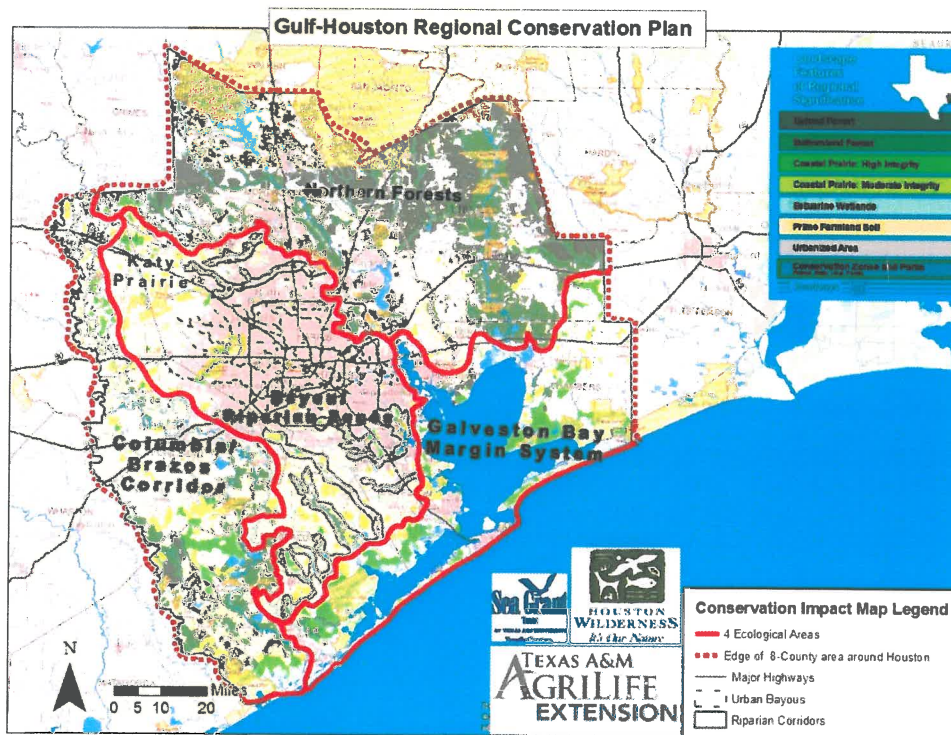


Gulf-Houston Regional Conservation Plan Executive Summary

The Gulf-Houston Regional Conservation Plan (*Gulf-Houston Plan*) is a long-term collaborative of environmental, business and governmental entities working together to create a first-ever ecosystem continuity and connectivity plan for the Gulf-Houston Region.¹ As a collection of existing and planned environmental projects and recreational initiatives, this *Gulf-Houston Plan* includes a GIS-based, conservation impact map that highlights four (4) ecologically-significant areas (“Eco-Areas”) within the 8-county region (see map below). The *Gulf-Houston Plan* contains two phases. Projects and initiatives in Phase One include **300,000 acres** of land acquisition, land easements and restoration, and development of over **250 recreational trail miles**. Phase Two will include projects that concentrate on restoration, public access, maintenance and education.²

The *Gulf-Houston Regional Conservation Plan* will:

- (1) Increase funding opportunities for *Gulf-Houston Plan* projects, and leverage conservation/recreation dollars from multiple sources;
- (2) Enhance and protect the natural benefits of our region;
- (3) Provide flood mitigation and hurricane-preparedness solutions;
- (4) Serve as a vehicle for other regional environmental collaborations and initiatives;
- (5) Demonstrate multiple green infrastructure benefits to serve the region’s growing population;
- (6) Rapidly increase ecotourism;
- (7) Attract businesses and employees seeking natural amenities and high quality of life ; and
- (8) Significantly boost economic development.



¹ The Gulf-Houston Regional Conservation Plan includes 8 counties: Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Fort Bend, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller County

² For more information, see www.houstonwilderness.org/gulf-houston-regional-conservation-plan or email info@houstonwilderness.org.

Gulf-Houston Regional Conservation Plan Fact Sheet

Background: The Gulf-Houston Region includes three major rivers and over 15 major waterways leading to Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. From these waters, an amazing complex set of ecosystems comprising freshwater forests, prairies and bottomlands, brackish estuaries and saltwater marshes and forests including 1 million acres, or 1,562 square miles of wetlands in early 1900's. This area represents 7 percent of the nation's coastal wetlands in the lower 48 states.

Over-arching Conservation Goals: The 8-County Gulf-Houston Region still contains numerous acres of pristine and diverse ecologic habitats, but these intact ecological areas are becoming increasingly threatened and fractured due to land and water development, expansion of the region, and built infrastructure to accommodate the growth of the region. The result has been a reduction in forests and wetlands of 40 percent currently. The *Gulf-Houston Regional Planning Group* aims to (1) preserve and protect these best remaining habitats, (2) improve water quality and quality of life and (3) ensure economic health and vitality for future generations in the greater Houston Region and Galveston Bay watershed.

