



GALVESTON BAY REPORT CARD

Scott Jones

Galveston Bay Foundation



GALVESTON BAY IS TEXAS' LARGEST
ESTUARY –

A COASTAL BODY OF WATER WITH A
FREE CONNECTION TO THE OPEN SEA –

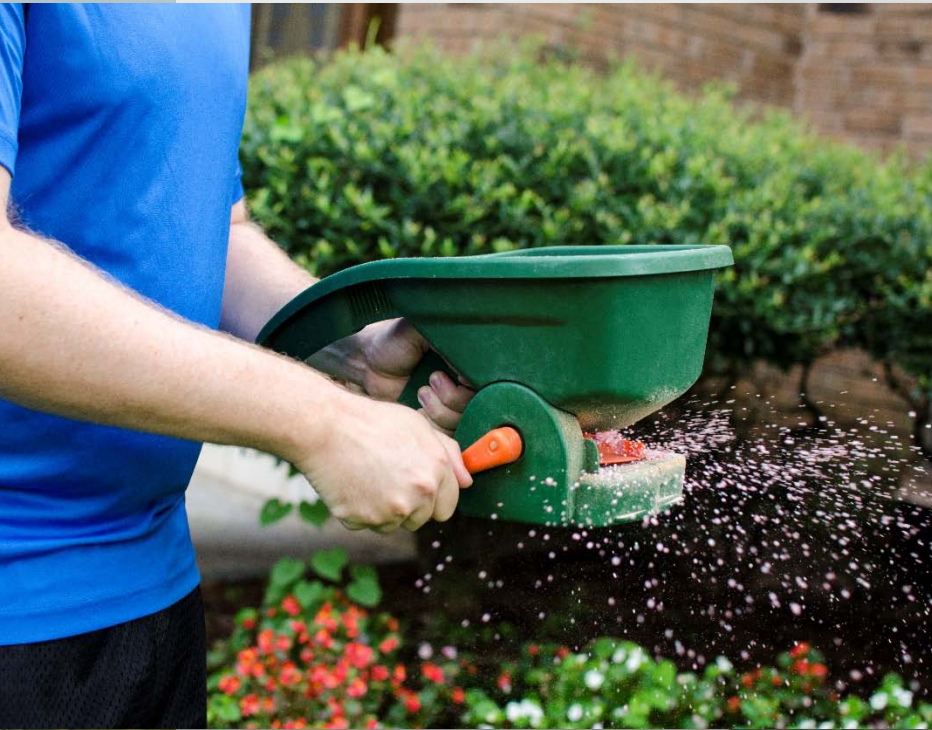
AND IT STARTS IN YOUR BACKYARD.

WHAT'S A WATERSHED?

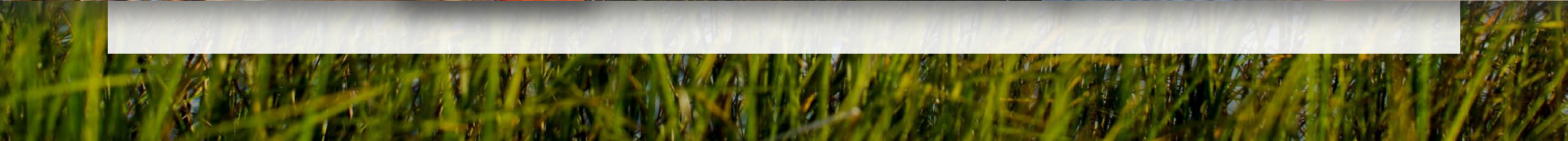
- **Every square inch of land is part of a watershed.**
- **A watershed's borders are determined by how rivers, streams and rainfall run across the land and drain to a common water body, like Galveston Bay.**
- **Half of Texas' population lives in the Galveston Bay watershed.**



WHAT HAPPENS IN THE WATERSHED...



...ENDS UP IN THE BAY.



HOW DOES YOUR WATERSHED MEASURE UP?

www.GalvBayGrade.org/findyourwatershed



FIND YOUR WATERSHED

Find address or place

VISIT GALVBAYGRADE.ORG TO LEARN MORE

HARC 

Clear Creek

Armand-Taylor Bayou

North Bay

WHY DOES GALVESTON BAY MATTER?

