

FISCAL YEAR 2024 WORK PLAN BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL) GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM (GBEP)

Revision 0.0

EPA #TBD

TCEQ Grant #332125



A PROGRAM OF TCEQ

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Table 1. Abbreviations List

Name	Abbreviation
American Bird Conservancy	ABC
Armand Bayou Nature Center	ABNC
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law	BIL
Ocean Coastal Acidification	OCA
Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan	CCMP
Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool	CJEST
Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool	EJ Screen
Designated Marketing Area	DMA
Full-time Equivalent	FTE
Galveston Bay Council	GBC
Galveston Bay Estuary Program	GBEP
Galveston Bay Foundation	GBF
<i>Galveston Bay Plan</i>	<i>GBP</i>
<i>Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition</i>	<i>GBP, 2nd Edition</i>
Galveston Bay Public Awareness and Education Campaign	Back the Bay
Houston Advanced Research Center	HARC
Houston-Galveston Area Council	H-GAC
City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department	HPARD
Monitoring and Research	M&R
National Estuary Program	NEP
Natural Resource Uses	NRU
Nonpoint Source	NPS
On-Site Sewage Facilities	OSSF
Public Participation and Education	PPE
Quality Assurance Project Plan	QAPP
River, Lakes, Bays N' Bayous Trash Bash	Trash Bash
Student Conservation Association	SCA
Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines	SPLASh
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	TCEQ
Texas Education Agency	TEA
Trinity Bay Discovery Center	TBDC
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	EPA
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	USFWS

Name	Abbreviation
Water and Sediment Quality	WSQ
Watershed Protection Plan	WPP

SECTION 1: PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The initial application Revision 0.0 of grant 4T-02F24301 was for four years of time and two years of funding extending the grant term through 8/31/2026. This fiscal 2024 work plan (Revision 0.0) is the second request for the third year of funding with a grant term of three years. TCEQ intends to submit a supplemental application to add the fourth year of funding and extend the grant period until 8/31/2028. Funding for year five will be requested with a new grant application, with the grant term ending on 8/31/2029. TCEQ has found this method is most effective for successful operation and coordination of GBEP.

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 was established in 1989 to provide comprehensive management of this vital resource. In 1990, GBEP began working with a diverse 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 fisherman, conservation organizations, and citizens. In 1994, the *Galveston Bay Plan (GBP)*, the comprehensive conservation and management plan (CCMP), was completed, and in 1995 it was approved by the governor of Texas and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator. The initial effort was jointly funded by EPA, the Texas General Land Office, and TCEQ. The *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd edition (GBP, 2nd Edition)* was approved by TCEQ in March 2019.

GBEP and its partners have received 17 national awards for their partnerships and progress in implementing the *GBP* and preserving Galveston Bay.

Pre-2008 AWARDS

- Four awards from Coastal America: one in 1999, Clear Creek Habitat Restoration project, for the beneficial use of dredge material, one in 2002 for Galveston Island State Park habitat restoration, one in 2003 for habitat restoration at Jumbile Cove, and one in 2005 for San Jacinto State Park for beneficial use of dredge material.
- Recognition award from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for Galveston Bay estuary restoration and five years of implementation of the *GBP*.
- National Wetland Conservation Award for the Delehide Cove Protection and Restoration project from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 2006.
- EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Gulf Guardian Partnership Award for the Brays Bayou Urban Wetlands project.
- The Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Partnership award for the cumulative habitat conservation work on the part of the Natural Resource Uses (NRU) subcommittee.
- Two EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Gulf Guardian Awards to GBEP partners, including an award in the non-profit category to SCENIC GALVESTON for the Virginia Point Coastal Preserve in which GBEP played an instrumental role, and an award in the individual category to Dick Benoit, a highly active local citizen.

2008-PRESENT AWARDS

- EPA Gulf of Mexico Program awarded the First Place Gulf Guardian Award in the Partnership category for the East Bay Shoreline Protection project.
- Department of Interior's Collaborative Conservation award for the East Bay Shoreline Protection project.
- EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program Gulf Guardian Partnership Award for the North Deer Island Protection project.
- Coastal America Partnership Award for the North Deer Island Protection project.
- Coastal America Partnership Award for the Savannah Oaks Conservation project.
- TCEQ Texas Environmental Excellence Awards 2014 Finalist: Civic/Community for the Sheldon Lake Restoration project in 2014.
- Keep Houston Beautiful Mayors Proud Partner Award for the Sheldon Lake Restoration project in 2015.
- Houston-Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) Our Great Region Diligence Award for Double Bayou Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) in 2016.
- USFWS Southwest Region Annual "Partnership of the Year" Award for 2016 for Oyster Lake Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration Project.
- H-GAC Our Great Region Award for the Double Bayou WPP in 2017.

- EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program Gulf Guardian Partnership Award for the Plastic Pollution Prevention Partnership in 2017.
- EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program Gulf Guardian Partnership Award for River, Lakes, Bays N' Bayous Trash Bash (Trash Bash) in 2017.
- TCEQ Texas Environmental Excellence Awards 2018 Winner: Civic/Community for Trash Bash.
- EPA 2018 Award for Green Infrastructure & Excellence in Communications/Important Message (Green Infrastructure for Texas - Exploration Green).
- TCEQ Texas Environmental Excellence Award for Trash Bash in 2019.
- EPA Gulf Guardian Award in for Trash Bash 2019.
- City of Houston/Keep Houston Beautiful Mayor's Proud Partner Award in Honor of project excellence and longevity for Trash Bash in 2019.

SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

GBEP, a non-regulatory program of TCEQ, is a partnership of local governments, business and industry, conservation organizations, bay user groups, and resource agencies. GBEP is charged with implementing the *GBP, 2nd Edition*, the CCMP for Galveston Bay. 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, 2nd Edition*. Program staff responsibilities are as follows:

- Acquire, manage, and disperse funds to implement specific actions in the *GBP, 2nd Edition*
- 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 (see Figure 1)
- Maintain stakeholder involvement in the decision-making process through the GBC and its subcommittees



Figure 1. Mixed grassland habitat at the Salt Bayou Project site [photo credit: Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF)]

SECTION 2.1: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

GBEP has the primary responsibility for coordinating and administering the 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; 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. Ms. Marshall also coordinates the GBC and the Budget and Priorities subcommittee.

Vacant, Public Participation and Education (PPE) Coordinator and Community Relations Specialist: responsible for coordinating the implementation of [stakeholder and partner outreach](#) and [public education and awareness](#) actions in the *GBP, 2nd Edition*; 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*; facilitating the PPE subcommittee of the GBC; 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.

Lindsey Lippert, NRU Coordinator: responsible for coordinating the implementation of [habitat conservation](#), [species conservation](#), and [freshwater inflows](#) actions in the *GBP, 2nd Edition*; facilitating the NRU subcommittee of the GBC and the invasive species work group; 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

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

Christian Rines, M.S., Water and Sediment Quality (WSQ) Coordinator: responsible for coordinating the implementation of [nonpoint source](#) (NPS), [point source](#), and [public health and awareness](#) actions in the *GBP, 2nd Edition*; facilitating the WSQ subcommittee of the GBC; implementing specific stormwater, wastewater, septic systems, and seafood safety projects; 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 the quality assurance officer; assisting with oversight of contract management, tracking, and execution; serving as budget liaison and grants 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.

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

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 habitat and species conservation, water quality, and monitoring projects.

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 Quality Assurance 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 (Revision 29 approved December 2023) that GBEP operates under, which provides descriptions of the quality assurance policies, including all the requirements described in the EPA document IT/IM Directive Standard.
- The GBEP Program Manager and staff take many professional development training classes annually which are also available upon request.

SECTION 2.2: STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN GOALS TO FOCUS ON IN FISCAL 2024

- Conserve, restore, and enhance important coastal habitats (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).
- Support NPS education and outreach campaigns (NPS-2).
- Improve regional contact recreation risk awareness (PHA-2).
- Provide stewardship programs, volunteer opportunities, and workshops to participate in habitat restoration activities (SPO-1, SPO-2).
- Support regional initiatives and provide local government outreach that promote GBEP priorities (SPO-3, SPO-4).
- Support GBEP ecosystem education for kindergarten to 12th grade and adults (PEA-2, PEA-3).
- Increase monitoring and research of stressors to the Galveston Bay ecosystem to further the understanding of the Galveston Bay ecosystem (RES-2, RES-3).
- Support coastal resilience and acclimation studies (RES-8).
- Effectively track ecosystem health indicators and increase access to monitoring and research information (ACS-1, ACS-2).

