



Galveston Bay Habitat Conservation Blueprint: 10 Years Later

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Galveston Bay Plan

- Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) is one of 28 National Estuary Programs
- As part of the NEP planning process, developed the Galveston Bay Plan (1995)
- Plan priorities include:
 - Wetlands restoration, creation, protection, acquisition
 - Inventory degraded wetlands

Development of the Blueprint..

- Need for site specific information
 - Galveston Bay Foundation began a 2-yr study to inventory sites
- Resource managers worked together to identify potential areas for habitat restoration, enhancement, acquisition, and protection
- “Galveston Bay Habitat Conservation Blueprint” completed in 1998

Galveston Bay Habitat Conservation Blueprint

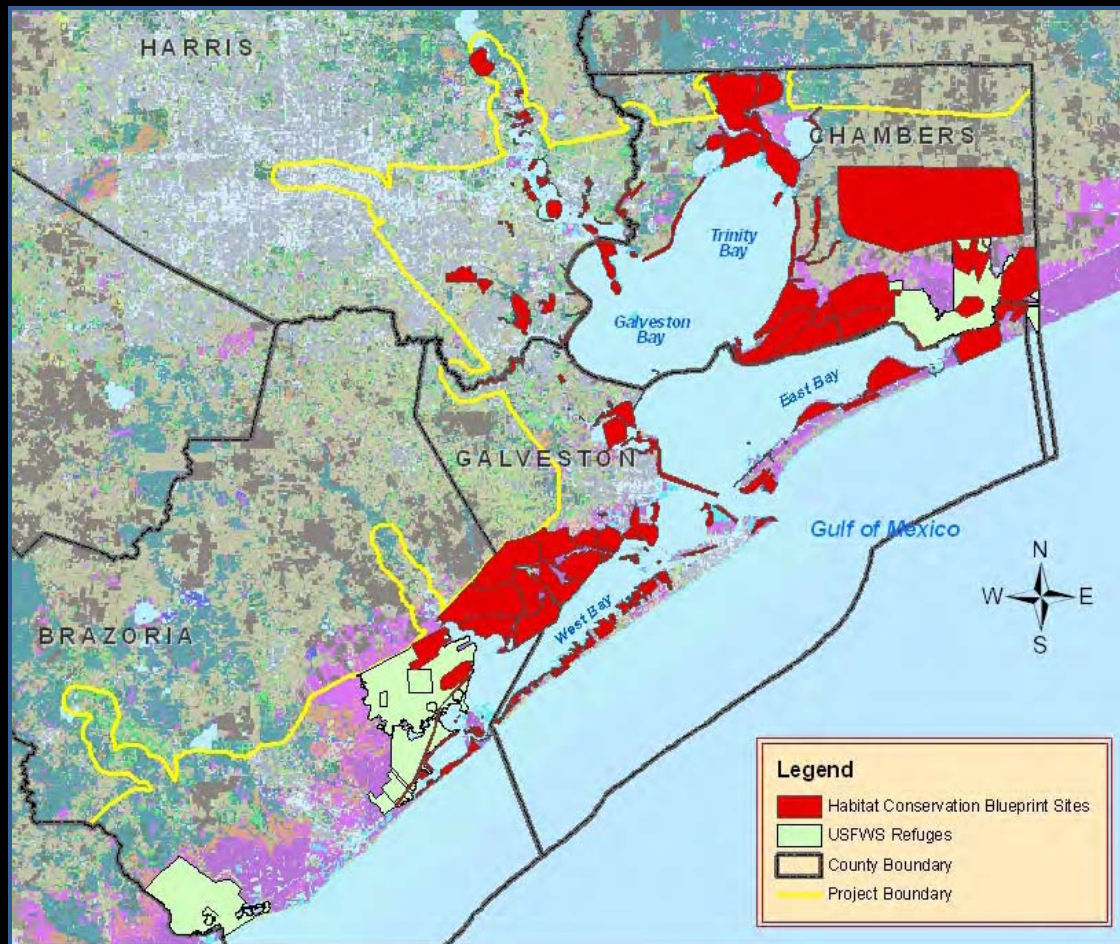
- An inventory of sites with the potential for conservation or restoration
 - Focused on Galveston Bay Complex
- HCB set a goal of catalyzing 24,000 restored acres in Galveston Bay by 2010
- Funded in part by Galveston Bay Estuary Program and the Restore America's Estuaries Program

