

**COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
PROGRESS REPORT**

Project Title : Adolph Thomaе, Jr. County Park Interpretive Signage

Contract #:24-110-000-E395

Reporting Period: September 30, 2024(Final)

Overall Project Progress:

(Describe the progress of the project during this reporting period. This should include a description of any activities or items that you are requesting reimbursement for.)

On June 20, 2024, The interpretive signs at Adolph Thomaе Park arrived and installed.

Delays and Concerns:

(Provide a detailed explanation of any delays in project work or deliverables. Discuss any other issues or concerns that arose during the reporting period.)

No Delays

Fill out the tables below to show the status for each deliverable. (This text can be removed in submitted report)

- Add rows for additional deliverables as necessary. Add tables for additional tasks as necessary.
- If more space is needed to explain status/update or plans for next reporting period, the table will allow each row to have multiple rows of text.
- If you have asked for an extension to a deliverable due date, strikethrough the original due date and include the new due date in the table
- Status/Update column should include:
 - Date completed if the deliverable was submitted during this or a previous reporting period
 - Major accomplishments during reporting period
 - Problems or obstacles during reporting period (e.g., delays, remedial action taken)
 - Dates and locations of events, presentations, meetings, etc.
- Plans for Next Reporting Period should be marked as N/A if you do not intend to begin work on a deliverable.

Task 1: Secure Professional Service Provider

Deliverables	Due Date	Status/ Update	Plans for Next Reporting Period
1. Draft interpretive sign designs	3-31-24	completed	
2. Final Interpretive designs	5-31-24	completed	
3.			
4.			

Task 2: Sign Manufacturing and Delivery

Deliverables	Due Date	Status/ Update	Plans for Next Reporting Period
1. Phtos of installed interpretive signs	9-30-24	Photos are included with this final progress report	
2.			
3.			
4.			

Task 3: Project Monitoring & Reporting

Deliverables	Due Date	Status/ Update	Plans for Next Reporting Period
1. Quarterly progress reports	9-30-24	Quarterly Progress report included with this final progress report	
2. Request for Reimbursement	9-30-24	Request for Reimbursement included with this final progress report	
3.			
4.			

Personnel Eligibility List (PEL)

List all personnel currently receiving funding from this grant (e.g. salary, fringe benefits, tuition, stipend, etc.). The personnel should be reflected on reimbursement requests, as necessary. If a person on a reimbursement request is not shown here, invoice processing may be delayed. (Add additional rows as necessary)

First Name	Last Name	Funding Received	Project Role/Tasks worked on during this reporting period

Underwater Meadows

Seagrass beds are the pastures of the bay, feeding, wintering redhead ducks, and young fish and shrimp.

A Super Salty Solution Supports Life-Sustaining Seagrasses

Half a million redhead ducks winter in the Laguna Madre. Redheads feed almost exclusively on Shoalgrass, the most salt tolerant seagrass.

Shoalgrass beds declined after increased water exchange freshen the bay following the construction of the intercoastal waterway and the channel at Port Mansfield, TX.

Extremely salty water is the secret to the Laguna Madre's fertility. Most marsh plants die with too much salt, but seagrasses thrive under these conditions.

The Laguna Madre's shallow warm waters and the abundant seagrass beds produce over half of the sport fish caught in Texas.

Seagrasses feed and shelter shrimp during their juvenile stage of life.

Seatrout and redfish feed on shrimp and small fish living in the seagrass beds.

Starving Seagrasses

Dredging poses the greatest threat to seagrass beds. Like all plants, seagrass converts light into food. Dredging materials dumped in the open bay smother these beds, but the damage extends further. Each time the wind sweeps across the shallow Bay, mud particles cloud the water, depriving seagrass of necessary light, eventually leading to its death.



Star grass

Delicate balance

Without a clear, salty lagoon, there wouldn't be any seagrass.

Without sea grasses:

- No shrimp
- No fish
- No redhead ducks



Island Sanctuaries

Hérons, egrets, spoonbills, and ibis are colonial nesters preferring the crowded company of others during nesting season. Although large concentrations of birds on land are vulnerable to predators, islands help isolate these colonies protecting them from dangerous species.

When disturbed, parent birds leave the nest, exposing eggs and chicks to the brutal sun and possible death.



Even small barren islands serve as critical nesting sites for gulls, skimmers, turns, and shorebirds, with hundreds of birds potentially covering a tiny island.

Steer Clear of Islands.

Green island, a natural island in the lower Laguna Madre bay, hosts the worlds largest colony of reddish egrets.



The National Audubon Society and Texas General Land Office, protect the islands of the Laguna Madre as part of the Audubon Texas coastal sanctuary system.



Uncommon Wetlands

Weather shapes the coastal wetlands of Texas. Ample rainfall and streams form bays with extensive cordgrass marshes from the Louisiana border to just north of Corpus Christi, Texas.

Our southern coast experiences little rainfall, high evaporation, and no stream inflow. The marshes are replaced by seemingly barren tidal flats surrounding the Laguna Madre. Covering the flats is a mat of algae, the foundation for life on the edge of the bay.

Wind causes shallow tides on the flats.

When wind blows a shallow coating of water over the algae beds, resident egrets feed on the small fish that come in to graze.

Exposed tidal flats attract shorebirds that feed on insects and larvae living in the algae mats.

Wetland Marshes

Wetland marshes are a vital part of the coastal ecosystem. They provide habitat for a variety of birds and animals, and they help to filter pollutants from the water. Wetland marshes are also important for the protection of the coast from storms and hurricanes.

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This project was funded by Texas Coastal Management Program Grant #0300000101 for the Texas Department of Parks and Recreation. The project was funded by the Texas Department of Parks and Recreation, the Texas Department of Wildlife, and the Texas Department of Natural Resources. Project # TEXA-AS-07-01, 04/27/07-03/31/08.



Uncommon Wildlife

Adolph Thoma, Jr. County Park is situated inside the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge along side the Arroyo Colorado.

This area is abundant with wildlife and native habitat.



If you are lucky, you might see wildlife swimming in the arroyo or roaming on the opposite bank.



