



GALVESTON BAY  
FOUNDATION



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

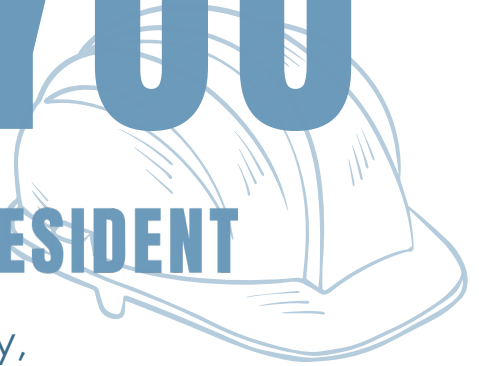


*Our home is worth protecting.*



# THANK YOU

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends and Supporters of Galveston Bay,

I am filled with gratitude as I reflect on the remarkable success we had in 2024 with our collective efforts to protect and restore Galveston Bay. Thanks to your continued support, we have advanced vital conservation work, fostered strong community partnerships, and made meaningful strides toward a healthier, more resilient Galveston Bay. These achievements are a testament to the power of collaboration and your support.

**We are excited about beginning construction of The Gessner Center, our new home on Galveston Bay where thousands of people will experience Galveston Bay firsthand. The Gessner Center is now slated to open in mid-2026. The work we've done this year is just the beginning, and with your continued partnership, we will keep pushing forward toward a brighter future.**

Thank you for your loyal support. Together, we are creating a legacy of environmental stewardship for Galveston Bay. I look forward to what we will accomplish in 2025 and in the years to come.

With heartfelt appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bob Stokes".



**Bob Stokes**

President, Galveston Bay Foundation







# THE GESSNER CENTER IS ALMOST HERE.

**Construction has begun!**

Our new headquarters is officially under construction! This state-of-the-art facility will serve as a hub for our work in preserving and protecting the Galveston Bay ecosystem and will provide access to Galveston Bay for thousands.

The center is designed to promote environmental stewardship, provide educational opportunities, and foster community engagement in conservation efforts. It will be a place for the community to gather and experience Galveston Bay firsthand for generations to come!

For more information or to support this ongoing project, please visit:

[galvbayfoundation.org/thegessnercenter](http://galvbayfoundation.org/thegessnercenter)



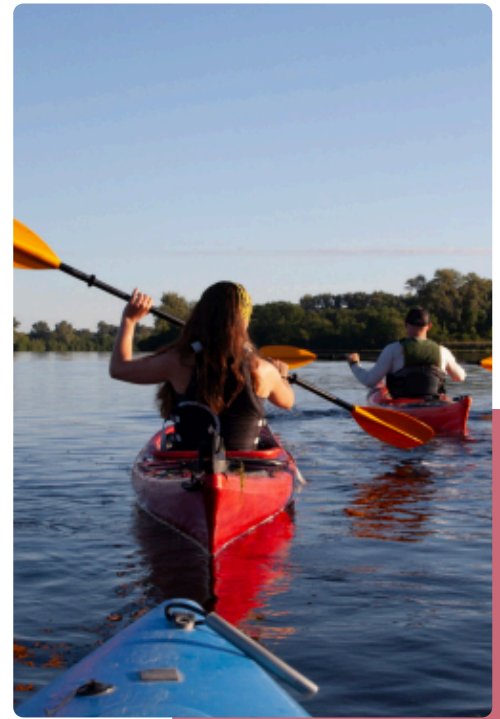




2024 Galveston Bay Foundation

# EDUCATION

Galveston Bay Foundation's education programs allow students K-12 to connect to nature and become future stewards of the Bay through hands-on STEM curriculum.



88

» **classroom workshops** connected students to the Bay.

104

» **schools and organizations** partnered with our education team.

1,021

» **educators** were reached through our education programs.

15,018

» **students** took part in our STEM learning experiences.

