



## GulfCorps in Texas

In 2018, GulfCorps launched in Galveston, Texas with a single crew, and added a crew in Corpus Christi in Year 2 of the program to expand project locations throughout Texas' upper and middle coasts. This work includes locating and removing invasive species; planting native marsh and prairie plants, and conducting trail and boardwalk maintenance.

Over the past two years these two GulfCorps crews, operated by the American Conservation Experience (ACE) and the American YouthWorks' Texas Conservation Corps (TXCC), alongside federal and state agencies and non-profits, and have positively impacted 335 acres of coastal habitats.

### GulfCorps

Reaching across the Gulf of Mexico, GulfCorps is restoring communities and ecosystems impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The program, with the support of the RESTORE Council and NOAA, is a regional conservation corps that is putting young adults to work restoring and preserving some of the most important places along the Gulf. Working hand-in-hand with local governments, community leaders, and non-profit organizations, GulfCorps crews are committed to broad, positive impact in their communities and across the Gulf of Mexico.



# TEXAS

Points on map indicate project locations for all 3 years of GulfCorps

**4 TRAILS/  
BOARDWALKS**  
MAINTAINED

**293** ACRES OF INVASIVE  
SPECIES TREATED

**25**  
SHORT-TERM  
JOBS CREATED IN  
FIRST 2 YEARS OF  
GULFCORPS

**11K**  
PLANTS  
PLANTED



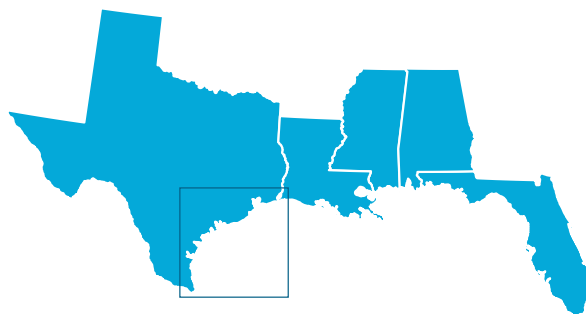
**9**

ACTIVE  
PROJECTS IN  
FIRST 2 YEARS  
OF GULFCORPS

**7**  
ACRES  
OF WETLAND  
RESTORED

**23K+**  
GULFCORPS HOURS

**335**  
ACRES IMPACTED  
THROUGH  
SEPTEMBER 2019



BILL MARR/TNC



# Texas Project Highlights

## 1 Armand Bayou Nature Center

Since 2018, the Texas Conservation Corps (TXCC) has partnered with the Armand Bayou Nature Center and spent more than 2,000 crew hours removing invasive species, planting native grasses, removing brush and debris, staging and assisting with volunteer and education events, and helping to construct habitat for coastal birds. The TXCC crew also planted more than 1,000 native plants and collected and grew more than 3,420 plants, which will help construct more than 4 acres of wetland habitat.

## 2 Town of Port Aransas Nature Center

In Port Aransas, the American Conservation Experience (ACE) has partnered with the Port Aransas Nature Preserve to help initiate a 10-year restoration plan that was created in response to severe damage caused by Hurricane Harvey. The ACE crew has dedicated more than 2,000 crew hours to treat invasive species on over 30 acres as the crew treated Guinea grass, Brazilian peppertree, and white leadtree. To date the crew has nearly eliminated all mature white leadtree, Brazilian peppertree, and Guinea grass from the 30-acre treatment site, making future maintenance easier.



JEFF DEQUATTRO/TNC



SONIA NAJERA/TNC



SONIA NAJERA/TNC



## Local Crews, Local Communities

At its heart, GulfCorps is about rebuilding the environment, and local communities. This means working with, and relying on, organizations that know and are deeply rooted in the local communities GulfCorps is helping.

In Texas, GulfCorps is working with **American YouthWorks**, the parent company of the **Texas Conservation Corps**, established in 1975 with a mission to provide young people with opportunities to build careers, strengthen communities, and improve the environment through education, on-the-job training, and service to others. **The American YouthWorks Texas Conservation Corps** began in 1993 and includes not only a GulfCorps crew, but multiple other conservation crews, summer youth programs, and individual placements that provide job training and experience for future careers.