Habitat Conservation Blueprint (HCB) Focus Area



HCB Site Inventory

167 sites identified within the Galveston Bay Complex



*Map taken from Biggs and Gallaway, 2007

HCB Site Inventory

- Trinity Bay = 25
- San Jacinto = 24
- East Bay = 26
- West Bay = 45
- Galveston Bay = 47



Stingray in restored seagrass beds.

*Majority of sites in Galveston Bay and West Bay

HCB Site Inventory

- Site information:
 - Geographic location/Habitat information
 - Acreage/Ownership
 - Conservation need/opportunity



Pelicans and gulls at North Deer Island.



Rookery at Wallisville.

HCB: 2007 Review

- A review was conducted by EIH in 2007
- EIH estimated 30% of the original 167 sites had:
 - completed or ongoing habitat restoration
 - completed or ongoing property acquisition



Bolivar Flats Sanctuary

HCB: 2010 Review

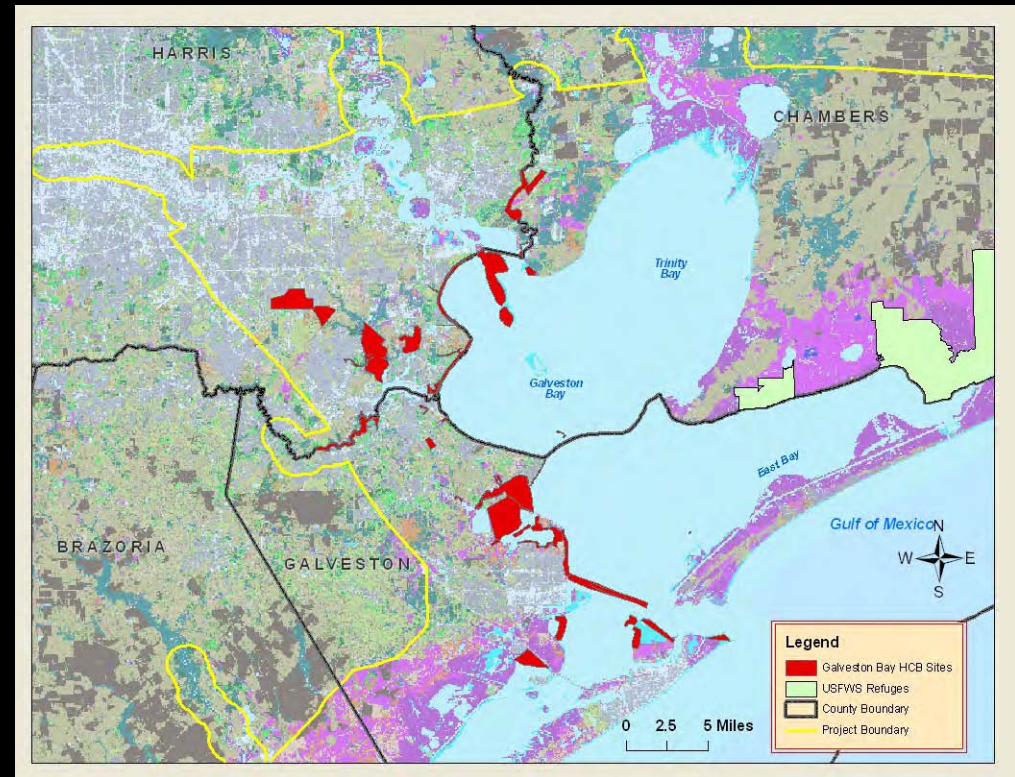
- Compiled a current project spreadsheet based on original blueprint document
- Used current information from resource managers to update project activity for each of the 5 focus areas
 - Which projects are complete and which projects have potential for future conservation efforts?

