



March 2020

CBBEP Funds Public Access Improvements at Padre Balli Park Pollinator Habitat



Did ya hear the latest *buzz*? Nueces County recently put the finishing touches on their Pollinator Habitat at Padre Balli Park! The project was funded by the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP) and includes interpretive signage, benches, and ADA compliant parking and access.

By now we we've all heard that both native and migratory pollinators - think bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, beetles, and bats - are in decline worldwide due largely to habitat loss and fragmentation, and the rise in popularity of chemical pesticide and herbicide use. But did you know that the vegetation in Nueces County, in its natural state, has a high amount of biodiversity and is strategically valuable to pollinators due to its location within the migratory path of several pollinator species?

Armed with that knowledge, Nueces County's created the Pollinator Habitat at Padre Balli Park in 2017 by restoring an otherwise unusable greenspace within the median of Padre Balli Park Rd. The 2.33 acre area was seeded with over 30 varieties of native flowering plants, and is now flourishing as a pollinator habitat for many native and migratory pollinator species.

"Nueces County did a such a great job creating the Pollinator Habitat and restoring the area," said Jake Herring, Director of Land Conservation and Stewardship for CBBEP "So when they approached us about partnering on public access improvements, we knew this would be a great opportunity and were excited to be a part of it."

No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced
– Sir David Attenborough

These public access improvements invite the public into this restoration and conservation story. The ADA compliant parking facilitates access for all, and the interpretive signage enhances public awareness of the invaluable relationship between our native pollinator species and our local ecology. “The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program really values projects that not only fill critical ecological needs, but also enhance the public's experience in our natural resources,” said Jake. “Projects like these will benefit both wildlife and people for years to come, it's a win-win.”



Spring is in the air and the pollinator habitat will soon be in full bloom. So next time you are headed to the beach at Padre Balli Park, take an extra 10 minutes to stop by on your way in, you'll be glad you did!

To learn more about the priority of the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program visit www.cb bep.org.

To learn more about pollinators in Texas visit

https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/Documents/R2ES/Monarch_Texas_Pollinator_Fact_Sheet_FINAL.pdf



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 the Texas Coastal Bend. CBBEP is partially funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information about the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, contact Kathryn Tunnell at (361) 336-0304 or ktunnell@cb bep.org.

This report published in March 2020.

www.cb bep.org - www.facebook.com/CBBEP