



# GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Local Organizations Work to Clean Up Bay-Area Trash**

**La Porte, TX – April 11, 2018** – Local citizens and organizations will mobilize to clean up the large amounts of trash and debris piled up along the shoreline near the Lynchburg Ferry on the morning of Wednesday, April 11th. The Plastic Pollution Prevention (P3) Partners, Galveston Bay Foundation, Audubon Texas, and Galveston Bay Area Chapter – Texas Master Naturalist are jointly coordinating this cleanup after learning about the pollution recently. Other community groups involved in cleanup include Port Houston and Moody Gardens.

The partnership of organizations was first made aware of this problem because of several reports filed by a concerned citizen on the Galveston Bay Action Network (GBAN) pollution reporting and response app.

"The GBAN app was instrumental in informing the partnership of this issue and leading to this cleanup," said Sarah Gossett, the Water Quality Manager at Galveston Bay Foundation. Soon after these reports were filed, the pollution discovered at this site was highlighted on Channel 11 and Channel 13 nightly news. "Because of this app, we've been able to identify problematic areas of plastic pollution across the region, which better informs the agencies that may respond to these reports." The app is available for local citizens to download in both IOS and Android format.

It is believed that much of this debris was deposited during Hurricane Harvey. "We realized we needed to remove this plastic pollution now," said Stennie Meadours of the P3 Partnership. "The next summer storm or high tide will wash the plastic into our waterways, harming wildlife and detracting from our ability to enjoy our beaches and bays."

While this cleanup will remove much of the smaller plastic trash in the area, further coordination will be needed to remove some of the larger debris that has washed up at this site, including an old porta potty and a mini fridge. "Volunteers alone are unable to cleanup all the plastic pollution and waterborne debris on Houston Ship Channel shorelines. Jointly, Partner organizations will do what we can and also seek assistance from other sectors of our community to prevent plastic pollution and debris from entering Galveston Bay." Meadours said.

***About Galveston Bay Foundation***

Established in 1987, the Galveston Bay Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to preserve and enhance Galveston Bay as a healthy and productive place for generations to come. It implements diverse programs in land preservation, habitat restoration, water quality and quantity, youth education, and advocacy. For further information, contact the Foundation at (281) 332-3381, visit [www.galvbay.org](http://www.galvbay.org), like us on [Facebook](#), or follow us on twitter @GBayFoundation.