

How We Can Improve Water Quality in Double Bayou

The Double Bayou WPP includes over sixty voluntary management measures. See them at www.doublebayou.org and find out how you can get involved. Examples include:

- Educational and outreach opportunities
- Improvements to wastewater collection infrastructure
- Technical assistance to implement voluntary best management practices and address feral hog control efforts



Everyone can play a part in reducing pollution in Double Bayou!

The Double Bayou WPP stems from the proud history of the community and the desire to conserve Double Bayou for future recreation, commerce, agriculture and aesthetics. The actions that can be taken to improve water quality are as diverse as the pollutant sources. There is something for everyone. Watch the newspaper and website for events and opportunities to learn more about what you can do!

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CLEANER WATER FOR DOUBLE BAYOU

A VOLUNTARY APPROACH

The Double Bayou Watershed

The Double Bayou Watershed is situated on the Upper Texas Gulf Coast. The watershed is comprised of two primary waterways, known as the East Fork and the West Fork of Double Bayou. The lands and waters in the Double Bayou Watershed provide a snapshot of the much-prized rural Chambers County life: rice farming, cattle grazing, oil production, small town and country living, industry, commercial navigation, and abundant recreational activities.



A Plan for Cleaner Water

Water quality in our waterways

Like most Galveston Bay tributaries, parts of Double Bayou are on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's list of impaired waters. Double Bayou's impairments are elevated bacteria (risk of ingestion during recreation) and low dissolved oxygen (impacts aquatic life).

A watershed approach

A watershed is an area of land that catches rain and drains runoff – along with whatever it may carry – into a stream, marsh, bayou, river, lake or ocean. A watershed approach analyzes water quality issues from an integrated system of land and water.

Stakeholders are crucial to success

A stakeholder is anyone who lives, works, or has an interest within the watershed. Stakeholders bring together knowledge and expertise to preserve, protect and improve water quality.



Watershed influences on water quality

Double Bayou stakeholders considered watershed bacteria sources and focused on feral hogs, wildlife, livestock, recreational activities, septic systems, and their local wastewater treatment facility. Elevated waterway levels of bacteria can also decrease available dissolved oxygen. Identifying sources helps identify solutions to improve overall water quality.

Finding solutions: A voluntary plan for Double Bayou

A Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) is a voluntary, stakeholder-driven, adaptive plan to restore and protect water quality. The Double Bayou WPP includes a stakeholder-identified menu of voluntary management measures. The WPP also includes an outline for implementation with actions, lead entities, timing, costs, and potential funding sources.

The Double Bayou Watershed Partnership

The WPP Partnership engaged stakeholders in a collaborative and participatory approach. Participants included homeowners, farmers and ranchers, recreationists, conservation organizations, local government entities, and state and federal agencies.