

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025 WORK PLAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

Revision 1.0

United States Environmental Protection Agency

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Grant Number 332125



A PROGRAM OF TCEQ

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviations in headings, tables, and project titles are not acknowledged.

Table 1: List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Name
§	Section
ACS	Access to Galveston Bay Ecosystem Information (Action Plan)
ABC	American Bird Conservancy
ABNC	Armand Bayou Nature Center
Back the Bay	Galveston Bay Public Awareness and Education Campaign
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CCMP	Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan
CWA	Clean Water Act
Dermo	<i>Perkinsus Marinus</i>
DMA	Designated Market Area
ESA	Environmental Site Assessment
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
ERAP	Galveston Bay Estuary Resilience Action Plan
Fiscal	Fiscal Year
FTE	Full-time Equivalent
FWI	Freshwater Inflows (Action Plan)
GBC	Galveston Bay Council
GBEP	Galveston Bay Estuary Program
GBF	Galveston Bay Foundation
<i>GBP</i>	<i>Galveston Bay Plan</i>
<i>GBP, 2nd Edition</i>	<i>Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition</i>
GOMESA	Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act
HARC/GTRI	Houston Advanced Research Center/Geotechnology Research Institute
H-GAC	Houston-Galveston Area Council
HC	Habitat Conservation (Action Plan)
HPB	Houston Parks Board
HPARD	City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department
IIJA	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
K-12	Kindergarten to 12 th Grade (Primary and Secondary Education)
M&R	Monitoring and Research (Subcommittee)
MUD	Municipal Utility District
NbSI	Nature-based Stormwater Infrastructure
NEP	National Estuary Program
No.	Number
NPS	Nonpoint Source (Action Plan)
NRU	Natural Resource Uses (Subcommittee)
OCA	Ocean and Coastal Acidification
OSSF	On-site Sewage Facilities
PEA	Public Education and Awareness (Action Plan)
pH	Potential of Hydrogen
PHA	Public Health and Awareness (Action Plan)
PPE	Public Participation and Education (Subcommittee)
PR	Progress Report
PS	Point Source (Action Plan)
QA	Quality Assurance
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
Q-TRAK	Quality Assurance Tracking System
RES	Monitoring and Research (Action Plan)

RESTORE	Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States (Act)
SAP	<i>Charting the Course to 2015: Galveston Bay Strategic Action Plan</i>
SC	Species Conservation (Action Plan)
SCA	Student Conservation Association
SPO	Stakeholder and Partner Outreach (Action Plan)
SPLASh	Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines
State of the Bay, Fifth Edition	State of the Bay, Fifth Edition: Characterization of Priority Themes
TBDC	Trinity Bay Discovery Center
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TEA	Texas Education Agency
TV	Television
Trash Bash®	River, Lakes, Bays N' Bayous Trash Bash®
UHCL	University of Houston-Clear Lake
UASFLA	Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WBPs	Watershed-based Plans
WSQ	Water and Sediment Quality (Subcommittee)
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

Section 1: Introduction

The Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), established in 1989, is a non-regulatory program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and is one of two National Estuary Programs (NEP) in Texas. The purpose of GBEP is to provide comprehensive ecosystem management through collaborative partnerships and to ensure preservation of the bay's multiple uses. Our partners are made up of local governments, business and industry, conservation organizations, bay user groups, and federal and state resource agencies.

Galveston Bay is the largest and one of the most productive estuaries in Texas. It sits adjacent to one of the most heavily industrialized areas in the nation. The GBEP service area encompasses 5,000 square miles and 232 miles of estuarine shoreline along the upper Texas coast and incorporates the five-county area bordering Galveston Bay: Liberty, Chambers, Harris, Galveston, and Brazoria counties.

GBEP is primarily funded through state dollars provided by the Texas Legislature through TCEQ and Clean Water Act (CWA) Section (§) 320 funding provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funding

In addition to the funding above, GBEP was awarded five years of funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), administered through the EPA (Table 2).

The initial application for IIJA funding through EPA Grant Number (No.) 4T-02F24301 (TCEQ Grant No. 332022) requested years one and two (federal fiscal year (fiscal) 2022-2023/state fiscal 2024) of funding and a grant term from September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2026. The award was received January 23, 2023.

Revision 0.0 of EPA Grant No. 4T-02F61501 (TCEQ Grant No. 332125) requested year three (federal fiscal 2024, state fiscal 2025) of funding and a grant term from September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2027. The award was received August 20, 2024.

Revision 1.0 of EPA IIJA Grant No. 4T-02F61501 is requesting to add year four of funding (federal fiscal 2025/state fiscal 2026) and extend the grant term to August 31, 2028.

Funding for year five (federal fiscal 2026/state fiscal 2027) will be requested with a new grant application, with the grant term ending on August 31, 2029.

Table 2: IIJA Grant History

EPA IIJA Grant No.	Federal Fiscal Year	Project Period	Funding Amount	Award Date
4T-02F24301 Revision 0.0	2022-2023	September 1, 2023- August 31, 2026	\$1,819,600.00	January 23, 2023
4T-02F61501 Revision 0.0	2024	September 1, 2024- August 31, 2027	\$909,800.00	August 20, 2024
4T-02F61501 Revision 1.0	2025	September 1, 2025- August 31, 2028	\$910,600.00	To be determined (TBD)
4T-TBD Revision 0.0	2026	September 1, 2026- August 31, 2029	\$909,800.00	TBD
IIJA Grant Total:			\$4,549,800.00	

Section 2: Program Overview

GBEP is charged with implementing the Galveston Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). GBEP is part of TCEQ's Office of Water, Water Quality Planning Division. A program manager and staff of seven located in the Houston-Galveston area directly oversee the implementation of the GBP. Program staff responsibilities are as follows:

- Acquire, manage, and disperse funds to implement specific actions in the *GBP*.
- Provide for coordination and communication among state and federal resource agencies for many cross-jurisdictional issues.
- Coordinate, monitor, and track implementation activities of Galveston Bay Council (GBC) partners.
- Identify and communicate bay improvements to agencies, stakeholders, and the public.
- Conduct public outreach and education to increase awareness of Galveston Bay.
- Advocate conservation of the estuary.
- Maintain stakeholder involvement in the decision-making process through the GBC and its subcommittees.

Section 2.1: Galveston Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan

GBEP was established in 1989 to provide comprehensive management of this vital resource. In 1990, GBEP began working with an expansive group of stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan that would receive broad-based support from, and involvement by, federal and state agencies with jurisdiction in Galveston Bay, industries and businesses, local government officials, commercial and recreational anglers, conservation organizations, and citizens. In 1994, the *GBP* was completed, and in 1995, was approved by the governor of Texas and EPA administrator. The initial effort was jointly funded by EPA, the Texas General Land Office, and TCEQ. The *GBP* identified 82 action items to protect and restore the health and productivity of the estuary while supporting continued economic growth and public use of Galveston Bay.

By 2005, progress had been made on all 82 actions originally identified in the *GBP*. However, funding limitations, population growth, changes as environmental regulatory programs progressed, and new issues had emerged over time. *Charting the Course to 2015: Galveston Bay Strategic Action Plan (SAP)*, was created to help focus and guide *GBP* implementation. The *SAP*, published in 2007, had three sections that highlighted the priority focus areas identified by stakeholders: ecosystem and human health, public participation and education, and monitoring and research. The goals and objectives were designed to guide GBEP partners as they planned, funded, and implemented policies and programs.

GBEP began working in 2018 on a CCMP revision to focus on identifying new issues facing Galveston Bay that were not addressed by the 1995 *GBP* or previous updates. The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition (GBP, 2nd Edition)* is organized under four plan priorities and 10 action plans. Many actions in the *GBP* were combined or removed due to completion or changes in regulation, and the original 82 actions became 38 actions. The *GBP, 2nd Edition* was approved by TCEQ in March 2019 and by EPA in September 2021. An interim update to the *GBP, 2nd Edition* is currently in progress.

Section 2.2: Organizational Structure

GBEP has the primary responsibility for coordinating and administering the Federal Fiscal 2025 Work Plan. Program staff and job descriptions are provided below.

Lisa Marshall, M.S., GBEP Program Manager: Responsible for the overall implementation of the *GBP, 2nd Edition*, including securing and managing funds to support operations, staff, and projects; coordinating the GBC and the Budget and Priorities Subcommittee; serving as grant project coordinator for GBEP; fostering stakeholder involvement to facilitate *GBP, 2nd Edition* implementation; managing program staff and operations to ensure efficient use of resources; and representing GBEP on national, state, and local boards and committees and at national and state conferences/events to garner federal and state support.

Christian Rines, M.S., Water and Sediment Quality (WSQ) coordinator: responsible for coordinating the implementation of the nonpoint source (NPS), point source (PS), and public health and awareness (PHA) actions in the *GBP, 2nd Edition*; facilitating the WSQ Subcommittee of the GBC; implementing specific stormwater, wastewater, on-site sewage facilities (OSSF), and seafood safety projects; and researching, evaluating, and reporting findings concerning scientific and technical issues impacting *GBP, 2nd Edition* implementation.

Lindsey Lippert, Natural Resource Uses (NRU) coordinator: responsible for coordinating the implementation of habitat conservation (HC), species conservation (SC), and freshwater inflows (FWI) actions in the *GBP, 2nd Edition*; facilitating the NRU Subcommittee of the GBC and the invasive species and oyster restoration workgroups of the NRU Subcommittee; implementing specific projects to conserve, restore, and enhance coastal habitat and native species populations, and manage and control invasive species; maintaining Legislative Budget Board and EPA Government Performance and Results Act performance measures; serving as a back-up budget liaison and bill analyst for the GBEP office; and researching, evaluating, and reporting findings concerning scientific and technical issues impacting *GBP, 2nd Edition* implementation.

Zoe Gapayao, Public Participation and Education (PPE) coordinator and Community Relations Specialist: responsible for coordinating the implementation of the stakeholder and partner outreach (SPO) and public education and awareness (PEA) actions in the *GBP, 2nd Edition*; facilitating the PPE Subcommittee of the GBC; building relationships and developing communication channels and dialogue with local government officials, private sector, and other outside organizations key to implementing the *GBP, 2nd Edition*; providing information to stakeholders, the public and media; overseeing the Galveston Bay Public Awareness and Education Campaign (Back the Bay); promoting special events and projects; and overseeing the websites of GBEP. The PPE coordinator also facilitates cross-sectoral learning of public relations and marketing activities for the Galveston Bay watershed; organizes and manages community relations events and the State of the Bay Symposium; and tracks emerging stakeholder community concerns/issues.

