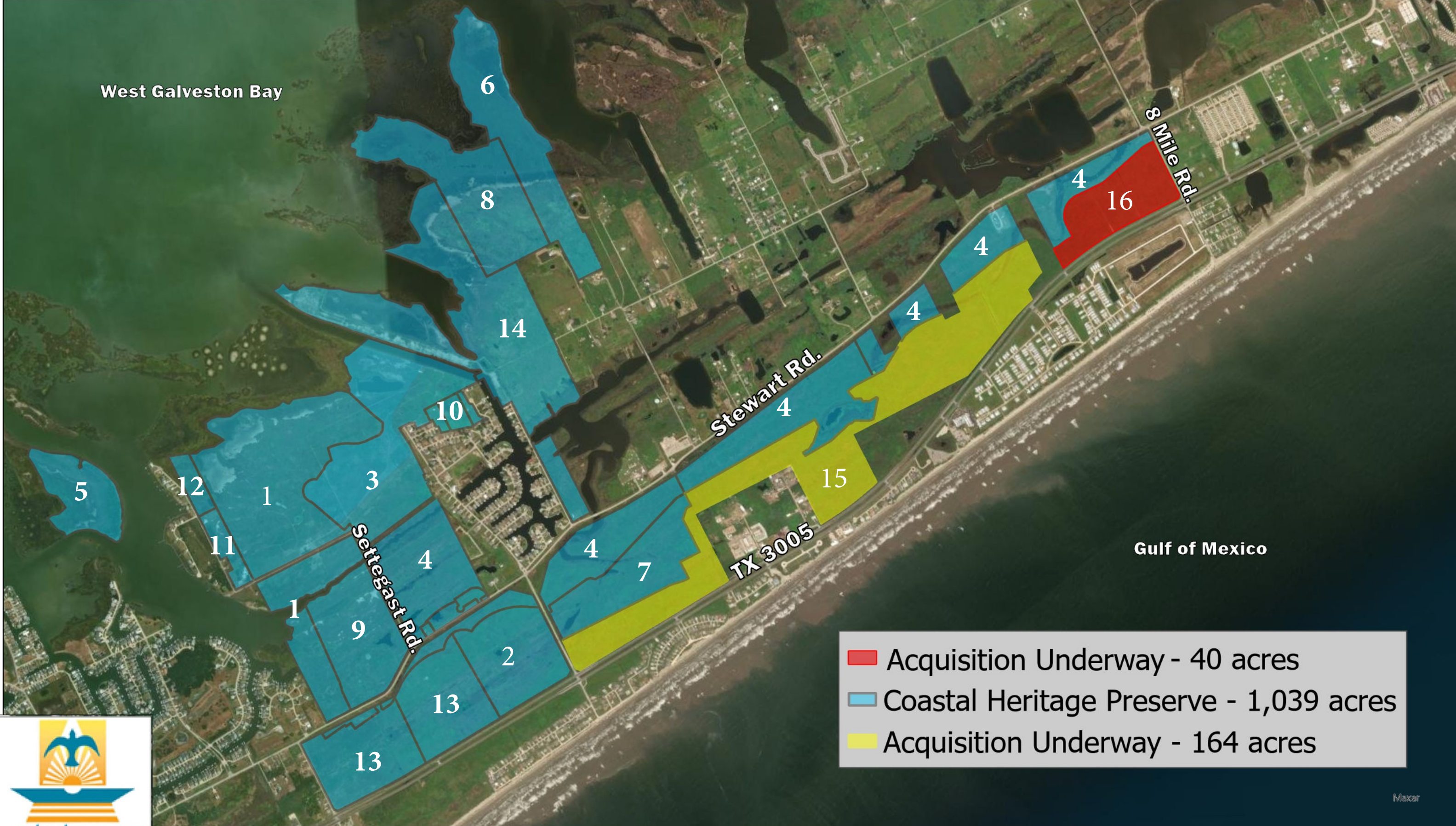


Figure 1. The proposed project is located between West Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico along the south shoreline of West Galveston Island, Texas.

Coastal Heritage Preserve (See Table 1 for Acquisitions and Funding Sources)



