



Brazoria County Parks Department
313 W. Mulberry
Angleton, Texas
979-864-1541

Hanson Riverside County Park – Columbia Bottomlands Educational Access Plan

Coastal Management Program Contract: **19-055-000-B089**

Final Report
September 2021

Prepared by:

Lydia Ortiz
Park Planning & Grant Specialist
lydiao@brazoria-county.com
979-864-1149

A REPORT FUNDED BY A TEXAS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANT
APPROVED BY THE TEXAS LAND COMMISSIONER PURSUANT TO NATIONAL
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

AWARD NO. NA18NOS4190153



Project Background:

Hanson Riverside County Park, located on the San Bernard River in Brazoria County, is one of the last remaining patches of Columbia Bottomlands Forest, and an ecologically rich habitat comprised of grasslands, hardwood forest, and coastal wetlands. The park serves as a fallout zone for migratory birds, providing freshwater resources and vital habitat to an array of species. Public access to bottomland forests and interactive educational opportunities are limited.

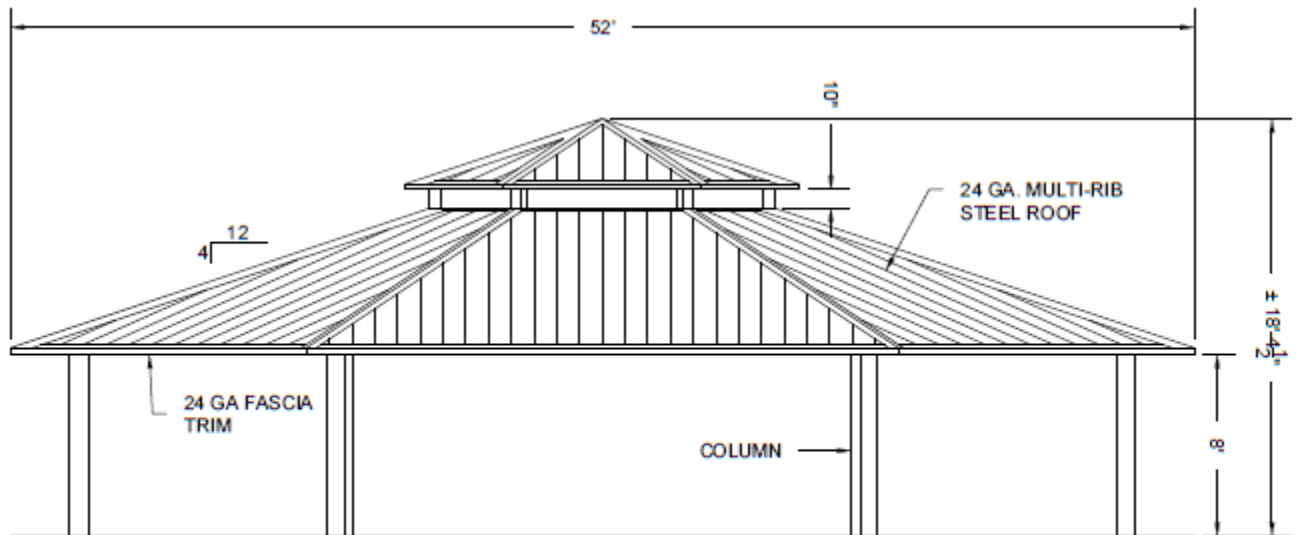
Approval of this grant project has allowed the Brazoria County Parks Department to enhance public access to coastal habitat, strengthen public appreciation and interest of natural resources, and increase educational opportunities.

CMP funding was used to offset the cost for construction of a 52' pavilion, construction of a covered observation deck, creation of a freshwater wetland, and installation of a rain harvesting system. The pavilion has been used, and will continue to be used, to host public education events. The observation deck was constructed to overlook the newly created wetland. This allows visitors to study and enjoy native wildlife as well as migratory birds in a living laboratory setting. The rainwater harvesting system collects water from the roof of the observation deck that is eventually used to supply freshwater to the created wetland during dry seasons. The pavilion and observation deck comply with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements. Interpretive signage educating visitors of migratory bird species and the importance of rainwater harvesting has been installed at the observation deck.

