

# Clean Coast Texas

## 2025 Bi-Annual Review

THE  
**CLEAN COAST  
TEXAS  
COLLABORATIVE**



**Texas General Land  
Office**

Program Oversight



Project Management &  
Coordination

Lower Coast Hub

Community Engagement

Data Analytics



Upper Coast Hub

Community Engagement

Scenario Planning  
Workshops



THE MEADOWS CENTER  
FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
AT TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Programmatic  
Support

Citizen Science



Community  
Engagement

Local Planning  
Assistance



COASTAL BEND  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Community  
Engagement

Resource  
Management



Engineering Planning

Community  
Engagement

**New Team Members:** Clean Coast Texas recently welcomed new partners, Coastal Bend Council of Governments and Halff, to support Years 5 & 6. They will support CCT's mission by working with communities to implement wastewater treatment plant action plans and stormwater management techniques.

**Clean Coast Texas** is a program of the Texas General Land Office that works at the nexus of water quality and resiliency. As a non-regulatory, incentive-based program, our goal is to help communities achieve their ecological, economic, and public health goals. To do so, we've formed a collaboration that includes a dynamic team of planners, engineers, scientists and educators.

# Clean Coast Texas Out and About

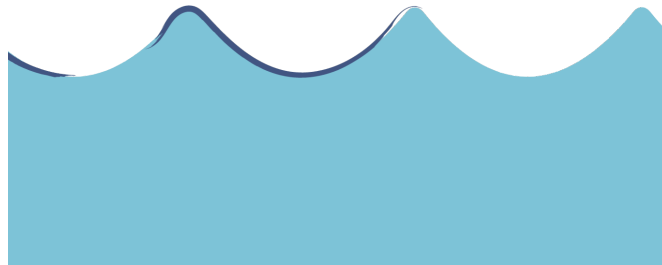


## General Land Office Texas Coastal Roundup: **April 2025**

The Texas General Land Office hosted more than 30 South Texas coastal organizations for the 2025 Texas Coastal Roundup in South Padre Island at Isla Blanca Park, with the purpose of educating the public on the collective work being done to protect coastal resources. Clean Coast Texas shared information with hundreds of visitors about available resources for coastal communities to protect and restore water quality.

## Coastal Bend Hurricane Conference: **May 2025**

In May 2025, Clean Coast Texas staff presented at the Coastal Bend Hurricane Conference on water quality, wastewater management, and effects of natural disasters on sewage treatment infrastructure. The conference is an annual event that shares information, research and resources with local municipal staff and elected officials related to preparing and planning for hazards.





# Keach Family Library Rain Garden

With support from Clean Coast Texas, a rain garden was installed at the Keach Family Library in Robstown, Texas in April 2025 to manage and filter stormwater that runs off the building. The library offers numerous programs for the local community on a daily basis and is an ideal location to display green stormwater infrastructure such as the rain garden. Project partner Adrien Hilmy with the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program visited the library July 2025 to speak with attendees about the rain garden and answer questions.



Adrien Hilmy of the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries was invited by library staff on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to engage with the local community on rain gardens and water quality.



## Nueces River Basin Summit



In June 2025, Clean Coast Texas served on a panel at the Nueces Basin Summit, where they shared experiences and insight into how communities can plan for resilience and apply for grants. Clean Coast Texas coordinator, Ashley Bennis, moderated the panel discussion and focused on project phasing, grant preparation and application, and identification of implementation strategies. The Nueces Basin Summit invites leaders and organizations that live and work within the Nueces Basin to have open discussion and learn about different projects and activities. This was the third year of the Summit, which hosts 150-180 attendees annually.



# CBASS Green Stormwater Infrastructure Tour in Rockport

The Coastal Bend Alliance for Sustainable Stormwater (CBASS) is a subcommittee of Clean Coast Texas that aims to engage the public, city and county staff, and elected officials on issues related to sustainable stormwater management and water quality. In June 2025, CBASS organized a Green Stormwater Infrastructure Tour in Rockport to showcase the different GSI projects that have been implemented to improve water quality. Twenty community members joined the tour to learn how different GSI strategies can contribute to sustainable stormwater management. Nick Dornak from Doucet, Keith Barret, the Harbor Master for Aransas County Navigation District and Dave and Christy Ilfrey of NativeDave spoke at each of the four stops and provide context to each of the GSI strategies. Below is a list of the different stops. Clean Coast Texas encourages you to stop by and see these different GSI installations in action!