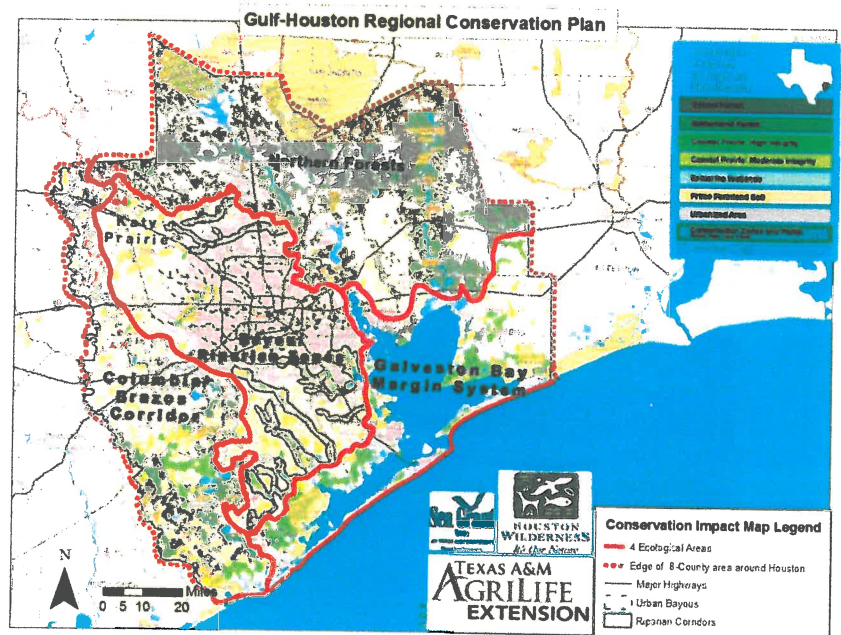
These goals are being achieved by RCP members and organizations in the following four ways:

a. **Creating a *Regional Conservation Plan*** for multiple land and watershed conservation and restoration efforts in the 8-county region. Included in **Phase One** is **300,000 acres** of land acquisition, land easements and restoration, and **250 trail miles**. Later phases will include additional acquisition, restoration, public access and education (See Eco-Area Map below).

b. **Preserving and protecting** the ecological values of land/water ecosystems and habitats that provide billions of dollars in environmental and infrastructure benefits by implementing the RCP. (See Benefits below)

c. **Enhancing economic development** and natural recreational opportunities in the watersheds leading to Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico within the 8-county region. In **Phase One**, investing **\$1 billion dollars** to acquire and restore **300,000 acres** and **250+ trail miles** will result in **\$3 billion** given back to the community in economic development dollars.¹

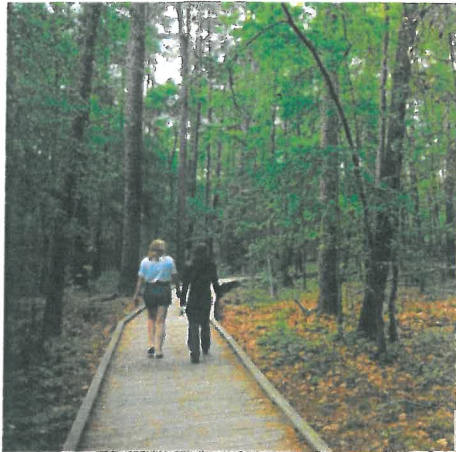
d. **Providing flood mitigation and hurricane-preparedness solutions** through inland and coastal conservation projects that serve as natural land and water buffers and storm-surge protection.



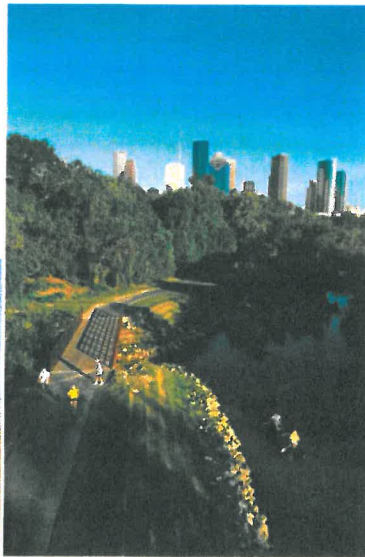
Regionally Significant Natural Resources for the Houston-Galveston area:

- Prairies (upland and coastal) – grasslands, wet meadows, hill prairies, native vegetation
- Forests – upland piney wood, bottomland hardwood
- Coastal Shorelines – estuaries, tidal marshes, oyster reefs
- Riparian Corridors – major bayou systems, significant rivers of watershed systems

The Benefits of Implementing the Gulf-Houston Regional Conservation Plan:



- **Strategic Conservation**, by protecting and restoring ecologically significant areas
 - **Recreation**, by providing enhanced natural areas and access potential
 - **Flood Protection**, by promoting higher standards for flood & surge protection that incorporate non-structural solutions
 - **Water/Air Quality**, by enhancing the capabilities of natural areas to absorb nutrients from runoff and criteria air pollutants
 - **Wildlife**, by providing and conserving significant habitats and corridors
 - **Ecotourism**, by providing birding sites, wildlife viewing areas, paddling inputs, nature trails etc.
- **Eco-friendly development**, by increasing awareness of green infrastructure benefits and providing opportunities to incorporate development with ecosystem and habitat conservation activities



¹ Crompton, John L. "Impact Of Parks & Open Spaces On Property Values." *Impact Of Parks & Open Spaces On Property Values*. California Parks & Recreation Society, Winter 2007