Galveston Bay HCB Sites

- 47 sites identified
- 17 sites addressed

Projects

- Galveston Bay Coastal Prairie Preserve (Phase I)
- Armand Bayou Nature Center



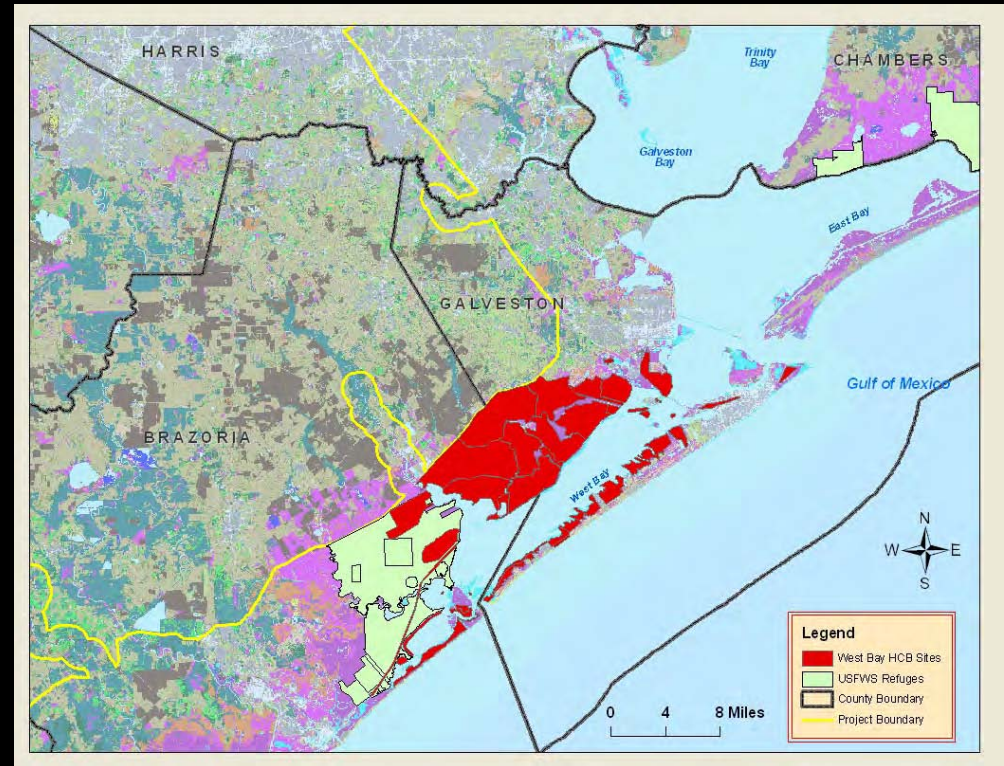
*Map taken from Biggs and Gallaway, 2007