FISCAL 2024 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Conserve, restore, and enhance important coastal habitats.
- Provide public access, engagement, and recreation opportunities to underserved communities.
- Provide support for remediating the contributing sources of elevated bacteria in underserved communities of the lower Galveston Bay watershed.
- Increase coordination of marine debris and plastic pollution reduction efforts throughout the region.
- Increase the public's awareness of their connection to and effect on the Galveston Bay ecosystem.
- Foster a greater connection between local communities and the GBEP supported projects through targeted marketing and community outreach.
- Improve equity in implementation of the *GBP, 2nd Edition*.
- Establish a showcase for green infrastructure to demonstrate examples of coastal resiliency for the community, teachers, and students.
- Increase coordination of environmental education efforts in the region.
- Engage students and teachers in citizen science research and conservation work in the Galveston Bay watershed.
- Improve knowledge of underserved and underrepresented communities that are in need of environmental education opportunities.
- Improve knowledge of ocean and coastal acidification (OCA) in Galveston Bay through collaboration with stakeholders and vulnerable fishing communities.

FISCAL 2024 EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Restore and enhance 230 acres of habitat.
- Repair eight and replace 16 on-site sewage facilities (OSSF).
- Educate students, City of Houston communities and the Houston-Galveston region to mitigate the trash and plastic pollution problems.
- Decrease the amount of trash and plastic pollution in Houston waterways with trash clean-up events.
- Specific and targeted marketing that delivers conservation-based messaging for environmental concerns around the Galveston Bay watershed.
- Create publicly accessible demonstrations of green infrastructure that support coastal resiliency and educate the community.
- Continue implementing Back the Bay.
- Communicate Back the Bay and other project messaging to underserved communities.
- Initiate an assessment of OCA in Galveston Bay.

FISCAL 2022-2026 EPA STRATEGIC PLAN MEASURES IMPLEMENTED

The projects proposed for fiscal 2024 implement the objective of one goal identified in the fiscal 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan, including:

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 National Estuary Programs (NEPs), all of GBEP's projects outlined in this work plan focus on maintaining, restoring, and/or improving water quality through a variety of methods including, but not limited to, land conservation, water quality improvements, and education and outreach.

NEP BIL PRIORITIES IMPLEMENTED

The projects proposed for fiscal 2024 implement objectives of all four goals identified in EPA's NEP BIL Implementation Memo as priorities for NEP projects funded through BIL.

- *Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs:* The significant and multi-year expansion of funds through the BIL provides an opportunity for NEPs to execute long-term projects within the communities they serve, leverage additional resources, and work with their management conferences and other key stakeholders to advance a wide range of projects identified in CCMPs.
- *Ensure that benefits reach under resourced communities:* The BIL is a transformational opportunity to ensure that the benefits of federal investments are shared equitably by communities benefiting from estuary program projects. In identifying priority actions, management conferences should prioritize projects with benefits that flow to historically disadvantaged communities. Specifically, the NEP BIL funds are covered under the Executive Order 14008, and the national program, as a whole, has a target of ensuring that at least 40% of the benefits from the BIL flow to disadvantaged communities. Each estuary program will be required to develop an equity strategy (see section 4 of this memorandum) that will outline the approach it will take to contribute to the nationwide NEP Executive Order 14008 target.
- *Build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities:* NEPs have long been at the forefront of efforts to address climate variability impacts in their watersheds, working with federal, state, and local partners, often using green infrastructure and nature-based solutions. NEPs should use BIL resources to continue to expand on their climate variability adaptation, hazard mitigation, and resilience activities, where appropriate, including protection and restoration of key habitats that increase resiliency and carbon sequestration. In identifying priority actions, NEPs should select projects that advance the climate resilience of ecosystems and communities and deliver climate emissions mitigation co-benefits. Moving forward, NEPs' reporting on BIL funding will include metrics addressing climate benefits. Where possible and aligned with the priorities identified in their CCMPs, NEPs should engage and educate the public and private sectors on key climate-related vulnerabilities and solutions and provide technical and financial assistance to accelerate progress in response to a changing climate. NEPs should elevate climate efforts through BIL implementation including, but not limited to:
 - Assessment and planning projects that involve climate variability vulnerability assessments, community resilience and adaptation plans, or hazard mitigation plans
 - Restoration, water infrastructure, green infrastructure, stormwater management, and NPS projects that prioritize innovative climate adaptation, hazard mitigation, and resilience solutions
 - Projects focused on climate-related research, including those that measure, monitor, and increase carbon sequestration
 - Projects focused on climate-related outreach and education
- *Leverage additional resources:* The NEPs have a history of significantly leveraging and supporting program implementation with additional federal and non-federal resources. As NEPs select BIL projects, EPA expects programs to collaborate with other federal agencies and new partners and identify opportunities to leverage other EPA and federal agencies' funds (including other BIL funds), as well as state, local, and nongovernmental organization funds as available and appropriate.