## Permeable Pavers at Memorial Park ([Enterprise Blvd, Rockport, TX 78382](#)):

In November 2024, permeable pavers were installed in a portion of a parking lot in Memorial Park. Pavers contribute to infiltration, treatment and storage of rainwater, treating stormwater where it falls. They can be made of pervious concrete, porous asphalt, or permeable interlocking pavers.







## Living Shoreline Installation & Landscaping at Aransas County Fairgrounds ([Corner of E Laurel St and Hwy 35 N](#)):

Living Shorelines are a nature-based solution that uses plants, sand, and sometimes organic or structural materials (like oyster reefs or coir logs) to protect coastal edges from erosion while preserving or enhancing natural habitat. The Aransas County Navigation District planned their new offices to include landscaping that ensures that stormwater was being managed in a way that did not adversely affect the water quality.

**Filters  
Stormwater  
Runoff**

**Ground-  
water  
Infiltration**

**Benefits  
of  
GSI**

**Reduces  
Flood Risks**

**Provides  
Habitat and  
Greenery**

## The San Antonio & Aransas Pass Railroad Depot ([101 N Magnolia St, Rockport, TX 78382](#)):

The last stop was a visit to an in-progress project, a cistern. Cisterns are green infrastructure tools that collect and hold on to rainwater to reduce runoff into the stormwater system. The water can then be used for other purposes at a later time, such as irrigation during times of drought. At this site, the building was retrofitted with gutters and down spouts that will be connected to the cistern, ensuring that the water that runs off the roof will end up in the cistern and used for the plants that dot the landscape.





Rockport Daily Grind (302 S Austin St, Rockport, TX 78382):

Designed and installed by NativeDave, Inc., the garden demonstrates how native plant communities can manage stormwater naturally while thriving with minimal inputs. The plant palette—seaside goldenrod, sea oats, railroadvine, bay elder, gulf muhly, skeletonleaf goldeneye, and flame acanthus—was selected not only for its aesthetic and ecological value but also for its remarkable resilience. These species are drought-tolerant, deer-resistant, freeze-hardy, and capable of withstanding the salty air that is characteristic of the Texas Coastal Bend.







# Building Partners



Clean Coast Texas empowers partner communities by allowing them to choose from its [Menu of Services](#). Memorandum of Understandings demonstrate a commitment between Clean Coast Texas and partner communities to achieve common water quality and coastal resilience goals.

| Community            | Partnership MOU Established | Program Year | Activities   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--|
| Nueces County        | October 2023                | Year 4       | Rain garden demonstration project and education at the Keach Family Library  |
| Ingleside on the Bay | July 2023                   | Year 3       | Texas Stream Team trainings, GIFT workshop   |
| City of Port Lavaca  | July 2023                   | Year 3       | Green infrastructure projects, GIFT and CHARM workshops, Ordinance assistance, Education and outreach, Funding assistance                |
| City of La Marque    | July 2023                   | Year 3       | Texas Stream Team trainings, green infrastructure projects, GIFT and CHARM workshops, Funding assistance                                 |
| City of Port Aransas | May 2023                    | Year 3       | Stormwater drainage inlet markers, Education and outreach  |
| City of Rockport     | May 2021                    | Year 1       | Green infrastructure projects, Tule Creek Stormwater Retrofit, Ordinance assistance, Texas Stream Team trainings, Education and outreach |



| Community                          | Partnership MOU Established | Program Year | Activities   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--|
| Town of Fulton                     | May 2021                    | Year 1       | Tule Creek Stormwater Retrofit, Ordinance assistance       |
| Aransas County                     | May 2021                    | Year 1       | Funding assistance, Ordinance/policy assistance            |
| Aransas County Navigation District | June 2021                   | Year 1       | Green infrastructure projects, Ordinance/policy assistance |



## New Community Partners



| Community        | Partnership MOU Established | Program Year | Activities  |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---|
| City of Portland | February 2025               | Year 5       | New Texas BeachWatch sites, Education and Engagement, Ordinance Updates                     |
| City of Kemah    | March 2025                  | Year 5       | Signed MOU July 2025  |
| Calhoun County   | May 2025                    | Year 5       | Countywide partnership  |
| Refugio          | July 2025                   | Year 5       | Planning a CHARM workshop for Fall 2025, engaging with wastewater treatment plant operators |
| Mt. Belvieu      | June 2025                   | Year 5       | Planning GIFT workshop for August 2025  |

