

## **Guidelines for Restoration Plantings in the Galveston Bay System**

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## GUIDELINES FOR RESTORATION PLANTINGS IN THE GALVESTON BAY SYSTEM

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Within the Galveston Bay System, extensive loss of wetlands has generated a great deal of interest in habitat restoration. A variety of projects have resulted in a better understanding of how to successfully create habitat. However, careful planning and consideration of local conditions are essential for success.

The Galveston Bay Foundation and its partners have successfully created marsh habitat in Armand Bayou and Taylor Bayou. Before beginning these projects, GBF consulted with local experts from conservation organizations, federal state and local resource agencies, universities, industry, and Bay area communities. This group became known as the Clear Creek/Clear Lake Marsh Restoration Task Force. The knowledge and expertise provided by the Task Force was an invaluable resource, and the cooperation of the members was key to the success of the restoration project.

To facilitate other habitat restoration efforts in the Bay, the Task Force is developing *Guidelines for Restoration Planting in Galveston Bay*. The document summarizes the steps and considerations involved in planning and executing successful restoration projects. The Guidelines include contact information for permitting agencies, elements which should be included in a restoration plan, conditions to consider when evaluating a restoration site, techniques for site preparation, planting methods, and monitoring strategies. Recommendations are made based on ecology and restoration science, as they pertain to Galveston Bay.