



# Preservation Matters

www.gbrtrust.org

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## Property Protected Along Coletto Creek Reservoir

by Jeff Crosby



Mike Fields, GDF SUEZ Coletto Creek Power Plant

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA), and GDF SUEZ Energy North America joined with county officials, the Boy Scouts, and other community organizations to recognize the permanent protection of critical wildlife habitat and recreational land by the donation of a conservation easement by GDF SUEZ's Coletto Creek Power Plant in October.

The 238-acre site—valued at \$1 million—features hiking trails, basic camping facilities, an active Bald Eagle's nest, and many outdoor and wildlife photography opportunities. Accessible year-round, the easement was originally part of Coletto Creek Power's 8,000-acre property that includes a 3,100-acre lake and public park facilities. More than 300,000 people visit the park annually.

GDF SUEZ donated the easement to the GBR Trust to ensure the natural area would be available for

generations of visitors to enjoy for years to come. The GBRA, which has been managing the Coletto Creek Reservoir and the surrounding property since Coletto Creek Power was built, will continue to work with the GBR Trust to manage the easement property.

Local Boy Scout groups have already conducted a variety of skills development and service projects within the easement, including overnight camping, installation of wood duck nesting boxes to protect mother ducks and their young, and clean-up of the entire shoreline of the property. GBRA and the GBR Trust will continue to welcome the local scout groups, as well as school and other youth organizations to use the easement to promote outdoor skill development and environmental stewardship well into the future.

Meanwhile, members of the Victoria Photo Club also availed themselves to the site to develop outdoor photography skills. They have generously shared a number of quality photographs of wildlife on the property with GBRA, which also looks forward to welcoming members and other nature enthusiasts back season after season.

"This unique partnership has been working to protect this waterfront property and the recent commitment from GDF SUEZ to conserve the land along Coletto Creek Reservoir ensures that the diverse wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities that exist on the property will be permanently protected," Jeff Crosby, Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust executive director, said.

Continued on back page



Photos by Tammy Beutnagel

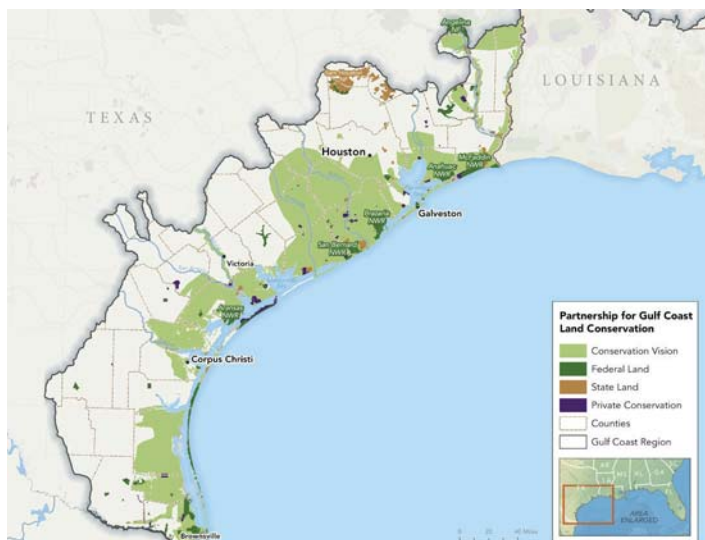
# Land Trust Alliance, GBR Trust and Partners Reveal “A Land Conservation Vision for the Gulf of Mexico Region”

by Jeff Crosby

The Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation, a program of the Land Trust Alliance, of which the GBR Trust is a member, announced today the release of “A Land Conservation Vision for the Gulf of Mexico Region.” This landmark report unites multiple partners to identify priority focus areas for land conservation and economic revival in the Gulf of Mexico.

Developed in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and The Conservation Fund in response to the Deepwater Horizon disaster and decades of slow ecosystem decline, the 21-page report outlines voluntary conservation opportunities to inform long-term regional efforts by local landowners, public agencies and others; presents regional and state maps showing priority locations for conservation and restoration activities; and provides a resource for state and federal policymakers.