Jenelle Estrada, M.S., Monitoring and Research (M&R) coordinator: responsible for coordinating the monitoring and research (RES) and access to Galveston Bay ecosystem information (ACS) actions in the *GBP, 2nd Edition*; facilitating the M&R Subcommittee of the GBC; coordinating the regional monitoring program, including data management/reporting, and development and application of environmental indicators; coordinating *GBP, 2nd Edition* implementation tracking, and researching, evaluating, and reporting findings concerning scientific and technical issues impacting *GBP, 2nd Edition* implementation.

Hope Cole, M.A.R.M., Technical and Quality Program coordinator: responsible for serving as the quality assurance (QA) specialist; assisting with oversight of contract management, tracking, and execution; serving as budget liaison and backup grant project coordinator for GBEP; coordinating the development and submission of federal reports; identifying and tracking the evolution of issues affecting bay management; and researching policy, technical, and management results that pertain to Galveston Bay in collaboration with the NRU and WSQ coordinators.

Matthew Abernathy, M.A.R.M., Education and Outreach coordinator: responsible for handling GBEP outreach events; conducting educational presentations in schools and at events; assisting with the informational needs of the program; managing contracts; and assisting subcommittee coordinators in implementing *GBP, 2nd Edition* projects.

Alejandra Trevino, Administrative Assistant: responsible for travel coordination, vehicle and equipment maintenance and repairs, mail, correspondence, office safety, and general administrative support for GBEP.

Section 2.3: Program Competency Demonstration

The following statements demonstrate GBEP's competency as a Continuing Environmental Program:

- Competency is demonstrated by TCEQ Quality Systems Audits conducted biennially by the TCEQ QA Manager.

- Competency is demonstrated through EPA Quality Project and Program Management training taken by TCEQ GBEP staff. GBEP staff that review Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) or manage projects with QAPPs have taken this training and any new staff with QAPP-related responsibilities will be required to take this training. Certificates are available upon request.
- Competency is demonstrated through the EPA approved TCEQ [Quality Management Plan](#)¹ (Revision 30 approved December 2024, effective January 1, 2025-December 31, 2025) that GBEP operates under, which provides descriptions of the QA policies, including all the requirements described in the [EPA Quality Assurance Project Plan \(QAPP\) Standard](#)² (CIO 2105-S-02.1).
- The GBEP Program Manager and staff take many professional development training classes annually, which are available upon request.

¹ <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/qa/qmp>

² https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/quality_assurance_project_plan_standard.pdf

Section 3: Federal Fiscal 2024 Accomplishments

Section 3.1: GBEP Accomplishments Since Federal Fiscal 2024 Work Plan Submission

GBEP partners made notable achievements in improving water quality, protecting unique habitats, and educating the public using IJA funds in federal fiscal 2024. These achievements are highlighted in the following section.

Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use

The water quality of Galveston Bay is essential to human and aquatic life. In support of EPA's core CWA goals, GBEP works to build capacity of local stakeholders through watershed protection planning and implementation of water quality improvement projects. Through this effort in coordination with other water programs of TCEQ and local stakeholders, most of the impaired waters in the five-county region surrounding Galveston Bay have some level of watershed protection or improvement underway.

The ongoing project, [Repair and Replacement of Failing On-Site Sewage Facilities \(OSSFs\) for Homeowners](#), is implementing the "Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use" Priority Area in Federal Fiscal 2024. The project received approval of the Final QAPP on December 2, 2024 to begin data collection.

Protect and Sustain Living Resources

The upper Texas coast features a wealth of coastal habitats that support a tremendous abundance and variety of fish and wildlife. Preserving wetlands and natural areas is critical to maintaining water quality and protecting valuable fish and wildlife habitat in this region. In addition, a significant portion of land in Texas is privately owned, with 94%³ of the state's land under private ownership. Federal, state, and nongovernmental organization-owned accessible lands in Texas offer recreational opportunities for hiking, camping, fishing, birdwatching, and more.

Salt Bayou



Figure 1: Salt Bayou Acquisition Project in San Leon, Texas

The Salt Bayou Acquisition and Restoration Project incorporates land conservation, public access, and nature-based solutions in the community of San Leon, Texas. Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) sought to acquire approximately 25 acres of coastal prairie habitat located north of Salt Bayou and

³ https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/programs/tourism/landowner_info/

south of the San Leon Municipal Utility District (MUD) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). In addition to recreational value, the property provides important grassland habitat for prairie-obligate birds like the Dickcissel, Loggerhead Shrike, and Meadowlark. On December 20, 2024, GBF closed on 23 acres of coastal habitat to conserve this area of the coast in perpetuity, adding public recreation opportunities to the community of San Leon.

Future work under the IIJA project includes habitat management and adding low impact trails on the newly acquired tracts. The long-term goal of this initiative is to acquire additional contiguous acres of prairie and wetland habitat, which could be utilized for nature-based solutions to improve water quality. The San Leon MUD WWTP is located north of the project area and discharges its effluent into Salt Bayou. The wetland habitat north of Salt Bayou could improve the filtration of wastewater, reducing nutrient pollution and improving water quality of Salt Bayou and Dickinson Bay.

Middle Armand Bayou



Figure 2: Armand Bayou in Harris County, Texas

Armand Bayou Nature Center (ABNC) is an urban preserve located in Pasadena, Texas, that protects three vanishing Gulf Coast habitats: wetland forest, coastal tallgrass prairie, and riparian wetlands. ABNC has restored and maintained habitats along the bayou since it was founded in 1974.

On December 16, 2024, ABNC, in partnership with Harris County Precinct 2 and ExxonMobil, closed on 1,147 acres of habitat to conserve this area of the coast in perpetuity. This addition brings ABNC to a total of 3,947 acres, making it the largest urban wilderness preserve in Texas.

The acquired tract of land was previously owned by ExxonMobil and known as the Clear Lake Oil Fields. Approximately half of the acquisition is remnant of Texas coastal prairie that has been overgrazed and overrun with invasive species. ABNC intends to return the land to its former state as a tall grass prairie. The other half of the land acquired is riparian forest and bayou wetlands. ABNC will restore marsh grasses and native plants along the bayou while removing invasive species.

GBEP provided partial funding of \$390,000 to the Middle Armand Bayou Protection Project through IIJA. Contributions from GBEP, Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) funds through Harris County, Harris County Flood Control District Bonds, Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States (RESTORE) Act funds through TCEQ, and private foundation funds raised by ABNC totaled \$11.77M, with the remaining land value donated by ExxonMobil.

Engage Communities

The Galveston Bay watershed, covering approximately 24,000 square miles, is home to roughly half of Texas' population, including major cities like Houston and Dallas, with millions more visiting the region each year to take advantage of its fishing and ecotourism opportunities. Protecting and promoting the health of Galveston Bay is important. GBEP continued engaging communities with outreach and education through IIJA-funded projects and partnering with stakeholders on various initiatives.

Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASh) in Houston's Bayous and Beyond

GBEP is partnering with the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) on [Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines \(SPLASh\) in Houston's Bayous and Beyond](#) to provide community outreach, educational programming, and trash cleanups focused in the City of Houston with an emphasis on the areas surrounding Sims and Brays Bayous.

To date ABC has conducted 14 trash cleanups, with 438 volunteers removing over 3,800 pounds of debris from local waterways. Additionally, they have engaged with over 2,900 students through school education programming and an additional 2,995 community members during public education and outreach events.

Community Outreach Through Media

The University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) is partnering with KPRC, a local television (TV) station, on the [UHCL Community Outreach](#) project to bring awareness of conservation programs to the Houston-Galveston community through television and digital media platforms. To date, this project has produced three [30-second commercials](#)⁴ shown on KPRC, the local NBC affiliate, and interview segments aired on [Houston Life](#)⁵, a daily afternoon talk show showcasing local news, events, and attractions. The seven key initiatives include:

- White Oak Bayou Riparian Restoration Project (CWA § 320-funded),
- River, Lakes, Bays N' Bayous Trash Bash® (Trash Bash®) (CWA § 320 and state-funded),
- Tracking *Perkinsus Marinus* (Dermo) Infection in Sun-Cured Oysters (CWA § 320-funded),
- The Ninth Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve, Galveston Island, Texas (state-funded),
- Drought and Water Conservation Outreach Campaign (CWA § 320-funded),
- [Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines \(SPLASh\) in Houston's Bayous and Beyond](#), and
- Targeted Microplastics Monitoring in the Waters of Galveston Bay and its Tributaries (CWA § 320-funded).

Inform Science-Based Decision Making

Supporting monitoring and research efforts that inform science-based decision making is a key priority for GBEP. Coordinated, quality-assured monitoring and accessible research data ensure that resource managers, elected officials, and other decision-makers in the region can make informed decisions to preserve Galveston Bay. Concerns relating to aquatic habitat, wildlife, resource usage, water quality, and human health cannot be adequately addressed without the involvement of multiple natural resource agencies and bay stakeholders.

The ongoing project, [Evaluating Galveston Bay's Resilience to Ocean and Coastal Acidification](#), is implementing the "Inform Science-Based Decision Making" Priority Area in federal fiscal 2024. The project is currently developing the QAPP to begin data collection.

⁴ <https://gbep.texas.gov/kprc>

⁵ <https://www.click2houston.com/houston-life/>

Section 3.2: Federal Fiscal 2024 Leveraging

Figures reported in Table 3 provide a mid-year estimate of leveraged funding reported by partners and Performing Partys from September 2024–August 2025 (federal fiscal 2024). The numbers are subject to change as additional funding may be reported for the period.

