HOUSTON WILDERNESS RIVERINE TARGETED-USE-OF-BUYOUTS PROGRAM RECEIVES $1.1 MILLION NFWF COASTAL RESILIENCE GRANT

HOUSTON (December 19, 2022) – NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) recently announced a record investment in projects that will help communities prepare for increasing coastal flooding and more intense storms, while improving thousands of acres of coastal habitats. The funding, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and private sector partners, provides more than $136 million to support 88 natural infrastructure projects in 29 states and U.S. territories. Texas received 4 grants out of the 88 projects, with 2 projects in the Gulf-Houston Region.

For Greater Houston NFWF awarded Houston Wilderness a $1,141,500 grant to support nature-based infrastructure projects in the Greater Houston region under the Riverine Targeted Use of Buyouts (Riverine TUBs) program. The Riverine TUBs program is implementing green stormwater infrastructure to revitalize riparian corridors that lead to Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico - targeting 17 properties that were voluntarily bought out with hazard mitigation funding to implement restoration, including large-scale planting of native trees, installing bioswales and rain gardens that will improve water quality, enhance habitat, and mitigate flood risk for at-risk communities.

"This funding allows communities to invest in keeping their coasts healthy for generations to come and helps build a Climate-Ready Nation," said NOAA administrator, Rick Spinrad, Ph.D. "NOAA values the contributions of our partners to scale up efforts to help communities address climate-related risks."

Established in 2018, the National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) invests in conservation projects that restore or expand natural features such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, coastal forests and rivers, floodplains, and barrier islands that minimize the impacts of storms, sea-level rise and other coastal hazards on nearby communities. The NCRF funds across four project categories: 1) community capacity building and planning; 2) project site assessment and preliminary design; 3) final project design and permitting; and 4) restoration implementation.

"Many people in the region are excited about this much-needed funding," Deborah January-Bevers, President and CEO of Houston Wilderness remarked. "Houston Wilderness regularly collaborates on pioneering environmental projects with multiple partners in the 15+ county region. The multi-county Riverine TUBs program is a vital link between assisting high risk environmental justice communities with flood control and other sustainability needs and working towards best management practices for the region related to nature-based infrastructure that increase climate resilience from flooding, windstorms, drought conditions and major freeze events."

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