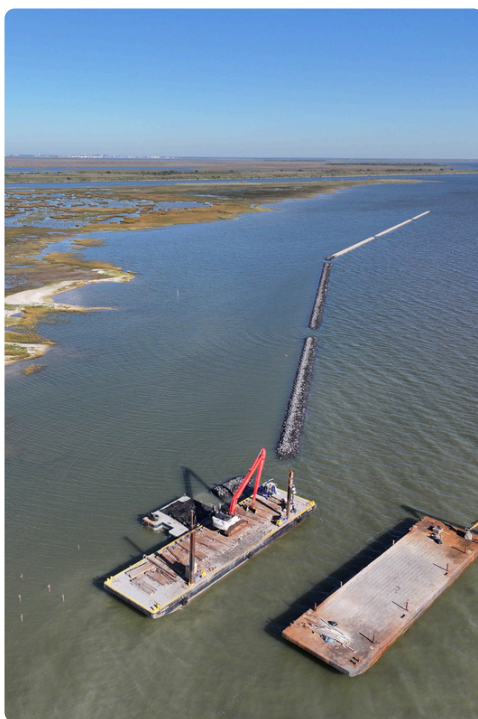




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# HABITAT RESTORATION

Galveston Bay Foundation's habitat restoration programs protect and restore the Bay's natural resources.



~2

» **miles of shoreline protected** through ongoing projects.

75

» **acres of marsh restored** along with 40 linear feet of oyster reef.

233

» **tons of shucked shells were recycled** by our 39 restaurant partners.

5,070

» **oysters were recruited** by our oyster gardeners in Galveston Bay.





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# LAND CONSERVATION

Galveston Bay Foundation's land conservation programs protect vital habitat in perpetuity.



420

» **acres of land protected**, bringing our total to ~17,609 acres.

6,987

» **native plants were planted at our Kemah Headquarters**, restoring 5.5 acres of coastal prairie.

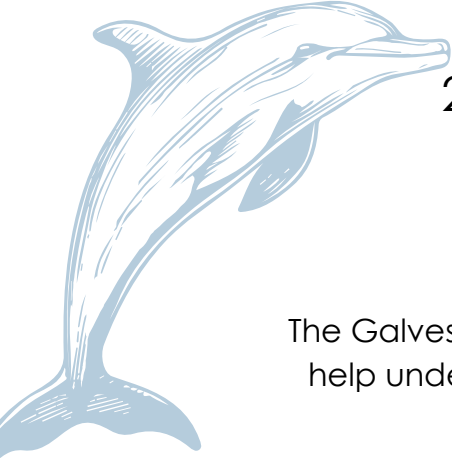
472

» **acres of Chocolate Bay Preserve** were part of our first prescribed burn to remove invasive species and promote native growth.

5

» **new land acquisitions**, including Edward's Point, Nissi LLC, Pine Gully, Salt Bayou, and West Galveston Bay Mitigation Bank.

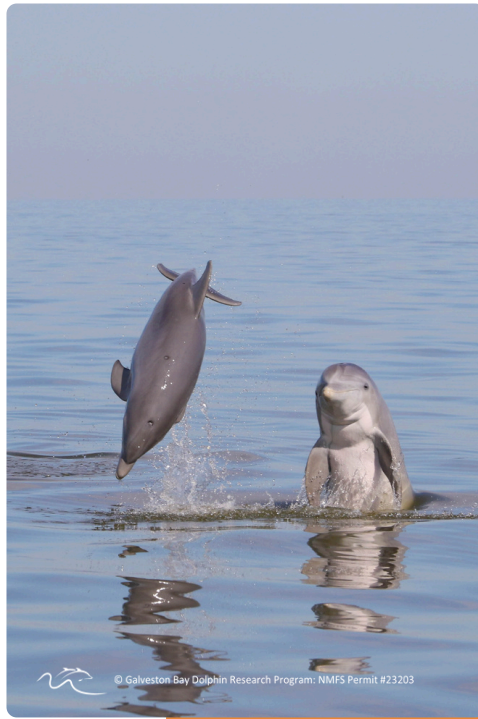




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# RESEARCH

The Galveston Bay Dolphin Research Program provides vital data to help understand dolphin activity and assess the health of the Bay.