Table 3: Federal Fiscal 2024 Leveraging

EPA Funds to Program (IIJA)	TCEQ State Allocation	Other Federal Funds	Other State Funds and In-kind	Local Government Funds and In-Kind	Private funds and In-kind
\$909,800	\$0	\$7,400,000	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$2,206,250
Total Federal Fiscal 2024 Leveraging			\$12,537,705		

Section 4: Federal Fiscal 2025 Goals and Measures

Section 4.1: Federal Fiscal 2025 *GBP, 2nd Edition* Action Plan Goals

- Support watershed-based plan development and implementation (NPS-1).
- Support NPS education and outreach campaigns, implement NPS best management practices (BMPs), and host NPS workshops (NPS-2, NPS-3, NPS-4).
- Improve regional contact recreation risk awareness (PHA-2).
- Conserve, restore, and/or enhance important coastal habitats (HC-1, HC-2, HC-3).
- Sustain and restore native species populations while managing invasive species control (SC-1, SC-2).
- Support water conservation and education (FWI-3).
- Provide stewardship programs, volunteer opportunities, and workshops to participate in habitat restoration activities (SPO-1, SPO-2).
- Support local government outreach that promotes GBEP priorities (SPO-4).
- Support key issue engagement, kindergarten to 12th grade, and adult education efforts (PEA-1, PEA-2, PEA-3).
- Evaluate BMP projects (RES-6).
- Conduct research on ecosystem service and economic valuation of bay resources (RES-7).
- Improve access to monitoring and research data, and track *GBP* implementation (ACS-2, ACS-3).

Section 4.2: Federal Fiscal 2025 Expected Outcomes

- Improve knowledge of ecosystem health indicators in Galveston Bay through updating public data and reports.
- Conserve, restore, and/or enhance important coastal habitats.
- Provide public access, engagement, and recreation opportunities to coastal communities.
- Establish a showcase for nature-based stormwater infrastructure (NbSI) to demonstrate examples of coastal resiliency for the communities of the lower Galveston Bay watershed.
- Increase coordination of environmental education efforts in communities of the lower Galveston Bay watershed.

Section 4.3: Federal Fiscal 2025 Expected Outputs

- Conserve, restore, and/or enhance 1,445 acres of habitat.
- Repair or replace 25 OSSFs.
- Continue hosting trash cleanups to decrease the amount of trash and plastic pollution in Houston waterways.
- Continue educating and engaging students, teachers, and City of Houston communities to mitigate trash and plastic pollution problems.
- Continue an assessment of Ocean and Coastal Acidification (OCA) in Galveston Bay.
- Continue developing accessible demonstrations of NbSI that support coastal resiliency and educate the community.
- Continue implementing Back the Bay and communicating Back the Bay and other project messaging to the Galveston Bay watershed.
- Continue developing specific and targeted marketing that delivers conservation-based messaging for environmental concerns around the Galveston Bay watershed.

Section 4.4: Federal Fiscal 2025 Priorities and Objectives Implemented

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

TCEQ Goal, Objective, and Strategy

TCEQ Goal 1: Assessment, Planning, and Permitting

To protect public health and the environment by accurately assessing environmental conditions, by preventing or minimizing the level of contaminants released to the environment through regulation and permitting of facilities, individuals, or activities with potential to contribute to pollution levels.

Objective 1.1: Reduce Toxic Releases

Decrease the amount of toxic chemicals released into the environment via air, water, and waste pollutants in Texas by at least two percent as comparing the current Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) values to the previously reported TRI reporting year values and reduce air, water, and waste pollutants through assessing the environment.

- Outcome Measure 1.1 oc 10: Number of acres of habitat created, restored, and protected (through implementation of Estuary Action Plans).

Strategy 1.1.2: Water Resource-Assessment and Planning

Develop plans to ensure an adequate, affordable supply of clean water by monitoring and assessing water quality and availability.

- Output Measures 1.1.2 op 1: Number of surface water assessments.

Estuary Resilience Action Plan Adaptation Actions and Stressors

The [Galveston Bay Estuary Resilience Action Plan](#)⁶ (ERAP) is a stakeholder-driven report with the purpose of assessing a series of coastal resilience criteria against the goals, objectives, and actions in the *GBP, 2nd Edition*, and provide adaptation/ mitigation recommendations for implementers of the *GBP, 2nd Edition*. This report was developed in coordination with subject matter experts and members of the GBC and its subcommittees through a series of workshops with questions and discussion topics. The ERAP was formally approved by the EPA in July 2023.

Stakeholders identified and defined 11 estuary stressors affecting coastal resilience that Galveston Bay is facing now or will face in the future:

- Changes to Land Use and the Built Environment (infrastructure)
- Chronic Higher Tides/Nuisance Flooding
- Increase in Extreme Events (coastal flooding/storm surge)
- Increasing Inland Flooding (largely rain-based)
- Increasing Drought
- Ocean Acidification
- Population Increase
- Sea Level Rise and Subsidence
- Warmer Summers
- Warmer Waters
- Warmer Winters

Stakeholders also identified and defined eight adaptation actions that can be taken to improve coastal resilience in Galveston Bay Communities:

- Stakeholder Outreach: Education
- Stakeholder Outreach: Alerts/Risk
- Monitoring
- Implementation of Watershed-based Plans (WBPs)
- Preservation/Conservation/Restoration

⁶ <https://gbep.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/AS-494-EstuaryResilienceActionPlanFinal.pdf>

- Research
- Promote Water Conservation and Reuse
- Promote Native Habitat

Adaptation actions and associated stressors addressed are identified under individual project details for projects in [Section 6.2](#), [Section 7.2](#), and [Section 8.2](#).

GBEP Federal Fiscal 2025 IIJA Priorities Implemented

All projects funded through GBEP must implement the *GBP, 2nd Edition*. Additional criteria were selected, developed, and approved by the GBC and subcommittees for federal fiscal 2025.

Action Priorities:

- A-1: Habitat protection & enhancement, including adaptive management.
- A-2: Projects in support of management measures (e.g., NbSI, watershed and human health, water reuse and conservation) and watershed-based plans.
- A-3: Projects that support research and monitoring related to the plan priorities of Ensure Safe Human & Aquatic Life Use and Protect and Sustain Living Resources.

Support Priorities:

- S-1: Engaging Kindergarten-12th grade (K-12) students and/or adults in hands-on, place-based environmental education.
- S-2: Diversifying strategic partners with environmental and non-environmental community organizations working within targeted communities.
- S-3: Monitoring and research that produces environmental data applicable to future implementation and management decisions and made available to the public.

Priorities implemented are identified under individual project details for new projects in [Section 6.2](#).

Federal Priorities and Performance Measures

Federal Fiscal 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan Measures Implemented

The projects proposed for federal fiscal 2025 implement the objective of one goal identified in the fiscal 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan:

Goal 5: Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities.

- Objective 5.2: Protect and Restore Waterbodies and Watersheds.

As Objective 5.2 is the main goal of all NEPs, all projects outlined in the Federal Fiscal 2025 Work Plan focus on maintaining, restoring, and/or improving water quality through a variety of methods including, but not limited to, habitat restoration and enhancement, water quality implementation through NbSI projects, and tracking ecosystem health indicators and increasing access to monitoring and research information.

EPA Areas of Special Interest

The Federal Fiscal 2025-2028 CWA § 320 NEP Guidance further outlines areas of special interest developed by EPA's Office of Water, identified under individual project details for projects in [Section 6.2](#), [Section 7.2](#), and [Section 8.2](#). The following is a list of current areas of special interest:

- Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health
- Make Investments to Address Recurring Extreme Weather Events and Increase Resilience
- Engage All Communities
- Reduce Trash

Clean Water Act Benefits

CWA benefits used in the NEP Online Reporting Tool are identified under individual project details for projects in [Section 6.2](#), [Section 7.2](#), and [Section 8.2](#). CWA benefits include the following:

Coastal Resilience, Erosion Control, Flood Control, Improve or Protect Water Quality, Improve/Increase Educational or Recreational Opportunities, Increase or Protect Water Quantity, Protect or Preserve Open Space, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Birds, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Fish/Shellfish, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Other Wildlife, Restore Natural Hydrology.

NEP IIJA Priorities Implemented

All projects proposed for federal fiscal 2025 implement objectives of two goals identified in EPA's NEP IIJA Implementation Memo as priorities for NEP projects funded through IIJA.

- Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs.
- Leverage additional resources.

Section 5: Federal Fiscal 2025 Funding

This request is for funding in the amount of \$910,600. The match requirement has been waived for federal fiscal 2025. There are no full-time equivalents (FTE) for the IIJA grant. Tables 4 and 5 provide funding and budget details.

Table 4: Federal Fiscal 2025 Funding and FTE Summary

Program Element	Division	IIJA Funds	TCEQ Match	Total	FTEs
Federal Fiscal 2025 IIJA	Water Quality Planning	\$910,600	\$0	\$910,600	0
Total		\$910,600	\$0	\$910,600	0

Table 5: Federal Fiscal 2025 Budget Detail

Budget Detail - see also Federal Fiscal 2025 Projects	Amount (\$)
Salaries (includes Fringe and Indirect)	\$0
Travel	\$0
Capital	\$0
Supplies	\$0
Contracts	\$0
Other	\$910,600
Total	\$910,600

Project Schedule

The execution of the tasks associated with this work plan will occur over a three-year period, which is anticipated to begin September 1, 2025, and end August 31, 2028. The exact start date of the work plan and all due dates for deliverables are contingent upon the actual date the grant funds are awarded, and contracts are executed.

The projects outlined in this work plan were developed by the GBEP stakeholders. The Budget and Priorities Subcommittee selected projects through a consensus discussion on October 2, 2024, and the GBC approved the projects listed in this work plan at the October 16, 2024, quarterly meeting.

The project scopes of work will be submitted to the TCEQ Quality Assurance Officer to determine which projects in the work plan will require a QAPP. Under the authority granted by EPA to TCEQ to approve QAPPs for GBEP, GBEP staff and their project partners will develop QAPPs for projects determined by TCEQ and EPA to require QAPPs. QAPPs will be developed in accordance with EPA QAPP requirements, [EPA document IT/IM Directive Standard](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/quality_assurance_project_plan_standard.pdf)⁷.

Progress updates on projects will be provided through semiannual reports due August 30 and February 28.