GulfCorps is also working with the **American Conservation Experience (ACE)**, a non-profit organization formed in 2004 that is dedicated to providing rewarding environmental service opportunities that harness the idealism and energy of a volunteer labor force to help restore America's public lands. ACE began conservation work in Corpus Christi, Texas in 2017, where members are offered extensive training in wildland coastal forest management, as well as revegetation, restoring fragmented habitat, surveying, mapping, and water quality testing.







MICHAEL DUMAS/TNC

Mitchell was a crew member on the ACE Crew and received an internship with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, where he worked on the Pacific Crest Trail over the Summer of 2019. He has returned for Year 3 as a Crew Leader of their GulfCorps Crew.



MICHAEL DUMAS/TNC

Laura was a crew leader for the TXCC Crew and after her term she was hired as the Youth Crew Coordinator for the TXCC Parent Company, American YouthWorks.

## TEXAS PROJECT PARTNERS

During the first two seasons of GulfCorps, crews worked on meaningful coastal restoration projects under the direction of a range of federal, state and community partners:

Armand Bayou Nature Center  
 Artist Boat's Coastal Heritage Preserve  
 Galveston Bay Foundation at the Turtle Bayou Preserve  
 Texas General Land Office and SCENIC Galveston at Virginia Point  
 City of Port Aransas Nature Preserve  
 Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve  
 Coastal Bend and Bays Estuary Program  
 Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge  
 The Nature Conservancy in Texas  
 Padre Island National Seashore

### Potential New Partners in Year 3:

Texas Parks and Wildlife  
 McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge  
 Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge  
 Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge  
 Aransas National Wildlife Refuge

"[GulfCorps helped leverage] funding including \$89,000 for the bird observatory project, \$4,000 for invasive removal, \$7,000 in materials."

— Mary Warwick, Habitat and Stewardship Manager, Artist Boat Coastal Heritage Preserve

"Fantastic crews, could not ask for better."

— Rae Mooney, Preserve Manager, City of Port Aransas Nature Preserve  
 GulfCorps Gulf-wide info

