

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2026 WORK PLAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

Revision 0.0

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Grant No. (TBD)**

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Grant No. (332127)**



A PROGRAM OF TCEQ

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13088, Austin, Texas 78711-3088**

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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
Back the Bay	Galveston Bay Public Awareness and Education Campaign
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CCMP	Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan
CPC	Coastal Prairie Conservancy
CWA	Clean Water Act
Dermo	<i>Perkinsus Marinus</i>
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>
HARC/GTRI	Houston Advanced Research Center/Geotechnology Research Institute
H-GAC	Houston-Galveston Area Council
HC	Habitat Conservation (Action Plan)
HFD	Houston Fire Department
HPARD	City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department
IIJA	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
ISD	Independent School District
K-12	Kindergarten to 12 th Grade (Primary and Secondary Education)
M&R	Monitoring and Research (Subcommittee)
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)
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
RES	Monitoring and Research (Action Plan)
<i>SAP</i>	<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
TBD	To be Determined
TBDC	Trinity Bay Discovery Center
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TV	Television
Trash Bash®	River, Lakes, Bays N' Bayous Trash Bash®
UHCL	University of Houston-Clear Lake
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WBPs	Watershed-based Plans
WSQ	Water and Sediment Quality (Subcommittee)

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 on August 20, 2024. Revision 1.0 of EPA IIJA Grant No. 4T-02F61501 requested to add year four of funding (federal fiscal 2025/state fiscal 2026) and extend the grant term to August 31, 2028.

Revision 0.0 to 4T- TBD (federal fiscal 2026/state fiscal 2027) is requesting the final year of funding, 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	September 11, 2025
4T-TBD Revision 0.0	2026	September 1, 2026- August 31, 2029	\$910,100.00	TBD
IIJA Grant Total:			\$4,550,100.00	

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 *Galveston Bay Plan* (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.

Vacant, Technical and Quality Program coordinator: responsible for 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.

Hope Cole, M.M.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; serving as the quality assurance (QA) specialist; assisting with oversight of contract management, tracking, and execution; 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 31 approved February 2026, effective February 27, 2026-December 31, 2026) 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 2025 Accomplishments

Section 3.1: GBEP Accomplishments Since Federal Fiscal 2025 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 2025. 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 projects, "Repair and Replacement of Failing On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) for Homeowners" (federal fiscal 2022-2023, 4T-02F24301) and "Jones Park Stormwater Renovation Project" (federal fiscal 2025, 4T-02F61501), are implementing the "Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use" Priority Area in Federal Fiscal 2025.

The objective of the "Repair and Replacement of Failing On-Site Sewage Facilities for Homeowners" project is to repair and replace at least 25 decentralized OSSFs for qualifying homeowners. The project received approval of the Final QAPP on December 2, 2024, to begin data collection. Collected data identified East Aldine as the community with the largest concentration of homeowners in need of assistance with wastewater treatment and disposal issues. Through a series of meetings with local officials, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) was able to directly solicit applicants for participation in the program during outreach events geared toward educating homeowners on OSSF operation, maintenance, and best practices. The subcontract to conduct OSSF repair and replacement has been awarded and applications for eight of the total 25 participants have been approved for construction.

"Jones Park Stormwater Renovation Project" will install nature-based stormwater infrastructure (NbSI) in an existing park space in Galveston, Texas that is often rendered unusable due to stormwater flooding. A quantitative assessment and evaluation of the installed infrastructure will estimate key ecosystem co-benefits. The project will also engage the community through teacher workshops and planting events. The park has been cleared of existing equipment and Vision Galveston is working to secure a subcontractor to construct the stormwater system.

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.

Coastal Savanna and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project

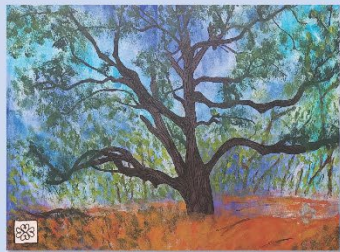
The goal of the "Coastal Savanna and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project" (federal fiscal 2022-2023, 4T-02F24301) was to restore coastal prairie, wetland, savanna, and riparian habitat within E.R. and Ann Taylor Park and Furman Street Greenspace in Harris County, Texas through invasive species removal and native species planting to support resident and migratory wildlife. Riparian forest, savanna, prairie, and wetland ecosystems are an effective and natural flood management tool. Urban reforestation supports flood mitigation by intercepting rainfall in the leaves, branches, and trunks and allowing some of the water to evaporate into the atmosphere. Additionally, root

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

systems of trees and prairie forbs and grasses penetrate deep into the soil and expand the infiltration capacity, resulting in reduced runoff and erosion.