Estuaries are among the most productive ecosystems in the world. They are home to a huge amount of plant and animal life, and can produce large harvests of recreational and commercial fish and shellfish.



WHY WE #LOVEOURBAY

A healthy Galveston Bay can provide many benefits:

- **Fisheries/seafood**
- **Water quality improvement**
- **Erosion, flood, and storm protection**
- **Regulation of local climate**
- **Aesthetics and recreational opportunities such as swimming, boating, and bird watching**





ENSURING A HEALTHY FUTURE FOR GALVESTON
BAY
IS ENSURING THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS
CAN ENJOY A SAFE PLACE TO

SWIM, BOAT AND FISH.

ABOUT THE REPORT CARD: WHO MADE IT?



HARC

Galveston Bay Foundation

Houston Advanced Research Center

Supported by a Grant from Houston Endowment

ABOUT THE REPORT CARD: **WHAT IS IT?**

The first easy-to-understand grading system to communicate the health of the Bay. We look at existing data and evaluate conditions that impact the Bay's resilience and sustainability.

**WATER QUALITY - WILDLIFE - COASTAL CHANGE
HABITAT - POLLUTION - HUMAN HEALTH RISKS**


ABOUT THE REPORT CARD:

www.GalvBayGrade.org

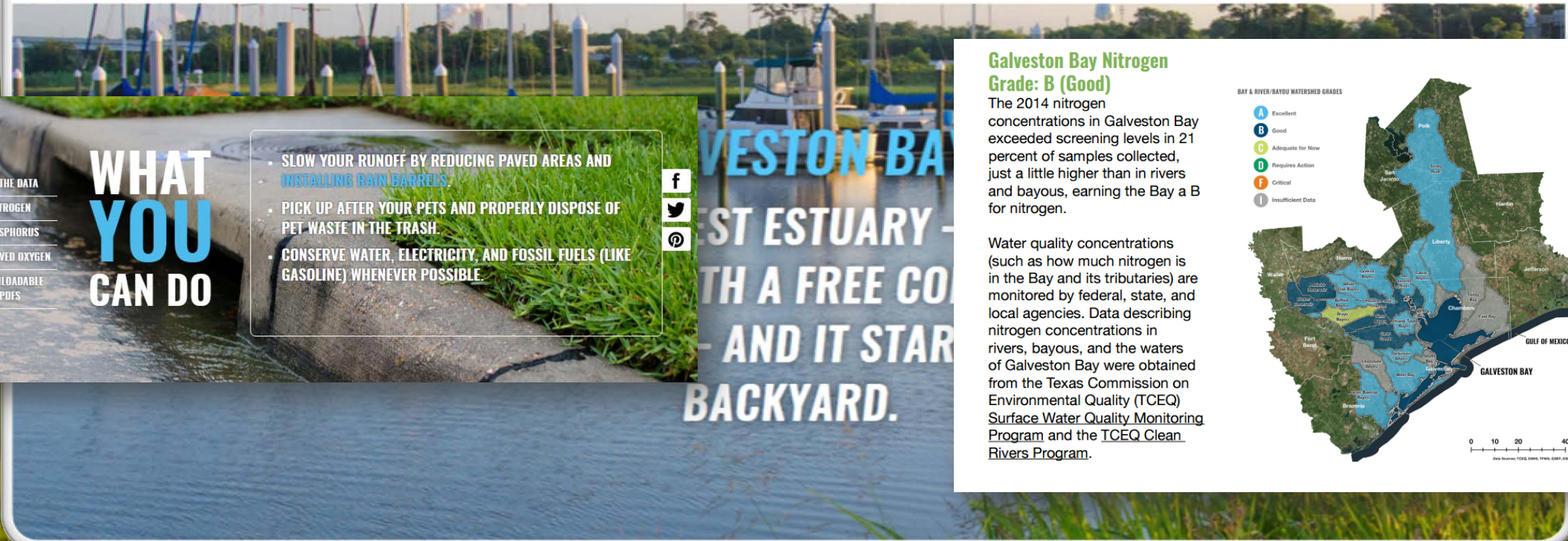
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GALVESTON BAY REPORT CARD