FISCAL 2024 FEDERAL FUNDING

This request is for funding in the amount of \$909,800. The match requirement has been waived for fiscal 2024. There are no full-time (FTE) equivalents for the BIL grant. Tables 2 and 3 provide funding and budget details.

Table 2. Fiscal 2024 Funding and FTE Summary

Program Element	Division	BIL	State Match	Total	FTEs
FY24 IIJA Sec 320 GBEP (SFY25)	Water Quality Planning	\$909,800	\$0	\$909,800	0
Total		\$909,800	\$0	\$909,800	0

Table 3. Fiscal 2024 Budget Detail

Budget Detail - see also Fiscal 2024 Projects	Amount (\$)
Salaries (includes Fringe and Indirect)	\$0
Travel	\$0
Capital	\$0
Supplies	\$0
Contracts	\$0
Other	\$909,800
Total	\$909,800

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, 2024, and end August 31, 2027. 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, and these projects were submitted to the GBC for approval in October 2023. The GBC approved the projects listed in this work plan at the October 18, 2023, 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.

SECTION 3: FISCAL 2024 PROJECTS

SECTION 3.1: FISCAL 2024 BIL PROJECTS – SUMMARY

Table 4. Fiscal 2024 BIL Projects

PROJECT NAME	FISCAL YEAR	BIL FUNDS	STATUS
1. Resiliency Education and Infrastructure	2024	\$336,000.00	New
2. Evaluating Galveston Bay's Resilience to Ocean and Coastal Acidification	2024	\$278,800.00	New
3. Herman Brown Park Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement Project- Phase I	2024	\$295,000.00	New
FUNDING REQUEST GRANT TOTAL		\$909,800.00	

SECTION 3.2: FISCAL 2024 BIL PROJECTS - DETAIL

1. RESILIENCY EDUCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Reduction in Nutrient Pollution, Water Reuse and Conservation, Marine Litter Reduction, Green Infrastructure and Resiliency

Executive Order 14008 Parameters Implemented: (Census Tracts 48201252400, 48201252600, 48201252500, 48201252301) Climate Variability Factors (expected building loss rate, projected flood risk, low income), Energy, Legacy Pollution, Clean Water

EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJ Screen) Parameters Implemented: >80% Low income, >80% Linguistically isolated, >80% Less than high school education, >80% Unemployed, >80% Low life expectancy

BIL Priorities Implemented: Support of management measures and watershed-based plans; habitat protection and enhancement; support for existing projects; collaborating with underrepresented and/or under-resourced communities via having physical presence or connection to the targeted communities; engaging K-12 students and/or adults in hands-on, place-based environmental education; and diversifying strategic partners with environmental and non-environmental community organizations.

Grantee/Contractor: GBF

Fiscal 2024 Budget: \$336,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$336,000.00 (Fiscal 2024 \$336,000.00)

Milestones: Coordination/orientation meeting anticipated in September 2024. Project Work Plan anticipated in October 2024. Green infrastructure plans, bids, notice of awards, attendance at community events, education workshops and summaries will be outlined in the Project Work Plan.

Project period: September 2024 – August 2026

Status: New project

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

Project Description: This project will create a showcase for green infrastructure 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, teacher development workshops, science nights, and other community events.

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 of 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:

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28; and
- Final report due August 2026.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Quarterly Progress Reports until contract expiration;
- Request for Bids/Proposals and Notice of awards within 10 days of notice;
- Copy of executed subcontracts within 10 days of subcontract execution; and
- List of event and workshop promotion and lesson materials at least 14 days prior to public dissemination.