⁷ https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/quality_assurance_project_plan_standard.pdf

Section 6: Federal Fiscal 2025 IIJA Projects

Section 6.1: Federal Fiscal 2025 IIJA Projects – Summary

Table 6: Federal Fiscal 2025 IIJA Projects

Project Name	Federal Fiscal Year	IIJA Funds	Status
1. State of the Bay, Fifth Edition	2025	\$359,184.00	New
2. Bayou Greenways Conservation Plan	2025	\$150,000.00	New
3. Jones Park Stormwater Renovation Project	2025	\$401,416.00	New
Funding Request Total		\$910,600.00	

Section 6.2: Federal Fiscal 2025 IIJA Projects – Detail

1. State of the Bay, Fifth Edition

Performing Party/Contractor: Houston Advanced Research Center/Geotechnology Research Institute (HARC/GTRI)

TCEQ Contract No.: 582-26-00095

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

CCMP Actions Implemented: All

ERAP Adaptation/Mitigation Actions Implemented: Stakeholder Outreach: Education, Monitoring. Stressors addressed:

- Changes to Land Use and the Built Environment (infrastructure)
- Chronic Higher Tides/Nuisance Flooding
- Increase in Extreme Events (coastal flooding/storm surge)
- Increasing Drought
- Increasing Inland Flooding (largely rain-based)
- Ocean Acidification
- Population Increase
- Sea Level Rise and Subsidence
- Warmer Summers
- Warmer Waters
- Warmer Winters

GBEP Federal Fiscal 2025 IIJA Priorities: A-3, S-3

Federal Priorities and Performance Measures

EPA “Powering the Great American Comeback” Pillars Implemented: The proposed project implements “Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American” by supporting tracking the status and trends of environmental and stressor indicators of Galveston Bay ecosystem health and expanding the dissemination of easy-to-access Galveston Bay monitoring and research.

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Engage All Communities.

CWA Benefits: Coastal Resilience, Improve/Increase Educational or Recreational Opportunities.

Funding Information

Federal Fiscal 2025 Budget: \$359,184.00

Total Project Budget: \$359,184.00

Federal Fiscal Year	IIJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
<i>2026 (planned)</i>			
2025	\$359,184.00		
2024			

2022-2023			
Total	\$359,184.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Funding Leveraged: TBD

Project Timeline

Milestones: State of the Bay, Fifth Edition Executive Summary anticipated May 2028.

Project Period: September 2025 – May 2028

Project Details

Status: New project.

Objective(s): The objective of this project is to produce the State of the Bay, Fifth Edition: Characterization of Priority Themes (State of the Bay, Fifth Edition) in the Galveston Bay Ecosystem to highlight Galveston Bay tools, data, findings, and reports that have been updated and/or produced since 2020.

Project Description: The State of the Bay Report has been the hallmark publication of GBEP since the first edition was published in 1994. In 2020, the State of the Bay, Fourth Edition, summarizing monitoring data, research findings, and management actions along with information describing historical resource use and modern social and economic features of the lower Galveston Bay watershed, was recreated and updated online at stateofgalvbay.org. All information is presented in the context of the *GBP, 2nd Edition*, and progress towards its implementation. The State of the Bay, Fifth Edition will incorporate information from GBEP's Regional Monitoring Database, Estuary Resilience Action Plan, and Habitat Mapping portal, along with data and monitoring information available through 2025. The State of the Bay, Fifth Edition will present an analysis of 2-3 key priority focus themes currently impacting the Galveston Bay ecosystem and its stakeholders, as selected by the stakeholder-led subcommittees.

Partners and Their Role(s): HARC/GTRI will perform the tasks necessary to develop and launch the State of the Bay, Fifth Edition. HARC/GTRI will consult with local stakeholders for input and feedback throughout the process.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

- Final QAPP due January 2026.
- State of the Bay, Fifth Edition Executive Summary due May 2028.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly Progress Reports (PRs) until contract expiration.
- Priority Themes Stakeholder Engagement Summary due December 2026.
- Final State of the Bay, Fifth Edition: Priority Focus Areas outline due December 2027.
- Final State of the Bay, Fifth Edition narrative due February 2028.
- Final State of the Bay, Fifth Edition website due May 2028.

Long-term Outcomes: Updated information and an improved understanding of the state of the lower Galveston Bay watershed.

2. Bayou Greenways Conservation Plan

Performing Party/Contractor: Houston Parks Board (HPB)

TCEQ Contract No.: 582-26-00043

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

CCMP Actions Implemented: NPS-1, HC-1, HC-2, HC-3, SC-1, SC-2, FWI-3, SPO-1, RES-6

ERAP Adaptation/Mitigation Actions Implemented: Stakeholder Outreach: Education, Implementation of WBPs, Preservation/Conservation/Restoration, Promote Water Conservation and Reuse, Promote Native Habitat. Stressors addressed:

- Changes to Land Use and the Built Environment (infrastructure)
- Increasing Drought
- Increasing Inland Flooding (largely rain-based)
- Warmer Summers
- Warmer Waters
- Warmer Winters

GBEP Federal Fiscal 2025 IIJA Priorities: A-1, A-2, S-3

Federal Priorities and Performance Measures

EPA “Powering the Great American Comeback” Pillars Implemented: The proposed project implements “Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American” by developing and implementing local WBPs with local partners and stakeholders; restoring habitat form and function where they have been lost or degraded; supporting stewardship programs and volunteer opportunities for stakeholders; and evaluating the effectiveness of BMPs to address NPS and PS pollutants and improve water quality.

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health, Make Investments to Address Recurring Extreme Weather Events and Increase Resilience, Engage All Communities.

CWA Benefits: Coastal Resilience, Erosion Control, Flood Control, Improve or Protect Water Quality, Improve/Increase Educational or Recreational Opportunities, Increase or Protect Water Quantity, Protect or Preserve Open Space, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Birds, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Other Wildlife, Restore Natural Hydrology.

Funding Information

Federal Fiscal 2025 Budget: \$150,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$150,000.00

Federal Fiscal Year	IIJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
2026 (planned)			
2025	\$150,000.00		
2024			
2022-2023			
Total	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Funding Leveraged: TBD. In-kind funds will be leveraged through HPB staff support.

Project Timeline

Milestones: Final Report anticipated August 2028.

Project Period: September 2025 – August 2028

Project Details

Status: New project.

Objective(s): Support landscape-level planning and implementation of conservation within the Bayou Greenways project area in the City of Houston, Texas.

Project Description: Through this project HPB will develop a conservation plan for the Bayou Greenways system that will provide guidance for conservation site restoration and prioritization in the City of Houston, Texas. This plan will build upon the internal mapping process (in-kind), and reference completed internal documents such as BMP guidance documents and HPB’s Integrated Pest [Management Plan](https://houstonparksboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Prairie-BMP_FINAL-20230707.pdf)⁸ to provide a final map of potential conservation sites for restoration. These maps will provide the basis for the community stakeholder input and help in the final ranking of all

⁸ https://houstonparksboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Prairie-BMP_FINAL-20230707.pdf

sites. HPB will produce the final Bayou Greenways Conservation Plan reflecting both the internal evaluation process and the external stakeholder process.

Partners and Their Role(s): HPB will engage with partners to provide historical, programmatic, and technical review during this project, and to assist with implementation of the comprehensive plan. Partners may include: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD), Harris County Flood Control District, GBF, and Houston Audubon.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

- Final Report due August 2028.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly PRs until contract expiration.
- Stakeholder meeting minutes, sign-in sheets, and handouts due 14 days following the meetings.
- Bayou Greenways Conservation Plan due July 2028.

Long-term Outcomes: Improved management of conservation and restoration opportunities within the City of Houston, Texas.

3. Jones Park Stormwater Renovation Project

Performing Party/Contractor: Vision Galveston

TCEQ Contract No.: 582-26-00066

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

CCMP Actions Implemented: NPS-2, NPS-3, NPS-4, PHA-2, HC-3, SC-1, SPO-1, SPO-2, SPO-4, PEA-1, PEA-2, PEA-3, RES-6, RES-7, ACS-2

ERAP Adaptation/Mitigation Actions Implemented: Stakeholder Outreach: Education, Monitoring, Implementation of WBPs, Preservation/Conservation/Restoration, Promote Native Habitat. Stressors addressed:

- Changes to Land Use and the Built Environment (infrastructure)
- Chronic Higher Tides/Nuisance Flooding
- Increase in Extreme Events (coastal flooding/storm surge)
- Increasing Drought
- Increasing Inland Flooding (largely rain-based)
- Sea Level Rise and Subsidence
- Warmer Summers
- Warmer Waters
- Warmer Winters

GBEP Federal Fiscal 2025 IJA Priorities: A-1, A-2, A-3, S-1, S-2, S-3

Federal Priorities and Performance Measures

EPA “Powering the Great American Comeback” Pillars Implemented: The proposed project implements “Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American” by developing and supporting NPS education and outreach campaigns; enhancing existing habitats to increase overall function and productivity; supporting stewardship programs and volunteer opportunities for stakeholders; ensuring local governments are knowledgeable about key estuary issues, common interests, and new information as it becomes available; and evaluating the effectiveness of BMPs to address NPS and PS pollutants and improve water quality.

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health, Make Investments to Address Recurring Extreme Weather Events and Increase Resilience, Engage All Communities.

CWA Benefits: Coastal Resilience, Flood Control, Improve or Protect Water Quality, Improve/Increase Educational or Recreational Opportunities, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Birds, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Other Wildlife.

Funding Information

Federal Fiscal 2025 Budget: \$401,416.00

Total Project Budget: \$401,416.00

Federal Fiscal Year	IIJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
<i>2026 (planned)</i>			
2025	\$401,416.00		\$226,250.00
2024			
2022-2023			
Total	\$401,416.00	\$0.00	\$226,250.00

Funding Leveraged: \$226,250 private cash and in-kind secured. An additional \$10,279,165 has been applied for through several federal, state, and nongovernmental entities.

Project Timeline

Milestones: Final Report anticipated May 2028.

Project Period: September 2025 – May 2028

Project Details

Status: New project.

Objective(s): To install and evaluate effectiveness of NbSI in urban parkland in Galveston, Texas.

Project Description: Through this project, Vision Galveston will install NbSI to alleviate flooding, tree damage, and equipment deterioration, and enhance usability at Jones Park, a neighborhood park in Galveston, Texas. The project will include the removal of any existing equipment followed by construction of the stormwater system. Bioswales will include underground stormwater detention and irrigation connecting to the City of Galveston's drainage system. Native vegetation will be planted by the community and landscaped, and signage will be installed to provide interpretive information about the low-impact system. HARC/GTRI as a subgrantee will assess the effectiveness of the NbSI and monetary value provided by the nature-based solutions following the completion of their construction.

The project also includes a robust educational component, provided in-kind by Vision Galveston, which will equip formal and informal educators in the Galveston Bay region with small three-dimensional printed models that demonstrate how bioswales work. These models will be used to educate students about the benefits of NbSI. Additionally, workshops will be conducted for educators and the community to provide information on the benefits of nature-based solutions and how to effectively use the models in classes.