Preserving Ecological and Human Heritage

Houston Parks and Recreation Department is preserving ecological and human heritage while honoring the significance of this land to the local community.



Every year Ann Taylor Park hosts a participatory art event called the Witness Series which brings communities together through the power of nature and the shared belief that environmental equity is a basic human right. Houston multi-media artist Kristi Rangel named the Witness Series after these impressive Live Oak trees which have seen seven generations of history unfold here.

To learn more about upcoming Witness Series participatory art events please scan this QR code:



At E.R. and Ann Taylor Park, restoring nature goes hand in hand with honoring the people who lived here before us. This 27-acre park, just south of downtown Houston, was once part of a vast coastal prairie ecosystem, an endangered landscape that historically stretched across the Texas and Louisiana coasts. Today, Houston Parks and Recreation Department is restoring the park to reflect its historic prairie conditions by planting native grasses and wildflowers and using management practices that mimic natural prairie cycles.

The land also holds deep human significance, particularly for the Sunnyside community. Edward R. Taylor and Ann George Taylor built their home and farm here in the mid-1800s, raising their family on this land during a time when their interracial marriage could not be legally recognized. The park includes the site of their original homestead and the cemetery where Ann and three of her children are buried. By preserving both the natural landscape and this powerful history, E.R. and Ann Taylor Park stands as a place of remembrance, education, and connection, where the stories of people and prairie continue to shape the land.



The Witness Series explores Indigenous, African American, Latino and Asian connections to nature and art. Attendees become co-authors, editors and observers as they take part in these participatory public art experiences.



For the 2025 Witness Series event, visitors created an ancestral altar near Ann Taylor's gravesite, and left messages of love and goodwill in remembrance of their ancestors.



A sound bath provided visitors with an immersive, communal sonic experience which linked sound to healing and medicine in accordance with ancient African American tradition.



Houston Parks and Recreation Department



Figure 1: “Coastal Savanna and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project” educational signage.

Habitat management at E.R. and Ann Taylor Park and the Furman Street Greenspace is almost complete. Volunteer planting events were completed with Texas Master Naturalists, the Student Conservation Association (SCA), and Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) staff on December 10, 2025 and January 30, 2026, with 1,414 plants planted. E.R. and Ann Taylor Park, closed to the public since Hurricane Beryl, reopened on March 21, 2026.

Other ongoing projects are also implementing the “Protect and Sustain Living Resources” Priority Area in Federal Fiscal 2025, including “Herman Brown Park Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement Project – Phase I” (federal fiscal 2024, 4T-02F61501) and “Bayou Greenways Conservation Plan” (federal fiscal 2025, 4T-02F61501).

The “Herman Brown Park Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement Project – Phase I” included a partnership between HPARD and the Houston Fire Department (HFD). Beginning in October 2025, HPARD staff and SCA interns worked alongside HFD to mark large invasive trees for removal, remove debris from the restoration areas, and treat the trees removed by HFD with herbicide. HPARD staff and interns supplemented HFD’s large tree removal work with the removal and treatment of smaller invasives. In November 2025, HPARD held a community planting event at Herman Brown Park attended by students of Furr High School which resulted in the planting of 400 tree seedlings.

The “Bayou Greenways Conservation Plan” has conducted an initial meeting with primary landowner partners and has completed the first of three stakeholder group meetings.

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 IJA-funded projects and partnering with stakeholders on various initiatives.

Community Outreach Through Media

The University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) partnered with KPRC, a local television (TV) station, on the UHCL Community Outreach project (federal fiscal 2022-2023, 4T-02F24301) to bring awareness of conservation programs to the Houston-Galveston community through TV and digital media platforms. This project has produced all seven of the [30-second commercials](#)⁴ shown on KPRC, and interview segments aired on [Houston Life](#)⁵, a daily afternoon talk show showcasing local news, events, and attractions. The seven key initiatives included:

- 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 (federal fiscal 2022-2023, 4T-02F24301), and
- Targeted Microplastics Monitoring in the Waters of Galveston Bay and its Tributaries (CWA § 320-funded).

