

Boggy Bayou Nature Park Improvements

A Project of the
Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP)
Contract No. 21-600-013-C673

Final Report
September 2023

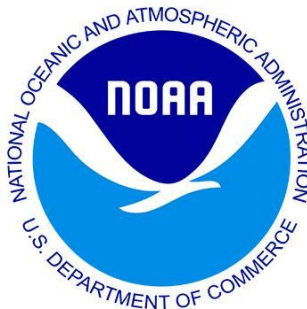
Prepared by:

Gary Reese, Commissioner
and
April Townsend
Calhoun County Precinct Four

gary.reese@calhouncotx.org
april.townsend@calhouncotx.org
361-785-3141

This report was funded in part by a Texas Coastal Management Program grant approved by the Texas Land Commissioner, providing financial assistance under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, awarded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office for Coastal Management, pursuant to **NOAA Award No. NA20NOS4190184.**

The views expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA, the U.S. Department of Commerce, or any of their sub agencies.”



Project Background:

Boggy Bayou Nature Park, located in Port O'Connor adjacent to the Powderhorn Ranch Wildlife Management Area, provides public access to Matagorda Bay and Boggy Bayou for fishing, kayaking, swimming, hiking, and birding. The park has no amenities and no habitat protection measures, except for a boardwalk over part of the marsh area. Visitors enter the park on a 1,400-foot gravel road and follow undefined sand roads and trails to reach the bay and bayou shorelines. These roads are subject to flooding by rain and bay tides. The public often drives into the surrounding sensitive marsh areas to avoid standing water, resulting in damage to marsh and intertidal areas, wetlands, salt and mud flats and the smooth cordgrass shorelines.

The original contract was signed by Judge Richard Meyer on November 13, 2020. The first Deliverable was due November 1, 2020. After several delays and an amendment to extend the contract, the project was finally able to begin.

Task 1: Engineering Design, Permitting and Bidding

The County will solicit engineering services through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in accordance with state and local standards and award a contract to an engineer and to a coastal environmental specialist to conduct a wetland delineation survey. The engineer will develop technical specifications and a complete set of construction drawings to be submitted to the GLO for approval. Once approved, the County will solicit bids to select a construction contractor. The GLO must review and approve the documents prior to bid solicitation. All necessary permits and environmental clearances must be obtained.

Solicitation for construction services was completed twice. When the bidding process was initially completed and a contractor was set to be declared, the project was put on hold. Once the notice to proceed material costs had doubled; therefore, the process began again. On November 20, 2022 a construction contract was signed and accepted by Commissioners Court.

Task 2: Construction

The County will improve the Boggy Bayou Nature Park by building a swing gate at the end of the park entrance road, elevating the sandy road, constructing a culvert to divert flood water and installing 2,000 linear feet of bollards along the park road, parking area, swing gate, and other areas, determined by the engineer, to protect sensitive marsh. Additionally, the boardwalk terminus will be enlarged to 20' x 15'. The County will install temporary CMP signage at the site during construction. The GLO will provide a permanent CMP sign, which the County will install at the project site following construction. A Registered Accessibility Specialist must certify the boardwalk ramp is compliant with Texas State Accessibility Standards (TAS).

Construction of the boardwalk terminus and kiosks began February 27, 2023 and continued through most of April 2023. The road was elevated with clay and limestone, and four 18" x 30' poly culverts were installed to divert flood water. The swing gate was installed in April 2023. Bollards were installed to keep traffic from entering marsh land. The 4' x 8' temporary signage was purchased and installed in April 2023; the temporary signage was later approved to also be the permanent CMP sign. In July/August 2023 the TAS inspection was completed and certification received for the boardwalk ramp.







Task 3:

Signage Installation

The County will install new signage throughout the park. A park entrance sign and a sign to display park rules, usage and safety measures will be installed near the boardwalk. "No Vehicles" and "No Dumping" signs will be placed where needed. Educational signage on birds and coastal plant communities will be installed at the boardwalk terminus and at the kayak access point. Park directional signs will be placed on nearby roadways. ADA parking stripes and signage will be added to the concrete pad in the parking lot. All signage will acknowledge the use of CMP funding. Conceptual designs and draft layout text of interpretive signage must be submitted and approved by the GLO prior to installation.

Park signage was installed throughout the months of construction. Brigid Berger, a local Texas Master Naturalist, volunteered her time and took responsibility of designing and obtaining information for the birding kiosks and having the signs made. Brigid did a phenomenal job on the project.







Task 4: Kayak and Birding Trails

The County will build and install a kiosk at the paddling trail access point. Additionally, the County will install road signage to identify paddling access sites. The County will design and install educational signage along the birding trail. Conceptual designs and draft layout text of interpretive signage must be submitted and approved by the GLO prior to installation.



To date, we do not have paddling trail signs. Allan Berger with San Antonio Bay Partnership has volunteered and is working with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department on the Paddling Trail signage, and we are expecting the signage to be completed in the near future. We do have a map outlining the Powderhorn Paddling Trail which extends from Indianola Marina to Boggy Bayou.

Task 5: Project Monitoring & Reporting

The County will prepare and submit all reports, deliverables, and requests for reimbursement as required in the contract, to CMPReceipts@GLO.TEXAS.GOV. Monthly progress reports are due to CMPReceipts@GLO.TEXAS.GOV on the 10th day of every month of the year starting with January 10, 2021. Requests for reimbursement are to be submitted at the same time as the progress reports to CMPReceipts@GLO.TEXAS.GOV, as specified in the contract.

The County will provide a final report that summarizes activities that occurred under each task throughout the project duration and include photos of the completed project.

Reporting was initially delayed but with the help of several members from the CMP team we were able to get on track and submit our monthly reports and final report.