

ATTACHMENT 1

Habitat Restoration and
Conservation at Packery Channel

Grant Award Narrative

Habitat Restoration & Conservation at Packery Channel

Project Narrative

1. Designated State Agency or Coastal Political Subdivision

Texas General Land Office

Larry Laine, Deputy Clerk, Texas General Land Office

1700 N. Congress Ave. #330, Austin, TX 78701

E-mail: Larry.laine@glo.state.tx.us

Phone: 512-463-5256

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2. Project Title

Habitat Restoration & Conservation at Packery Channel

3. Contract Information

Project Contact

Contact Name: Martha Zottarelli

Entity: General Land Office

Address: 1700 N. Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78701

Phone: (512) 463-6119

Fax: (512) 475-0680

Email: Martha.zottarelli@glo.texas.gov

Application Contact

Contact Name: Ms. Melissa Porter

Entity: General Land Office

Address: 1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701

Phone: (512) 475-1393

Fax: (512) 475-0680

Email: melissa.porter@glo.texas.gov

Sub-grantee Contact

Contact Name: Mr. Scott Cross

Entity: Nueces County Coastal Parks

Address: P.O. Box 18608, Corpus Christi, Tx 78480

Phone: (361)949-8122

Fax: (361)949-7005

Email: scott.cross@co.nueces.tx.us

4. Project Summary

Location: North Padre Island, Nueces County, Corpus Christi, TX

Latitude 27.627317 N, Longitude 97.219017W

Duration: 24 Months

Total CIAP Cost in Approved State Plan: \$550,773

Total CIAP Cost in Approved State Plan by FY Allocation: \$550,773 (FY 2008 state allocation)

Current Total CIAP Cost: \$550,773

Current Total CIAP Cost by FY Allocation: \$550,773 (FY 2008 state allocation)

Nueces County proposes to restore four acres of native coastal live oak motte habitat within the Packery Channel Nature Preserve Park, a 20-acre parcel of land that is owned, operated, and managed by Nueces County. Development of the park is currently one of the County's highest priorities relative to their new regional initiative. A comprehensive Master Plan was developed by the County to ensure that the nature preserve is protected and that all new wetland and woodland habitat areas are preserved in perpetuity.

Native trees, brush, and shrubs will be planted. The existing native coastal grasslands will provide the forb layer and maintenance mowing will be discontinued. Some areas will be planted with other native trees such as mulberry, black willow, retama, hackberry, Texas ash, and cedar elm, and shrub layers such as buttonbush, agarita, and colima. The purpose of the different vegetative assemblages is to provide a diversity of habitat types for resident and migratory birds.

Based on recommendations provided by resource agency scientist and local conservation groups, planting areas will be prepared and planted by professional arborists and/or landscape architects who specialize in native vegetation. Drip irrigation systems will be installed to provide City of Corpus Christi and/or groundwater to the newly planted areas. Maintenance contracts will be established to assure that the drip irrigation systems are kept in functional order, plants are replaced as needed, and invasive vegetation (such as Brazilian pepper trees) are removed.

No CIAP funds relative to this project will be used for federal cost sharing or matching purposes.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of the project is creation/enhancement of 4.0 acres of ecologically unique and environmentally important coastal habitat.

Measureable Objectives:

1. Complete bid process for engineering contractor.
2. Award engineering contract.
2. Complete bid process for construction contractor selection.
3. Award construction contract.
4. Construct the habitat

5. Authorized Use: #1. Projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetland.

Nueces County is pursuing a new and important regional program that will benefit and protect the unique and ecologically important natural resources that occur within the Coastal Bend. This new program and initiative involves the preservation of coastal natural resources through the restoration, enhancement, and protection of wildlife habitat and aquatic and marine ecosystems occurring on County public lands.

Migratory birds, and particularly neotropical migratory passerines, have experienced significant population declines due to habitat loss associated with their breeding and wintering grounds. Sufficient habitat in migratory pathways, such as the Packery Channel Nature Preserve Park area, is vitally needed as stopover or fallout areas during migration. The restoration of natural habitat is critical to the survival of resident birds, insects, reptiles and mammals; however, its value for migratory songbirds is immeasurable.

6. Project Description

Statement of Work:

The GLO will sub-award this project to Nueces County. Funding for this project will be used for the design/engineering and preparation of bid documents, selection of a construction contractor, construction of the project, and construction oversight. All contracts will meet the bids requirements of the CIAP program.

Task 1: Sub-grantee agreement with Nueces County

Task 2: Selection of engineering contractor

The engineering contractor will be selected through a competitive procurement process. Tasks will include, but are not limited to, design, engineering, production of construction bid documents, assistance with the construction contractor bid process and project construction oversight.

Task 3: Selection of construction contractor

The final design and permitting for this project will be completed by the engineering contractor. The contractor will provide assistance to the county in the selection of the construction contractor and will provide management oversight of the construction. After the construction contractor has been selected, Nueces County will facilitate a pre-construction meeting with the engineering contractor and the construction contractor.

Task 4: Project construction

The construction contractor, under oversight of the engineering contractor, will construct the habitat. Upon completion of the project, the engineering contractor will perform a final closeout, inspection, and completion report.

Schedule: This project will be conducted in 24 months beginning with the date of the award.

