



**MATAGORDA BAY MITIGATION TRUST**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**MATAGORDA BAY MITIGATION TRUST  
ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR THIRTY-FOUR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

On September 1, 2025 the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust published a Request for Proposals for coastal environmental projects in seven categories: habitat restoration, environmental research, public education, environmental advocacy, improving public access, land for pollution prevention, youth camps, a dedicated mitigation project.

In response to the published advertisements a total of 83 proposals, totaling 40.1 million dollars were received.

Today, Steven Raabe, Trustee of the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust, announces that thirty-four projects, totaling over 15.1 million dollars are being approved for funding, including a 2.0 million dollar contingently awarded project for a major coastal restoration project that was approved last year contingent upon the recipient's having acquired the necessary matching funds.

"I am extremely pleased with the quality, scope, and cost effectiveness of the proposals that have been selected in this funding cycle. We continue to make significant steps in research and in restoring and improving the Matagorda and San Antonio bays for the public good and for the enjoyment of this unique environment," Raabe stated.

Since inception in 2020, the MBMT has entered into contracts totaling 65.6 million dollars.

The 34 new projects being funded, by category, are:

**Habitat Restoration (Twelve projects totaling \$3,607,520)**

Derelict Crab Trap Removal Project: Texas Mid-Coast – 2027-2029, San Antonio Bay Partnership (\$91,500)

Palacios Bird Island Project, City of Palacios, (\$712,845)

Powderhorn Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration Project (GLO CEPR Cycle 14 Project #1815, “TPWD Powderhorn State Park and WMA Final Design Project”), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, (\$280,000)

Mid-Coast Sea Turtle Rescue -- 2026-2029, San Antonio Bay Partnership, (\$24,160)

City of Austwell Package Wastewater Plant Replacement, City of Austwell (\$556,689)

Ghost Trap Removal Pilot -- San Antonio Bay, San Antonio Bay Partnership (\$68,500)

Expanding Operational Capacity of the Matagorda Bay Foundation to Serve Residents of the Central Texas Coast, Matagorda Bay Foundation (\$70,000)

Matagorda Bay System Public Lands Habitat Initiative, Texas RICE (\$164,900)

Panther Lake Protection and Restoration, Phase I, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (\$525,000)

San Antonio & Espiritu Santo Bay Shorelines Cleanup and Litter Reduction, San Antonio Bay Partnership (\$99,450)

Shoalwater Bay Living Shoreline Project, San Antonio Bay Partnership (\$264,800)

A freshwater inflow demonstration project to improve the resiliency of coastal birds in the Matagorda Bay ecosystem, Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation (\$749,676)

**Environmental Research (Four projects totaling \$1,700,897)**

Improving knowledge and success of Black Skimmer colonies in the Matagorda Bay region through monitoring and management, Audubon Texas, (\$331,302)

San Antonio Bay Benthic Habitat Mapping and Assessment, San Antonio Bay Partnership (\$439,680)

Restoration of Freshwater Flow to Townsend Bayou - Phase I, San Antonio Bay Partnership (\$258,203)

Understanding Modern Benthic Ecosystem Decline in Matagorda Bay by Reconstructing Past Change and Pre-20th Century Natural Baselines, University of Texas at Austin (\$671,712)

**Public Education (Four projects totaling \$583,312)**

The RN Archimedes Research Vessel floating classroom Tours of Chester Island during the 2nd

Annual City of Port Lavaca Mid-Coast Birding Festival and Education outreach boat tours about the waterways and birds in Calhoun County, as part of the 2nd Annual City of Port Lavaca Mid-Coast Texas Bird Festival, City of Port Lavaca, (\$16,250)

Matagorda Bay Oyster Gardening Project, Matagorda Co. AgriLife Extension Leadership Advisory Board, (\$5,000)

Empowering Youth as Environmental Educators, Matagorda Bay Foundation (\$30,017)

Palacios Pathways: Where History Meets the Horizon, Palacios Preservation Association (\$532,045)

**Improving Public Access (Nine projects totaling \$4,282,768)**

Clement Cove Wetlands Public Access Shared Use Path, City of Port Lavaca, (\$549,800)

A.D. Powers Bayfront Restoration and Improvement Project, City of Seadrift, (\$600,000)

King Fisher Beach Park Restroom Project, Calhoun County (\$508,245)

New Matagorda Harbor Boat Ramp – Construction, Port of Bay City Authority (\$750,000)

Little Chocolate Bayou Park Bridge - Public Access, Calhoun County (\$600,000)

Matagorda Bay Critical Public Access Project, City of Palacios (\$363,315)

Public Access Improvements at Six Mile Park, Calhoun County (\$460,726)

Bill Sanders Memorial Park Playground Addition, Calhoun County (\$196,933)

Public Access Improvements Project: Playground Shades and Bulkhead Cap Repairs at Point Comfort City Park, City of Pont Comfort (\$253,749)

**Land for Pollution Prevention (One project totaling \$750,000)**

Costa Grande Ranch Land Acquisition, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, (\$750,000)

**Youth Camps (Two projects totaling \$197,920)**

Matagorda County Aquaculture Boot Camp, Matagorda Co. AgriLife Extension Leadership Advisory Board, (\$48,000)

Coastal Explorers Summer Camp, Calhoun County ISD (\$149,920)

**Dedicated Mitigation Project (One Project totaling \$2,000,000)**

Green Lake Breach Repair Supplemental Funding, Calhoun County (\$2,000,000)

**Prior Year Contingent Award (One Project totaling \$2,000,000)**

Oliver Point and Oliver Reef Restoration Project - Phase I, Matagorda Bay Foundation,  
(\$2,000,000)

“This is our sixth funding cycle for the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust and we are so pleased with the work accomplished to this date. We have so many projects focusing on environmental restoration and improvements to the environment that serve to increase the public’s use and general enjoyment of the entire area,” 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 which ended in 2024. Additional mitigation payments of \$36.7 million received for continued discharges of plastics by Formosa since the date of the settlement of the lawsuit brings the total amount of funding provided to the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust to \$86.7 million.

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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