Gulf-Houston Regional Conservation Plan Working List of Projects¹

I. Overview of Ecological Collaboration & Opportunity Areas (Eco-Area) Phase 1 (See Corresponding RCP Budget Attached)

- A. **Eco-Area Initiative - Bayou/Riparian Zones:** Collaborative projects along the major waterways for land acquisition and restoration
1. **Katy Prairie Acquisition Projects:**
 - a. Katy Prairie Project, Phase 1 & 2 – Targeted large acreage in the Katy Prairie for land acquisition, conservation, and restoration expansion including Cypress Creek watershed
 - b. Katy Prairie Project, Phase 3 – Targeted large acreage in the Katy Prairie for land acquisition, conservation, and restoration expansion including Cypress Creek watershed
 - c. *Acquisition of Remaining Undivided Interest in the (Warren Ranch Buyout Program)(KPC)
 - d. *Warren Ranch Preservation Project (KPC)
 - e. HCFCD & KPC– Land acquisition within the Cypress Creek Overflow zone.
 2. **Armand Bayou Acquisition Projects:**
 - a. Armand Prairie Land Acquisition Project (ABNC, ABWP, Harris County Pct 2)
 - b. Upper Armand Bayou Preservation, Restoration and Flood Hazard Reduction (HCFCD and Harris County Pct 2)
 3. **Eight Riparian Corridor Acquisition Projects** (respective leveraged collaborative projects):
 - a. Spring Creek Greenway Project - Targeted large acreage along Spring Creek for land acquisition, easements and riparian forest restoration
 - b. Cypress Creek Greenway Project - Targeted large acreage along Cypress Creek for land acquisition, easements and riparian forest restoration
 - c. *Bayou Greenways Initiative* – Collaborative projects along 10 bayou arteries from Spring Creek north to Clear Creek (Harris County only)
 - i. *Clear Creek Riparian Corridor Acquisition Project (land acquisition and habitat restoration)*
 - d. *Headwaters to Baywaters Project* – protect acreage along the riparian corridors, in a holistic approach, for each of four Galveston Bay subwatersheds (Cypress Creek, Spring Creek, Buffalo Bayou, and Clear Creek) and develop plans to improve habitat for birds migrating between the coast and inland areas
 - e. Greens Bayou Water Trail and Eco-Restoration Project (GGBC)
 - f. * Buffalo Bayou Land Acquisition (BBP)
 - g. Clear Creek Linear Park Project (TPWD)
 - h. Lower Clear Creek Preservation and Flood Hazard Reduction (HCFCD, Harris County Precinct 1 & GBF)
- B. **Eco-Area Initiative - Columbia/Brazos Corridor:** Collaborative projects allowing for large land acquisitions along the Brazos River including
1. Damon/Nash Prairie Project
 2. Damon/Nash Prairie Project - Land acquisition of 30,000 acres (Texas A&M Sea Grant)
 3. *Columbia Bottomlands (Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges) – 40K acres

¹ February 6, 2015

4. *Columbia Bottomlands (The Conservation Fund / USFWS) – 28K
5. *Follett’s Island Conservation Initiative (TPWD)
6. *Coastal Prairie & Marsh Acquisitions (TPWD)
7. *Land Acquisition at Nannie Stringfellow WMA in Brazoria Co (TPWD)
8. *Justin Hurst WMA Land Acquisitions (TPWD)
9. Brazos Woods Preservation Project (Brazos River Conservation/Recreation Master Plan (Fort Bend Green)
10. Foster- Harrison Ranching and Wetlands Preservation Area Project – Fort Bend Green

C. **Eco-Area Initiative - Galveston Bay Margin:** Collaborative projects allowing for the following: ***

1. **West Bay Estuarine/Wetland Corridor Acquisition:**

- a. *South Deer Island Acquisition and Restoration (Audubon Texas)
- b. *Galveston Bay Watershed Wetland and Habitat Protection (GBF, TCEQ- GBEP)
- c. Virginia Point Shoreline Protection And Estuarine Restoration [FUNDED BY NFWF (Nov. 17th, 2014)]
- d. Angleton Prairie (GBF)
- e. Bastrop Bayou (GBF)
- f. Sweetwater Preserve Expansion (GBF)
- g. Dickinson Bayou Conservation Corridor (GBF)

2. **East Bay & Trinity Bay Estuarine/Wetland Acquisition:**

- a. *Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge Wetlands Creation (Anahuac NWR)
- b. *Gordy Marsh Land Acquisition Project (GBF) – 1,500 acres of acquisition

Large coastal marsh & wetland land acquisitions for:

3. **Barrier islands (Galveston)**

- a. Texas Coastal Wildlife Habitat Acquisition (Texas R.I.C.E.) – \$200 million to acquire 100,000 acres along the Texas coast for prairie and wetlands restoration.
- b. *Settegast Coastal Heritage Preserve Land Acquisition (Artist Boat) [PARTIALLY FUNDED BY NFWF (Nov. 17th, 2014)]
- c. Sundown Island Restoration Project (Audubon Texas)
- d. San Luis Pass Land Acquisition

4. **Peninsulas (Bolivar)**

- a. * Bolivar Peninsula Habitat Acquisition and Enhancement (Houston Audubon Society)**
- b. * Colonial Waterbird Habitat Creation and Tourism Enhancements at High Island (Houston Audubon Society)
- c. *Protect Coastal Marshlands on Bolivar Partnership (Cade Ranch) (The Conservation Fund / USFWS) – Bolivar– [FUNDED BY NFWF (Nov. 17th, 2014)]