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

2. EVALUATING GALVESTON BAY'S RESILIENCE TO OCEAN AND COASTAL ACIDIFICATION

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

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Water Reuse and Conservation

Executive Order 14008 Parameters Implemented: N/A

EJ Screen Parameters Implemented: >80% Low income, >80% Linguistically isolated, >80% Less than high school education, >80% Unemployed, >80% Low life expectancy

BIL Priorities Implemented: Support of commercial and recreational finfish and shellfish monitoring for public health risks and/or sustainability; habitat protection and enhancement; collaborating with underrepresented and/or under-resourced communities via having physical presence or connection to the targeted communities; monitoring and research that:

- captures a meaningful, quantifiable measure of a response action taken;
- produces data applicable and transferable to multiple programs; or
- produce meaningful data that can be used for future implementation and management decisions.

Grantee/Contractor: Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)

Fiscal 2024 Budget: \$278,800.00

Total Project Budget: \$278,800.00 (Fiscal 2024: \$278,800.00)

Milestones: Coordination/orientation meeting anticipated in September 2024.

Project period: September 2024 - May 2027

Status: New project

Objective(s): The goal 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 pH water) 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 will provide project management and summarize data collected in the final project story map. U.S. Geological Survey will collect continuous and discrete OCA data. GBF will help collaborate with stakeholders for site selection and disseminating project results.

Outputs/Deliverables:

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28; and
- Final Story Map due May 2027.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Data Monitoring Task Report due April 2027;

- Stakeholder Collaboration Task Report due April 2027; and
- 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 ocean and coastal acidification planning to strengthen Galveston Bay's resiliency in collaboration with stakeholders and coastal managers in vulnerable fishing communities.

3. HERMAN BROWN PARK RIPARIAN RESTORATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT- PHASE I

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

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Reduce Nutrient Pollution, Marine Litter Reduction

Executive Order 14008 Parameters Implemented: (Census tracts: 48201232600, 48201232701) Climate Variability Factors (expected building loss rate, projected flood risk, low income), Energy, Legacy Pollution, Workforce Development

EJ Screen Parameters Implemented: >80% Less Than High School Education, >90% Limited English Speaking

BIL Priorities Implemented: Habitat protection and enhancement; collaborating with underrepresented and/or under-resourced communities via having physical presence or connection to the targeted communities; engaging K-12 students and/or adults in hands-on, place-based environmental education; and diversifying strategic partners with environmental and non-environmental community organizations.

Grantee/Contractor: City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD)

Fiscal 2024 Budget: \$295,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$295,000.00 (Fiscal 2024 \$295,000.00)

Milestones: Coordination/orientation meeting anticipated in September 2024. Project Work Plan anticipated in October 2024. Invasive species management bids, native plantings, and internships will be outlined in the Project Work Plan.

Project period: September 2024 - May 2027

Status: New Project

Objective(s): The goal 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, which will 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. The Student Conservation Association (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:

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28; and
- Final report due May 2027.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Project Work Plan within 30 days of contract execution;
- Summary of educational activities conducted by interns; and
- Habitat Management Plan.

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.

SECTION 3.3: FISCAL 2024 BIL GRANT BUDGET SPREADSHEETS

3.3A – FISCAL 2024 GRANT BUDGET BY CATEGORY

Table 5. Fiscal 2024 budget detail.

FY 2024 IIJA Budget Totals	Total Costs
Salaries	\$0
Contracts	\$0
Travel	\$0
Other	\$909,800
Supplies	\$0
Equipment	\$0
Construction	\$0
Sub-Total	\$909,800
Fringe 38.93%	\$0
Indirect 34.33%	\$0
FY 2024 GRANT TOTAL	\$909,800

3.3B – FISCAL 2024 GRANT BUDGET BY CATEGORY – DETAIL

Table 6. Fiscal 2024 Budget Summary by Grant Budget Category.

FY 2024 GBEP BIL Budget Summary by Grant Budget Category	Amount
Salaries	\$0
None	\$0
Contracts	\$0
None	\$0
Travel	\$0
None	\$0
Other	\$909,800
Resiliency Education and Infrastructure	\$336,000
Evaluating Galveston Bay's Resilience to Ocean and Coastal Acidification	\$278,800
Herman Brown Park Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement Project- Phase I	\$295,000
Supplies	\$0
None	\$0
Fringe and Indirect	\$0