Partners and Their Role(s): The main partners in this project are Vision Galveston and the City of Galveston. The park is owned by the City of Galveston, which has collaborated closely with Vision Galveston on public engagement and design for the new park, completed by Asakura Robinson. HARC/GTRI will help assess the effectiveness and monetary value provided by the nature-based solutions following the completion of their construction. Vision Galveston will collaborate with other local organizations, such as Galveston Island Tree Conservancy, Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council, Sea Grant, and others, to provide a variety of events to engage different age groups and demographics, and work with collaborators at Texas A&M University to use cell-phone data to assess park attendance and will organize volunteers to survey park attendees to confirm attendance estimates, demographic information, and feedback.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

- Final QAPP due January 2026.

- Final Report due May 2028.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly PRs until contract expiration.
- Engineering and Design Subcontract due August 2026.
- Construction Contract due August 2027.
- Community engagement planting events material due December 2027.
- Construction Task Report due March 2028.
- Assessment and Evaluation Task Report due March 2028.

Long-term Outcomes: Improved stormwater abatement and recreational opportunities at Jones Park in Galveston, Texas.

Section 6.3: Federal Fiscal 2025 Grant Budget Spreadsheets**Table 7: Federal Fiscal 2025 Grant Budget by Category – Summary**

Federal Fiscal 2025 Grant Budget Totals	GOAL 5.2/010102 GBEP-IIJA Federal Fiscal 2025 (State Fiscal 2026)	Total Costs
Project Number	96141	96141
01-Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00
02-Contracts	\$0.00	\$0.00
03-Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00
04-Other	\$910,600.00	\$910,600.00
05-Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
06-Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
07-Construction	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Direct Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fringe (35.49%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Indirect (35.77%)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fiscal 2026 Grant Total	\$910,600.00	\$910,600.00

Table 8: Federal Fiscal 2025 Grant Budget by Category – Detail

Federal Fiscal 2025 GBEP Budget Summary by Grant Budget Category	Amount
01-Salaries	
No Salary Costs	\$0.00
02-Contracts	
No Contract Costs	\$0.00
03-Travel	
No Travel Costs	\$0.00
04-Other	
1. State of the Bay, Fifth Edition	\$359,184.00
2. Bayou Greenways Conservation Plan	\$150,000.00
3. Jones Park Stormwater Renovation Project	\$401,416.00
05-Supplies	
No Supply Costs	\$0.00
06-Equipment	
No Equipment Costs	\$0.00
07-Construction	
No Construction Costs	\$0.00
Fringe and Indirect	
No Fringe Costs	\$0.00
No Indirect Costs	\$0.00
Fiscal 2026 Grant Total	\$910,600.00

Section 7: Ongoing IIJA Projects

Section 7.1: Ongoing IIJA Projects – Summary

Red text indicates changes since Federal Fiscal 2024 Work Plan submission. Strikethrough text indicates removal of an element from the project.

Table 9: Ongoing IIJA Projects

Project Name	TCEQ Contract No.	Federal Fiscal Year	IIJA Grant No. 4T-02F61501	IIJA Grant No. 4T-02F24301	TCEQ State Funds	Total	Status
4. Evaluating Galveston Bay's Resilience to Ocean and Coastal Acidification	25-00040	2024	\$278,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$278,800.00	Ongoing
5. Herman Brown Park Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement Project- Phase I	25-00053	2024	\$295,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$295,000.00	Ongoing
6. Resiliency Education and Infrastructure	25-00058	2024	\$336,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$336,000.00	Ongoing
7. Salt Bayou Acquisition and Restoration Project	24-50138	2022-2023	\$0.00	\$390,000.00	\$0.00	\$390,000.00	Ongoing
8. Repair and Replacement of Failing On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) for Homeowners	24-50153	2022-2023	\$0.00	\$365,000.00	\$0.00	\$365,000.00	Ongoing
9. Middle Armand Bayou Protection Project	24-50157	2022-2023	\$0.00	\$390,000.00	\$0.00	\$390,000.00	Ongoing
10. Coastal Savanna and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project	24-50166	2022-2023	\$0.00	\$140,000.00	\$0.00	\$140,000.00	Ongoing
11. Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASH) in Houston's Bayous and Beyond	24-50291	2022-2023	\$0.00	\$353,597.00	\$0.00	\$353,597.00	Ongoing
12. UHCL Community Outreach	25-00101	2022-2023	\$0.00	\$125,000.00	\$21,655.00	\$146,655.00	Ongoing
<i>Completed Projects⁹</i>	N/A	N/A	\$0.00	\$56,000.00	\$0.00	\$56,000.00	<i>Complete</i>
<i>Unallocated Funding</i>	N/A	N/A	\$0.00	\$3.00	\$0.00	\$3.00	N/A
Total Funds			\$909,800.00	\$1,819,600.00	\$21,655.00	\$2,751,055.00	

⁹ IIJA projects completed and closed out prior to Federal Fiscal 2024 Work Plan Submission are not reported on in the Federal Fiscal 2025 Work Plan

Section 7.2: Ongoing IJA Projects – Detail

Red text indicates changes since Federal Fiscal 2024 Work Plan submission. Strikethrough text indicates removal of an element from the project.

4. Evaluating Galveston Bay’s Resilience to Ocean and Coastal Acidification

Performing Party/Contractor: HARC/GTRI

TCEQ Contract No.: 582-25-00040

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

CCMP Actions Implemented: SC-1, SPO-2, SPO-3, RES-2, RES-3, RES-8, ACS-1, ACS-2

ERAP Adaptation/Mitigation Actions Implemented: Monitoring, Research. Stressors addressed:

- Ocean Acidification
- Warmer Summers
- Warmer Waters
- Warmer Winters

Federal Priorities and Performance Measures

EPA “Powering the Great American Comeback” Pillars Implemented: The project implements Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American by supporting efforts to sustain and restore native species populations; supporting and promoting events that facilitate stakeholder and partner involvement; conducting physical and geochemical stressor monitoring and research; supporting tracking the status and trends of environmental and stressor indicators of Galveston Bay ecosystem health; and expanding the dissemination of easy-to-access Galveston Bay monitoring and research.

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Make Investments to Address Recurring Extreme Weather Events and Increase Resilience.

CWA Benefits: Coastal Resilience, Improve or Protect Water Quality, Improve/Increase Educational or Recreational Opportunities, Increase or Protect Water Quantity.

Funding Information

Total Project Budget: \$278,800.00

Federal Fiscal Year	IJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
2026 (planned)			
2025			
2024	\$278,800.00		
2022-2023			
Total	\$278,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Funding Leveraged: TBD

Project Timeline

Milestones: Final Story Map anticipated May 2027.

Project Period: September 2024 – May 2027

Project Details

Status: Ongoing project. Contract was executed on September 19, 2024. Amendment No. 1 to modify the general terms and conditions was executed on January 31, 2025. The Draft QAPP was submitted March 24, 2025, and is under review. HARC/GTRI is currently coordinating with United States Geological Survey (USGS) as the subcontractor to plan the field operations.

Objective(s): The objective of this project is to initiate a novel long-term, continuous monitoring program to establish baseline conditions and analyze estuary stressor scenarios for carbonate systems to develop a framework for OCA in Galveston Bay.

Project Description: This project will provide baseline assessments of OCA in Galveston Bay that will allow for comparisons of carbonate system variability and effects on shellfish communities in Galveston Bay estuaries. Ocean acidification is driven by elevated atmospheric carbon dioxide. OCA is primarily driven by regional factors such as inflows [high carbon dioxide, low potential of hydrogen (pH)] and eutrophication and is exacerbated by ocean acidification. OCA is a threat to our oceans and estuaries and to life forms that rely on carbonate-based shells and skeletons, such as oysters, shrimp, and crab. Although there is continuous monitoring of some variables that may influence shellfish health in Galveston Bay such as water temperature, salinity, freshwater inflows, and water levels, there is no continuous monitoring of carbonate system parameters such as pH, dissolved oxygen, or the partial pressure of carbon dioxide.

Partners and Their Role(s): HARC/GTRI will provide project management and summarize data collected in the final project story map. USGS will collect continuous and discrete OCA data. GBF will help collaborate with stakeholders for site selection and disseminating project results.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

- Final QAPP due January 2026.
- Final Story Map due May 2027.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly PRs until contract expiration.
- Data Monitoring Task Report due April 2027.
- Stakeholder Collaboration Task Report due April 2027.
- Data Analysis and Communication Task Report due April 2027.

Long-term Outcomes: To provide baseline conditions regarding OCA in Galveston Bay that will guide implementation of OCA planning to strengthen Galveston Bay's resiliency in collaboration with stakeholders and coastal managers in vulnerable fishing communities.

5. Herman Brown Park Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement Project- Phase I

Performing Party/Contractor: HPARD

TCEQ Contract No.: 582-25-00053

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

CCMP Actions Implemented: HC-3, SC-1, SC-2, SPO-1, PEA-3

ERAP Adaptation/Mitigation Actions Implemented: Stakeholder Outreach: Education, Preservation/Conservation/Restoration, Promote Native Habitat. Stressors addressed:

- Changes to Land Use and the Built Environment (infrastructure)
- Increase in Extreme Events (coastal flooding/storm surge)
- Increasing Drought
- Increasing Inland Flooding (largely rain-based)
- Population Increase
- Warmer Summers
- Warmer Waters
- Warmer Winters

Federal Priorities and Performance Measures

EPA "Powering the Great American Comeback" Pillars Implemented: The project implements Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American by enhancing existing habitats to increase overall function and productivity; supporting efforts to sustain and restore native species populations; supporting stewardship programs and volunteer opportunities for stakeholders; and supporting K-12 Galveston Bay estuary-related curricular materials for regional use. The project also implements Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership by collaborating with local government (City of Houston) to improve habitat and water quality in the Galveston Bay watershed.

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health, Make Investments to Address Recurring Extreme Weather Events and Increase Resilience, Engage All Communities, Reduce Trash.

CWA Benefits: Coastal Resilience, Erosion Control, Flood Control, Improve or Protect Water Quality, Improve/Increase Educational or Recreational Opportunities, Protect or Preserve Open Space, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Birds, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Other Wildlife.

Funding Information

Total Project Budget: \$295,000.00

Federal Fiscal Year	IIJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
2026 (planned)			
2025			
2024	\$295,000.00		
2022-2023			
Total	\$295,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Funding Leveraged: TBD. In-kind services from HPARD, including staff time for grant and funds management, field work, hosting volunteer events, hiring and overseeing contractors, and habitat assessments, will be compiled at the end of the project.