5. **Galveston Bay Oyster Reef Project** – Creation and Restoration of multiple oyster beds:

- a. Galveston Bay/Trinity Bay Oyster Reef restoration (The Nature Conservancy)** - Oyster

D. **Eco-Area Initiative - Northern Riparian Forests** - Collaborative projects on the following corridors:

1. Lake Creek Project – Targeted large acreage along Lake Creek for land acquisition, easements and riparian forest restoration (KMCB)
2. Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge (The Conservation Fund)
3. **Conservation Lands Connection Project** (applies to all 4 eco-areas) - Targeted large acreage for land acquisition by linking the conservation lands in the forest eco area:

a. Davis Hill (1700 acres of bottomland hardwood) connections with lower forest areas)

- * Projects submitted to the NRDA Project List on NOAA site
- ** Projects that also benefit hurricane preparedness
- *** Projects within the Lone Star National Recreational Area partnership interest area
- Yellow – Eco Area Initiatives Blue – Texas RESTORE Council Review
- Green – Funded by NFWF

II. Conservation Projects by Ecological Area (Phase 1 & 2)

A. Riparian Corridors and Urban Bayous

1. Katy Prairie Acquisition Projects:

- a. Katy Prairie Project, Phase 1 & 2 – Targeted large acreage in the Katy Prairie for land acquisition, conservation, and restoration expansion including Cypress Creek watershed
- b. Katy Prairie Project, Phase 3 – Targeted large acreage in the Katy Prairie for land acquisition, conservation, and restoration expansion including Cypress Creek watershed
- c. *Acquisition of Remaining Undivided Interest in the (Warren Ranch Buyout Program)(KPC)
- d. *Warren Ranch Preservation Project (KPC)
- e. HCFCD & KPC– Land acquisition within the Cypress Creek Overflow zone.

2. Armand Bayou Acquisition Projects:

- a. Armand Prairie Land Acquisition Project (ABNC, ABWP, Harris County Pct 2)
- b. Upper Armand Bayou Preservation, Restoration and Flood Hazard Reduction (HCFCD and Harris County Pct 2)

3. Eight Riparian Corridor Acquisition Projects (respective leveraged collaborative projects):

- a. Spring Creek Greenway Project - Targeted large acreage along Spring Creek for land acquisition, easements and riparian forest restoration
- b. Cypress Creek Greenway Project - Targeted large acreage along Cypress Creek for land acquisition, easements and riparian forest restoration
- c. Bayou Greenways Initiative – Collaborative projects along 10 bayou arteries from Spring Creek north to Clear Creek (Harris County only)
 - i. Clear Creek Riparian Corridor Acquisition Project (land acquisition and habitat restoration)
- d. Headwaters to Baywaters Project – protect acreage along the riparian corridors, in a holistic approach, for each of four Galveston Bay subwatersheds (Cypress Creek, Spring Creek, Buffalo Bayou, and Clear Creek) and develop plans to improve habitat for birds migrating between the coast and inland areas
- e. Greens Bayou Water Trail and Eco-Restoration Project (GGBC)
- f. Buffalo Bayou Land Acquisition (BBP)
- g. Clear Creek Linear Park Project (TPWD)
- h. Lower Clear Creek Preservation and Flood Hazard Reduction (HCFCD, Harris County Precinct 1 & GBF)

4. Aquaponics and Aquaculture Facility along Buffalo Bayou (BBP)
5. Collaborative On-Site Ecosystem Services Studies for Cypress Creek Watershed and Lake Houston
6. Development of a Riparian Buffer Tool (H-GAC)
7. HCFCD and Harris County - Riparian land acquisition along all 22 waterways in Harris County (HCFCD)
8. Houston Urban Tree Canopy Project (US Forest Service)
9. Native Prairie Seed Nursery Houston-Gulf Coast Region (KPC)
10. On-Site Sewage Facility Remediation for Water Quality and Aquatic Habitat (H-GAC)
11. Restoration of Houston Arboretum & Nature Center (Houston Arboretum & Nature Center)

B. Columbia/Brazos Corridor

1. Damon/Nash Prairie Project
2. Damon/Nash Prairie Project - Land acquisition of 30,000 acres
3. *Columbia Bottomlands (Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges) – 40K acres
4. *Columbia Bottomlands (The Conservation Fund / USFWS) – 28K
5. *Follett's Island Conservation Initiative (TPWD)
6. *Coastal Prairie & Marsh Acquisitions (TPWD)
7. *Land Acquisition at Nannie Stringfellow WMA in Brazoria Co (TPWD)
8. *Justin Hurst WMA Land Acquisitions (TPWD)
9. Brazos Woods Preservation Project (Brazos River Conservation/Recreation Master Plan (Fort Bend Green)
10. Foster- Harrison Ranching and Wetlands Preservation Area Project – Fort Bend Green
11. Austin's Woods CP Eagle Nest Lake; 2500 acre prairie restoration from Nash seed source (USFWS)
12. *Brazos Bend State Park Environmental Education Center (TPWD/ Brazos Bend State Park)
13. *Brazoria NWR Habitat & Native Prairie Restoration (Texas R.I.C.E.) - \$200,000 to restore 20,000 acres of native prairie on the Brazoria NWR and construct 400 acres of freshwater wetland habitat.
14. *Follet's Island CR-257 Dune System Restoration(Brazoria County Shoreline Restoration Task Force)
15. Fulshear Red Bird Land Acquisition Project – City of Fulshear
16. *Gulf Coast Natural Resources education and training center (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory)
17. *Improve Freshwater Management Capabilities on Wildlife Management Areas (TPWD)
18. *Near Shoreline Breakwater at Surfside's Beach Drive(Brazoria County Shoreline Restoration Task Force)
19. *Non-native and Invasive Vegetation Control on Wildlife Management Areas (TPWD)
20. SCA Gulf Bird Protection and Monitoring Corps (SCA & Gulf Coast Bird Observatory)
21. *Surfside Beach Drive Revetment Extension (Brazoria County Shoreline Restoration Task Force)