West Bay HCB Sites

- 45 sites identified
- 28 sites addressed

Projects

- North Deer Island Marsh and Rookery
- Pierce Marsh
- Virginia Point



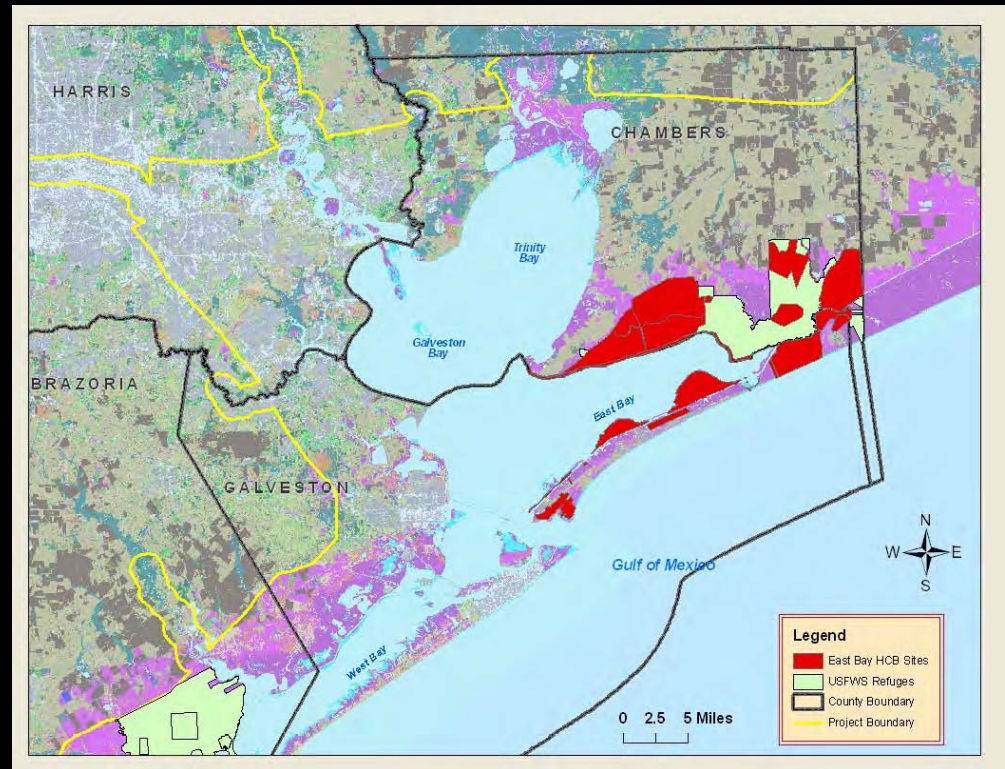
*Map taken from Biggs and Gallaway, 2007

East Bay HCB Sites

- 26 sites identified
- 11 sites addressed

Projects

- Bolivar Flats Sanctuary
- East Bay North Shoreline Marshes



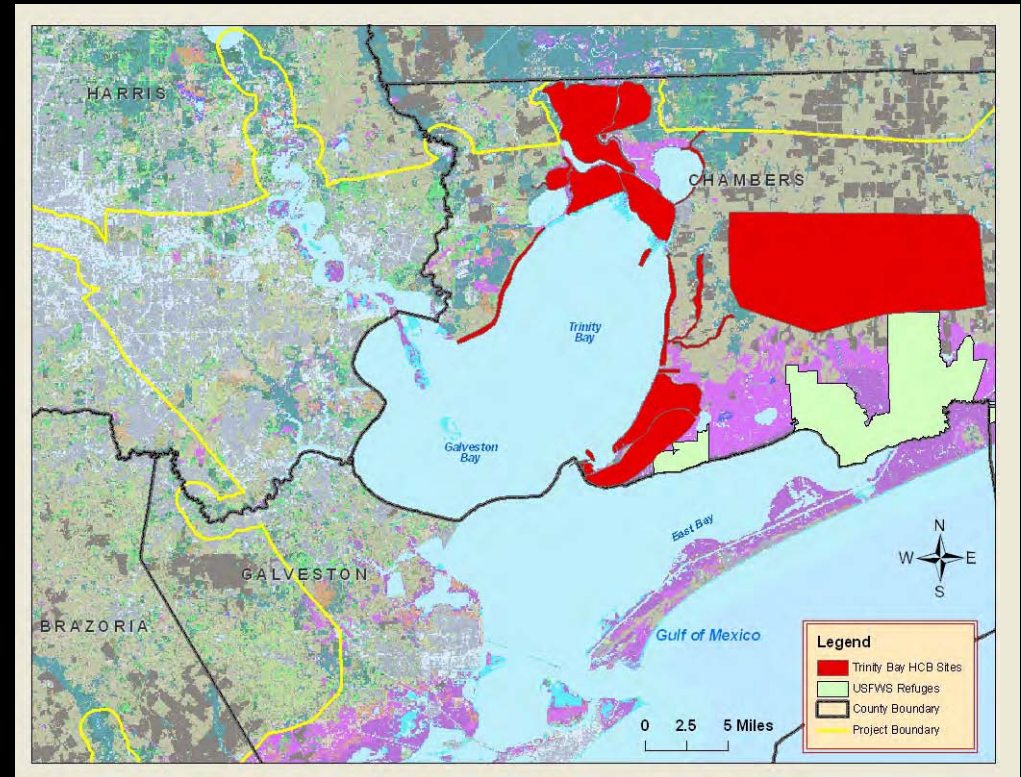
*Map taken from Biggs and Gallaway, 2007