HARC 

OVERVIEW | WATER QUALITY | POLLUTION EVENTS & SOURCES | WILDLIFE | HABITAT | HUMAN HEALTH RISKS | COASTAL CHANGE



SEE THE DATA

NITROGEN

PHOSPHORUS

DISSOLVED OXYGEN

DOWNLOADABLE PDFS

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- SLOW YOUR RUNOFF BY REDUCING PAVED AREAS AND INSTALLING RAIN BARRELS.
- PICK UP AFTER YOUR PETS AND PROPERLY DISPOSE OF PET WASTE IN THE TRASH.
- CONSERVE WATER, ELECTRICITY, AND FOSSIL FUELS (LIKE GASOLINE) WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

[f](#)

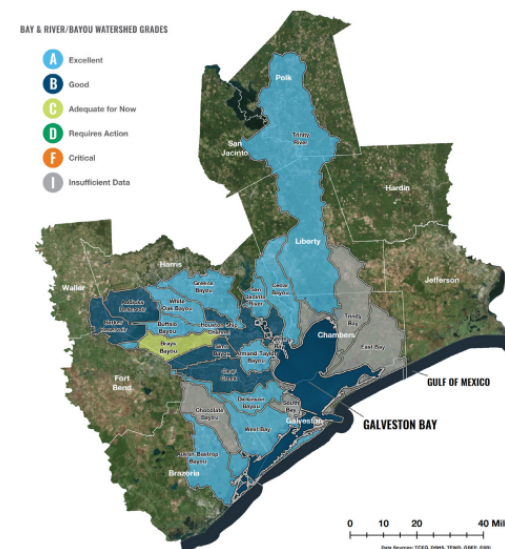
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Galveston Bay Nitrogen Grade: B (Good)

The 2014 nitrogen concentrations in Galveston Bay exceeded screening levels in 21 percent of samples collected, just a little higher than in rivers and bayous, earning the Bay a B for nitrogen.

Water quality concentrations (such as how much nitrogen is in the Bay and its tributaries) are monitored by federal, state, and local agencies. Data describing nitrogen concentrations in rivers, bayous, and the waters of Galveston Bay were obtained from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program and the TCEQ Clean Rivers Program.



BAY & RIVER/BAYOU WATERSHED GRADES

Data Source: TCEQ, DATA FROM: DATA.GALV.BAY.ORG

ABOUT THE REPORT CARD: JOIN US!

Your input helps us determine what issues are important to the citizens of our area and the stakeholders that use or recreate in Galveston Bay. You can help us improve the report card, which we plan to update annually:

- **Ask Questions**
- **Send Us an Email**
- **Take Our Survey**

OVERALL HEALTH OF THE BAY



C means “Adequate for Now” – the Bay is faring well considering significant challenges such as habitat and shellfish declines, pollution, and the impacts of coastal change –

But we must act now to prevent facing a crisis in the future.

CATEGORIES

WATER QUALITY

Nitrogen

Phosphorus

Dissolved Oxygen



WILDLIFE

Shellfish

Finfish

Birds



POLLUTION EVENTS & SOURCES

Toxics in Sediment

Oil Spills

Litter and Trash



HABITAT

Wetlands

Underwater Grasses

Oyster Reefs



COASTAL CHANGE

Freshwater Inflows

Sea Level Rise

Water Temperature

pH



HUMAN HEALTH RISKS

Seafood Consumption

Safety

Water Recreation

Safety



NOW

NOW

You're Invited...

We want you to help us teach others about the value of Galveston Bay, and the ways we can all improve the health of the Bay.

Let's take it from Adequate (C) to Excellent (A).

- Share the website: www.GalvBayGrade.org
 - Recommend presentations
 - Use #LoveOurBay on social media

QUESTIONS?

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

- Anja Borski, Report Card Coordinator
- aborski@galvbay.org
- 281-332-3381 x223

GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION

- www.galvbay.org
- Become a member
- Volunteer
- Join our events
- Get out and enjoy Galveston Bay!

HOUSTON ADVANCED RESEARCH CENTER

- www.HARCresearch.org
- Learn more about research on local air, energy and water topics
- Focused on building a sustainable future.