C. Galveston Bay Margin System

1. West Bay Estuarine/Wetland Corridor acquisition

- a. *South Deer Island Acquisition and Restoration (Audubon Texas)
- b. *Galveston Bay Watershed Wetland and Habitat Protection (GBF, TCEQ- GBEP)
- c. Virginia Point Shoreline Protection And Estuarine Restoration **FUNDED BY NFWF (Nov. 17th 2014)**
- d. Angleton Prairie (GBF)
- e. Bastrop Bayou (GBF)
- f. Sweetwater Preserve Expansion (GBF)
- g. Dickinson Bayou Conservation Corridor (GBF)

2. East Bay & Trinity Bay Estuarine/Wetland acquisition

- a. *Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge Wetlands Creation (Anahuac NWR)
- b. *Gordy Marsh Land Acquisition Project (GBF) – 1,800 acres of acquisition

3. Large coastal marsh & wetland land acquisitions for: Barrier islands (Galveston)

- a. Texas Coastal Wildlife Habitat Acquisition (Texas R.I.C.E.) – \$200 million to acquire 100,000 acres along the Texas coast for prairie and wetlands restoration.
- b. *Settegast Coastal Heritage Preserve Land Acquisition (Artist Boat) PARTIALLY FUNDED BY NFWF (Nov. 17th, 2014)
- c. Sundown Island Restoration Project (Audubon Texas)
- d. San Luis Pass Land Acquisition

4. Peninsulas (Bolivar)

- a. * Bolivar Peninsula Habitat Acquisition and Enhancement (Houston Audubon Society)**
- b. * Colonial Waterbird Habitat Creation and Tourism Enhancements at High Island (Houston Audubon Society)
- c. *Protect Coastal Marshlands on Bolivar Partnership (The Conservation Fund / USFWS) – Bolivar (Cade Ranch) – FUNDED BY NFWF (Nov. 17th, 2014)

5. Galveston Bay Oyster Reef Project – Creation and Restoration of multiple oyster beds \

- a. Galveston Bay/Trinity Bay Oyster Reef restoration (The Nature Conservancy)** - Oyster
- 6. *Ashier Wildlife Management Area Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration(GBF/TPWD)
- 7. Assist Proposed Lonestar Coastal National Recreation Area (The Nature Conservancy) **
- 8. A Landscape Approach to Oyster Reef Restoration in Upper Galveston Bay –(TPWD)
- 9. *Bird Habitat and Coastal Freshwater Wetland Restoration at Sheldon Lake State Park (Texas AgriLife Extension Service/Texas Coastal Watershed Program)
- 10. Bay Area Colonial Water Bird Rookery Island Habitat – (HA)
- 11. Best Practices for Bird Habitat Restoration on the Gulf Coast (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory)**
- 12. *Bolivar Peninsula Salt Marsh Protection and Restoration (TGLO)**
- 13. *Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge Water Supply (Texas R.I.C.E.) - \$400,000 to establish a large volume water well to supply 2,000 acres of created wetland units
- 14. Cedar Gully Education Center (GBF)
- 15. Clean the Park –NULL
- 16. Coastal Ecosystem health: Documenting avian exposure to Gulf pollutants. (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory)
- 17. Coastal Exchange Program (SSPEED Center, Rice U.)**
- 18. Construction of Multi-purpose wetland for Improvement of Water Quality and Habitat (EIH)
- 19. Creating and Restoring Galveston
- 20. *Demonstrating the Utility of Ecosystems Services for Environmental Decision Making in the Galveston Bay Region (HARC)
- 21. *Dickinson Bay Habitat Island & Oyster Reef Restoration (GBF)**
- 22. *Dickinson Bayou Marsh Restoration Project (TPWD)
- 23. *Document stranded sea turtles in Texas (USFWS)
- 24. Ecosystem Services Studies along the Galveston Bay Margin System(HW)
- 25. *Education through Restoration: Galveston Bay *Get Hip to Habitat* Program (GBF)
- 26. *Evaluating the effectiveness of restoration projects as water bird habitat along the Gulf Coast (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory)
- 27. Evaluating the Status & Habitat Use of Sea Turtles Utilizing Texas Coastal Waters (Turtle Island Restoration Network)
- 28. *Expansion and Continuation of Kemp's Ridley sea turtle patrols on the Upper Texas Coast, an incubation faculty and a rehabilitation and treatment facility (HEART)
- 29. *Follett's Island GEMS Shoreline Protection (TGLO)

