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New Building to House Land Conservation and Stewardship Program at the Nueces Delta Preserve

ODEM, TX – The Nueces Delta Preserve stands as a cornerstone of the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, a 11,200-acre protected landscape that embodies the organization's mission of conservation and stewardship. From the earliest days of the program, land conservation and habitat restoration have guided planning and action, and the results of that work are visible beyond the white gate on Highway 77.

Historically, the lands of the Nueces Delta supported a rich mosaic of wildlife habitats, stretching from high marsh to tidal flats where the river meets the bay. For centuries, these lands sustained indigenous communities who relied on the rich natural resources of Nueces Bay and the surrounding landscape. As Texas's cattle industry grew, the land was used by the McGregor family for generations of ranching. Over time, the family developed a deep respect for the productivity of the property and ultimately chose to protect it for future generations by selling the land to The Nature Conservancy while CBBEP worked to secure the funds to take ownership, ensuring the integrity of the habitat would endure.

For more than 25 years, the CBBEP Land Conservation and Stewardship Program has carried that legacy forward at the Nueces Delta Preserve, completing habitat restoration projects, supporting wildlife monitoring efforts, and steadily expanding the acreage of the Preserve alongside a dedicated network of partners and supporters. What began with a single tractor and a motivated steward has grown into a robust program supported by a fleet of equipment whose mission is bringing conservation goals to life. From maintaining fire breaks for prescribed burns, to preparing trails for Delta Discovery Program field trips and teacher workshops, to removing derelict fencing and invasive vegetation from the habitat, the Land Conservation team's work is as dynamic as the landscape it protects. As the Preserve and its projects expanded, so too did the program's needs for safe, weather-protected storage and workspace.

With the size and scope of conservation work continuing to grow, expanding the capacity of the Land Conservation and Stewardship Program became a top priority. As staff explored suitable locations for a new facility, outside partners stepped forward to support the vision. During the heat of the summer, a fresh slab and steel beams began to rise along the edge of the mesquite thicket near the Education Center at the Nueces Delta Preserve.



With funds from CBBEP's Bob Wallace, Jr. Legacy Fund and the generous support from program partners, a local foundation and 1PointFive, a carbon capture, utilization and sequestration company that plans to develop a Direct Air Capture Hub in South Texas, the new structure now serves as a central hub for Land Program operations. The building provides secure, dry storage for tools and equipment, a large meeting space for partners and stakeholders, and dedicated office space for staff, who welcomed the move to their own dedicated space.

The facility features 2,100 square feet of enclosed workspace, covered bays across the length, a kitchenette, office space, a restroom, a shower to help staff manage the demanding conditions of South Texas summers, and enough room to host workshops, trainings, and stakeholder meetings. Constructed with state-of-the-art modular siding and high-efficiency insulation, the building is designed to serve as a model for future conservation infrastructure projects. For Land Conservation Program Director Jake Herring, the new building represents more than just added space, it marks a major step forward for the program. "This building helps our Land Conservation Program function at a higher capacity," Herring said. "The new facility allows our team to collaborate with partners, agencies, and organizations and properly store and care for the equipment that helps us care for the land. It's a monumental step forward for CBBEP." Looking ahead to the long-term benefits of the preserve and its role in advancing conservation, Trey Fournier, Director, 1PointFive, reflected on the project's broader significance. "Lasting environmental stewardship is built through strong local partnerships," shared Fournier "Supporting the new Nueces Bay Delta Reserve Building is an investment in the people and infrastructure that advance conservation work every day. We believe this facility will serve as an important convening place that will benefit the coastal bend region for many years to come."

This investment strengthens the long-term capacity of the Land Conservation and Stewardship Program and supports CBBEP's mission of protecting and restoring the health of the region's bays and estuaries, ensuring the Nueces Delta Preserve continues to serve both people and wildlife for generations to come.



Education Center and Land Conservation Headquarters at Nueces Delta Preserve

The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring bays and estuaries in the 12-county region of Texas Coastal Bend. For more information about the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, contact Quinn Hendrick,

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