Project Timeline

Milestones: Final Report anticipated May 2027.

Project Period: November 2024 – May 2027

Project Details

Status: Ongoing project. Contract was executed on November 18, 2024. HPARD is working with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to secure interns for the project. HPARD is also developing the request for bids for habitat management subcontractors.

Objective(s): The objective of this project is to restore 230 acres of riparian forest habitat within Herman Brown Park, which is adjacent to Hunting Bayou, and to develop a habitat management plan for Herman Brown Park to guide future restoration and management at the site.

Project Description: Herman Brown Park contains 670 acres of riparian forest habitat along Hunting Bayou and is a nature preserve protected from development by city ordinance. Phase 1 of this project will enhance 230 acres of forested habitat located on the southern side of the park.

The habitat enhancement will include identifying and removing invasive species and planting native species throughout the management area. The restoration efforts will support the local ecosystem by restoring historical plant communities throughout the site and along Hunting Bayou. These riparian forests help to improve water quality by reducing NPS pollution, decrease erosion, and help to mitigate flooding. Additionally, HPARD will work with a subcontractor to create a Habitat Management Plan to guide HPARD in future maintenance of the park.

Partners and Their Role(s): HPARD will provide project management and oversight. SCA will provide interns for restoration and education that will work directly with HPARD. A four-week SCA summer crew will be recruited from Furr High School to assist with invasive species removal. The Bayou Preservation Association will provide training to certify interns and crews as Certified Interpretive Guides certified by the National Association of Interpretation.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

- Final Report due May 2027.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly PRs until contract expiration.
- ~~Project Work Plan due 30 days following contract execution.~~

- Native species planting subaward agreement due 10 days following subaward execution.
- Native species removal subcontractor agreement due 10 days following subcontract execution.
- Community education subaward agreement due 10 days following subaward execution.
- Summary of educational activities conducted by interns due 30 days following the internships.
- Habitat Management Plan due 45 days prior to contract expiration.

Long-term Outcomes: The restoration of the entirety of Herman Brown Park, totaling 670 acres. This restoration will be guided by the Habitat Management Plan developed during Phase I of the project.

6. Resiliency Education and Infrastructure

Performing Party/Contractor: GBF

TCEQ Contract No.: 582-25-00058

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

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

ERAP Adaptation/Mitigation Actions Implemented: Stakeholder Outreach: Education, Implementation of WBPs, Preservation/Conservation/Restoration, Promote Water Conservation and Reuse, Promote Native Habitat. Stressors addressed:

- Changes to Land Use and the Built Environment (infrastructure)
- Chronic Higher Tides/Nuisance Flooding
- Increase in Extreme Events (coastal flooding/storm surge)
- Increasing Drought
- Increasing Inland Flooding (largely rain-based)
- Population Increase
- Sea Level Rise and Subsidence
- Warmer Summers
- Warmer Waters
- Warmer Winters

Federal Priorities and Performance Measures

EPA “Powering the Great American Comeback” Pillars Implemented: The project implements Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American by developing and supporting NPS education and outreach campaigns; promoting public health through improved regional contact recreation risk awareness; enhancing existing habitats to increase overall function and productivity; supporting outreach initiatives that promote water conservation and educate the public on the value and importance of freshwater inflows; supporting stewardship programs and volunteer opportunities for stakeholders; ensuring local governments are knowledgeable about key estuary issues, common interests, and new information as it becomes available; and supporting K-12 Galveston Bay estuary-related curricular materials for regional use.

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health, Make Investments to Address Recurring Extreme Weather Events and Increase Resilience, Engage All Communities.

CWA Benefits: Coastal Resilience, Improve or Protect Water Quality, Improve/Increase Educational or Recreational Opportunities, Increase or Protect Water Quantity, Protect or Preserve Open Space, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Birds, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Other Wildlife.

Funding Information

Total Project Budget: \$336,000.00

Federal Fiscal Year	IIJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
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2026 (planned)			
2025			
2024	\$336,000.00		
2022-2023			
Total	\$336,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Funding Leveraged: TBD. GBF has submitted proposals for \$45,000 from nongovernmental organizations.

Project Timeline

Milestones: Final Report anticipated August 2026.

Project Period: September 2024 – August 2026

Project Details

Status: Ongoing project. Contract was executed on September 17, 2024. The NbSI and BMPs Plan was submitted to the TCEQ Project Manager on December 13, 2024, and approved on December 19, 2024. The request for bids for the water well and pump installation was submitted on March 13, 2025, along with the executed subcontract for the gutter system. Habitat management of the prairie is ongoing at the site, with two herbicide treatments to remove weeds and help prepare the prairie restoration site.

Objective(s): The objective of this project is to establish the Trinity Bay Discovery Center (TBDC) as a demonstration site for NbSI and BMPs to promote coastal resiliency and restore native habitat

Project Description: This project will create a showcase for NbSI and BMPs, and coastal resiliency by providing functional and applicable examples of water conservation and reuse, and habitat protection and enhancements. The TBDC demonstration site will host a series of environmental education events for the Channelview community through K-12 programming, GBF-hosted teacher development workshops, science nights, and other community events. The free teacher professional development workshop is targeted at teachers and administrators from Channelview Independent School District (ISD) and advertised via a flyer created by GBF and distributed to Channelview ISD teachers to recruit participants. The workshop will be field based, so no materials are being provided to the teachers, though any materials distributed will comply with the terms and conditions of TCEQ agreement No. 582-25-00058 and EPA Cooperative Agreement 4T-02F61501 and [EPA General Terms and Conditions effective October 1, 2023 or later](https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-general-terms-and-conditions-effective-october-1-2023-or-later)¹⁰. The activities and experiences covered in the workshop are intended to provide resources for the teachers and administrators to incorporate in their schools and classrooms. Details on the proceedings will be provided in quarterly PRs and the Final Report.

Partners and Their Role(s): GBF will provide the demonstration site at TBDC and oversee all events and activities on the property and will provide all the environmental education for all audiences. Channelview Independent School District administrators, teachers, and support staff will dedicate classroom and field trip time for participating K-12 students and provide participating teachers with a \$500 stipend to be used to facilitate learning in their classrooms. The Citizens Environmental Literacy Foundation will assist with teacher professional development by providing activities and lessons for project-based learning.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

- Final Report due August 2026.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly PRs until contract expiration.
- Request for Bids/Proposals and Notice of awards due 10 days following notice.
- Executed subcontracts due 10 days following subcontract execution.

¹⁰ <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-general-terms-and-conditions-effective-october-1-2023-or-later>

- Event and workshop promotion and lesson materials due 14 days prior to public dissemination.

Long-term Outcomes: To establish a showcase for NbSI and BMPs at an environmental education center to demonstrate examples of coastal resiliency for the community, teachers, and students.

7. Salt Bayou Acquisition and Restoration Project

Performing Party/Contractor: GBF

TCEQ Contract No.: 582-24-50138

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

CCMP Actions Implemented: HC-1, HC-2, HC-3, SC-1, SC-2

ERAP Adaptation/Mitigation Actions Implemented: Stakeholder Outreach: Education, Preservation/Conservation/Restoration, Promote Native Habitat. Stressors addressed:

- Changes to Land Use and the Built Environment (infrastructure)
- Chronic Higher Tides/Nuisance Flooding
- Increase in Extreme Events (coastal flooding/storm surge)
- Increasing Drought
- Increasing Inland Flooding (largely rain-based)
- Population Increase
- Sea Level Rise and Subsidence
- Warmer Summers
- Warmer Waters
- Warmer Winters

Federal Priorities and Performance Measures

EPA “Powering the Great American Comeback” Pillars Implemented: The project implements Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American by acquiring land or development rights to preserve habitats vital to the health of the Galveston Bay watershed; enhancing existing habitats to increase overall function and productivity; supporting efforts to sustain and restore native species populations; and reducing invasive species.

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Make Investments to Address Recurring Extreme Weather Events and Increase Resilience, Engage All Communities.

CWA Benefits: Coastal Resilience, Improve or Protect Water Quality, Improve/Increase Educational or Recreational Opportunities, Protect or Preserve Open Space, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Birds, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Other Wildlife.

Funding Information

Total Project Budget: \$390,000.00

Federal Fiscal Year	IIJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
2026 (planned)			
2025			
2024			
2022-2023	\$390,000.00		
Total	\$390,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Funding Leveraged: TBD

Project Timeline

Milestones: Final Report anticipated May 2026.

Project Period: May 2024 – May 2026

Project Details

Status: Ongoing project. Contract was executed on May 6, 2024. Amendment No. 1 to correct special terms and conditions was executed on August 8, 2024. The Project Work Plan was approved on August 7, 2024. All due diligence documents were received and approved, and the 23-acre property closed on December 20, 2024. The reimbursement request was submitted to TCEQ on January 28, 2025.

Objective(s): The objective of this project is the acquisition and restoration of 25 acres of remnant coastal prairie and create public access opportunities for the community of San Leon, Texas.

Project Description: The Salt Bayou Acquisition and Restoration Project is focused on preserving approximately 25 acres (pending final survey) of coastal habitat through fee-simple acquisition in community of San Leon, (Galveston County), Texas. The goals of this project are to acquire the targeted tract, conduct treatment of invasive plant species, and create public access opportunities which may include a natural-surface walking path and/or interpretive signage. The acquisition will kickstart the project, which is a multi-faceted initiative utilizing land conservation, public access, and nature-based solutions to create a natural preserve to provide wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

Partners and Their Role(s): GBF will provide project management and oversight to coordinate the acquisition and restoration of the tract in partnership with Galveston County and San Leon MUD.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

- Final Report due May 2026.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly PRs until contract expiration.
- Project Work Plan due 30 days following contract execution.
- Due diligence documents (Category 1A Land Survey, Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA), Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions (UASFLA) Appraisal, Owner's Policy of Title Insurance, and Final Deed) due 10 days following receipt of documents.
- Restoration Subcontractor Agreements due 10 days following subcontract execution.

Long-term Outcomes: The permanent conservation of coastal habitat and preservation of important hydrologic and water quality functions in lower Galveston Bay, continued restoration of the habitat, and incorporation of public access and recreation opportunities.