A Texas Parks and Wildlife Department grant has been approved and is being used to construct a 23 space parking lot, a double-vault composting restroom, approximately 3 miles of new high and bike trails, and wooden footbridges and repair/renovate existing hike and bike trails. Natural clearings have been used as allowed.

Task 1 Summary: Engineering Design, Permitting, and Bidding

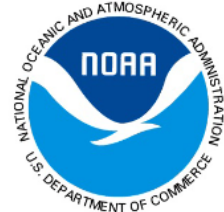
Task 1 took more time than anticipated. The pavilion that was originally chosen and used in the projected budget had gone up in price by over \$19k from submittal of our grant application to the time we were able to order it. We did some research and found several comparable concepts and finally submitted one to CMP for approval. This pavilion was also higher than originally anticipated, but less than the one that was originally chosen.



ELEVATION 52' CHARLESTON MODEL
NTS

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After releasing our bid package for construction of the pavilion, observation deck, and a wetland garden twice, we still had no interest from the public contractors. We decided to add this grant project to our bid package for project tasks of a TPWD grant project that included construction of a parking lot, hike and bike trails and a composting restroom at the same park. The bid package was released and we received several replies. The County chose the contractor that was best suitable and the bid tabulation was submitted to CMP for approval.



**BRAZORIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
111 E. LOCUST STREET, BLDG. A-29, SUITE 100
ANGLETON, TEXAS 77515
TEL: 979-864-1825 FAX: 979-864-1034**

**BRAZORIA COUNTY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL COVER SHEET**

The REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) and accompanying documents are for your convenience in submitting an offer for the referenced products and/or services for BRAZORIA COUNTY.

Sealed Hard Copy or Electronic offers shall be received no later than:

MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME

IF SUBMITTING A SEALED OFFER, PLEASE MARK ENVELOPE:

"RFP #19-80 HANSON RIVERSIDE COUNTY PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT"

Task 2 Summary: Construction and Signage Installation

During construction, natural clearings were utilized to minimize habitat disturbances including those of migratory birds. The approved contractor constructed a 52-foot hexagonal pavilion, a 240 square foot covered observation deck, and a 300 square foot freshwater wetland. The Parks Department installed the rain water harvesting system to cut costs. All construction complies with ADA requirements. A Registered Accessibility Specialist has certified that the construction is compliant with Texas Accessibility Standards.



