



**MATAGORDA BAY MITIGATION TRUST**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**MATAGORDA BAY MITIGATION TRUST  
ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR TWENTY-SIX ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

On September 1, 2023 the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust published a Request for Proposals for coastal environmental projects in six categories: habitat restoration, environmental research, public education, environmental advocacy, improving public access, and youth camps.

The Request for Proposals included a special call for Public Access Improvement - Shoreline Restoration projects that provide shoreline access to the non-boating public that are included in the 2023 General Land Office (GLO) Coastal Resiliency Plan.

In response to the published advertisements a total of 39 proposals, totaling 16.1 million dollars were received.

Today, Steven Raabe, Trustee of the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust, announces that twenty-six projects, totaling over 11.2 million dollars are being approved for funding.

“We were so fortunate to receive so many great proposals and it was difficult for the selection committee to make their recommendation because of the limitation of available funds,” Raabe stated. “But we are extremely pleased with the quality, scope, and cost effectiveness of the proposals selected as a significant step to research, restore and improve the Matagorda and San Antonio bays environment,” he added.

The projects being funded, by category, are:

**Habitat Restoration (Six projects totaling \$945,940)**

Derelict Crab Trap Removal Project: Texas Mid-Coast, \$25,000, San Antonio Bay Partnership

Community Engagement to Reduce Abandoned Crab Traps: Texas Mid-Coast, \$50,000, San Antonio Bay Partnership

Carancahua Bay Community Reef Restoration – Phase I, \$55,940, Matagorda Bay Foundation

Protection and Restoration of Matagorda Island West Marsh, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge – Phase II, \$200,000, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program

Marine Debris Removal on Matagorda Island, \$500,000, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program

Aransas NWR Habitat Restoration, \$115,000, Texas RICE

**Environmental Research (Ten projects totaling \$3,879,628)**

Mid-Coast Sea Turtle Rescue Program, \$14,280, San Antonio Bay Partnership

Matagorda Bay Benthic Habitat Mapping and Assessment, \$489,950, Matagorda Bay Foundation

Mercury exposure through seafood consumption in the Matagorda Bay system: human health study and public education, \$474,900, Texas State University

Resuspension of contaminants in the Matagorda Bay due to storms, ship traffic, and dredging activities, \$433,113, University of Texas at Austin Marine Science Institute

Evaluating Ecological & Human Health Risk of PFAS in Matagorda Bay, \$499,651, University of Texas at Austin Marine Science Institute

Are benefits of freshwater inflow confounded with degradation by non-point source pollution in Lavaca and Matagorda Bays?, \$411,853, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi

Relating variation in freshwater inflow and water quality to biological communities in the Colorado River Delta to inform future habitat restoration projects, \$294,190, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi

Nurdle Count – A machine learning approach to nurdle classification and quantification, \$284,505, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi Conrad Blucher Institute

Assessment of PFAS concentrations and loadings in the Lavaca Bay watershed, \$477,186, Texas A&M AgriLife Research

MIRROR: a Microplastic Raman Optical Rover to Understand Microplastics Variability Along Beaches of Matagorda Peninsula, \$500,000, University of Texas at Austin

**Public Education (One project totaling \$15,525):**

Matagorda County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service | Texas Sea Grant | Matagorda County 4-H - Public Education, \$15,525, Matagorda County 4H Adult Leaders Club

**Improving Public Access (Seven projects totaling \$6,311,000):**

City of Port Lavaca Downtown Waterfront Public Access Improvements, \$400,000, City of Port Lavaca

Bill Sanders Memorial Park Pavilion and Shade Canopy, \$319,000, Calhoun County

Shoreline Preservation and Public Access Improvement to Lavaca River at FM 616 in Lolita, Texas, \$500,000, Jackson County

Matagorda Beach Public Access Improvements, \$395,000, Matagorda County

Matagorda Bay Clean Water Project, \$497,000, City of Palacios

Shoreline Protection and Restoration at Olivia Haterius County Park, \$2,100,000, Calhoun County

Boggy Nature Park Shoreline Stabilization, \$2,100,000, Calhoun County

**Environmental Advocacy (One project totaling \$36,000):**

San Antonio & Espiritu Bay Shoreline Plastics Debris Clean-Up & Reduction, \$36,000, San Antonio Bay Partnership

**Youth Camps (One project totaling \$24,435):**

Connecting Youth to Matagorda Bay Using Art and Literature – Creating a More Resilient Coast Through Youth Advocacy and Conservation, \$24,435, Matagorda Bay Foundation

The effective time frame of these projects ranges from 12 to 36 months.

“This funding cycle is of particular significance in that fifty-six percent of the 11.2 million dollars being awarded is dedicated to projects that improve shoreline access to the non-boating public – something we see as an essential part of our mission and purpose,” Raabe stated.

Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust was funded as a result of a 2019 settlement of a Clean Water Act lawsuit, San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper and S. Diane Wilson v. Formosa Plastics. The settlement called for, among other things, the establishment of the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust with funding provided by Formosa in the amount of \$50 million over a five-year period.

The mission of the Trust is to support and fund environmental mitigation projects, studies, and initiatives in the Matagorda Bay and San Antonio Bay ecosystems.

For further information visit the trust's website at [www.MBMTrust.com](http://www.MBMTrust.com).

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