30. *Galveston Bay Bird Nesting Islands Restoration (Audubon Texas)
31. *Galveston Bay Wetland Trend Analysis for Restoration Prioritization (Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas at Austin)
32. *Galveston Bay Freshwater Inflows
33. *Galveston Bay Oyster Reef Restoration and Enhancement (TPWD)**
34. Galveston Bay Bird Islands Restoration (Audubon Texas)**
35. *Galveston Bay Wetlands: Planning for a Sustainable Future (Galveston Baykeeper)**
36. *Galveston Island State Park Beach Re-Development (TPWD)
37. *Galveston Island State Park Inholding Acquisition (TPWD)
38. *Galveston Island State Park Bay side tent, tidal and kayak campsites (TPWD)
39. *Galveston Island State Park Cabins (TPWD)
40. *Galveston Island State Park Inholding Acquisition (TPWD)
41. Galveston Island State Park Mitigation Property In-Holding Parcel Purchase (TPWD/Galveston Island State Park)
42. *Go Green Galveston (G3) (Galveston Urban Ministries)
43. Greens Lake Marsh Protection - Coastal Marsh/ GIWW Shoreline Protection (DU) [FUNDED –Nov. 17th, 2014]
44. Gordy Marsh Habitat Protection (GBF) – 4000 acres of acquisition (GBF)
45. *Hydrological Restoration of coastal marsh (USFWS)
46. Land Purchase & Construction of Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility for the Upper Texan Coast (Turtle Island Restoration Network)
47. *Mad Island WMA Shoreline Protection (TGLO)
48. *Management of Galveston Bay Conservation Properties for Enhanced Ecosystem Functions and Resilience (GBF)**
49. *Marquette Acquisition Project (TGLO)
50. *McAllis Point Phase 2 Land Acquisition (TGLO)
51. *Moses Lake/Dollar Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration (GBF) [FUNDED BY NFWF (Nov. 17th, 2014)]
52. *Oyster Lake Habitat Protection - Phase 2 (GBF) - [FUNDED BY NFWF (Nov. 17th, 2014)] *Property purchase for the use of water rights (USFWS)
53. Pierce Marsh Beneficial Use Marsh Restoration (GBF)
54. Pilot Study of Floating Treatment Wetlands as Addition to Stormwater BMP Repetoire (TAE)
55. Port Freeport Regional Sediment Management-Habitat Restoration Initiative (Port Freeport)
56. *Purchase of water rights (USFWS)
57. *Restore Colonial Waterbird Rookery Habitat in Dickinson Bay (TPWD)
58. *Restoration of Public Trust of the Natural Resources of Chambers County and the Upper Texas Coast (Chambers County)
59. *Rollover Pass Closure/Fisheries Mitigation (TGLO)
60. Salt Bayou Watershed Restoration (DU)
61. *San Jacinto North Shore Restoration (TPWD)**
62. *San Jacinto Santa Ana Bayou Marsh Restoration (TPWD)**
63. *San Jacinto North Shore Repair (TPWD)**
64. *San Jacinto Footbridge Project (TPWD)
65. SCA Texas Gulf Restoration Corps (SCA , ABNC & TPWD) *Science-based Restoration of an Oyster Reef in Middle Reef, East Galveston Bay (The Nature Conservancy, TPWD, TAMU-CC)**
66. Scenic Galveston wetland/estuary acquisition/restoration project [name?]
67. *Seabrook Habitat Island Restoration (GBF)
68. *Sea turtle conservation in Texas (The Nature Conservancy) – Galveston

69. Shamrock Island Restoration (The Nature Conservancy)
70. *Sustainable Marsh Management (USFWS)
71. Sweetwater Nature Preserve Shoreline Protection (GBF)
72. *Texas Chenier Plain Refuge Complex (The Conservation Fund / USFWS)
73. *To reintroduce the natural fire regime and occurrence on Anahuac NWR (USFWS)
74. *Virginia Point Wetlands Construction and Shoreline Protection (TGLO)
75. *Wading Bird Rookery Creation (Anahuac NWR/USFWS)
76. *West Bay Estuarine Habitat Restoration and Protection Project (TPWD)
77. *West Bay Water Quality Protection Project (TPWD)

D. Northern Forests

1. Lake Creek Greenway Project – Targeted large acreage along Lake Creek for land acquisition, easements and riparian forest restoration
2. Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge (The Conservation Fund)
3. **Conservation Lands Connection Project** (applies to all 4 eco-areas) - Targeted large acreage for land acquisition by linking the conservation lands in the forest eco area:
 - a. Davis Hill (1700 acres of bottomland hardwood) connections with lower forest areas)
4. Cypress Creek Greenway Project - Targeted large acreage along Cypress Creek for land acquisition, easements and riparian forest restoration
5. Riparian Corridor Protection for Priority Watersheds in the Houston-Galveston Region (H-GAC)
6. Streamlining Wetland Permitting and Decision-Making Improving Region Mitigation and Building the Capacity of Local Government and Citizens (HARC)
7. *Willow Creek Forest (American Land Conservancy)