Map compiled and provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

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

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

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

Wetlands at the Coastal Heritage Preserve and Proposed Acquisition Tract

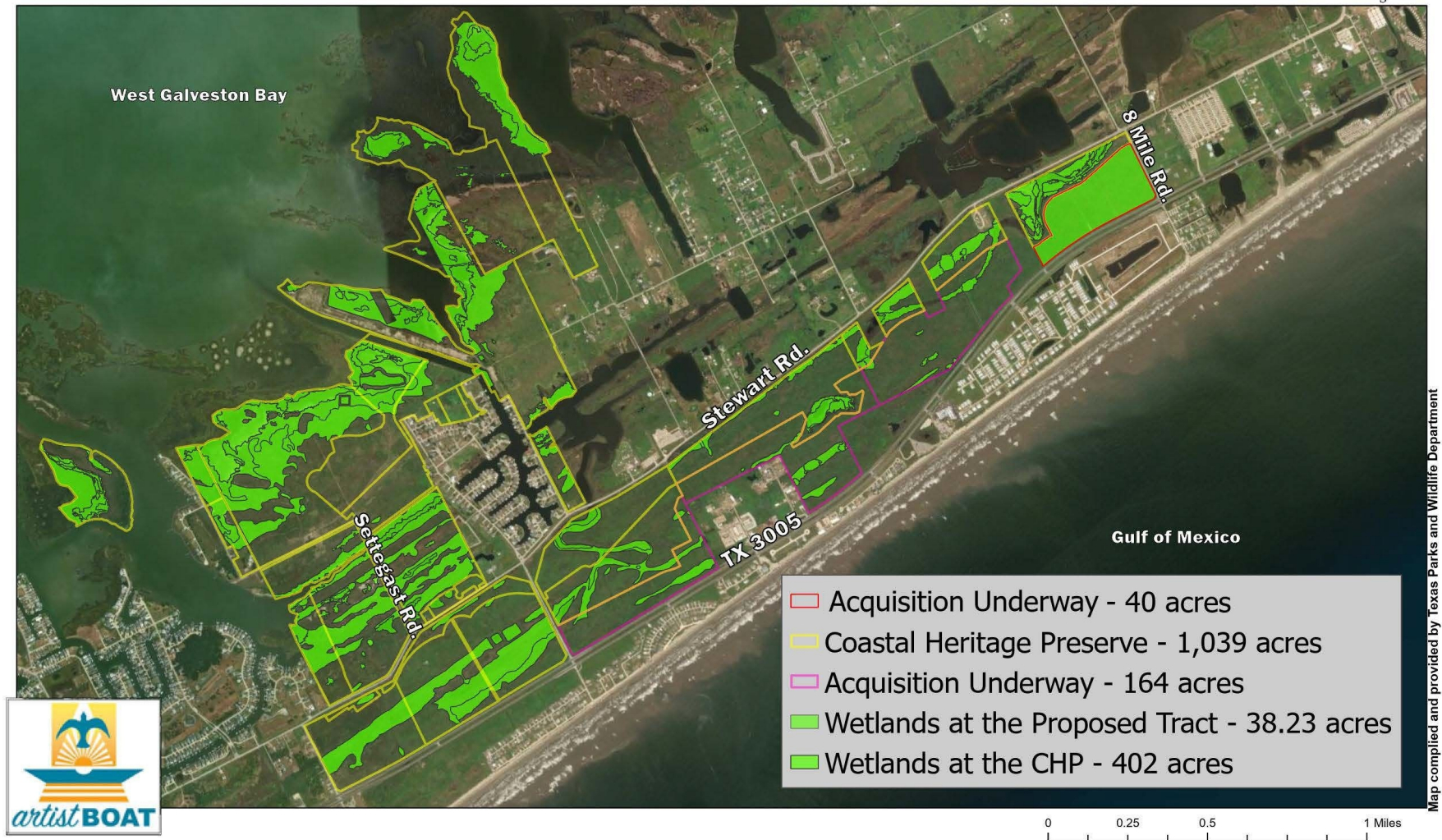


Figure 3. Existing Acreage and Wetland Habitats within the Coastal Heritage Preserve and Proposed Acquisition Tract.

Figure 4 - Potential Parcels of Interest (Galveston County Appraisal District)

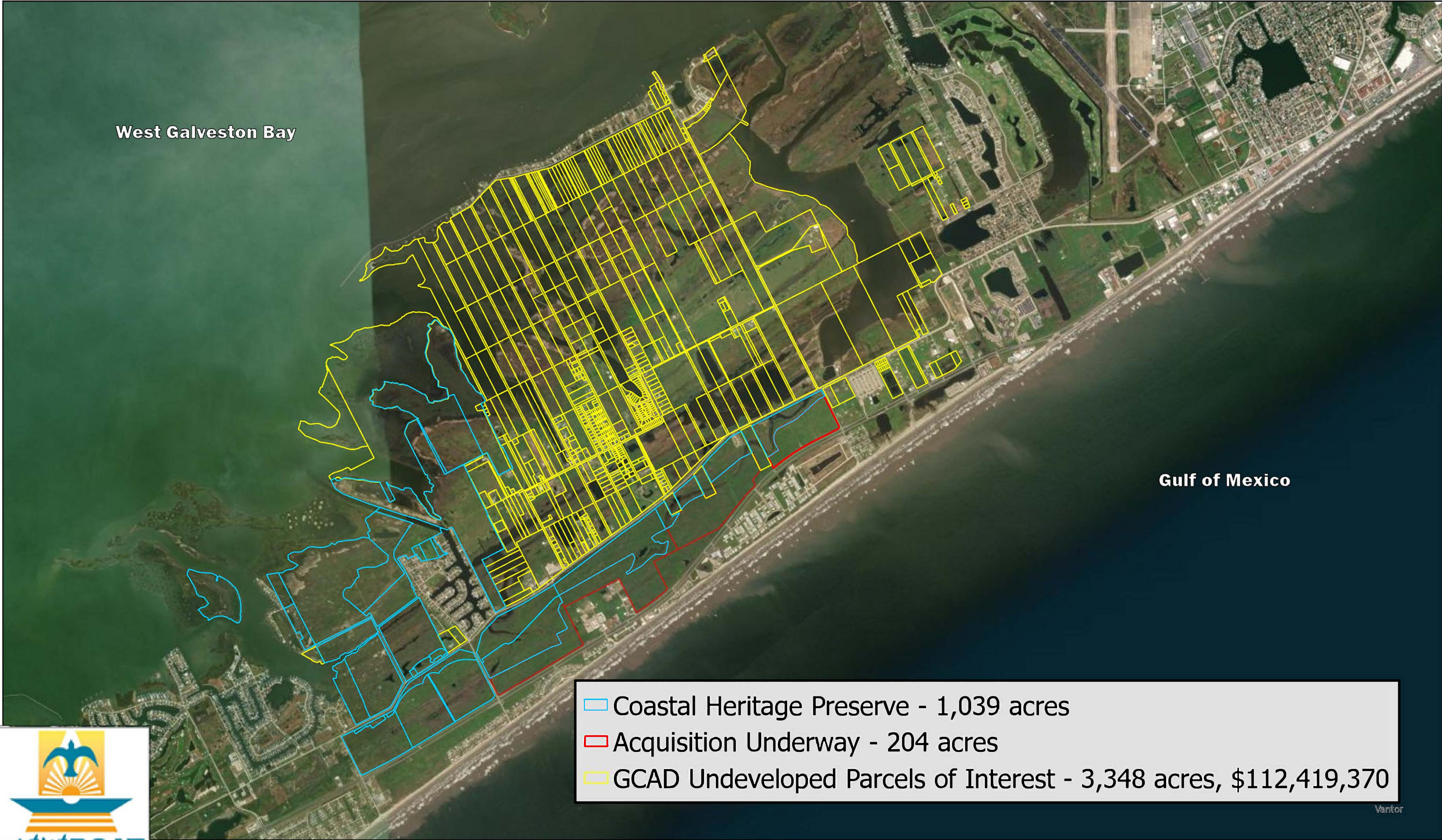


Table 2. West Bay Corridor Conservation Initiative

This project will add to the acquisition and restoration efforts that have occurred in West Bay over the last 20 years, increasing and enhancing the resource values of a larger landscape, the West Bay Corridor Conservation Initiative.

(**Bold font** indicates a NCWCGP funded project. ♦Indicates on-going project)

Project	Lead Conservation Entity(s)	Conserved (acres)	Restored / Protected (acres)	Shoreline Protected (linear feet)
Virginia Point Peninsula Preserve	Scenic GALVESTON Inc.	1,464		10,200
SCENIC GALVESTON John Q. O'Quinn Estuarial Corridor Preserve	Scenic GALVESTON Inc.	900	80	
Pierce Marsh	Galveston Bay Foundation / The Nature Conservancy-Texas	1,361	413	
Harbor Walk	Scenic Galveston Inc.	215		
Shoreline Protection at Tiki Island	Village of Tiki Island		8	1,000
Hall's Lake Restoration	Galveston Bay Estuary Program		475	2,500
West Bay Bird Island	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Texas General Land Office		34	600
Beach Pocket Park #4	Galveston County	71		
Dos Vacas Muertas Bird Sanctuary	Houston Audubon Society	6		
Snake Island Cove	Galveston Bay Foundation /NOAA		265	
Estuary Restoration Act (McAllis Point)	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Texas General Land Office		61	7,442
McAllis Point Land Acquisition Phase I	Trust for Public Land, Galveston County, Texas General Land Office, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	60		
Ostermayer Bayou	Trust for Public Land, Galveston County	85		
Recovery Act: Restoring Estuarine Habitat in West Galveston Bay (Carancahua Cove/Jumbile Cove)	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		199/130	6,794/ 9,898
Jumbile Cove Phase I and II Marsh Restoration	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department		97/89	2,800
Galveston Island State Park Restoration	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		930	13,500
Galveston Island State Park	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	1,930		
Delehide Cove	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department		200	10,500
Bob Moore Island	Galveston Bay Foundation / Cabeza de Vaca / Artist Boat	26		
Lafitte's Cove Nature Preserve	Lafitte's Cove Nature Society	20		
Starvation Cove Marsh Restoration	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		384	3,200
Sweetwater Lake Preserve	Galveston Bay Foundation	458	5	1,000

