

Progress Report to Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust

Habitat Restoration of the Hog and Schwing Bayou Preserve - Phase II

Contract No. 092

Apr 1, 2025 - Sep 30, 2025

Activities:

On August 1, 2025, GBRT and HDR staff conducted a full-day site visit to further advance planning for the Hogg and Schwing Bayou Restoration. Attendees included Michael Vecchio (HDR – Project Manager), Harrison McNeil (HDR – Environmental Scientist), and Hannah McCarthy (HDR Intern). The primary goals of the visit were to:

- Evaluate three nearby reference wetlands within the Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area to help inform the target condition for restoration at the GBRT site.
- Assess potential water diversion infrastructure locations for future hydrology enhancement using GBRA-donated water.
- Review possible public access and education areas along the SH 35 frontage.
- Evaluate a central ephemeral pond location for potential enhancement into a perennial feature to support target species.

The team noted that invasive species (guineagrass, giant reed, spiny aster) pose ongoing habitat threats in both reference and project areas. Restoration design will consider hydrology management to promote native wetland vegetation and discourage invasive plant establishment.

A complete set of notes from the site visit has been included as an attachment to this report. Costs accrued since April 1, 2025, total \$18,426.25, and corresponding invoices are attached.

Expectations by Next Report:

Workshop 1 will be held with HDR to align on project goals, hydrologic modeling needs, and habitat targets. GBRT and HDR will begin development of a conceptual restoration plan and initiate the Federal Interest Determination process with USACE.