The KPRC outreach campaign ran for eight months in 2025, from January through August. Each initiative was featured on Houston Life during its designated month, except for February, which did not include a segment. According to the KPRC recap report, the total number of TV household impressions for the campaign was 5,221,600. The digital campaign, which consisted of banner ads and a 30-second commercial, delivered 5,626,253 total impressions.

Other ongoing projects are also implementing the "Engage Communities" Priority Area in Federal Fiscal 2025, including "Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASh) in Houston's Bayous and Beyond" (federal fiscal 2022-2023, 4T-02F24301) and "Resiliency Education and Infrastructure" (federal fiscal 2024, 4T-02F61501).

The "Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASh) in Houston's Bayous and Beyond" has hosted 49 educational programs reaching 4,123 students. American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has worked with 35 schools and seven youth groups including summer camps and home schools. Of the 35 schools, 18 schools are considered Title I. ABC has also participated in or hosted 28 community outreach events, reaching 2,988 people. The first large-scale cleanup event, Spook-a-Clean, was held in October 2024 and the second Spook-a-Clean was held on November 1, 2025. The final large-scale cleanup will be held after Fourth of July to bring awareness to Plastic Free July and litter accumulation after holiday events.

The "Resiliency Education and Infrastructure" brought together eight 8-12th grade students and two teachers from the Awty International School who participated in an on-site tree planting on February 21, 2026. In addition to planting 14 trees, they also participated in bird watching and nature journaling activities. De Zavala Middle School had their 5th grade Bay Scientist graduation celebration where students presented their research projects, heard from real scientists and engineers from Equinor, and met Pear, Galveston Bay Foundation's (GBF) animal ambassador Diamondback terrapin.

⁴ <https://gbep.texas.gov/kprc>

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

Students all received a Bay Scientist certificate. Post tests were completed by all 5th graders and post-program assessments were completed by most participating teachers.

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 projects, “Evaluating Galveston Bay’s Resilience to Ocean and Coastal Acidification” (federal fiscal 2024, 4T-02F61501) and “[State of the Bay, Fifth Edition](#)”, are implementing the “Inform Science-Based Decision Making” Priority Area in federal fiscal 2025.

The “Evaluating Galveston Bay’s Resilience to Ocean and Coastal Acidification” QAPP was approved December 10, 2025. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) selected the continuous monitoring site to best represent ocean and coastal acidification (OCA) conditions associated with shellfish growing regions and the overall conditions of Galveston Bay. The USGS assembled the monitoring equipment and housing box and deployed the monitoring sensor in December 2025. They routinely conduct maintenance checks and sensor cleaning post deployment. [State of the Bay, Fifth Edition: Characterization of Priority Themes \(State of the Bay, Fifth Edition\)](#) is currently developing a QAPP to begin data collection. Houston Advanced Research Center/ Geotechnology Research Institute (HARC/GTRI) is planning initial meetings with stakeholders to discuss themes and priorities.

Section 3.2: Federal Fiscal 2025 Leveraging

Figures reported in Table 3 provide a mid-year estimate of leveraged funding reported by partners and Performing Parties from September 2025–August 2026 (federal fiscal 2025). The numbers are subject to change as additional funding may be reported for the period.

Table 3: Federal Fiscal 2026 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
\$910,600	\$100,000	\$7,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$795,400
Total Federal Fiscal 2025 Leveraging			\$7,895,400		

Section 4: Federal Fiscal 2026 Goals and Measures

Section 4.1: Federal Fiscal 2026 *GBP, 2nd Edition* Action Plan Goals

- Reducing NPS pollution (NPS-1, NPS-2, NPS-3 NPS-4).
- Reducing PS pollution (PS-1, PS-2, PS-3).
- Promoting public health and awareness (PHA-1, PHA-2, PHA-3, PHA-4, PHA-5).
- Conserving, restoring, and enhancing vital habitats in the lower portion of the Galveston Bay watershed (HC-3).
- Sustaining and restoring native species populations (SC-1, SC-2).
- Increasing a sense of responsibility in the health of Galveston Bay (SPO-1, SPO-2, SPO-3).
- Supporting stakeholder and partner involvement in GBEP program policy, management, and implementation (SPO-4).
- Ensuring the public receives the knowledge necessary to preserve Galveston Bay (PEA-1, PEA-2, PEA-3).
- Increasing opportunities to access monitoring and research information (ACS-1, ACS-2, ACS-3).