Project	Lead Conservation Entity(s)	Conserved (acres)	Restored / Protected (acres)	Shoreline Protected (linear feet)
North Deer Island Bird Sanctuary	Houston Audubon Society Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	7	2/151	9,000
Starvation Gap Restoration	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department		38/23	1,400
Bird Island Cove Restoration	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		70/247	2,000
♦ Bird Island Cove Shoreline Protection Phase I	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		12/126	8,820
♦ Coastal Heritage Preserve	Artist Boat	898		
Gang's Bayou	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		14/9	3,800
GISP Marsh Restoration and Protection in Carancahua and Dana Cove	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		70/0	
GISP Marsh Restoration and Protection in Carancahua Cove Phase II	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		0/70	5,415
GISP Marsh Restoration and Protection in Dana Cove and Oak and Butterow Bayou Phase III	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office		0/350	7,550

Table 3. Coastal Watershed Management

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

Management Plan or effort	How this plan implements management plan goals
<i>Texas Coastal Management Program</i>	Preserves, restore, and enhances the diversity, quality, quantity, functions and values of coastal natural resource areas.
<i>Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan</i>	This project is a Tier 1 project within the March 2023 Region 1 Upper Texas Coast Project List as Project 240.
<i>Texas Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan</i>	Prioritizes: certain CNRAs (coastal wetlands, coastal barriers, special hazard areas), certain other habitats (for rare, threatened, or endangered species; coastal prairies), other conservation lands (e.g., lands that provide connectivity and buffers to existing protected lands), and public access/recreation areas, each of which occurs with this project.
<i>Texas Wetlands Conservation Plan</i>	Enhances wetland resources with respect to function and value through voluntary conservation of the quality, quantity, and diversity of Texas wetlands.
<i>Coastal Wetlands Acquisition Plan for Texas</i>	Assists in the goal on no net loss of coastal wetland functions and values through preservation.
<i>Galveston Bay Estuary Program's Galveston</i>	Protect [and restore] wetlands, the number one management action of the Galveston Bay system.

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

Table 4: Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species.

This project will provide benefits to both federally and state listed threatened and endangered species and species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) in the Texas Conservation Action Plan (TCAP). While the SGCN includes additional species for this geographic region, only those listed here are those considered to have a S1 (critically imperiled), S2 (imperiled), or S3 (vulnerable) ranking. Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, March 2023, Teir 1 Project, Region 1 Upper Texas Coast Project 240 Coastal Heritage Preserve

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within Adjacent Wetland Habitats (✓)	Status	Project Benefits	Recovery Plan Supported
Piping plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i>	• ✓•	Federally and State threatened	The CHP protects migratory and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Yes
Rufa red knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	✓•	Federally threatened, S3 (non- breeding)	The CHP protects migratory and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Recovery Outline
White-faced ibis <i>Plegadis chihi</i>	✓•	State threatened	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects year-round foraging, roosting and nesting habitat	N/A
Reddish egret <i>Egretta rufescens</i>	✓•	State threatened	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects juvenile foraging habitat	N/A
Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	✓•	Federally and State threatened S2 (breeding)	The CHP protects year-round foraging, roosting, and nesting habitat and wintering habitat. USFWS confirmed presence of suitable habitat on tracts adjacent to the acquisition site.	Recovery Outline
Northern Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	✕•	S3 (non-breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	N/A
Hudsonian Godwit <i>Limosa haemastica</i>	• ✓•	S2	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher <i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	• ✕•	S3 (breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects spring	N/A

			foraging, roosting, and nesting habitat	
Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus</i> <i>savannarum</i>	Acquisition track has habitat used by this species	S3	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects spring foraging, roosting and nesting habitat and migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	N/A
Henslow's Sparrow <i>Ammodramus</i> <i>henslowii</i>	Acquisition track has habitat used by this species	S3	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	N/A
Texas Diamondback Terrapin <i>Malaclemys</i> <i>terrapin littoralis</i>	The CHP has habitat used by this species, observed on west end of Galveston Island	S3	The CHP protects year-round habitat including nesting habitat	N/A
Eastern box turtle <i>Terrapene carolina</i> <i>triunguis</i>	Observed on the west end of Galveston Island	S3	The CHP protects year-round habitat including nesting habitat	N/A
Ornate box turtle <i>Terrapene ornata</i> <i>ornata</i>	Observed on the west end of Galveston Island	S3	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects year-round habitat including nesting habitat	N/A
Brown Pelican <i>Pelecanus</i> <i>occidentalis</i>	• ✓•	S3 (breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects year-round habitat	N/A
Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius</i> <i>nivosus</i>	• ✓•	S3 (breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
American Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis</i> <i>dominica</i>	• ✓•	S3	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Stilt Sandpiper <i>Calidris</i> <i>himantopus</i>	• ✓•	S3	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Buff-breasted Sandpiper <i>Tryngites</i> <i>subruficollis</i>	• ✓•	S2, S3	The acquisition tract and the	N/A

			CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	
Franklins Gull <i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>	• ✓•	S2 (non-breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger (surinamensis)</i>	• ✓•	S3	The acquisition tract and CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A
King Rail <i>Rallus elegans</i>	• ✓•	S3 (breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects year-round habitat including nesting habitat	N/A
Burrowing Owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	• ✓•	S3 (breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	N/A
Chuck-Will's Widow	• ✓•	S3 (non-breeding)	The acquisition tract and the CHP protect stopover habitat during migration	N/A

Table 5: Benefits to Coastal-Dependent or Migratory Bird Species. This project will conserve foraging, roosting, and wintering habitats that benefit numerous coastal-dependent and migratory bird species, including Federal and State threatened species, *species in moderate and significant decline* (Lester and Gonzales, 2009), species listed on the USFWS 2021 List of Birds of Conservation Concern, Bird Conservation Region 37, Priority species with the Gulf Coast Joint Venture (GCJV) Mottled Duck Conservation Plan and the Texas Conservation Action Plan: Species of Greatest Conservation need in the Gulf Coast Prairies and Gulf of Mexico Ecoregion (TPWD 2011).