SECTION 4: ONGOING PROJECTS

SECTION 4.1: ONGOING BIL PROJECTS – SUMMARY

Table 7. Ongoing BIL Projects – Summary

PROJECT NAME	CONTRACT NUMBER	FISCAL YEAR	BIL FUNDS	STATUS
4. Repair and Replacement of Failing On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) for Homeowners in Disadvantaged Communities with Vulnerable Populations	24-50153	2022 - 2023	\$365,000.00	Ongoing
5. Middle Armand Bayou Protection Project	24-50157	2022 - 2023	\$390,000.00	Ongoing
6. Salt Bayou Acquisition and Restoration Project	24-50138	2022 - 2023	\$390,000.00	Ongoing
7. Coastal Savannah and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project	24-50166	2022 - 2023	\$140,000.00	Ongoing
8. Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASh) in Houston's Bayous and Beyond	24-50291	2022 - 2023	\$353,600.00	Ongoing
9. H-GAC TV Community Outreach	TBD	2022 - 2023	\$125,000.00	Ongoing
ONGOING PROJECTS TOTAL			\$1,763,600.00	

SECTION 4.2: ONGOING BIL PROJECTS – DETAIL

**Red font indicates a change from Fiscal 2022-2023 Work Plan*

4. REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF FAILING ON-SITE SEWAGE FACILITIES (OSSFS) FOR HOMEOWNERS IN DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

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

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Reduction in Nutrient Pollution, Water Reuse and Conservation

Executive Order 14008 Parameters Implemented: Discrete targets not yet established so Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CJEST) currently not applicable

EJ Screen Parameters Implemented: Discrete targets not yet established/formally secured so EJ Screen currently not applicable

BIL Priorities Implemented: Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs; ensure that benefits reach disadvantaged communities; and build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities.

Grantee/Contractor: H-GAC

Fiscal 2022-2023 Budget: \$365,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$365,000.00 (Fiscal 2022-2023 \$365,000.00)

Milestones: Coordination/orientation meeting anticipated in April 2024. Project Work Plan anticipated in May 2024. The identification of targeted communities and qualifying recipients will be outlined in the Project Work Plan.

Project period: April 2024 – August 2026

Status: Ongoing project.

Objective(s): The goal of this project is to repair and replace decentralized OSSFs/septic tanks for qualifying homeowners located in underrepresented and disadvantaged communities as identified in H-GAC's fiscal 2023 GBEP 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 implementation of watershed-based plans;
- 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 and generate a list of vulnerable populations. A stakeholder group will then review and provide input on final vulnerable populations identified. GBEP will work with H-GAC to try and select communities above the 80th percentile of demographics identified in the EJ Screen tool. Communities for this project will be selected from the previously developed list.

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:

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28; and
- Final report due August 2026.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- List of identified communities eligible for OSSF repair or replacement projects due August 2024;
- Conduct workshops in communities to educate homeowners on the operation and maintenance of OSSF systems over a four-year period; and
- Repair eight and replace 16 OSSF systems over a four-year period.

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. Low-income and underrepresented communities typically lack access to municipal sewer services. A reliance on failing OSSFs 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.

5. MIDDLE ARMAND BAYOU PROTECTION PROJECT

CCMP Actions Implemented: HC-1, SC-1

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Green Infrastructure and Resiliency

Executive Order 14008 Parameters Implemented: (Census tracts: 48201340203-48201341400) None

EJ Screen Parameters Implemented: >80% Unemployed

BIL Priorities Implemented: Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs; ensure that benefits reach disadvantaged communities; build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities; and leverage additional resources.

Grantee/Contractor: Armand Bayou Nature Center (ABNC)

Fiscal 2022 – 2023 Budget: \$390,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$390,000.00 (Fiscal 2022-2023 \$390,000.00)

Milestones: Coordination/orientation meeting anticipated in April 2024. Project Work Plan anticipated in June 2024. Land surveys and appraisals will be outlined in the Project Work Plan.

Project period: April 2024 – May 2026

Status: Ongoing project.

Objective(s): The goal of this project is the acquisition of 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 1,065 acres 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 vulnerable ecosystems is vital for the 370 species of wildlife that depend upon them, for people seeking the wonder and comforts of nature, 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:

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28; and
- Final report due May 2026.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Project Work Plan within 30 days of contract execution.