III. Region Wide/Shared Resources in Multiple Ecological Areas Projects

1. Coastal Bend Seagrass Monitoring (The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program)
2. Conservation and evaluation of limiting factors for American Oystercatchers (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory)
3. Creating new Black Skimmer nesting areas (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory)
4. Equipment sharing project (Bayou/Riparian Zone stakeholders)
5. Expand Texas Sea Turtle Stranding Rescue and Response Capabilities (Ocean Conservancy)
6. Expand Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network (Ocean Conservancy)
7. Gulf of Mexico planning, monitoring, research (The Nature Conservancy)
8. **Gulf of Mexico Estuary Program - Gulf Houston Coast (GBEP) (RCP Related Projects Listed)**
 - a. Back the Bay
 - b. Conservation Assistance Program
 - c. Development and Implementation of Watershed Protection Plans
 - d. West Bay Water Quality and Wetland Protection Initiative
 - e. Galveston Bay Status and Trends Database
9. **Gulf Coast Habitat Restoration Program (USFWS) – Creation of a funding program directly to state federal agencies to provide funds to NGO's who partner on-the-ground restoration project**
10. Improve/replace aging wastewater infrastructure within the region Project (Justin Bower, H-GAC)
11. Lionfish Assessment, Control and Education (The Nature Conservancy)

12. Mapping of seafloor in Texas and EEZ waters (Ocean Conservancy)
13. Native Prairie Seed Nursery for Houston-Gulf Coast Region (KPC)
14. Native Prairie Restoration (The Nature Conservancy) (see III -1)
15. Restore Texas coastal wetlands, seagrass beds, and bird nesting-islands (The Nature Conservancy)
16. Student Conservation Association regionwide project (Marsha Townsend)
17. *Texas Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Project Design Fund Phase I* (RCP Related Projects Listed)
 - a. Marsh Restoration in Pierce Marsh on West Bay in the Galveston Bay Estuary (See II.5.53)
18. *Texas Coast Migratory and Shore Bird Habitat Restoration* (RCP Related Projects Listed)
 - a. TPWD Urban Conservation Program (Armand Bayou Nature Preserve)
 - b. Coastal Prairie Seed Increase (The Nature Conservancy)
 - c. Prairie Seed Council (The Nature Conservancy)
 - d. Migratory and Shore Bird Habitat (USFWS)
19. Texas Colonial Waterbird Habitat Restoration and Enhancement (Audubon Texas)
20. Texas Upper Coast Wetlands Restoration (DU)
21. Texas Mid-Coast Wetlands Restoration (DU)
22. Upper Texas Coastal Marsh Improvements (DU)

V. Houston-Galveston Area [Hurricane] Protectiveness (H-GAP) Projects

1. Assist Proposed Lonestar Coastal National Recreation Area (The Nature Conservancy)
2. *Bolivar Beach and Dune Restoration (TGLO)
3. *Bolivar Peninsula Salt Marsh Protection and Restoration (TGLO)
4. Coastal Exchange Program (SSPEED Center, Rice U.)
5. *Dickinson Bay Oyster Reef Restoration (GBF)
6. Galveston Bay Bird Islands Restoration (Audubon Texas)
7. *Galveston Bay Conservation Properties for Enhanced Ecosystem Functions and Resilience (GBF)
8. *Galveston Bay Oyster Reef Restoration and Enhancement (TPWD)
9. Galveston Bay/Trinity Bay Oyster Reef restoration (The Nature Conservancy)
10. *Galveston Bay Wetlands: Planning for a Sustainable Future (Galveston Baykeeper)
11. *Protect Coastal Marshlands on Bolivar Partnership (The Conservation Fund / USFWS)
12. Raising Texas 87 along Bolivar Island (TxDOT)
13. *San Jacinto Santa Ana Bayou Marsh Restoration (TPWD)
14. *San Jacinto North Shore Repair (TPWD)
15. *San Jacinto North Shore Restoration (TPWD)
16. *Science-based Restoration of an Oyster Reef in Middle Reef, East Galveston Bay (The Nature Conservancy, TPWD, TAMU-CC)

Acronyms

Anahuac NWF- Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge
 ABNC – Armand Bayou Nature Center
 BBP – Buffalo Bayou Partnership
 DU- Ducks Unlimited

EIH - Environmental Institute of Houston, UHCL
 GBEP- Galveston Bay Estuary Program
 GBF- Galveston Bay Foundation
 HARC- Houston Advanced Research Center

HEART- Help Endangered Animals-Ridley turtles
HW- Houston Wilderness
KPC- Katy Prairie Conservancy
USFWS- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
TAE - Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

TAMU-CC- Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
TCEQ- Texas Council on Environmental Quality
Texas R.I.C.E.- Texas Rice Industry Coalition Environ
TGLO- Texas General Land Office
TPWD- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Gulf -Houston Regional Conservation Plan Budget - Phase One *