The species listed here have been observed on lands now managed as the Coastal Heritage Preserve, at Galveston Island State Park (GISP) ~2 miles to the southwest and on the West End of Galveston Island using the same habitats present at the acquisition tracts. While not all species associated with these two sites may be represented on this tract, GISP has a list of 285 species and most use the same habitats represented on these tracts. The CBC had 166 species documented in 2021. Stopover habitat for water, food, and rest is especially important for many species during Spring migration. For example, GISP routinely documents 33 species of wood warblers every spring despite having limited woodland habitat. Many songbird species use habitat associated with the acquisition tract as stopover habitat during migration. Some examples of those species are included in this table.

This project will also contribute to the goals of several national and regional bird conservation plans. The Gulf Coast Joint Venture's Mottled Duck Conservation Plan (Wilson, 2007) which addresses the importance of viable coastal marsh for various life history needs of the Mottled Duck. This project's non-tidal habitat features support meeting those needs on Galveston Island. This project will implement strategy B-3, to protect, restore and manage priority terrestrial and aquatic habitat for birds, of the Blueprint for the Future of Migratory Birds (USFWS, 2004).

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within the adjacent wetlands (✓) Observed at the Acquisition Site (✗)	Project Benefits	Specific Management Plan or List
Mottled Duck <i>Anas fulvigula</i>	✗ (nesting on acquisition tract)	Protects year-round foraging, roosting, nesting, and breeding habitat	Texas Conservation Action Plan: Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Gulf Coast Prairies and Gulf of Mexico Ecoregion (TCAP-SGCN); GCJV- Mottled Duck Conservation Plan and Priority Species; Coastal Dependent Bird
Blue-winged Teal <i>Anas discors</i>	✓	Protects foraging roosting habitat for migrating and wintering	Wetland Dependent Bird
Northern Shoveler <i>Spatula clypeata</i>	✓	Protects foraging roosting habitat for migrating and wintering	Wetland Dependent Bird
Common Loon <i>Gavia immer</i>	✓	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
Pied-billed Grebe <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	✓	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Brown Pelican <i>Pelicanus occidentalis</i>	✓	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Bird
Neotropic Cormorant\ <i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	✓	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	Galveston Bay Status and Trends, 2007-2008 (moderately decreasing) (GBEP); Wetland Dependent Bird
Double-crested Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax auritis</i>	✓	Protects wetland habitat adjacent to Mentzel Bayou openwater feeding and loafing habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Tricolored Heron <i>Egretta tricolor</i>	✓	Protects year-round foraging habitat	TCAP-SGCN; 20-year decline in Galveston Bay Status and Trends, 2007- 2008 (moderately decreasing) (GBEP); Coastal Dependent Bird

Reddish Egret <i>Egretta rufescens</i>	✓•	Protects year-round foraging habitat	USFWS. 2021. Birds of Conservation Concern. Bird Conservation Region 37 (BCR 37); State listed threatened species; Gulf Coast Joint Venture (GCJV)- Reddish Egret Plan and Priority Species; TCAP-SGCN; GBEP (moderately decreasing); Coastal Dependent Bird
Great Egret <i>Ardea alba</i>	✓•	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Wetland Dependent Bird
Great Blue Heron <i>Ardea herodias</i>	✓•	Protects year-round foraging and roosting habitat	GBEP (significant decline); Coastal Dependent Bird
Little Blue Heron <i>Egretta caerulea</i>	✓•	Protects year-round foraging habitat	TCAP-SGCN; GCJV Priority Species; Wetland Dependent Bird
Roseate Spoonbill <i>Ajaia ajaja</i>	✓•	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
Snowy Egret <i>Egretta thula</i>	✓•	Protects year-round foraging habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Coastal Dependent Bird
Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓•	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
White-faced Ibis <i>Plegadis chihi</i>	✓•	Protects year-round foraging habitat	State listed threatened species; TCAP-SGCN; GBEP (moderately decreasing); Coastal Dependent Bird
Black-crowned Night Heron <i>Nyctcorax nyctcorax</i>	✓•	Protects year-round foraging and roosting habitat	GBEP (significant decline); Wetland Dependent Bird
Yellow-crowned Night Heron <i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	✓•	Protects year-round foraging and roosting habitat	Wetland Dependent Migratory Bird
White Ibis <i>Eudocimus albus</i>	✓•	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Coastal Dependent Bird
White-tailed Kite <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	✓•	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Grassland Dependent Bird
Northern Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	✓•	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	TCAP-SGCN; Migratory Bird
Red-tailed Hawk <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	✓•	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird
Crested Caracara	✗•	Protects year-round foraging habitat	Migratory Bird
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrines</i>	✓•	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	BCR 37; State Listed Threatened; Migratory Bird
American Kestrel <i>Falco sparverius</i>	✓•	Protects migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat	Migratory Bird

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

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

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

Table 6. Benefits to Fish. The project site contains regularly flooded estuarine intertidal emergent marsh, irregularly flooded estuarine emergent salt flat marsh, regularly and irregular flooded sand flat, temporarily and permanently and temporarily flooded freshwater habitats.

Estuarine emergent intertidal marsh is crucial habitat to numerous commercial and recreational inter-jurisdictional estuarine fishery species. It serves as nursery grounds for over 95 percent of the recreational and commercial fish species found in the Gulf of Mexico such as brown and white shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus aztecus* and *Litopenaeus setiferus*), blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*), Gulf menhaden (*Brevoortia patronus*), sand seatrout (*Cynoscion arenarius*), southern flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigmata*), red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*), bay anchovy (*Anchoa mitchilli*) and other marine organisms (Green, 1992). Juvenile penaeid shrimp, blue crabs, and other nekton are abundant in coastal salt marshes of West Bay and the Galveston Bay system (Minello and Rozas, 2002). Estuarine marsh habitat is critical for larval, post-larval, and juvenile stages of many species. For example, the brown shrimp, (*Farfantepenaeus aztecus*), is dependent on marsh-surface habitat during its post-larval and early juvenile stages (Minello and Zimmerman, 1991).

Estuarine emergent marsh (tidal wetlands, salt marshes, tidal creeks) and estuarine water column is designated as essential fish habitat (EFH) by National Marine Fisheries Service in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996. This project will protect habitat types that are classified as EFH for species under federal fishery management plans (FMPs) such as brown shrimp, white shrimp and pink shrimp (*Litopenaeus duorarum*), Gulf stone crab (*Menippe adina*), red drum, and gray snapper (*Lutjanus griseus*). These species spend a portion of their juvenile life stages in estuarine nurseries. These estuarine habitats also benefit numerous other fishery species not under FMPs (Minello, 1999).

The table below represents some of the fish species caught in West Bay over a ten-year period (January 2012 – January 2022) through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Coastal Fisheries long-term Marine Resource Monitoring Program. The species were caught utilizing a bag seine, 505 seine hauls in total. Habitat type utilized was verified using Minello 1999.

