



Life's better outside.®

April 28, 2021

Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership
America's Conservation Enhancement Act (ACE) Grant
1100 First Street, NE, Suite 825
Washington, DC 20002

Subject: Support for native vegetation restoration efforts at Lake Houston

Dear Mr. Boxrucker,

I would like to voice our continued support of the Lake Houston Sports and Recreation Foundation (LHSRF) fish habitat enhancement projects at Lake Houston.

Lake Houston struggles with high sediment loads and urban development resulting in fisheries that are severely habitat-limited. Our fishery management efforts in Lake Houston focus on increasing diverse fish habitat, stabilizing sediment, and reducing turbidity through native vegetation restoration. Since vegetation restoration began in the mid-2000s, our fisheries surveys have shown improved catch rates and population metrics of all Lake Houston's sport fishes, from catfishes and crappies to Largemouth Bass. We have also seen a corresponding rise in angling activity, fishing success, and landings of large fish.

Habitat restoration efforts would not have been possible without the LHSRF who, since 2010, donated hundreds of volunteer hours, maintained a native vegetation nursery, planted hundreds of plants, and recruited private landowners to donate shoreline for founder colony sites. Unfortunately, Hurricane Harvey and the 2021 winter storm devastated LHSRF's nursery and founder colonies. We are excited to renew our native vegetation restoration partnership and will be working closely with them to train volunteers in native plant propagation and planting, selecting appropriate planting sites for founder colonies, and monitoring establishment—and expansion—of native aquatic vegetation.

LHSRF's native vegetation restoration program is vital to successful management of Lake Houston's fisheries. LHSRF's community resources, passion, and affiliation with Friends of Reservoirs makes you the perfect partner to improve the success of native vegetative habitat restoration at Lake Houston. I look forward to your future contribution to improving fish habitat in Texas and your generous partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Sincerely,

Alice Best
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Inland Fisheries
College Station - Houston District Supervisor
P. O. Box 427
Snook, Texas 77878

- Commissioners
- S. Reed Morian
Chairman
Houston
- Arch "Beaver" Aplin, III
Vice-Chairman
Lake Jackson
- James E. Abell
Kilgore
- Oliver J. Bell
Cleveland
- Anna B. Galo
Laredo
- Jeffery D. Hildebrand
Houston
- Jeanne W. Latimer
San Antonio
- Robert L. "Bobby" Patton, Jr.
Fort Worth
- Dick Scott
Wimberley
- Lee M. Bass
Chairman-Emeritus
Fort Worth
- T. Dan Friedkin
Chairman-Emeritus
Houston

Carter P. Smith
Executive Director



29APR2021

Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership

America's Conservation Enhancement Act (ACE) Grant

1100 First Street, NE, Suite 825

Washington, DC 20002

To Whom It May Concern:

As the City of Houston Public Works Department - Source Water Protection Group, we are happy to partner with Lake Houston Sports and Recreation Foundation. LHSRF has a strong volunteer group who are committed to improving Lake Houston's water supply. We plan to partner with LHSRF during the time of this grant, Spring 22 - Spring 24', to identify the best locations along the shoreline to plant native vegetation. We will also work with them to identify the best locations to place signage education the public about the ongoing conservation efforts on Lake Houston. It is also our goal to build up the shorelines and improve water quality and this partnership will help us to achieve significant results for this community.

We are happy to offer support as needed to this great foundation.

Sincerely,

Patrick Rightmyer

Senior Project Manager, Houston Public Works

832.395.2832 | Cell 832.470.4671

PO Box 1562 | Houston, Texas 77251-1562 | HoustonPublicWorks.org

Capital Projects | Customer Account Services | Houston Permitting Center | Houston Water | Transportation & Drainage Operations

DAN CRENSHAW
2ND DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
413 CANNON HOB
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-6565

DISTRICT OFFICES:
1849 KINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 100
KINGWOOD, TX 77339
713-860-1330

9720 CYPRESSWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 206
HOUSTON, TX 77070
713-860-1330

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4302

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

OVERSIGHT, MANAGEMENT,
AND ACCOUNTABILITY
RANKING MEMBER

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE
AND RECOVERY

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership (RFHP)
America's Conservation Enhancement Act (ACE) Grant
1100 First Street, NE (Suite 825)
Washington, DC 20002

April 27, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

As a Representative for Texas's Second Congressional District, I am writing to express my support for the approval of the Lake Houston Sports and Recreation Foundation's (LHSRF) Grant created by America's Conservation Enhancement Act (ACE) and through the National Fish Habitat Partnership.

Lake Houston's shorelines were significantly damaged by Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and subsequent flooding continues to erode its shorelines. Lake Houston is not only a recreational lake but also a reservoir of the San Jacinto River that is the primary municipal water supply for the city of Houston. The LHSRF Vegetation Program began in 2013 and continues to have significant community support. Youth groups volunteer approximately 200 on-site work hours a year maintaining the vegetation habitat, implanting native vegetation, maintaining wood duck boxes and keeping the shores clean. The grant project currently under review, Adding Shoreline Vegetation and Outreach Project, will help Lake Houston specifically with the erosion, water clarity and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

LHSRF, a 100% volunteer organization, has partnered with Texas Parks and Wildlife, Inland Fisheries and the Public Works Department of the City of Houston to successfully execute their currently proposed Vegetation Program. This project has the attainable goal to create 1500 acres of native vegetation, over the next 5 years. As a part of the project, there will be increased community awareness with signage explaining the value of a healthy reservoir system including information about the vegetation and fisheries habitat program, the wood duck population management and keeping the beaches clean.