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

6. SALT BAYOU ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION PROJECT

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

Executive Order 14008 Parameters Implemented: (Census tract: 48167721800) Climate Variability Factors (expected building loss rate, projected flood risk, low income), Health Burdens, Workforce Development

EJ Screen Parameters Implemented: >80% Linguistically Isolated, >80% Low Life Expectancy

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Reduction in Nutrient Pollution, Green Infrastructure and Resiliency

BIL Priorities Implemented: Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs; ensure that benefits reach disadvantaged communities; and build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities.

Grantee/Contractor: GBF

Fiscal 2022 - 2023 Budget: \$390,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$390,000.00 (Fiscal 2022-2023 \$390,000.00)

Milestones: Coordination/orientation meeting anticipated in April 2024. Project Work Plan anticipated in June 2024. Land surveys and appraisals will be outlined in the Project Work Plan.

Project period: April 2024 – May 2026

Status: Ongoing project.

Objective(s): The goal 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 of coastal habitat through fee-simple acquisition in Galveston County, Texas. GBF will coordinate with local partners to acquire, restore, and enhance approximately 25 acres of coastal prairie in the underserved community of San Leon, Texas. The goals of this project are 1) acquire 25 acres of coastal prairie; 2) conduct treatment of invasive plant species; and 3) 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 green infrastructure 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 Municipal Utility District.

Outputs/Deliverables:

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28; and
- Final report due May 2026.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Project Work Plan within 30 days of contract 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 including walking trails, interpretive signage, and open greenspace.

7. COASTAL SAVANNAH AND RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

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

Executive Order 14008 Parameters Implemented: (Census tracts: 48201334100-48201330500-48201330800-48201330900) Climate Variability Factors (expected agriculture loss rate, expected building loss rate, projected flood risk, low income), Legacy Pollution

EJ Screen Parameters Implemented: >80% Unemployed, >80% Low Life Expectancy

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Reduction in Nutrient Pollution, Green Infrastructure and Resiliency

BIL Priorities Implemented: Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs; ensure that benefits reach disadvantaged communities; build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities; and leverage additional resources.

Grantee/Contractor: Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD)

Fiscal 2022 – 2023 Budget: \$140,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$140,000.00 (Fiscal 2022-2023 \$140,000.00)

Milestones: Coordination/orientation meeting anticipated in April 2024. Project Work Plan anticipated in June 2024. Invasive species management bids and native plantings will be outlined in the Project Work Plan.

Project period: April 2024 – May 2026

Status: Ongoing project.

Objective(s): The goal of this project is the restoration of 45.5 acres of coastal prairie, riparian, wetland, and savannah habitat in Houston, Texas.

Project Description: The Coastal Savannah and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project will restore 24.5 acres of coastal prairie, wetland, and savannah 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, savannah, 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. 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:

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28; and
- Final report due May 2026.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Project Work Plan within 30 days of contract execution.

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.

8. STOPPING PLASTICS AND LITTER ALONG SHORELINES (SPLASH) IN HOUSTON'S BAYOUS AND BEYOND

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

Executive Order 14008 Parameters Implemented: (Census Tracts: multiple) Climate Variability Factors, Workforce Development, Health Burdens, Sustainable Housing

EJ Screen Parameters Implemented: >80% Linguistically Isolated, >80% Less than High School Education, >80% Low Life Expectancy

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Marine Litter Reduction

BIL Priorities Implemented: Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs; ensure that benefits reach disadvantaged communities; build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities; and leverage additional resources.

Grantee/Contractor: American Bird Conservancy (ABC)

Fiscal 2022 – 2023 Budget: \$353,600

Total Project Budget: \$353,600 (Fiscal 2022-2023 \$353,600.00)

Milestones: Coordination/orientation meeting held November 2023. The timeline of planned education events was submitted December 2023.

Project period: January 2024 – August 2026

Status: Ongoing project. Coordination/orientation meeting held on November 2, 2023. Contract executed on January 23, 2024. Contract planning held before formal execution date due to September 1, 2023 effective date allowing contractors to begin work before contract is signed by all parties. The timeline of planned education events was submitted on December 14, 2023, and the cleanup event plan was submitted on January 16, 2024.

Objective(s): The goal 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 in order to mitigate the trash and plastic pollution problems that threaten the health of humans and wildlife in the greater Galveston Bay watershed. Through community outreach, educational programming, and trash clean-up events 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.

Partners and Their Role(s): ABC will coordinate with partners to identify clean-up locations throughout the City of Houston and conduct the trash clean-ups and education programs with schools, libraries, nature

centers, and visitor centers.