10



**year anniversary of the Galveston Bay Dolphin Research Program**, celebrating a decade of dolphin research in the Bay.

41



**boat-based surveys conducted**, nearly double the amount conducted in 2023.

2,196



**dolphins sighted** from our land-based Seawolf Park Research Station and boat-based surveys.

1,263



**nautical miles surveyed in the Bay**, bringing our total distance surveyed to 11,555 nautical miles.

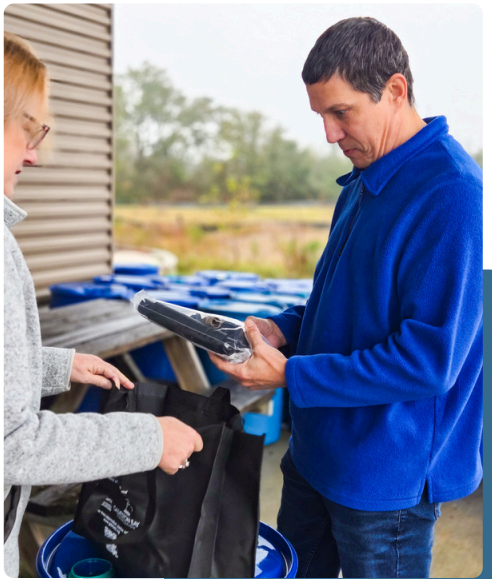




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# WATER PROTECTION

Galveston Bay Foundation's water protection programs help protect the quality of Galveston Bay's water for all.



281



**rain barrels were sold across 12 workshops**, conserving 284,560 gallons of water (an increase over last year by 72,460 gallons).

441



**water and bacteria samples (100 more than in 2023) were collected** and analyzed across 34 sites (two more than last year).

4,771



**plastic nurdles were removed from Galveston Bay's shorelines** and surrounding areas across 38 marine debris surveys.

3,865



**pieces of marine debris were cataloged** from marine debris surveys, the most frequent find being plastic fragments.

12,424



**pounds of marine debris was removed through community cleanups** and events, like Trash Bash and Adopt-A-Beach.





2024 Galveston Bay Foundation

# VOLUNTEERING

Galveston Bay Foundation's volunteers gain invaluable hands-on experience in environmental conservation and restoration while making an impact for Galveston Bay.



830



**recurring volunteers gave 5,595 hours of their time** to help us with programming, conservation work, and events.

1,378



**one-time volunteers gave 5,709 hours of their time** to help us out at annual events and community cleanups.

11,304



**total volunteer hours, valued at \$374,630.86, were spent** improving the health of Galveston Bay.

2,208



**total volunteers made a difference** for Galveston Bay in 2024.



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Jay Levy

Grace Martinez

Bill Matthews

Henry May

Lythia Metzmeier

Peter (Peto) Meyer

Jeff Myerson

Jerry Mohn

Mike Parmet

Jennifer Pickett

Lawrence Rencik

Lou Rosenfeld

Priscilla Seymour

Taylor Short

Dana Siglos

Margaret Woodruff

Matthew Wright

Susanne Wright

Ellen Yarrell

## **Emeritus Directors**

Anna Armitage

James Doyle

Guy Robert Jackson

Bill King

Timothy Love

Cynthia Pickett-Stevenson

George Pontikes

Fred Pounds

Matt Woodruff



GALVESTON BAY IS MORE THAN JUST A BODY OF  
WATER — IT IS THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY.  
FROM COASTAL FLOOD PROTECTION TO CHERISHED  
RECREATION, THE BAY TOUCHES ALL OUR LIVES.







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