# Project Updates

## Nature-Based Solutions

To date, the Clean Coast Texas program has completed four nature-based stormwater infrastructure projects, permeable pavers in the city of Rockport and a rain garden in Nueces County. These completed projects will allow runoff to percolate into the ground instead of flowing directly to a nearby stream, decreasing flood risk while at the same time leading to improved downstream water quality.

Clean Coast Texas is working in partnership with the City of Rockport to complete engineering designs and permitting for a GSI retrofit project in Tule Lake. The wetland expansion, once constructed, would enhance flood storage, reduce downstream sediment and transport of non-point source pollution, and improve the water quality and ecosystem function of Tule Creek and Little Bay.



Permeable Pavers were installed at Memorial Park and the Aquatic Center in Rockport, Texas (**2001 Stadium, Rockport, TX 78382**). These pavers will filter runoff before it is released into the surrounding waterways through the stormwater system.

## We Have Signage!

Educational signage has been developed for the Rockport permeable pavers project at Memorial Park and The Aquatic Center and is in process of being delivered to the Keach Family Library in Robstown for the recently installed rain garden. Signage educates the public about the benefits of site-specific green stormwater infrastructure.

### PARKING WITH A PURPOSE: PERMEABLE PAVERS AT THE AQUATIC CENTER

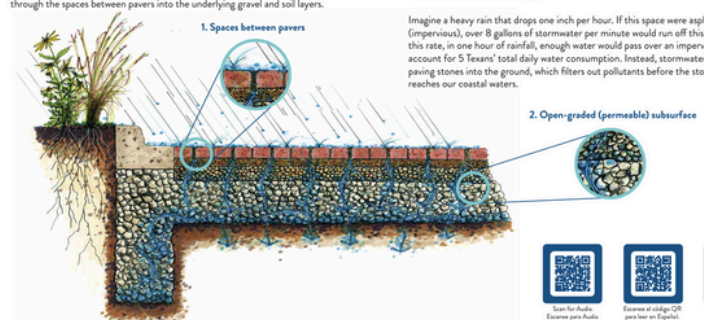
#### When precipitation reaches the ground, where does the water go?

Impervious surfaces are surfaces that prevent water from absorbing into the ground. Instead, water collects on the surface and flows across it, contributing to flooding and runoff. Permeable pavers are a pervious alternative to concrete sidewalks, asphalt parking lots, and other impervious surfaces. These pavers are installed with small gaps between the individual paving stones, allowing water to absorb through the spaces between pavers into the underlying gravel and soil layers.

#### Permeable pavers protect Texas coastal waters by:

- Maintaining healthy groundwater levels through infiltration
- Reducing flooding and standing water through infiltration
- Reducing stormwater runoff, which carries pollutants such as sediment, bacteria, and car oils into local coastal waters

Imagine a heavy rain that drops one inch per hour. If this space were asphalt (impervious), over 8 gallons of stormwater per minute would run off this parking lot. At this rate, in one hour of rainfall, enough water would pass over an impervious surface to account for 5 Texans' total daily water consumption. Instead, stormwater seeps between paving stones into the ground, which filters out pollutants before the stormwater reaches our coastal waters.



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Learn more about  
Clean Coast Texas at  
[www.cleancoast.texas.gov](http://www.cleancoast.texas.gov)



This project was funded in full through a grant from the Texas General Land Office providing Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 funding made available to the State of Texas and awarded under the Texas Coastal Management Program.

