



Artist Boat Receives Funding For Coastal Prairie Restoration

Artist Boat is pleased to announce that they received funding from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Community Outdoor Outreach Program (TPWD CO-OP) for the project titled: "Galveston County and State Park Community Prairie Restoration Outreach Program". TPWD CO-OP grants help fund community-based youth and family outdoors-oriented programs and activities like camping, backpacking, kayaking and service projects.

In the Galveston County and State Park Community Prairie Restoration Outreach Program, service-learning opportunities will be provided to 900 3rd-5th grade students from Galveston Island schools who are from predominately underserved (low income and minority) backgrounds at the Galveston Island State Park (GISP). Through this year-long project, students will become engaged in topics such as habitat loss, wildlife conservation, and ecosystem disruption on barrier islands such as Galveston through an in class Habitat Restoration Workshop, construction and maintenance of school nurseries where a total of 6,000 native prairie plants will be grown, and a Habitat Restoration Adventure, where students will plant the native prairie plants they grew at GISP.

Eight to ten acres of coastal prairie is expected to be restored through this project. Coastal prairie is a very endangered habitat, with less than 1% remaining. Coastal prairies perform many important functions such as providing a diverse habitat for native wildlife, carbon sequestering, and water and sediment retention, which prevents erosion from flooding or storm surges.

This is the third time Artist Boat's Habitat Restoration Adventure (HRA) Program has received funding from TPWD CO-OP. Past programs also focused on community-based habitat restoration at GISP. Artist Boat's HRA Program has served 8,384 members in the Houston/Galveston community and has restored 52.46 acres of habitat since 2007, 17.75 of which has been at GISP.

By engaging the next generation of environmental leaders in the Galveston County and State Park Community Prairie Restoration Outreach Program, we can equip the youth of our community with the knowledge and motivation they need to maintain and protect these valuable coastal tallgrass prairie ecosystems for future generations.

Integrating the arts & sciences for exploration & appreciation of coastal habitats.