

## **State of Texas**

### **Bayou Greenways 2020 – Clear Creek Riparian Corridor Acquisition**

The Bayou Greenways project is ideally suited to receive RESTORE Act funding because it aims to acquire, preserve and restore nearly 4,500 acres of riparian buffer corridors along the major waterways (bayous and creeks) running predominately through Harris County and the City of Houston. These bayous are connected to a region known as the Trinity-San Jacinto Estuary (Galveston Bay) - the largest watershed on the Texas coast. The primary objective of this proposal is to restore and conserve habitat, with secondary goals to restore water quality, replenish and protect living coastal and marine resources, enhance community resilience and restore and revitalize the gulf economy. The project consists of two key steps. First, outright land acquisition of entire parcels along Clear Creek as it makes its way towards Galveston Bay. Second, through a secure funding source already created for the maintenance of the Bayou Greenways project, the Houston Parks Board will provide a net gain by lifting the ecological value of this land through habitat restoration efforts like invasive control and additional native plantings. The Houston Parks Board will also coordinate with Harris County Flood Control on efforts for increased detention to aid in the cleansing of stormwater. Thus, this proposal achieves the goals of habitat protection by purchasing and preserving land in perpetuity as parkland, and habitat restoration through a robust (and already funded) maintenance program. Requested funding amount: \$7,000,000.