Points on map indicate project locations for all 3 years of GulfCorps

TEXAS

LOUISIANA

## GulfCorps by the Numbers

ESTIMATED OVER

**\$190K**

IN LEVERAGED FUNDING AND  
MATERIAL COSTS

**5,728**  
ACRES  
IMPACTED

**965**

ACRES OF  
MARSH/BEACH  
ENHANCEMENT

**2,333**

ACRES OF  
UPLAND  
CONSERVATION



**47**

ACRES OF MARSH/  
WETLAND PLANTED

**114K**

PAID PROJECT AND TRAINING  
HOURS FOR YEARS 1 AND 2



**1,871**

ACRES OF INVASIVE  
SPECIES TREATED



**369**

ACRES BEING  
MONITORED

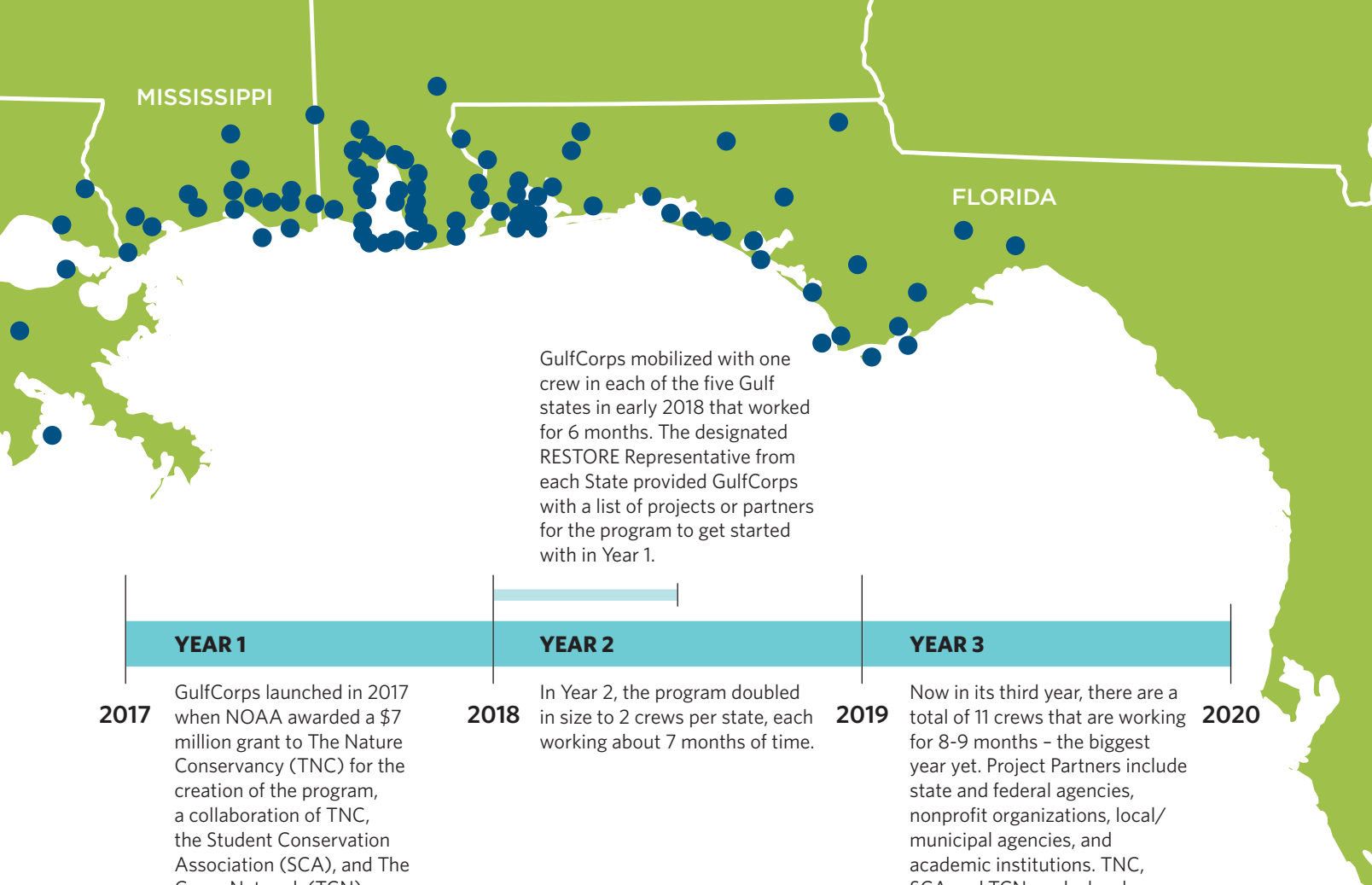
**3K+**

HOURS OF TIME SAVED BY  
PROJECT PARTNER STAFF  
IN YEAR 2



PHOTOS JOHN STANMEYER/NATGEO CREATIVE





**The GulfCorps Crews for Year 3:**

- Conservation Corps of the Forgotten Coast – Franklin County (FL)
- Conservation Corps of the Emerald Coast - Bay County (FL)
- Conservation Corps of the Emerald Coast – Escambia County (FL)
- Student Conservation Association – (AL)
- Climb CDC (MS)
- Limitless Vistas Inc. (LA)
- Louisiana Conservation Corps (LA)
- Texas Conservation Corps (TX)
- American Conservation Experience (TX)

“The crew took pride in what was accomplished, and it showed in the work completed.”

—Shelley Stiaes, Refuge Manager for Bayou Sauvage, Bayou Teche and Mandalay National Wildlife Refuges, US Fish and Wildlife Service

“Responsible and engaged, this team gave me great confidence for year three.”

—Eric Brunden, Stewardship Coordinator, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve





MICHAEL DUMAS/TNC

## THE GULFCORPS PROJECT TEAM



### NOAA FISHERIES

Fiscal sponsor, environmental compliance, project advisor, team partner Conservation Corps

### THE CORPS NETWORK

Professional development initiative to prepare members/leaders for pursuing, and helping the pursuit of careers in conservation and restoration

### THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

GulfCorps Program Directors, conservation and project planning, monitoring and overall implementation

### STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Plans and implements orientation for all GulfCorps crews

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*This project is made possible through funding received from the RESTORE Council and NOAA.*