



Draft 2026 FUNDED PRIORITIES LIST

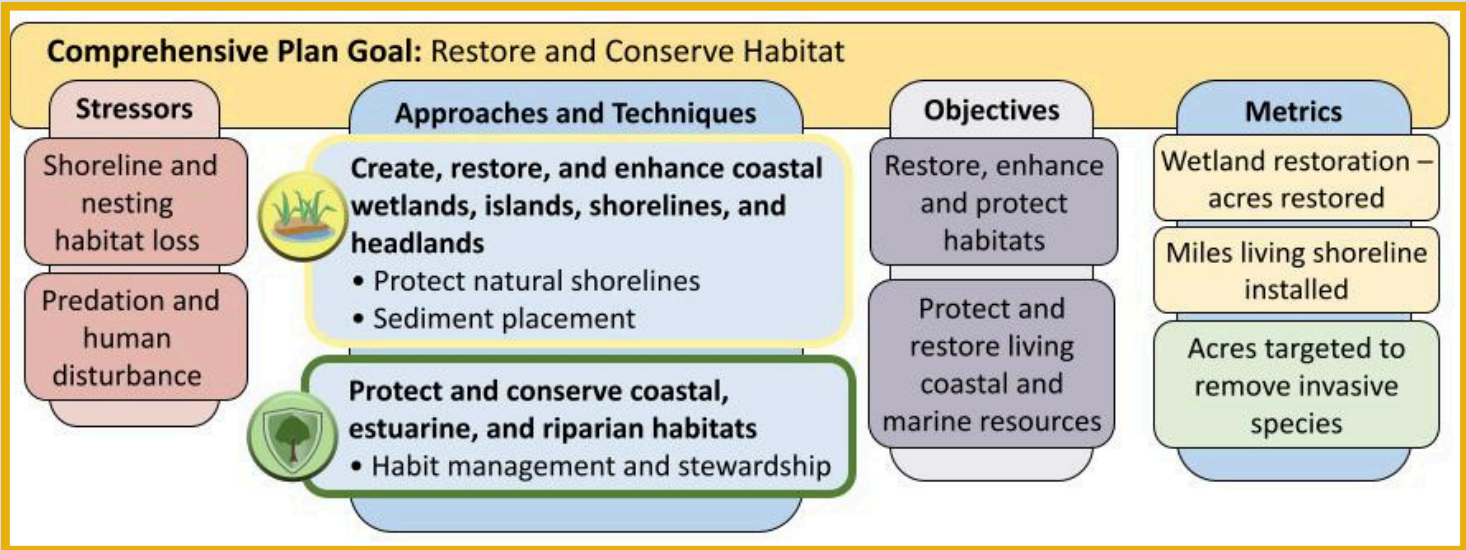
Protecting and Restoring Waterbird Rookery Habitat Program (New Program)

The *Protecting and Restoring Waterbird Rookery Habitat* program in Texas is focused on preserving and improving essential nesting sites for waterbirds. Across the state, many nesting bird colonies are located on islands formed from dredged materials. These important nesting areas are increasingly at risk due to problems like the loss of vegetation, human disturbance, and predators, all of which contribute to declining bird populations.

This program aligns with the Council's Comprehensive Plan goal to restore and conserve habitats by focusing on the protection and enhancement of rookery islands. With a proposed budget of \$12.8 million, the program will support restoration techniques that include placing sediment to stabilize islands, protecting natural shorelines and managing habitat to support healthy bird colonies. It will also include planning, implementation and monitoring activities to ensure success. Priority will be given to projects that have undergone prior review and align with key criteria, such as project readiness, scalability and potential effectiveness. The overall goal is to improve the resiliency and sustainability of waterbird populations in Texas. The program duration is 7 years.

Program at a Glance

The Texas *Protecting and Restoring Waterbird Rookery Habitat Program* applies Planning Framework approaches and techniques to support Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. In support of the primary and secondary objective, to *Restore, enhance and protect habitats* and to *Protect and restore living coastal and marine resources*, stressors such as shoreline and nesting habitat loss and predation and human disturbance of rookeries will be addressed using the *Protect natural shoreline*, *Sediment placement*, and *Habitat management and stewardship* techniques. Success using these techniques to *Restore, enhance, and protect habitats* and to *Protect and restore living and coastal marine resources* may be tracked using acres of wetland restoration, acres targeted to remove invasive species and miles of living shoreline installed as metrics.



Draft FPL 2026 Public Comment Period:
October 15 - 11:59 PM MT November 14, 2025

Visit restorethegulf.gov for info on public meetings & how to comment.



Protecting and Restoring Waterbird Rookery Habitat Program



2026 FPL

**State of
Texas**

Coastal Texas

Protecting and Restoring
Waterbird Rookery Habitat
Program



0 20 40 60 mi
0 30 60 90 km