Section 4.2: Federal Fiscal 2026 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 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 2026 Expected Outputs

- Conserve, restore, and/or enhance 275 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 OCA in Galveston Bay.
- Continue developing accessible demonstrations of NbSI that support coastal resiliency and educate the community.

Section 4.4: Federal Fiscal 2026 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 (WBP)
- Preservation/Conservation/Restoration
- Research

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

- 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 2026 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 2026.

Action Priorities:

- A-1: Habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement that incorporates water quality protection/improvement and benefit to wildlife.
- A-2: Projects that evaluate water quality indicators or address sources of water and sediment quality degradation in support of watershed management.
- A-3: Projects that are on the ground (place-based) within the lower Galveston Bay watershed.

Support Priorities:

- S-1: Engaging kindergarten to 12th grade (K-12) students and/or adults in hands-on, place-based environmental education.
- S-2: Includes region-wide initiatives that foster collaborations and/or build capacity with new communities and organizations while implementing the Engage Communities priority plan.
- S-3: Monitoring and research that produces environmental data applicable to future implementation and management decisions and/or establishes new or updated environmental benchmarks.

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 2026 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 2026 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](#). 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](#). 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 2026 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 2026 Funding

This request is for funding in the amount of \$910,100. The match requirement has been waived for federal fiscal 2026. There are no full-time equivalents (FTE) for the IIJA grant. Tables 4 and 5 provide funding and budget details.

Table 4: Federal Fiscal 2026 Funding and FTE Summary

Program Element	Division	IIJA Funds	TCEQ Match	Total	FTEs
Federal Fiscal 2026 IIJA	Water Quality Planning	\$910,100	\$0	\$910,100	0
Total		\$910,100	\$0	\$910,100	0

Table 5: Federal Fiscal 2026 Budget Detail

Budget Detail - see also Federal Fiscal 2026 Projects	Amount (\$)
Salaries (includes Fringe and Indirect)	\$0
Travel	\$0
Capital	\$0
Supplies	\$0
Contracts	\$0
Other	\$910,100
Total	\$910,100

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, 2026, and end August 31, 2029. 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 1, 2025, and the GBC approved the projects listed in this work plan at the October 15, 2025, quarterly meeting.

The project scopes of work will be submitted to the TCEQ Quality Assurance Specialist 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 2026 IIJA Projects

Section 6.1: Federal Fiscal 2026 IIJA Projects – Summary

Table 6: Federal Fiscal 2026 IIJA Projects

Project Name	Federal Fiscal Year	IIJA Funds	Status
1. State of the Bay Fifth Edition	2026	\$36,000	New
2. Coastal Heritage Preserve Karankawa and Teacher Learning Center	2026	\$150,000	New
3. Herman Brown Park Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement Project – Phase II	2026	\$200,000	New
4. Resiliency in Education and Nature-Based Solutions – Phase II	2026	\$384,603	New
5. Understanding Upstream Impacts – Community Engagement and Citizen Science on the Katy Prairie	2026	\$139,497	New
Funding Request Total		\$910,100	

Section 6.2: Federal Fiscal 2026 IIJA Projects – Detail

1. State of the Bay, Fifth Edition

Performing Party/Contractor: 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

GBEP Federal Fiscal 2026 IIJA Priorities: 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 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 2026 Budget: \$36,000

Total Project Budget: \$395,184

Federal Fiscal Year	IIJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
2026	\$36,000	\$0	TBD
2025	\$359,184	\$0	TBD
Total	\$395,184	\$0	\$0

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: Ongoing project. The State of the Bay, Fifth Edition was executed on January 6, 2026. The QAPP is currently being drafted by HARC/GTRI, and they are planning stakeholder meetings.

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.