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within General Vicinity (✓) (i.e. West Bay)	Habitat Type Utilized	Project Benefits	FMP Supported
Brown shrimp <i>Farfantepenaeus aztecus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	yes
White shrimp <i>Litopenaeus setiferus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	yes
Pink shrimp <i>Litopenaeus duorarum</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	yes
Blue crab <i>Callinectes sapidus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Gulf stone crab <i>Menippe adina</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	yes

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within General Vicinity (✓) (i.e. West Bay)	Habitat Type Utilized	Project Benefits	FMP Supported
Gulf menhaden <i>Brevoortia patronus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Bay anchovy <i>Anchoa mitchilli</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Spotted seatrout <i>Cynoscion nebulosus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Sand seatrout <i>Cynoscion arenarius</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Southern flounder <i>Paralichthys lethostigmata</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Hogchoker <i>Trinectes maculatus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Star drum <i>Stellifer lanceolatus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Red drum <i>Sciaenops ocellatus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	yes
Black drum <i>Pogonias cromis</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Spot <i>Leiostomus xanthurus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Hardhead catfish <i>Ariopsis felis</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Gray snapper <i>Lutjanus griseus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	yes
Atlantic stingray <i>Dasyatis Sabina</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Striped anchovy <i>Anchoa hepsetus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Atlantic croaker <i>Micropogonias undulatus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Sheepshead <i>Archosargus probatocephalus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
White mullet <i>Mugil curema</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within General Vicinity (✓) (i.e. West Bay)	Habitat Type Utilized	Project Benefits	FMP Supported
Striped mullet <i>Mugil cephalus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Atlantic spadefish <i>Chaetodipterus faber</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Ladyfish <i>Elops saurus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Pinfish <i>Lagodon rhomboides</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Pigfish <i>Orthopristis chrysoptera</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Bighead searobin <i>Prionotus tribulus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Inshore lizardfish <i>Synodus foetens</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Atlantic needlefish <i>Strongylura marina</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Leatherjack <i>Oligoplites saurus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Gulf kingfish <i>Menticirrhus littoralis</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Flagfin mojarra <i>Eucinostomus melanopterus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Spotfin mojarra <i>Eucinostomus argenteus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Silver jenny <i>Eucinostomus gula</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Silver perch <i>Bairdiella chrysoura</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Sheepshead minnow <i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Gulf killifish <i>Fundulus grandis</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Longnose killifish <i>Fundulus similis</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Bayou killifish <i>Fundulus pulvereus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within General Vicinity (✓) (i.e. West Bay)	Habitat Type Utilized	Project Benefits	FMP Supported
Rainwater killifish <i>Lucania parva</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Diamond killifish <i>Adinia xenica</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Western mosquitofish <i>Gambusia affinis</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Sailfin molly <i>Poecilia latipinna</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Skilletfish <i>Gobiesox strumosus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Inland silverside <i>Menidia beryllina</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Blackcheek tonguefish <i>Symphurus plagiusa</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Bay whiff <i>Citharichthys spilopterus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Least puffer <i>Sphoeroides parvus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Chain pipefish <i>Syngnathus louisianae</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Gulf pipefish <i>Syngnathus scovelli</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Silver seatrout <i>Cynoscion nothus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Fringed flounder <i>Etropus crossotus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Lined sole <i>Achirus lineatus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Code goby <i>Gobiosoma robustum</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Naked goby <i>Gobiosoma bosc</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Darter goby <i>Ctenogobius boleosoma</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	

Common/ Scientific Name	Observed within General Vicinity (✓) (i.e. West Bay)	Habitat Type Utilized	Project Benefits	FMP Supported
Lyre goby <i>Evorthodus lyricus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Freshwater goby <i>Ctenogobius shufeldti</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Arrow shrimp <i>Tozeuma carolinense</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Grass shrimp- unidentified <i>Genus Palaemonetes</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Lesser blue crab <i>Callinectes similis</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Flatback mud crab <i>Eurypanopeus depressus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Green porcelain crab <i>Petrolisthes armatus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Thinstripe hermit <i>Clibanarius vittatus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Longwrist hermit <i>Pagurus longicarpus</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Marsh periwinkle <i>Littoraria irrorata</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	
Lightning whelk <i>Busyon pulley</i>	✓	E2EM1N	Protects nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat	State Shell of 

Due to the ephemeral nature of the freshwater habitats at the acquisition tract, the freshwater habitats primarily provides habitat for marsh resident fish species. Most of the time these freshwater wetlands only receive water from rainfall and local runoff but are susceptible to hurricane generated storm surges. A surge of 10 feet is sufficient to inundate all of the freshwater wetlands on Galveston Island (Mueller 1985). The average annual precipitation on Galveston Island is approximately 44 inches with the average temperature approximately 71° F (www.usclimatedata.com). Extended periods with limited precipitation are common (Mueller 1985) and in combination with high evaporation rates the majority of the freshwater wetlands on Galveston Island dry without regular rainfall.

When inundated these freshwater habitats provide breeding, nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat for resident fish species. Without regular rainfall these wetlands dry up, providing opportunistic opportunities for avian species to feed on trapped fish and invertebrates including aquatic insect larvae.

Project Budget – RESTORE Work Plan Draft

Funding for Planning

Budget Category	Approved Budget	Other Sources	Total Budget
a. Personnel/Salary		\$105,000.00	\$105,000.00
b. Fringe Benefits		\$26,250.00	\$26,250.00
c. Travel		\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
d. Supplies			
e. Equipment		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
f. Contractual			
g. Construction			
h. Land Acquisition			
i. Other			
j. Total Direct Costs (Sum a. - i.)			
k. Modified Total Direct Costs* (MTDC)			
l. Indirect Cost (rate = x%)			
m. Total Project Costs (sum of l. & j.)		\$137,250.00	\$137,250.00

Funding For Land Acquisition

Budget Category	Approved Budget	Other Sources	Total Budget
a. Personnel/Salary	.00	\$210,430.00	\$210,430.00
b. Fringe Benefits	.00	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00
c. Travel	.00	\$340.00	\$340.00
d. Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
e. Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
f. Contractual	\$0.00	\$594,365.00	\$594,365
g. Construction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
h. Land Acquisition	\$6,000,000.00	\$2,990,000.00	\$8,990,000
i. Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
j. Total Direct Costs (Sum a. - i.)	\$6,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000,000
k. Modified Total Direct Costs* (MTDC)	\$00.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
l. Indirect Cost (rate = x%)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Budget Category	Approved Budget	Other Sources	Total Budget
m. Total Project Costs (sum of l. & j.)	\$6,000,000	\$3,584,365	\$9,584,365

Total Project Costs for Planning and Implementation is \$9,721,615.00

Budget Narrative

Personnel/Salary: \$315,430.00

Artist Boat Executive Director, Bookkeeper, Admin Assistance, and Conservation Program Manager to oversee all components of the project, the planning/implementation/delivery of the project, order and review all components of due diligence (legal, appraisals, appraisal reviews, surveys, environmental phase 1), draft and review the conservation easements, conduct and write up baseline documentation, coordinate with Galveston Bay Foundation, close on easements and acquisitions, conduct all communications with sellers and get willing seller agreements with purchase agreements, and manage and administer all grants

Fringe Benefits: \$ \$81,250.00

Federal taxes, health benefits, PTO, S/T & L/T Disability and Life, Dental and Vision, IRA]

Travel: \$3,840.00 travel to local meetings (NRU, CAP), regional meetings (PGCLC, GulfCon), and national land trust meetings to assist with planning and tools

Equipment: \$2,500 computer

Contractual: \$594,365.00

Legal, Appraisals, Appraisal Reviews, Surveys, Environmental Phase 1's, Minerals Management Letter, Replat or Vacant Plat, Galveston Bay Foundation Conservation Easement.

