

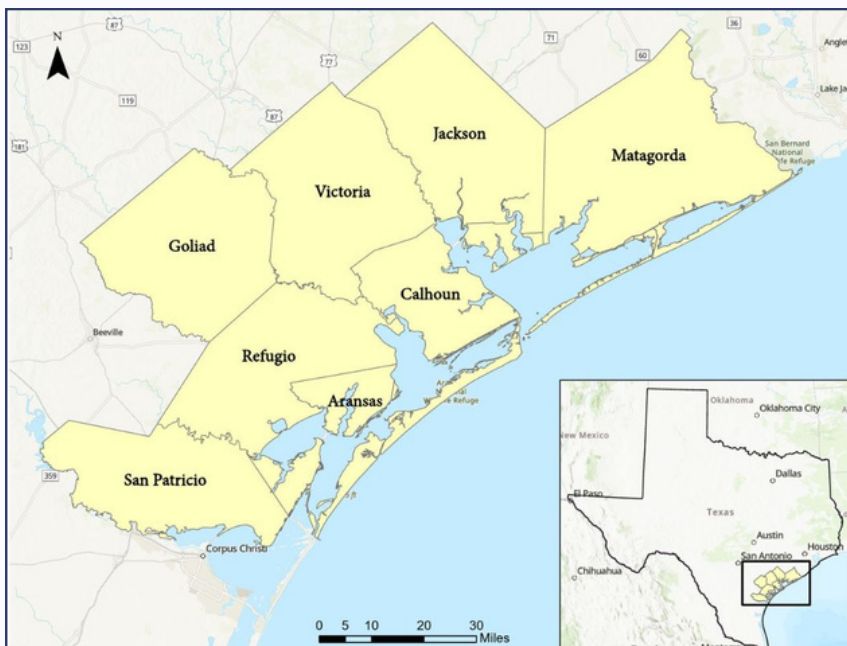
TEXAS MID-COAST WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PARTNERSHIP

Overview

The Texas Mid-Coast Initiative was established to secure conservation easements on wetlands and associated uplands within the 8-county project area shown below. These habitats are among the most diverse in Texas and include a mosaic of freshwater wetlands, coastal prairies, river deltas, and estuaries. Conserving the lands will help ensure the water quality and water quantity needs are met while providing habitat benefits for critical wildlife species.



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Project Objectives

1. Conserve priority wetland habitats for migratory birds and other State and federally listed species.
2. Restore hydrology and improve habitat conditions for fish and wildlife.
3. Improve freshwater flows from small tributaries, streams, and rivers into the coastal bays and estuaries.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



WHAT IS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT?

A wetland conservation easement is a permanent agreement between a landowner and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Under this agreement, the landowner retains ownership and certain activities are restricted to preserve the conservation value of the property. The easement holder will visit once a year to confirm that the terms of the agreement are being met.

HOW ARE LANDOWNERS COMPENSATED?

Under a permanent Wetland Reserve Easement, landowners will receive 80% of the agricultural appraised value of the enrolled acres, which will not exceed \$5,000 per acre. Under a 30-year easement, the landowner receives 60% of the agricultural appraised value.

WHO PAYS FOR THE RESTORATION COST?

Under a permanent easement, NRCS and other partners pay 100% of the restoration costs. Under a 30-year easement, landowners are required to provide 25% of the restoration cost.

HOW IS THE LAND RESTORED?

Restoration activities under the easement will focus on re-establishing hydrology and hydrologic connections to the watershed. If necessary, it can also include brush control, invasive/exotic species removal, and native vegetation plantings.

AM I ELIGIBLE?

Eligible landowners include farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners whose property contains natural wetlands within the 8-county project area. Priority will be given to wetlands that can be cost-effectively restored. Landowners must meet conservation compliance agreements and adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations.

WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE ALLOWED UNDER AN EASEMENT?

Landowners retain ownership of the property but agree to receive Compatible Use Authorizations from NRCS for management activities like prescribed burning and grazing. Some agricultural activities may be modified to protect the wetland acres.

IS THERE AN APPLICATION DEADLINE?

WREP applications are accepted year-round, with funding provided through a competitive evaluation process. State-specific application ranking dates are set yearly.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact us directly today, or
Find more information at our
website:

www.cbbep.org/texas-mid-coast-wetland-reserve-enhancement-easement-program/



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