Task 1 Milestone: Sub grantee agreement with Nueces County (within 3 months of grant award)

Task 2: Selection of engineering contractor (due within 5 months of grant award)

- Issue RFQ

- Conduct bid process
- Execute the engineering contract award with notice to proceed

Task 3: Complete engineering, design and bid documents (due within 12 months of grant award)

- Complete engineering/design/bid preparation

Task 4: Selection of construction contractor (complete within 14 months of grant award)

- Conduct bid process
- Execute the construction contract award with notice to proceed
- Conduct pre-construction meeting

Task 5: Construction and final report (due 24 months after grant award).

- Construction of habitat in accordance to design specifications
- Demobilization, closeout and completion certification by engineering contractor

Factors that could disrupt or expedite the project schedule: Factors that could disrupt the project schedule include inclement weather, availability of materials, or labor issues. The factors that could expedite the project funding, complementary weather and working conditions.

Project Management Plan:

The GLO will sub-award this project to Nueces County through an interlocal agreement. The CIAP administrative manager for this project is:

Contact Name: Martha Zottarelli, Texas General Land Office
 Address: 1700 N. Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701
 Telephone Number: (512) 463-6199
 Fax Number: (512) 463-5233
 E-mail Address: Martha.Zottarelli@glo.texas.gov

As the CIAP administrative manager, Ms. Zottarelli will be ensure the compliance with CIAP requirements by reviewing the sub-award agreement, monthly written progress reports and construction site visits as necessary. Ms. Zottarelli's administrative expenses will be paid from the state FY 2008 Planning Assistance and CIAP Administration project.

Estimated project time: 100 hours

The project manager for this project is:

Contact Name: Scott Cross
 Address: Director of Coastal Parks
 Telephone Number: (361) 949-8121
 Fax Number: (361) 949-7005
 E-mail Address: scott.cross@co.nueces.tx.us

Scott Cross, Director of Coastal Parks, Nueces County, will serve as liaison and day to day project manager. Mr. Scott has many years of experience in this capacity on a variety of construction projects for the county. He will be responsible for QA/QC for the project for inspections and reporting for the project through completion. The Nueces County Auditor's Office will oversee the financial aspects of the CIAP project and the Nueces County Auditor will provide oversight of the financial system. No CIAP funds will be used to pay county employees.

Estimated hours: 288

Deliverables:

Final engineering and design report for the project	Due with the Annual Report
Photo documentation before, during, after construction	Due with appropriate semi or annual reports
Notice to Proceed (construction contract)	Due with corresponding semi or annual report
Semi-Annual Reports	Due within 30 days of the end of reporting period
Annual Performance Reports	Due within 30 days of the end of reporting period
Signage	Due within 30 days of completion of project
Completion certification	Due within 30 days of completion of project

Compatibility/Synergy: The project will have synergy with the Nueces County Park amenities, including boardwalk, picnic tables, parking areas, bathrooms, and other amenities. The habitat project will provide additional acres of native coastal woodland habitat that will also function as a wildlife corridor to the adjacent Packery Woodlands and Packery Channel Oak Motte Sanctuary. The proposed oak motte habitat creation/enhancement project will build upon and add to the ecological value of this important, limited, unique, and rapidly diminishing Packery Woodland oak motte habitat type.

Controversy/Support: The citizens of Nueces County attended the public workshops associated with this project, and the project was the result of a consensus formed among those citizens and members of the Nueces' County Commissioners Court. This woodland project (located on another section of the 20 acre parcel of land) has received support from the Audobon Outdoor Club, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of Packery Channel Nature Preserve Park, Nueces County and members of the public. No controversy has been noted regarding this project.

Bundling: N/A

Program Income: N/A

Maps/Drawings: Maps are attached to the application.

7. Description of Environmental Impacts

No adverse impacts are expected as part of this project. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be developed and adhered to in order to protect the surrounding area from potential damage caused by storm water runoff from the work site during construction. A Construction Site Notice of Intent will be required. No undisturbed native habitat will require clearing.

8. Relationship to Other Federal Programs: N/A

Non Federal Programs: N/A

9. Federal, State, and Local Agencies

Federal and state agencies were involved with the preliminary planning phase. No impacts to any regulated resources (eg endangered species, wetlands) will occur. All construction will occur in uplands, therefore no USACE or other Federal or local permit will be required. The following entities were involved with early planning/application for this project.

USFWS

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Corpus Christi, TX 78412
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USACE

Reagan Richter, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Leslie Williams
6300 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78412
Telephone (361)825-5700

10. Project Information Questions

Environmental Review

- 1) Does the project require any Federal environmental review (e.g., environmental assessment, environmental impact statement, biological opinion)?
 Yes No
- 2) Does the project require any State environmental review (e.g., Consistency Determination, State Historic Preservation Office)?
 Yes No
- 3) Does the project require any local environmental review (e.g., zoning)?
 Yes No

Permits

- 1) Does the project require any Federal permits?
 Yes No
- 2) Does the project require any State permits?
 Yes No
- 3) Does the project require any local permits?
 Yes No

Legal Proceedings

- 1) Are there any pending legal proceedings that have been taken against any of the permits or related environmental analyses required for the project?
 Yes No