Land Acquisition: \$8,990,000

Acquisition of 120 to 200 acres of land between \$50,000 and \$70,000 an acre through three - five transactions. The \$8,990,000 is made up of \$6,000,000 in RESTORE funding and \$2,990,000 in regional, state, and federal conservation awards or private donors and foundations.

Appendix C

Photographs

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

Photographs 6-10 are of the habitats at the Coastal Heritage Preserve

Photographs 11-19 are of avian species using habitat within and adjacent to the Coastal Heritage Preserve .

Photographs 20-22 are of coyotes on Galveston Island and a map showing coyote tracts on Galveston Island that show evidence of red wolf genes using habitat like those at the proposed acquisition tract.



Photograph 1. Kayak pavilion constructed in the 2017.



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



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



Photograph 4. Outdoor classroom constructed in 2018.



Photograph 5. Outdoor classroom.



Photograph 6. Wetland Type CHP. When inundated these wetlands provides breeding, nursery, juvenile and foraging habitat for resident fish species. Without regular rainfall these wetlands dry up, providing opportunistic opportunities for avian species to feed on trapped fish and invertebrates including aquatic insect larvae.



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



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



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



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



Photograph 11. Seaside sparrow. The acquisition would protect year-round foraging, roosting, and nesting habitat for this species.



Photograph 12. Northern Harrier. The acquisition would protect migrating and winter foraging and roosting habitat.



Photograph 13. A yellow warbler foraging in and using California bulrush at Laffite's Cove Nature Preserve as stopover habitat during migration.



Photograph 14. Le Conte's sparrow depends on quality winter grounds, such as coastal prairie.



Photograph 15. Eastern meadowlark foraging on the edge of palustrine marsh.



Photograph 16. Soras are primarily a winter migrant, this sora is foraging in palustrine marsh near the acquisition tract.



Photograph 17. Wintering sandhill cranes foraging on a tract directly adjacent to the proposed acquisition tract. The West end of Galveston Island is heavily used by sandhill cranes during the winter at undeveloped areas. Hunting is limited due to the entire island being within city limits. Their presence draws birdwatchers to the island each year.



Photograph 18. Merlin on existing Coastal Heritage Preserve land adjacent to the acquisition tract.



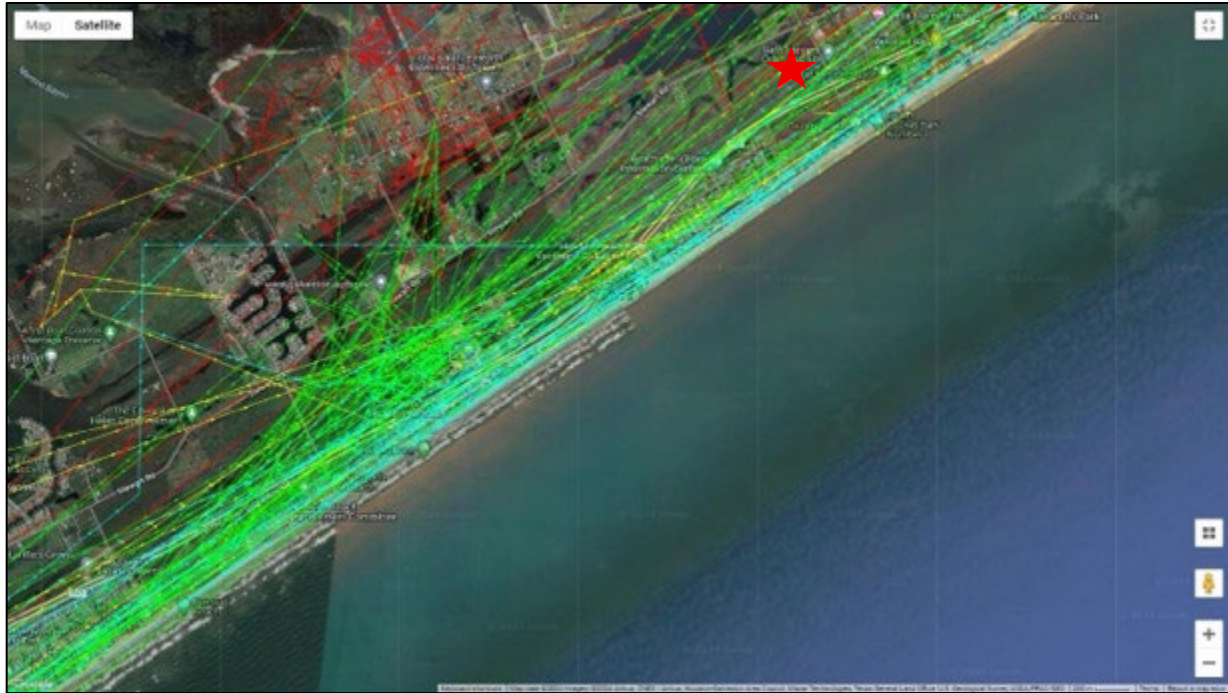
Photograph 19. The yellow rail, often unobserved, uses coastal wet grasslands along the Texas coast for its wintering habitat. The acquisition tract and adjacent tracts owned by Artist Boat support habitat suitable for both yellow and black rails.



Photograph 20. Coyotes show evidence of red wolf genes on Galveston Island, Texas. Credit: Ron Wooten Photography.



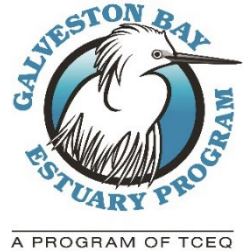
Photograph 21. Coyotes show evidence of red wolf genes on Galveston Island, Texas. Credit: Ron Wooten Photography.



