



## SMITH POINT CONSTRUCTED WETLAND

### WHAT IS THE SMITH POINT CONSTRUCTED WETLAND?

The Smith Point Constructed Wetland provides treatment of household sewage for the Smith Point community.

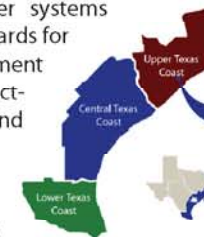
### WHY DO WE NEED THIS FACILITY?

Before the construction of the facility, the Smith Point community did not have a centralized system for sewage treatment. Most homes use on-site wastewater treatment and have continued to experience system failure. In addition, on-site wastewater systems that would meet the state standards for on-site wastewater treatment cannot be designed and constructed due to the small lot size and poor soil conditions. The lack of adequate wastewater treatment results in untreated or poorly treated wastewater to drain across yards and into ditches which drain directly to Trinity Bay and East Bay. The continuous discharge of effluent to these waters threatens both the large concentration of oyster reefs found in the area and the livelihood of Smith Point residents that depend on the oyster industry. Both of these bays have been included in the List of Impaired Waters of Texas since 1998 and continue to be listed on the 2008 303d List for excessive bacteria in the water, for the intended use of oysters.

### HOW WAS THE PROJECT FUNDED?

In October 2005, the Trinity Bay Conservation District (TBCD or District) received approval for federal funding through the Texas General Land Office Coastal Management Grant Program (Cycle 11) to construct a wetland facility to properly treat household sewage from the Smith Point community.

The General Land Office funded 60 % of the total project while 40% match was provided by the District.



### Benefits of the Smith Point Constructed Wetland facility

- Provides adequate treatment of household sewage
- Mitigates increase of bacterial concentration and its negative effects on Trinity Bay and East Bay
- It helps to protect and preserve the oyster reefs, a coastal natural resource and an important source of livelihood for the Smith Point community
- The wetland provides habitat for birds, waterfowls and plant species



A publication (or report) of the Coastal Coordination Council pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA07NOS4190144."



07/15/2009



07/15/2009