Public/Stakeholder Event Engagement: No

There are no symposiums, conferences, or workshops associated with this project.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

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

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly progress reports 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. Coastal Heritage Preserve Karankawa and Teacher Learning Center

Performing Party/Contractor: Artist Boat

TCEQ Contract No.: 582-27-XXXXX

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

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

ERAP Adaptation/Mitigation Actions Implemented: Stakeholder Outreach: Education; 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
- Population Increase
- Sea Level Rise and Subsidence
- Warmer Summers
- Warmer Waters
- Warmer Winters

GBEP Federal Fiscal 2026 IJA Priorities: A-1, A-3, S-1, S-2

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 providing curated public access to conserved lands, along with education and engagement opportunities to K-12 students.

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 Fish/Shellfish, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Other Wildlife.

Funding Information

Federal Fiscal 2026 Budget: \$150,000

Total Project Budget: \$17,385,265

Federal Fiscal Year	IJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
2026	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$7,455,400
Total	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$7,455,400

Funding Leveraged: \$17,235,265. \$7,555,400 has been secured through federal, state, and private entities, with \$9,679,865 of federal and private grant applications pending for the overarching education and land conservation initiative.

Project Timeline

Milestones: Final Report anticipated May 2029.

Project Period: September 2026 – May 2029

Project Details

Status: New project.

Objective(s): To develop a master plan and design for the Karankawa and Teacher Guided Outdoor Learning Center for curated public access and to support curriculum development and education and engagement activities at the Coastal Heritage Preserve in Galveston County, Texas.

Project Description: The goals of the Coastal Heritage Preserve Karankawa and Teacher Learning Center are to preserve and highlight an important historical Galveston viewshed and ecologically and culturally significant natural three-mile-long landscape. This project will engage key

stakeholders in meaningful collaboration including Galveston Independent School District (ISD), the Karankawa Kadla tribe, Artist Boat, and others to illuminate significant cultural and geographic history, biodiversity, human impacts, and future geographic changes. The master plan will include a shade structure for education activities which will also be constructed under this project. This project also supports the permanent conservation of coastal habitats on Galveston Island in partnership with Galveston ISD (funded separately from this project).

Partners and Their Role(s): Artist Boat will perform the tasks necessary to develop and implement the master plan, stewardship, and education activities. Galveston ISD as a public governmental entity will serve as the title holder to the separate, land conservation portion of the project.

Public/Stakeholder Event Engagement: No

There are no symposiums, conferences, or workshops associated with this project.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

- Final Report due May 2029.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly progress reports until contract expiration.
- Draft Master Plan due September 2027.
- As-built construction report (shade structure) due August 2028.
- Final education curriculum due September 2028.
- Field lesson materials due 14 days prior to public dissemination.

Long-term Outcomes: To provide public space and long-term education and engagement activities for Galveston Bay residents and visitors.

3. Herman Brown Park Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement Project – Phase II

Performing Party/Contractor: HPARD

TCEQ Contract No.: 582-27-XXXXX

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

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

ERAP Adaptation/Mitigation Actions Implemented: Stakeholder Outreach: Education; Stakeholder Outreach: 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

GBEP Federal Fiscal 2026 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 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, 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

Funding Information

Federal Fiscal 2026 Budget: \$200,000

Total Project Budget: \$200,000

Federal Fiscal Year	IJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
2026	\$200,000	\$0	TBD
Total	\$200,000	\$0	\$0

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

Project Timeline

Milestones: Final Report anticipated May 2029.

Project Period: September 2026 – May 2029

Project Details

Status: New project.

Objective(s): The objective of this project is to restore 166 acres of riparian forest habitat within Herman Brown Park, which is adjacent to Hunting Bayou, and to engage student interns and volunteers in habitat restoration activities.

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. “Herman Brown Park Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement Project – Phase I” (4T-02F61501) will enhance 230 acres of forested habitat located on the southern side of the park. Phase II of this project will restore 166 acres of riparian forest habitat within Herman Brown Park. The habitat restoration will include removing non-native species and creating a forest composition of native canopy, understory, shrub, and herbaceous species which will improve wildlife habitat, enhance ecosystem services, and provide community engagement during the restoration process.

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. The two full-time, six-month habitat restoration interns will install vegetation and remove invasive species throughout the restoration area and assist in community planting events.

Public/Stakeholder Event Engagement: No

There are no symposiums, conferences, or workshops associated with this project.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

- Final Report due May 2029.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly progress reports until contract expiration.
- Project Work Plan due within 30 days of contract execution.
- Native species planting subaward agreement due 10 days following contract execution.