8. Repair and Replacement of Failing On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) for Homeowners

Performing Party/Contractor: Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)

TCEQ Contract No.: 582-24-50153

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

CCMP Actions Implemented: NPS-1, NPS-2, NPS-3, NPS-4, PS-2, PHA-3, SPO-2, SPO-4, PEA-1, PEA-2, PEA-3

ERAP Adaptation/Mitigation Actions Implemented: Implementation of WBPs. Stressors addressed:

- Increase in Extreme Events (coastal flooding/storm surge)
- Increasing Inland Flooding (largely rain-based)
- Population Increase
- Sea Level Rise and Subsidence

Federal Priorities and Performance Measures

EPA "Powering the Great American Comeback" Pillars Implemented: The project implements Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American by implementing WBPs with local partners and stakeholders; supporting NPS education and outreach campaigns; implementing NPS BMP projects; hosting NPS events to enhance technical understanding and expand the use of BMPs; maintaining the capacity and integrity of sanitary sewer systems across the region to encourage compliance;

improving regional contact recreation safety by implementing WBPs; and ensuring local governments are knowledgeable about key estuary issues, common interests, and new information as it becomes available. The project also implements Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership by collaborating with the local council of governments (H-GAC) to improve water quality in the Galveston Bay watershed.

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health, Engage All Communities.

CWA Benefits: Improve or Protect Water Quality, Improve/Increase Educational or Recreational Opportunities.

Funding Information

Total Project Budget: \$365,000.00

Federal Fiscal Year	IIJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
2026 (planned)			
2025			
2024			
2022-2023	\$365,000.00		
Total	\$365,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Funding Leveraged: TBD. Up to \$75,000 in in-kind services from project partners, representing their staff time, use of venues and resources, and similar ancillary costs is expected by the end of the project.

Project Timeline

Milestones: Final Report anticipated August 2026.

Project Period: May 2024 – August 2026

Project Details

Status: Ongoing project. Contract was executed on May 29, 2024. The Final QAPP was approved on December 2, 2024 (EPA Quality Assurance Tracking System (Q-TRAK) No. 25-150). H-GAC is currently analyzing geographic and economic data as it relates to known water quality issues and will use this data to identify areas with potentially failing OSSFs.

Objective(s): The objective of this project is to repair and replace **at least 25** decentralized OSSFs for qualifying homeowners located in resource-limited communities identified in H-GAC's CWA § 320-funded project, "Water Quality Outreach Implementation for Vulnerable Rural Populations."

Project Description: Through this project, H-GAC will:

- Identify target communities and qualifying recipients for OSSF repair or replacement,
- Coordinate with authorized agents and local officials,
- Coordinate with and implement WBPs,
- Repair or replace failing OSSFs, and
- Conduct homeowner education and outreach on the operation and maintenance of OSSFs.

As part of the "Water Quality Outreach Implementation for Vulnerable Rural Populations" project, H-GAC will use interactive tools and regional water quality data to identify resource-limited communities. A stakeholder group will then review and provide input on final populations identified.

Failing OSSFs can allow inadequately treated wastewater to enter surface groundwater resulting in numerous water quality and human health concerns. The repair or replacement of failing OSSFs results in an improved effluent quality and a reduction in the amount of nutrients entering the environment.

Partners and Their Role(s): H-GAC will lead this project through their existing Homeowner Wastewater Assistance Program. This program is funded by a TCEQ Supplemental Environmental Project, the Harris County District Attorney's Office, and industrial partners in Brazoria County.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

- Final QAPP due December 2024.
- Final Report due August 2026.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly PRs until contract expiration.
- List of identified communities eligible for OSSF repair or replacement projects due with PRs.
- OSSF repair and/or replacement executed contracts due 14 days following execution.
- Homeowner OSSF operation and maintenance course materials, attendance lists, and summaries due 14 days following workshops.

Long-term Outcomes: To improve the water quality through the combination of repair and replacement of failing OSSF systems and educating homeowners about proper operation and maintenance of their systems. A reliance on failing OSSFs in rural communities that lack access to municipal sewer services leaves these communities at risk for human health and water quality issues. The repair and replacement of OSSFs and targeted outreach in these communities will help to address these concerns.

9. Middle Armand Bayou Protection Project

Performing Party/Contractor: ABNC

TCEQ Contract No.: 582-24-50157

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

CCMP Actions Implemented: HC-1, SC-1

ERAP Adaptation/Mitigation Actions Implemented: Preservation/Conservation/Restoration, Promote Native Habitat. Stressors addressed:

- Changes to Land Use and the Built Environment (infrastructure)
- Increase in Extreme Events (coastal flooding/storm surge)
- Increasing Drought
- Increasing Inland Flooding (largely rain-based)
- Population Increase
- Sea Level Rise and Subsidence
- Warmer Summers
- Warmer Waters
- Warmer Winters

Federal Priorities and Performance Measures

EPA "Powering the Great American Comeback" Pillars Implemented: The project implements Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American by acquiring land or development rights to preserve habitats vital to the health of the Galveston Bay watershed and supporting efforts to sustain and restore native species populations.

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Make Investments to Address Recurring Extreme Weather Events and Increase Resilience, Engage All Communities.

CWA Benefits: Coastal Resilience, Improve or Protect Water Quality, Improve/Increase Educational or Recreational Opportunities, Protect or Preserve Open Space, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Birds, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Other Wildlife.

Funding Information

Total Project Budget: \$390,000.00

Federal Fiscal Year	IIJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
2026 (planned)			
2025			
2024			\$11,380,000.00
2022-2023	\$390,000.00		
Total	\$390,000.00	\$0.00	\$11,380,000.00

Funding Leveraged: \$11,380,000, including contributions from GOMESA through Harris County, Harris County Flood Control District Bonds, RESTORE Act through TCEQ, and private foundations raised by ABNC.

Project Timeline

Milestones: Final Report anticipated May 2026.

Project Period: May 2024 – May 2026

Project Details

Status: Ongoing project. Contract was executed on May 24, 2024. The Project Work Plan was approved on July 18, 2024. All due diligence documents were received and approved, and ABNC in partnership with Harris County Precinct 2, closed on the 1,147-acre property on December 16, 2024, leveraging an additional \$11.38 million. The reimbursement request was submitted to TCEQ on January 27, 2025.

Objective(s): The objective of this project is the acquisition of approximately 1,065 acres of habitat along Armand Bayou north of the ABNC's 2,500 acre preserve.

Project Description: The Middle Armand Bayou Protection Project is focused on preserving approximately 1,065 acres (pending final survey) of coastal habitat through fee-simple acquisition in Harris County, Texas. The targeted tract contains habitats that are representative of the Texas Gulf Coast: wetland forest, coastal tall grass prairie, and the non-channelized estuarine Armand Bayou and its surrounding wetlands. The survival of these susceptible ecosystems is vital for the 370 species of wildlife that depend upon them, for nature-based recreational opportunities for the public, and for the range of ecosystem services they provide, including storm water retention, flood abatement, and water quality improvement.

Partners and Their Role(s): ABNC will provide project management and oversight to coordinate the acquisition of the tract in partnership with Harris County Flood Control District, who will administer other external sources of funding.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

- Final Report due May 2026.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly PRs until contract expiration.
- Project Work Plan due 30 days following contract execution.
- **Due diligence documents (Category 1A Land Survey, Phase I ESA, UASFLA Appraisal, Owner's Policy of Title Insurance, and Final Deed) due 10 days following receipt.**

Long-term Outcomes: The permanent conservation of coastal habitat and preservation of important hydrologic and water quality functions in lower Galveston Bay.

10. Coastal Savanna and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project

Performing Party/Contractor: HPARD

TCEQ Contract No.: 582-24-50166

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

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

ERAP Adaptation/Mitigation Actions Implemented: Stakeholder Outreach: Education, Preservation/Conservation/Restoration, Promote Native Habitat. Stressors addressed:

- Changes to Land Use and the Built Environment (infrastructure)
- Increase in Extreme Events (coastal flooding/storm surge)
- Increasing Drought
- Increasing Inland Flooding (largely rain-based)
- Population Increase
- Warmer Summers
- Warmer Waters
- Warmer Winters

Federal Priorities and Performance Measures

EPA “Powering the Great American Comeback” Pillars Implemented: The project implements Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American by implementing NPS BMP projects; enhancing existing habitats to increase overall function and productivity; supporting efforts to sustain and restore native species populations; and supporting stewardship programs and volunteer opportunities for stakeholders. The project also implements Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership by collaborating with local government (City of Houston) to improve habitat and water quality in the Galveston Bay watershed.

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Reduce Nutrient Pollution to Protect Water Quality and Public Health, Make Investments to Address Recurring Extreme Weather Events and Increase Resilience, Engage All Communities.

CWA Benefits: Coastal Resilience, Flood Control, Improve or Protect Water Quality, Improve/Increase Educational or Recreational Opportunities, Protect or Preserve Open Space, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Birds, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Other Wildlife.

Funding Information

Total Project Budget: \$140,000.00

Federal Fiscal Year	IIJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
2026 (planned)			
2025			
2024			\$67,400.00
2022-2023	\$140,000.00		
Total	\$140,000.00	\$0.00	\$67,400.00

Funding Leveraged: \$67,400 in-kind from HPARD personnel and supplies.

Project Timeline

Milestones: Final Report anticipated May 2026.

Project Period: April 2024 – May 2026

Project Details

Status: Ongoing project. Contract was executed on April 4, 2024. The Project Work Plan was approved on May 15, 2024. The vegetation inventory bid is complete. A Hydro ax contractor cleared trees and non-native vegetation at Furman Greenspace and E.R. and Ann Taylor Park in quarter one of fiscal 2025. In quarter two of fiscal 2025, HPARD rented equipment to remove mulch for E.R. and Ann Taylor Park to aid in the establishment of the prairie, seed with Coastal Prairie Mix seed, and plan a planting event for Furman Greenspace.

Objective(s): The objective of this project is the restoration of 45.5 acres of coastal prairie, riparian, wetland, and post-oak savanna habitat in Houston, Texas.

Project Description: The Coastal Savanna and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project will restore 24.5 acres of coastal prairie, wetland, and savanna habitat in E.R. and Ann Taylor Park and 21 acres of

riparian forest in Furman Greenspace in Harris County, Texas. HPARD's Natural Resources Management Program will restore four kinds of key habitats that have been lost throughout the Houston Region: riparian forest, post-oak savanna, prairie, and wetland ecosystems. The restoration projects will provide ecosystem and community resilience by restoring and enhancing vital ecosystems, increasing rainwater capture through infiltration, and trapping and filtering NPS pollutants as runoff from adjacent urban development. **Six** community and volunteer planting projects will allow citizens to be involved in the creation of these critically endangered ecosystems.