Photograph 22. Coyotes Screenshot of GPS collar pathways for Galveston coyotes on West Galveston Island and on land which includes the CHP and acquisition tracts. These tracts of land have provided multiple sightings of these coyotes since that are undeveloped and contain natural vegetation and refuge for multiple species. The red star indicates the location of the proposed acquisition tract.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program

Fiscal 2028 Project Proposal



Please complete this proposal form and submit to the appropriate Subcommittee Coordinator (end of form) by **July 24, 2026**. 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 2028 (FY 2028) Priority Area Actions that were developed by GBEP subcommittees for FY 2028 at the June 2026 meetings. Any proposal implementing the Plan may be submitted, but proposals implementing the FY 2028 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 22, 2026
Proposals Due	July 24, 2026
Send Proposals to Subcommittees Members for Review	August 12, 2026
Present Proposals to Subcommittees for Council Recommendation	September 2, 2026 (NRU and PPE) September 9, 2026 (M&R and WSQ)
Present Proposals to B&P Subcommittee for Final Recommendation	September 30, 2026
Present Proposals to Galveston Bay Council for Approval	October 14, 2026

SECTION TWO: SUBMITTAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Project Name:

Armand Bayou Nature Center Tall Grass Prairie and Wetlands Restoration
--

Project Previously Funded by GBEP? Yes ☐ No ☒

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

Texas RICE

The lead implementer must be in one of the following categories of eligible recipients. Please indicate which category applies to your entity. If the proposing party is not already paired with a lead implementer in one of the categories listed below, the proposing party will need to partner with an eligible recipient in one of these categories to be selected for funding. Please reach out to GBEP staff with any questions.

☐ Federal, State, or Local Government ☐ Council of Government ☐ Public ISDs or Universities
☒ Nonprofit ☐ Other*

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

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

Contact Information:

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

Project Dates / Duration (beginning no earlier than September 1, 2027 – ending no later than May 31, 2030) [see 30 TAC § 14.7(5)]:

9/1/2027 -12/31/2028

Amount Requested from GBEP:

\$103,700.00

Federal ☐ State ☒ No Preference ☐

Is the project scalable? ☒

Amount Requested per year (if applicable):

FY 2028 (09/01/2027-08/31/2028)	\$103,700.00
FY 2029 (09/01/2028-08/31/2029)	
FY 2030 (09/01/2029-05/31/2030)	
Total	\$103,700.00

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

\$133,700.00

Is this an estimate? ☐

Leveraging (in-kind and/or cash):

\$30,000	
Texas RICE	\$15,000 cash and in-kind
Armand Bayou Nature Center	\$15,000 cash and in-kind

SECTION THREE: GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION IMPLEMENTATION

Grant recipient activities to be funded must implement the Plan, but proposals implementing the FY 2028 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 project addresses important habitat goals for Galveston Bay including the restoration of grasslands and wetlands as well as the elimination of exotic and invasive woody species.

Many species of high conservation need will benefit including the mottled duck, osprey, bobwhite quail, long billed dowitcher, Northern pintail, bald eagle, white faced ibis, Eastern black rail, yellow rail, monarch butterfly and a host of other species

The project will also provide important coastal resiliency values by retaining and detaining immense of water during high rainfall events. Native tall grass prairie can absorb up to 1 - 1.5 million gallons per acre.

Runoff into the waterways will also be much cleaner as the prairie will strip out contaminants and sediments.

Primary activities include eliminating exotica and invasive woody species through spot and selective herbicide treatment. This includes Chinese tallow, trifoliate orange, Macartney rose, privet and other species.

There will be the planting of a locally collected native tall grass prairie mix in abandoned farmland.

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 through adaptive management, workforce development, and technical assistance.
- ☐ WSQ: Improve knowledge and accessibility of pollution reporting tools to empower the community.
- ☐ WSQ: Implementation and/or evaluation of best management practices that address point and nonpoint source pollution.
- ☐ NRU: Habitat Acquisition.
- ☒ NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration-conservation efforts. Special emphasis on:
 - ☒ Adaptive management for previously completed projects; and
 - ☒ Projects that may have lost/delayed funding from other federal sources.
- ☒ NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
- ☐ NRU: Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost.
- ☒ PPE: Connecting new audiences to existing/completed on-the-ground projects in the watershed.
- ☐ PPE: Empowering K-12 students and/or adults to positively impact their local environment through increased scientific literacy and community projects.
- ☐ PPE: Opportunities to host workshops/networking events to provide technical assistance for local leadership (local governments, MUDs, schoolboards, the public) on key topics.
- ☐ PPE: Conservation and environmental workforce development.
- ☐ M&R: Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing, past, and new projects (NRU: especially research and monitoring for diamondback terrapin and best management projects, WSQ, PPE).
- ☐ M&R: Baseline assessments for large-scale, man-made changes to Galveston Bay at an adequate timeline and spatial range to provide useful information.
- ☒ 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.

Subcommittee Priority Detail:

This proposal meets the following subcommittee priorities:

1. *WSQ: Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans through adaptive management, workforce development, and technical assistance.* This project implements the [Armand Bayou Watershed Plan](#) Goal 7 (protect and restore valuable habitat areas through the watershed).

2. *NRU: Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration-conservation efforts. Special emphasis on: Adaptive management for previously completed projects; and Projects that may have lost/delayed funding from other federal sources:* This project will restore coastal tallgrass prairie at the Armand Bayou Nature Center, providing adaptive management of an NRU-supported land acquisition project.

An EPA grant of over \$1 million was lost in 2025. And a RCPP grant through the NRCS of \$440,000 was lost in late 2025 or early 2026. Both grants provided much needed funding for elimination of exotic/invasive species, restoration of native tall grass prairie and the enhancement of freshwater wetland habitat along with other critical habitat efforts.

3. *NRU: Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.* This project enhances habitat for migratory and resident birds as

well as other wildlife by managing invasive and nuisance species and improving native plant diversity. Many grassland, upland and wetland species are need will benefit from this work

4. PPE: Connecting new audiences to existing/completed on-the-ground projects in the watershed. This project will provide volunteer opportunities to enhance habitat. The Armand Bayou Nature Center has a very active volunteer program. This includes a large nursery program to grow and then plant a wide diversity of wetland and tall grass prairie species. The numbers of seedling they grow and then plant is in the thousands. The nature center also has an environmental education program with local universities and schools.. The nature center holds summer ecocamps for children 4-13 years of age throughout the summer. And they host several events each years such as the Prairie Pandemonium, Bayou Safari and 4th of July Celebration. The numbers of people which visit enjoy and volunteer at the Armand Bayou Nature Center each year is in the tens of thousands. It is the largest urban wilderness in Texas and one of the largest in the nation.

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 restoration of native prairie will greatly help reduce unbridled runoff during heavy rainfall events which will reduce flooding. And by detaining and slowing the runoff sediments and contaminants will be stripped out and improve water quality in the waterways and ultimately the bay system.

SECTION FIVE: PROPOSAL DETAILS

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

Project Summary:

To restore and enhance diverse native tall grass prairie and freshwater wetlands on the Armand Bayou Nature Center through the elimination of exotic/invasive species and the planting of a locally collected diverse native prairie mix.