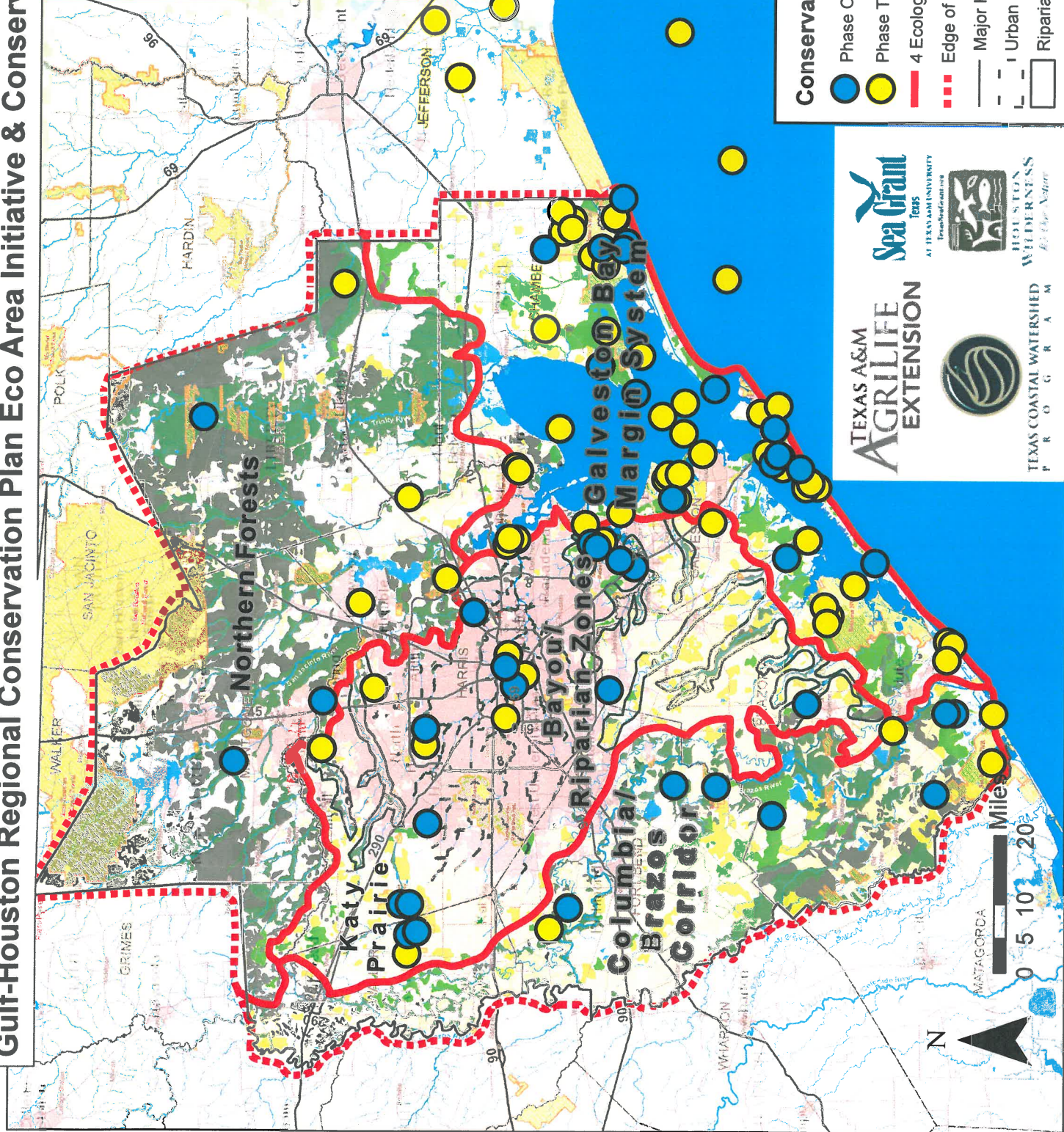
| Eco Area and Benefits | Land Acres for Fee Simple Acquisition | | Easements for Conservation | | Miles for Trail Development | | Total Acres Affected | | Estimated Costs to Implement | | RESTORE Funds Requested | | Alternative Other Sources to Complete the Project | |
|---|---------------------------------------|------|----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--|------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|---|--|
| | 45327 | 300 | 300 | 251 | 45927 | \$496,629,400 | \$346,419,400 | | | | | | | |
| Bayou Riparian. Benefits: Improvement in water quality and air quality. Enhances erosion control and flood protection by creating a natural buffer. Contributes to the coast by providing educational and recreational opportunities for people and ongoing improvements to Habitats for several species. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Columbia Brazos Benefits: Improvement in water quality by contributing to watershed functions, minimizing runoff and reducing erosion. Protect valuable habitat, freshwater inflow to coastal wetlands, reduce the impact of development on water quality, and provide recreational, educational and research opportunities. | 103909 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 103909 | \$300,290,000 | \$296,790,000 | | | | | | | |
| Galveston Bay Benefits: Protect valuable habitat, reduce the impact of development on water quality and improve water supply. Restore oyster reef in Trinity Bay, providing stormwater regulation and restore habitat for a vast number of bird species. Will enhance carbon sequestration and provided eco tourism opportunities. | 106243 | 5660 | 188 | 0 | 112091 | \$318,328,360 | \$297,470,360 | | | | | | | |
| Northern Forest Benefits: Provide floodplain relief, educational and recreational opportunities and protect valuable habitat. Will create a contiguous greenbelt among vanishing wetland habitats. | 26450 | 700 | 0 | 0 | 27150 | \$37,575,000 | \$37,575,000 | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 281929 | 6660 | 488 | 251 | 289077 | \$1,152,822,760 | \$978,254,760 | | | | | | 1/27/15 5:04 PM | |
| Total GHRCP Cost | \$978,254,760 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

* Subject to change as projects are funded

Gulf-Houston Regional Conservation Plan Eco Area Initiative & Conservation Projects

Landscape Features of Regional Significance

- Upland Forest
- Bottomland Forest
- Coastal Prairie: High Integrity
- Coastal Prairie: Moderate Integrity
- Estuarine Wetlands
- Prime Farmland Soil
- Urbanized Area
- Conservation Zones and Parks
Federal, State, Local Projects
- Roadways



Conservation Impact Map Legend

- Phase One Projects
- Phase Two Projects
- 4 Ecological Areas
- Edge of 8-County area around Houston
- Major Highways
- Urban Bayous
- Riparian Corridors