- Invasive Species Removal subcontractor agreement due 10 days following contract execution.
- Announcements and photos of community events submitted 10 days following event.

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.

4. Resiliency in Education and Nature-Based Solutions – Phase II

Performing Party/Contractor: GBF

TCEQ Contract No.: 582-27-XXXXX

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

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

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

GBEP Federal Fiscal 2026 IJA Priorities: A-1, A-2, A-3, S-1

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 Fish/Shellfish, Protect/Improve/Provide Habitat for Other Wildlife

Funding Information

Federal Fiscal 2026 Budget: \$384,603

Total Project Budget: \$724,603

Federal Fiscal Year	IJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
2026	\$384,603	\$0	\$340,000

Total	\$384,603	\$0	\$340,000
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Funding Leveraged: \$340,000 will be leveraged through private donations secured for GBF's Bay Biodiversity and Marsh Mania programs.

Project Timeline

Milestones: Final Report anticipated May 2029.

Project Period: September 2026 – May 2029

Project Details

Status: New project.

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

Project Description: Phase II of the Resiliency in Education and Nature-Based Solutions project will implement a three-year, multi-faceted project that will complete the planned NbSI features at the TBDC. Through the expansion of the existing living shoreline, habitat restoration, and improved facility access, this project will highlight the importance of NbSI through environmental education and community engagement.

The completion and implementation of this project will connect local schools, community members, and stakeholders with the importance of Galveston Bay and multiple ways that they can help improve the health of the bay with their own organizations.

Partners and Their Role(s): GBF will provide the demonstration site at TBDC, oversee all events and activities on the property, and will provide environmental education for all audiences. The Texas Conservation Corps may be recruited to complete trail clearing and ongoing maintenance. The UHCL will conduct observations and collect participant feedback to assess the impact of these workshops. Additional partners, such as Texas A&M Forest Service, will serve as guest educators.

Public/Stakeholder Event Engagement: Yes

Through Resiliency in Education and Nature-Based Solutions – Phase II, GBF will host a series of environmental education workshops and community events to highlight the constructed NbSI and BMPs. The free events will be advertised by GBF through flyers emailed to targeted audiences to recruit participants. GBF, GBEP, and TCEQ will be the prominent logos displayed on all workshop and event materials. All materials displayed and/or distributed will comply with the terms and conditions of the TCEQ Contract, EPA Grant No. 4T-TBD, and [EPA General Terms and Conditions](#)⁸. An approximate percentage distribution of attendees is 0% federal government, 5% state and local government, 5% academia, 30% nonprofit organizations, and 60% public participants. GBF will not be preparing proceedings or analysis to disseminate information back to the community. The meetings will be free of charge, and no income will be generated.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

- Final Report due May 2029.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly progress reports until contract expiration.
- Required permits and coastal lease or special document due 10 days following receipt.
- Request for bids/proposals and notice of awards due 10 days following notice.
- Executed subcontracts due 10 days following subcontract execution.
- Event and workshop promotion and lesson materials due 14 days prior to public dissemination.

⁸ <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-general-terms-and-conditions-effective-october-1-2023-or-later>

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.

5. Understanding Upstream Impacts – Community Engagement and Citizen Science on the Katy Prairie

Performing Party/Contractor: Coastal Prairie Conservancy (CPC)

TCEQ Contract No.: 582-27-XXXXX

Programmatic Priorities and Performance Measures

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

ERAP Adaptation/Mitigation Actions Implemented: Stakeholder Outreach: Education; Monitoring; Preservation/Conservation/Restoration; Research; 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

GBEP Federal Fiscal 2026 IJA Priorities: A-1, A-2, S-1, S-3

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 bringing three tracts of the CPC’s Katy Prairie Preserve under improved management while expanding opportunities for K-12 students and adults to participate in place-based environmental education and hands-on conservation science. This project will leverage significant partnerships and community support to maximize impact and contribute to learnings for future applications across 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, 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

Funding Information

Federal Fiscal 2026 Budget: \$139,497

Total Project Budget: \$139,497

Federal Fiscal Year	IJA Funds	TCEQ State Funds	Leveraged Funds
2026	\$139,497	\$0	TBD
Total	\$139,497	\$0	\$0

Funding Leveraged: TBD. Private funding and in-kind services are being pursued to expand restoration, enhancement, and education opportunities on CPC’s Katy Prairie Preserve.