Trinity Bay HCB Sites

- 25 sites identified
- 11 sites addressed

Projects

- Rich Sanctuary
- Lake Anahuac Nature Trail



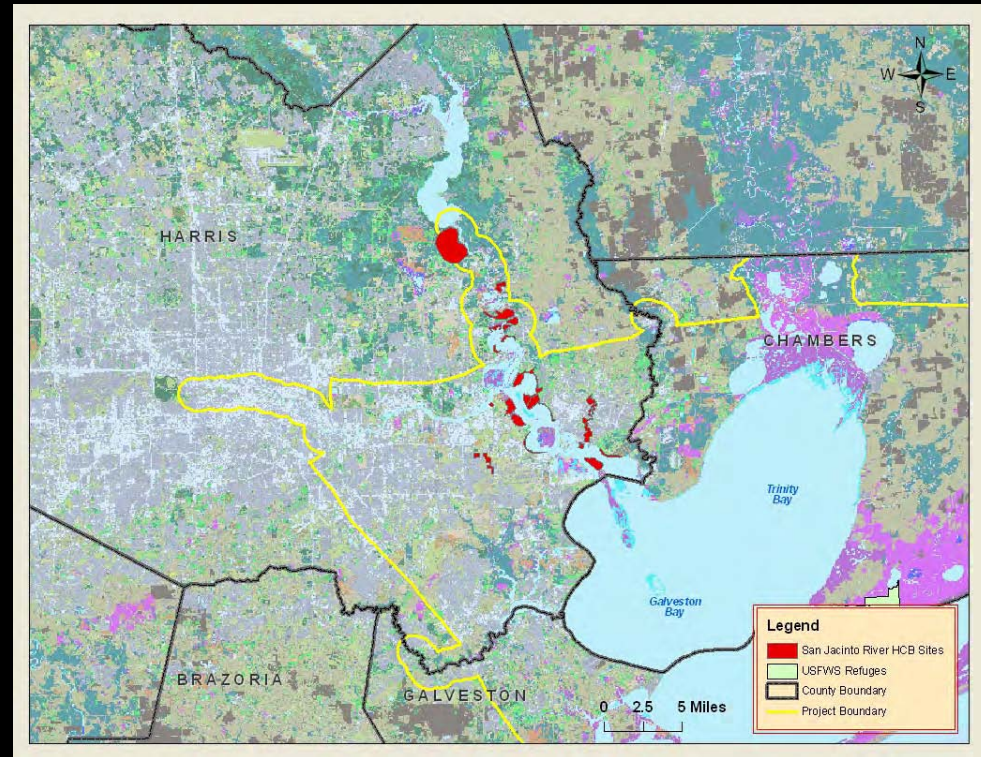
*Map taken from Biggs and Gallaway, 2007

San Jacinto River HCB Sites

- 24 sites identified
- 5 sites addressed

Projects

- San Jacinto Marsh and Woodlands
- Burnet Bay



*Map taken from Biggs and Gallaway, 2007

Site Completion Summary

- 2007 review (EIH):
 - estimated that 30% of identified sites had been addressed
- 2010 review (USFWS):
 - estimates that 43% of identified sites have been addressed (73/167 sites)
 - over 50% of West Bay, East Bay and Trinity River sites completed or in progress

HCB in the Present

- Significant restoration work has been completed in the Galveston Bay Complex since the HCB was drafted and still continues
- HCB continues to be a useful tool, particularly to those new to the restoration community



Roseate spoonbills in marsh.

HCB in the Future



Beach erosion following Hurricane Ike.

- New draft of HCB
 - Remove completed sites, add new sites
- Prioritization of Sites
 - Identify sites in critical need of restoration/acquisition
- Evaluate sites for carbon potential



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