GBR Trust priorities were included throughout the Guadalupe River delta, along the coast in Calhoun, Refugio and Aransas counties, as well as extending along the Guadalupe River into both Victoria and DeWitt



counties. These areas represent critical habitat for wildlife, waterfowl and a variety of wetland and coastal dependent species, including the endangered whooping cranes.

“Our shared vision to conserve the coastal region’s

valuable natural areas will guide voluntary conservation actions in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas for years to come,” said Rand Wentworth, Land Trust Alliance president. “As we work together to conserve and revive a region that is losing up to \$22.7 billion in tourism revenue and \$8.7 billion in commercial fishing activity from the Deepwater Horizon spill, we will collaborate with private landowners and local stakeholders to protect habitats, natural resources and economic opportunities.”



Following the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, the Alliance in 2010 organized a partnership uniting all major private, nonprofit organizations working to protect and restore lands across the five-state coastal region. The Alliance led development of this Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation, a coalition of 30 local, regional, state and national land conservation groups. The Conservation Fund provided strategic conservation planning, training and guidance to member organizations, and The Nature Conservancy compiled the key maps featured in the report.

Bob Stokes, chairman of the Partnership’s executive committee and president of the Galveston Bay Foundation in Texas, said the region’s many land conservation groups are now collaborating in unprecedented ways.

“Land trusts across the Gulf Coast rarely had a chance to work closely together prior to the Deepwater Horizon spill,” Stokes said. “The Partnership serves as a powerful, unified voice about the need for land conservation in light

## Landowner Workshop Held in Victoria

The GBR Trust in partnership with the Texas Agricultural Land Trust and the Victoria County Bar Association hosted a workshop, "Going, Going, Gone: Impacts of Loss of Rural Land on Water, Wildlife and Agriculture," at the Victoria Country Club. A great lineup of speakers was present to discuss the changing landscape of south Texas, how land fragmentation is impacting land and water resources and how to minimize the impact of oil and gas activities on farms and ranches. The GBR Trust moderated a discussion of a panel of landowners who have participated in a variety of conservation programs. Included was Dr. Del Williams, who protected his property along the Guadalupe River several years ago through the donation of a conservation easement to the GBR Trust.

Be sure to check the [gbrtrust.org](http://gbrtrust.org) website or contact GBR Trust to learn about future events.



Victoria County  
Bar Association



Presents

Going, Going, Gone:  
Impacts of Loss of Rural Land on  
Water, Wildlife & Agriculture

## Land Trust Alliance, GBR Trust and Partners Reveal "A Land Conservation Vision for the Gulf of Mexico Region" continued

of the damage from the spill and historic damage to the Gulf's natural resources. We've come together with our Conservation Vision and we will continue to work together to ensure it is implemented."

"A Land Conservation Vision for the Gulf of Mexico Region" is the first in a series of web- and print-based resources to be developed by the Partnership. Forthcoming resources will provide more detailed accounts of the restoration opportunities and challenges throughout the region and within each state. Visit [www.gulfpartnership.org](http://www.gulfpartnership.org) for more information and resources.



Photo by Jeff Crosby

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water of our region!

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Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust  
and help preserve the unique  
natural heritage of the Guadalupe  
watershed for future generations.

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“Using natural resources wisely is an important part of our mission at GDF SUEZ,” said Robert Stevens, plant manager at Coletto Creek Power. “We’re pleased to provide this land to help promote and protect many enjoyable, enriching activities for our neighbors and visitors alike—in perpetuity.”

“The relationship we have enjoyed over the years with GDF SUEZ is a great example of how public and private entities working cooperatively can benefit their local communities,” Bill West, GBRA general manager, said. “We are excited to be a part of this ongoing venture to offer the greater Victoria and Goliad areas a place to experience and appreciate nature.”



Photo by Tammy Beutnagel

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