Partners and Their Role(s): HPARD will provide project management and oversight of management and volunteer activities.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

- Final Report due May 2026.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly PRs until contract expiration.
- Project Work Plan due 30 days following contract execution.
- **Habitat management subcontractor agreements due 10 days following subcontract execution.**
- **Volunteer event announcements, photos, and summaries due with PRs.**

Long-term Outcomes: The restoration of degraded habitats to improve the ecosystem health and tangent wildlife and recreation benefits to approximately 45 acres of habitat in Houston parks.

11. Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASh) in Houston's Bayous and Beyond

Performing Party/Contractor: ABC

TCEQ Contract No.: 582-24-50291

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

CCMP Actions Implemented: NPS-2, HC-3, SPO-1, SPO-2, SPO-3, PEA-1, PEA-2, PEA-3, RES-3, ACS-2

ERAP Adaptation/Mitigation Actions Implemented: Stakeholder Outreach: Education, Preservation/Conservation/Restoration, Promote Native Habitat. Stressors addressed:

- Changes to Land Use and the Built Environment (infrastructure)
- Increase in Extreme Events (coastal flooding/storm surge)
- Increasing Drought
- Increasing Inland Flooding (largely rain-based)
- Population Increase
- Sea Level Rise and Subsidence
- Warmer Summers
- Warmer Waters
- Warmer Winters

Federal Priorities and Performance Measures

EPA "Powering the Great American Comeback" Pillars Implemented: The project implements Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American by supporting NPS education and outreach campaigns; enhancing existing habitats to increase overall function and productivity; supporting stewardship programs and volunteer opportunities for stakeholders; promoting events that facilitate stakeholder and partner involvement; supporting programs in Galveston Bay to engage the public in a dialogue about key issues; supporting K-12 Galveston Bay estuary-related curricular materials for regional use; and expanding the dissemination of easy-to-access Galveston Bay monitoring and research.

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Engage All Communities, Reduce Trash.

CWA Benefits: Improve or Protect Water Quality, Improve/Increase Educational or Recreational Opportunities, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Birds, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Fish/Shellfish, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Other Wildlife.

Funding Information**Total Project Budget: \$353,597.00**

Federal Fiscal Year	IIJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
2026 (planned)			
2025			
2024			\$499,773.00
2022-2023	\$353,597.00		
Total	\$353,597.00	\$0.00	\$499,773.00

Funding Leveraged: \$499,773.00 federal funds from EPA Gulf of America Trash-Free Waters program.

Project Timeline

Milestones: Final Report anticipated August 2026.

Project Period: January 2024 – August 2026

Project Details

Status: Ongoing project. Contract was executed on January 23, 2024. ABC staff have conducted 13 small-scale trash cleanups since September 1, 2023. The first large-scale trash cleanup was conducted at Houston's Law Park II along Sims Bayou on October 26, 2024. The proposed education events timeline and trash cleanup timeline were submitted on April 30, 2024. The state fiscal 2024 and 2025 detailed spending plans were submitted on April 30, 2024, and February 10, 2025.

Objective(s): The objective of this project is to foster a sense of stewardship and community pride in City of Houston residents and decrease the amount of trash and plastic pollution in Houston waterways which in turn will decrease the amount of pollution in the greater Galveston Bay watershed.

Project Description: In conjunction with GBEP and partners, ABC's Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASh) program will target Texas Education Agency (TEA) Region 4 students, City of Houston communities, and the greater Houston-Galveston region to mitigate the trash and plastic pollution problems that potentially threaten human health and wildlife in the greater Galveston Bay watershed. Through community outreach, educational programming, and trash cleanups focused in the City of Houston with an emphasis on the areas surrounding Sims and Brays Bayous, the project's goal is to foster a sense of stewardship and community pride in City of Houston residents and decrease the amount of trash and plastic pollution in Houston waterways which in turn will decrease the amount of pollution in the greater Galveston Bay watershed.

The goal for the project is to remove approximately 3,750 pounds of trash from City of Houston bayous and waterways through at least 18 trash cleanups and a yearly large-scale trash cleanup in the communities along Sims and Brays bayous. ABC will also deliver at least 30 educational programs, with at least 50% engagement dedicated to [Title I schools](#)¹¹.

Partners and Their Role(s): ABC will coordinate with partners to identify locations for trash cleanups throughout the City of Houston and conduct the trash cleanups and education programs with schools, libraries, nature centers, and visitor centers.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

- Final Report due August 2026.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly PRs until contract expiration.
- ~~Project Work Plan due 30 days following contract execution.~~
- ~~Provide 10 educational programs per year to TEA Region 4 K-12 schools.~~

¹¹ <https://tea4avcastro.tea.state.tx.us/eGrants/24-25/25610101/precamlistlea.pdf>

- ~~Provide educational materials to eight city of Houston libraries, nature centers, and visitor centers due June 2024.~~
- ~~Conduct six trash cleanups per year.~~
- ~~Host one large-scale trash cleanup in communities along Sims and Brays Bayous per year.~~
- Detailed spending plans due annually, and as needed.
- Timeline of proposed trash cleanups due 60 days following contract execution.
- Small-scale trash cleanup information due 14 days prior to events.
- Large-scale trash cleanup information due 30 days prior to the events.
- Timeline of proposed educational activities and locations due 60 days following contract execution.
- Education program information due with PRs.

Long-term Outcomes: Through community outreach, educational programming, and trash cleanups focused on the City of Houston, the project's goal is to foster a sense of stewardship and community pride in Houston residents and decrease the amount of trash and plastic pollution in Houston waterways which in turn will decrease the amount of pollution in the Galveston Bay watershed.

12. UHCL Community Outreach

Performing Party/Contractor: UHCL

TCEQ Contract No.: 582-25-00101

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

CCMP Actions Implemented: SPO-1, SPO-2, SPO-3, SPO-4

ERAP Adaptation/Mitigation Actions Implemented: Stakeholder Outreach: Education, Stakeholder Outreach: Alerts/Risk, Monitoring, Implementation of WBPs, Preservation/Conservation/Restoration, Research, Promote Water Conservation and Reuse, Promote Native Habitat. Stressors addressed:

- Changes to Land Use and the Built Environment (infrastructure)
- Increase in Extreme Events (coastal flooding/storm surge)
- Increasing Drought
- Increasing Inland Flooding (largely rain-based)
- Population Increase
- Sea Level Rise and Subsidence
- Warmer Summers
- Warmer Waters
- Warmer Winters

Federal Priorities and Performance Measures

EPA "Powering the Great American Comeback" Pillars Implemented: The project implements Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American by supporting stewardship programs and volunteer opportunities for stakeholders; supporting and promoting events that facilitate stakeholder and partner involvement; supporting the Back the Bay campaign and other regional initiatives; and ensuring local governments are knowledgeable about key estuary issues, common interests, and new information as it becomes available. The project also implements Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership by collaborating with the local public university (UHCL) to preserve Galveston Bay through engaging with local communities.

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Engage All Communities.

CWA Benefits: Improve/Increase Educational or Recreational Opportunities.

Funding Information

Total Project Budget: \$146,655.00

Federal Fiscal Year	IIJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
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<i>2026 (planned)</i>			
2025	\$0.00		
2024			
2022-2023	\$125,000.00	\$21,655.00	
Total	\$125,000.00	\$21,655.00	\$0.00

Funding Leveraged: TBD

Project Timeline

Milestones: Final Report anticipated March 2026.

Project Period: October 2024 – March 2026

Status: Ongoing project. Contract was executed on September 13, 2024, with an effective date of October 1, 2024. To date, this project has produced three 30-second commercials shown on KPRC, the local NBC affiliate, and three interview segments aired on Houston Life, a daily afternoon talk show showcasing local news, events, and attractions.

Objective(s): The objective of this project is to use KPRC-TV's broadcasting and marketing to help spread awareness about Galveston Bay and the stakeholders that support the health and wellbeing of the ecosystem.

Project Description: In conjunction with GBEP, UHCL, and partners, KPRC-TV, will use the reach of their broadcast signal to communicate Back the Bay and other project messaging on a grand scale to the Houston Designated Market Area (DMA) and simultaneously communicate targeted messaging on behalf of GBEP stakeholders. As an environmental marketing partner, KPRC-TV will be able to provide extensive reach for messaging that benefits the entire DMA, while strategically building customized plans for the stakeholders. The created, customized media, utilizing TV as well as targeted digital assets, will educate and engage Houston and surrounding areas on the importance of protecting and sustaining living resources. Products will include:

- Houston Life segments (TV Campaign with 30 x 30 second commercials)
- Production of 30 second commercials used for TV and digital
- Banner ads and streaming commercials on Click2Houston.com

The seven key initiatives are as follows:

- The Ninth Addition to Coastal Heritage Preserve,
- Drought and Water Conservation Outreach Campaign,
- White Oak Bayou Riparian Restoration Project,
- Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASh) in Houston's Bayous and Beyond,
- Targeted Microplastics Monitoring in The Waters of Galveston Bay and Its Tributaries,
- Trash Bash®, and
- Tracking *Perkinsus Marinus* (Dermo) Infection in Sun-Cured Oysters.

Partners and Their Role(s): UHCL will provide project management and oversight of the project. KPRC-TV will provide marketing and communication expertise to GBEP and their stakeholders to find the most effective means to reach local communities. Other stakeholders will work with KPRC-TV to receive assistance in broadcasting their messages to the region.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

- Final Report due March 2026.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly PRs until contract expiration.
- Introductory Statement due 49 days following contract execution.
- Houston Life segments (TV Campaign with 30 x 30 second commercials) due 10 days following completing each initiative campaign implementation.

- Production of 30 second commercials used for TV and digital due 10 days following completing each initiative campaign implementation.
- Banner ads and streaming commercials on Click2Houston.com due 10 days following completing each initiative campaign implementation.

Long-term Outcomes: Through targeted marketing and community outreach, the goal of this project is to help foster a greater connection between local communities and the environmental efforts happening in the Galveston Bay estuary and watershed. This connection will help to build a sense of stewardship and community pride through efforts supporting Galveston Bay.