Outputs/Deliverables:

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28; and
- Final report due August 2026.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Project Work Plan within 30 days of contract execution;
- Provide 10 educational programs per year to TEA Region 4 K-12 schools;
- Provide educational materials to eight city of Houston libraries, nature centers, and visitor centers by October 31, 2024;
- Conduct six clean-up events per year; and
- Host one large-scale clean-up event in communities along Sims and Brays Bayous per year.

Long-term Outcomes: Through community outreach, educational programming, and trash clean-up events focused in the City of Houston, 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.

9. H-GAC TV COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: N/A

Executive Order 14008 Parameters Implemented: Discrete targets not yet established so CJEST currently not applicable

EJ Screen Parameters Implemented: Discrete targets not yet established/formally secured so EJ screen currently not applicable

BIL Priorities Implemented: Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs; ensure that benefits reach disadvantaged communities; and build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities.

Grantee/Contractor: KPRC-TV through H-GAC

Fiscal 2022 – 2023 Budget: \$125,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$125,000.00 (Fiscal 2022-2023 \$125,000.00)

Milestones: Coordination/orientation meeting anticipated in April 2024. Project Work Plan anticipated in March 2024. Marketing plan and targeted communities will be outlined in the Project Work Plan.

Project period: April 2024 – May 2026

Status: Ongoing project.

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

Project Description: In conjunction with GBEP, H-GAC, 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 stakeholders within underserved/underrepresented communities. 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.

Partners and Their Role(s): H-GAC 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:

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28; and
- Final report due May 2025.

Additional Deliverables Submitted to GBEP:

- Project Work Plan within 30 days of contract execution.

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 Galveston Bay estuary and watershed. This connection will help to build a sense of stewardship and community pride through efforts supporting Galveston Bay.

SECTION 5.1: PROJECTS COMPLETED SINCE FISCAL 2024 WORK PLAN SUBMISSION – SUMMARY

Table 8. Projects Completed since Fiscal 2024 Work Plan Submission – Summary.

PROJECT NAME	CONTRACT NUMBER	FISCAL YEAR	BIL FUNDS	STATUS
10. Galveston Bay Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy	23-43948	2022 - 2023	\$56,000.00	Completed
COMPLETED PROJECTS TOTAL			\$56,000.00	

SECTION 5.2: PROJECTS COMPLETED SINCE FISCAL 2024 WORK PLAN SUBMISSION – DETAIL

11. GALVESTON BAY LONG-TERM PLAN AND EQUITY STRATEGY

CCMP Actions Implemented: All

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: N/A

Executive Order 14008 Parameters Implemented: N/A

EJ Screen Parameters Implemented: N/A

BIL Priorities Implemented: Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs and ensure that benefits reach disadvantaged communities.

Grantee/Contractor: Moriah Lynn Consulting, LLC through HARC

Fiscal 2022-2023 Budget: \$56,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$56,000.00 (Fiscal 2022-2023 \$56,000.00)

Milestones: Monthly coordination meetings and landscape plan results outlined in monthly meeting; stakeholder engagement summary and under resourced communities definition included in the Equity Strategy.

Project period: January 2023 – February 2024

Status: Completed project. The Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy was approved by the EPA on August 24, 2023 which completed the deliverables for this project. A Unilateral Agreement was signed to extend the contract to February 28, 2024.

Objective(s): The goal of this project was to develop the Galveston Bay Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy in accordance with EPA guidance documents.

Project Description: Through this project, the grantee partnered with GBEP and stakeholders to develop the Galveston Bay Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy to inform implementation for future rounds of BIL funding and the *GBP, 2nd Edition*. This included regular meetings with GBEP leadership and community stakeholders to determine existing practices and to measure impacts and benefits to disadvantaged communities. Continued engagement and communication to GBEP subcommittees and the GBC identified ways to leverage current relationships for a greater understanding as to how these support community needs. The Equity Strategy will enhance these processes to ensure regular and intentional engagement with stakeholders and that contributions for under resourced communities will be meaningful.

Partners and Their Role(s): The grantee provided project management, oversight of stakeholder involvement (as applicable), and development of the Equity Strategy.

Outputs/Deliverables:

- Progress updates provided through semiannual reports to the EPA due August 30 and February 28
- Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy approved by the EPA August 24, 2023

Long-term Outcomes: To improve equity in implementation of the GBP, 2nd Edition.