Project Timeline

Milestones: Final Report anticipated August 2029.

Project Period: September 2026 – August 2029

Project Details

Status: New project.

Objective(s): To support the restoration and management of 2,570 acres of native prairie and wetland habitat while engaging K-12 students and adults in hands-on, place-based environmental education.

Project Description: The goal of this project is to support habitat restoration and enhancement activities at the Katy Prairie Preserve through citizen science and engagement, improve water quality, enhance flood resilience, and strengthen the ecological health of the Cypress Creek watershed and Galveston Bay.

This project will educate and engage the community about Galveston Bay stressors including land use changes, population growth, extreme weather events, and increasing drought and inland flooding, while building the capacity to adapt to these challenges. By combining education with citizen science, the project will equip the community and state with the knowledge needed to protect the health and resilience of Galveston Bay now and in the future.

Partners and Their Role(s): Partners on this project include Wildlife Habitat Federation (habitat restoration subgrantee), Texas Master Naturalists (community science training and volunteer partner), and the Clean and Green Team of Texas Conservation Corps (volunteer partner).

Public/Stakeholder Event Engagement: No

There are no symposiums, conferences, or workshops associated with this project.

Outputs/Deliverables Submitted to EPA:

- Final Report due August 2029.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly progress reports until contract expiration.
- Updates on acres enhanced by integral land management techniques due with quarterly progress reports.
- Final Community Science Project Plan due November 2026.

Long-term Outcomes: Habitat enhancement for three tracts of the Katy Prairie Preserve and expanded opportunities for students and adults to participate in place-based environmental education and hands-on conservation science.

Section 6.3: Federal Fiscal 2026 Grant Budget Spreadsheets**Table 7: Federal Fiscal 2026 Grant Budget by Category – Summary**

Federal Fiscal 2026 Grant Budget Totals	GOAL 5.2/010102 GBEP-IIJA Federal Fiscal 2026 (State Fiscal 2027)	Total Costs
Project Number	TBD	TBD
01-Salaries	\$0	\$0
02-Contracts	\$0	\$0
03-Travel	\$0	\$0
04-Other	\$910,100	\$910,100
05-Supplies	\$0	\$0
06-Equipment	\$0	\$0
07-Construction	\$0	\$0
Total Direct Costs	\$0	\$0
Fringe (33.78%)	\$0	\$0
Indirect (34.30%)	\$0	\$0
Fiscal 2026 Grant Total	\$910,100	\$910,100

Table 8: Federal Fiscal 2026 Grant Budget by Category – Detail

Federal Fiscal 2026 GBEP Budget Summary by Grant Budget Category	Amount
01-Salaries	
No Salary Costs	\$0
02-Contracts	
No Contract Costs	\$0
03-Travel	
No Travel Costs	\$0
04-Other	
State of the Bay Fifth Edition	\$36,000
Coastal Heritage Preserve Karankawa and Teacher Learning Center	\$150,000
Herman Brown Park Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement Project – Phase II	\$200,000
Resiliency in Education and Nature-Based Solutions – Phase II	\$384,603
Understanding Upstream Impacts – Community Engagement and Citizen Science on the Katy Prairie	\$139,497
05-Supplies	
No Supply Costs	\$0
06-Equipment	
No Equipment Costs	\$0
07-Construction	
No Construction Costs	\$0
Fringe and Indirect	
No Fringe Costs	\$0
No Indirect Costs	\$0
Fiscal 2026 Grant Total	\$910,100

Section 7: Ongoing IIJA Projects

Section 7.1: Ongoing IIJA Projects – Summary

No projects are ongoing under CE-TBD (TCEQ Grant No. 332127).

Section 7.2: Ongoing IIJA Projects – Detail

No projects are ongoing under CE-TBD (TCEQ Grant No. 332127).

Section 8: Completed IIJA Projects

Section 8.1: Completed IIJA Projects – Summary

No projects are completed under CE-TBD (TCEQ Grant No. 332127)

Section 8.2: Completed IIJA Projects – Detail

No projects are completed under CE-TBD (TCEQ Grant No. 332127).