It is important that communities conserve their natural habitat. Supporting this grant to LHSRF for their Vegetation habitat program will make a long-term impact on the Lake Houston shoreline, the fishery habitat, the city of Houston's water supply and the people who enjoy Lake Houston recreationally.

Sincerely,





TEXAS ADAPTIVE AQUATICS



Therapeutic Water Sports for DisAbled Children and Adults

April 26, 2021

"Est. 1989"

President
Roger Randall

Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership
America's Conservation Enhancement Act (ACE) Grant
1100 First Street, NE, Suite 825
Washington, DC 20002

To Whom It May Concern:

I founded Texas Adaptive Aquatics (TAA) in 1989 as a non-profit sports training program for children and adults with disabilities. TAA water skiing, sailing and kayaking around Lake Houston. As a result, I spend a lot of time on the lake. I've seen the damage hurricanes and floods have done to our shoreline and local habitats. Wanting to help make a significant impact, many years ago I partnered with Lake Houston Sports and Recreation Foundation (LHSRF). As a long-term partner We are happy to donate a piece of my land to this project for as long as they are actively keeping the vegetation habitat program going.

I was impressed by LHSRF's youth initiatives. Just the sheer number of local volunteers they have is impressive. It really shows how much our community cares for this very special lake. The volunteers waded out into the shallow water and plant local vegetation to form a strategic shoreline. From cleaning trash out of the lake and off the beaches in our "Clean it Like You Mean it" campaign to building nesting boxes for the local wood ducks, they're all invested in the success of this lakefront community. We've all enjoyed the fruits of their labor when we see a new family of wood ducks flying around the lake. To date more than 200 nesting boxes were installed, and over 2500 new ducklings have hatched!

LHSRF is doing so much good for our community. They've partnered with Texas Parks and Wildlife to release over 500,000 Florida Hybrid Largemouth Bass into Lake Houston. This grant will help LHSRF purchase the needed vegetation to replace the eroding shoreline around Lake Houston, purchase additional releasable wildlife, as well as build their community outreach program.

Sincerely,

Roger Randall, President

832-435-6253 • 111 Stillson Rd. • Huffman Texas 77336 • www.taasports.org

Texas Adaptive Aquatics Inc. is recognized as a 501(c)3 charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service.



THE MCFERRIN FOUNDATION

April 26, 2021

Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership
America's Conservation Enhancement Act (ACE) Grant
1100 First Street, NE, Ste. 825
Washington, DC 20002

To Whom It May Concern:

As a life-long resident and local leader of the Lake Houston area, I have seen first-hand how grants can make all the difference in a community. Lake Houston is the primary municipal water supply for the city of Houston. Our reservoir is a growing and thriving boating, fishing and skiing community. But along with this recreational side, Lake Houston is in desperate need of conservation. We were happy to partner with Lake Houston Sports and Recreation Foundation (LHSRF), as they make a significant impact to our lake community and youth initiatives.

This grant will help LHSRF to continue its partnership with local youth to provide learning moments about fishery and vegetation conservation. More specifically, this grant will fund the needed vegetation to replace the eroding shoreline affecting the local fish and wildlife. The 5-year goal to create 1500 acres of native vegetation will significantly impact our water clarity. LHSRF will have the funds needed to purchase these native plants, the local youth groups and charity leagues will continue to put in needed volunteer hours to manage this long-term, and the local wildlife will be the biggest winners of all.

This grant will also help LHSRF with community outreach, allowing signage throughout the reservoir promoting conservation. Since Covid lockdowns began in March of 2020, our lake has been busier than ever. New and seasoned boaters, kayakers, fisherman and hikers can all make an impact if given the tools, and signage is a great way to bring awareness to conservation. Everyone benefits when we as a community conserve our natural resources and pass this responsibility on to the next generation.

Sincerely,

Jennifer McFerrin-Bohner



National Charity League, Inc.

April 26, 2021

Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership
America's Conservation Enhancement Act (ACE) Grant
1100 First Street, NE, Suite 825
Washington, DC 20002

To Whom It May Concern:

As the president elect of the Kingwood Chapter of National Charity League (NCL), Inc., I personally know the difference an organization like Lake Houston Sports and Recreation Foundation (LHSRF) can make in a community. NCL Kingwood promotes awareness by considering the local community's needs and selecting appropriate non-profit organizations to serve. NCL Kingwood was happy to partner with LHSRF to make a difference locally. Not only to allow our young ladies the volunteer hours by putting in a little "sweat equity", but to learn true conservation. Through LHSRF's youth initiatives, our young ladies have put in over 200 hours a year volunteering in and around Lake Houston. They have planted local vegetation that had washed away during Hurricane Harvey and the other subsequent floods. They've cleaned our local beaches for Lake Houston Trash Bash, they've built wood duck boxes, and add wood chips quarterly. They've had the privilege of seeing their hard work pay off by reestablishing the wood duck population around the lake. We are doing our best to prepare the next generation of helpers, but more help is needed.

This grant will help LHSRF purchase the needed vegetation to replace the eroding shoreline affecting the local fish and wildlife. As our partner, we have a five year goal to create 1500 acres of native vegetation to benefit our local wildlife. This grant money, along with the manpower and dedication of our local youth groups, will make a tremendous difference in our community.

With this grant, LHSRF can build their community outreach, by allowing them to purchase extra signage for education and conservation around the lake. LHSRF and NCL Kingwood are doing good work. Please help us to continue this work so that future generations can enjoy Lake Houston as much as we do.

Sincerely,


Shannon Scott, President Elect

www.nationalcharityleague.org

Kingwood Chapter: PO Box 5882, Kingwood, TX 77325