Natural clearing for Pavilion construction

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Pavilion foundation



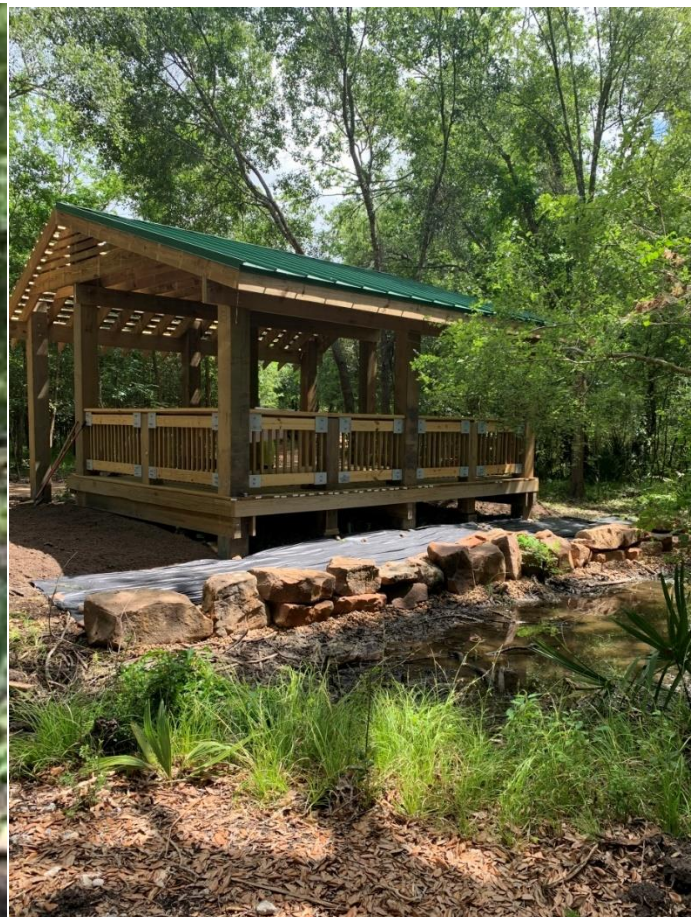
52' Diameter Pavilion



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Natural wetland





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Layout for Observation Deck



Pilings for
Observation
Deck



Construction of Observation Deck



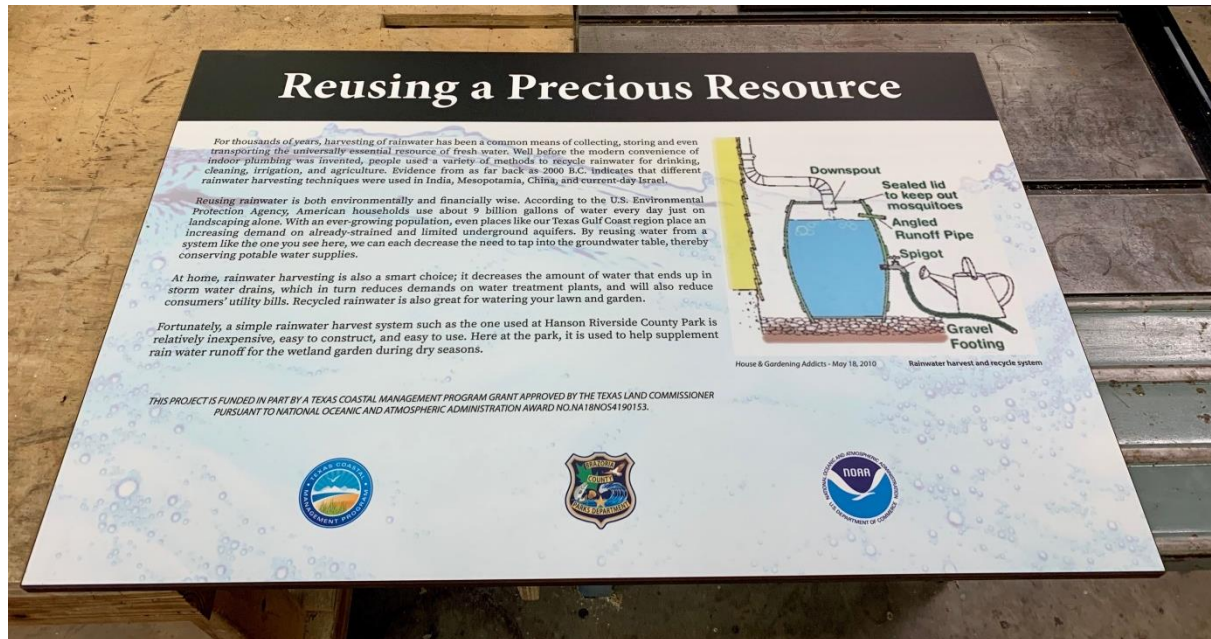
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ADA Ramp
Built for access
to Observation
Deck



The County submitted conceptual designs and draft layout text of interpretive signage that was approved by CMP. These interpretive signs have been installed at the observation deck.





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Concrete pad for
Rain Water
Harvesting System



The GLO has provided permanent CMP signs which have been installed at the project site.



Permanent Acknowledgement Sign near pavilion



Permanent Acknowledgement Sign near observation deck

Task 3 Summary: Project Monitoring and Reporting

The County has prepared and submitted all progress reports, deliverables, requests for reimbursement, and this final report, as required by the contract.



Texas Master Naturalist Training