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

We will restore and enhance an estimated 1,500 acres of freshwater wetlands and native tall grass prairie on the Armand Bayou Nature Center. The work will center on eliminating exotic/invasive woody species such as Chinese tallow and replanting a locally collected native prairie mix on abandoned farmland. The restored habitat will provide important habitat values to a wide range of grassland and wetland dependent wildlife including many which are endangered, threatened or of concern. This includes white faced ibis, bald eagle, Eastern black rail, bobwhite quail, mottled duck, wood stork, eastern meadowlark, swallow tailed kite, long billed dowitcher, white rumped sandpiper,, yellow rail, white tailed hawk and monarch butterfly along with many other species

The Nature Center has also been in discussions about possibly reintroducing the Attwater's prairie chicken. The restored prairie will generate substantial coastal resiliency values by retaining and detaining hundreds of millions of gallons of water during high rainfall events.

The Armand Bayou Nature Center also has a very active program for the local communities and the entire Greater Houston Area. It also has a very active and large environmental education program. Armand Bayou Nature Center is the largest urban wilderness in Texas and one of the largest in the nation.

The objective is to restore this into the high-quality tall grass prairie and wetland system that existed in the upper and middle Texas coast historically but has now almost completely disappeared.

Project Urgency:

Project funds are needed to improve native tall grass prairie and freshwater wetlands. Without the work exotic and invasive woody species will return at an alarming pace. It is also important to maintain the restored tall grass prairie as a future harvest site for prairie restoration projects. This is the largest remaining tall grass prairie in Harris County. It is vital to maintain the quality of the site for the diversity of plants, birds, animals, insects, amphibians and reptiles.

Other Plans Implemented:

Texas Coastal Management Plan, Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, North American Waterfowl Plan, Gulf Coast Joint Venture Texas Mid Coast Initiative, Texas Mottled Duck Plan, Partners in Flight, Gulf Coast Joint Venture Shorebird Conservation Plan, Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan

Partners¹ and Their Roles:

Texas RICE and Armand Bayou Nature Center will oversee the work, implement prairie planting, invasive species treatment and provide cash/in-kind services.

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.

☐ Yes

☒ No

[TBD.]

Latitude/Longitude (Optional):

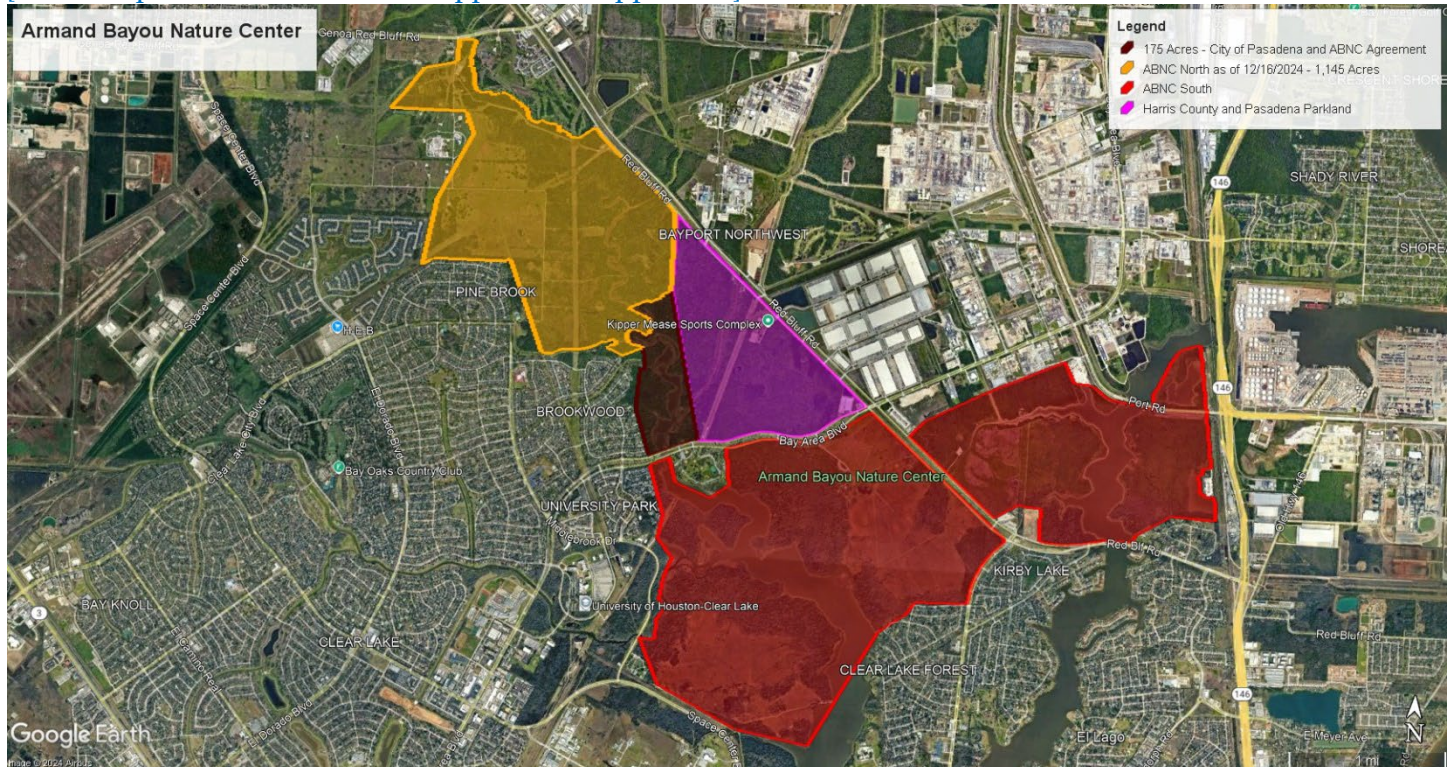
29.59597, -95.071995

Location:

Armand Bayou, Willow Bayou, Spring Bayou, Taylor Bayou, Taylor Lake, Big Island Slough and Clear Lake watersheds Pasadena, Texas

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	\$8,000.00
Fringe Benefits (###%) ²	\$0.00
Travel	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Contractual	\$87,000.00
Construction	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Total Direct Cost	\$95,000.00

b. Indirect Costs³

Distribution Base Amount (<i>identify Base type below</i>)	\$58,000.00
Indirect Cost Rate for Reimbursement	15.00%
Total Indirect Costs	\$8,700.00

c. Maximum Authorized Reimbursement

Maximum Authorized Reimbursement (Direct and Indirect Costs)	\$103,700.00
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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 cost 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 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 15 percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) 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

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

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.

☐ **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 (Cost Budget) section.]

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

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

Travel. In order to be reimbursable, travel costs must be specifically authorized in advance of the travel. Travel costs will be reimbursed only in the amount of actual costs, up to the maximum allowed by law for employees of the State of Texas at the time the cost is incurred.

Budget Categories. The Budget Categories above are representative of the items of cost found in TxGMS and 2 CFR Part 200, and have the definitions, requirements, and limitations found therein. Construction costs are not reimbursable without prior, specific written authorization from TCEQ.

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 post notification 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

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 24, 2026 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