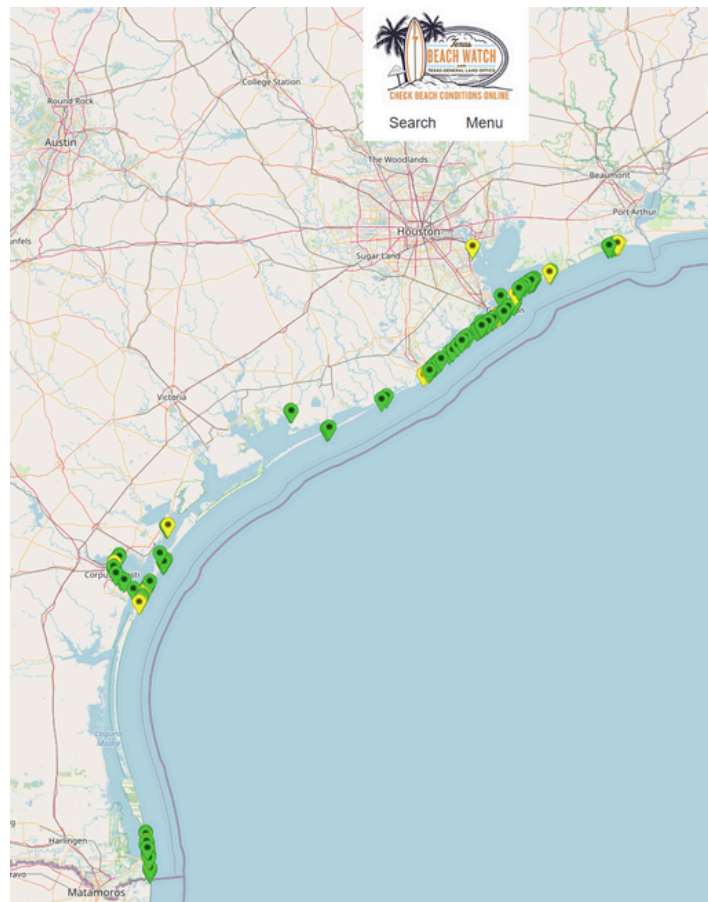


# Texas BeachWatch

Starting this July, Texas Beach Watch (TBW) has expanded its monitoring efforts to include the Chris Andrews Boat Launch in Portland—now regularly collecting water samples and reporting bacteria levels at this new location.

Conveniently situated along the southbound access road of US 181, the Chris Andrews Boat Launch is quickly becoming a vibrant hub for outdoor enthusiasts and coastal explorers. With this addition, TBW continues its commitment to public health and safety while supporting recreational access across the Texas coast.

Stay informed. Be safe. Visit [TexasBeachWatch.com](https://TexasBeachWatch.com) for the latest water quality updates before you head out.



## Lunch & Learns

Clean Coast Texas continues to host Lunch and Learns (L&L), a virtual engagement series that invites experts to share insights on water quality related topics. CCT hosted three expert speakers in the first half of 2025 and will host additional ones this fall.

### March 2025: Pressures on Water Quality in Texas: Now and in the Future

Dr. Michael Wetz

Dr. Wetz is the Chair for Coastal Water Health at Harte Research Institute and works broadly across the Texas Coast to understand and address coastal water quality issues. Dr. Wetz kicked off the 2025 L&L series with a discussion about results from an updated synthesis of monitoring programs to help the audience understand the state and changes of water quality along the Texas coast. Use the QR code to check out our playlist of L&Ls.



## April 2025: Septic Systems and Water Quality in Texas Communities

Travis Pruski

Travis Pruski from the Nueces River Authority (NRA) presented on NRA's assessments of wastewater treatment plants in the Coastal Bend Region. Travis shared lessons learned during the assessments and the solutions they are considering to improve treatment infrastructure and water quality.



## May 2025: Stormwater Ordinances: Best Practices and Lessons Learned

Nick Dornak, Justin Murray, P.E., CFM, Lindsay Oskuoi, AICP

CCT invited specialist from Doucet, A Kleinfelder Company, to talk about regulatory measures to address water quality concerns. Stormwater ordinances are regulatory tools used by municipalities and local governments to manage the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff, aiming to protect public health, infrastructure, and the environment. The Doucet-Kleinfelder team brought their experience and lessons learned in the planning, development, and implementation of stormwater ordinance.



# Virtual Green Infrastructure Tour

Clean Coast Texas is excited to release the virtual Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Tour for a Resilient Texas Coast in late Summer 2025. The storymap explores many ways GSI helps enhance water quality along the Texas Coast. Viewers can find an introduction to GSI, a showcase of select operational GSI projects in the Texas Coastal Zone, and resources on how to implement GSI at your site, whether that be residential or commercial, or a public space.

Visit the site to learn more!

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9125678e2a5f400b820d951cfa420d3b>

