

## Industry and Government Come Together to Restore Estuarine Wetlands

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In 2021 Chevron Pasadena Refinery generously donated \$50,000 and Harris County Precinct 2 donated an additional \$50,000 to support Armand Bayou Nature Center's efforts to manage invasive vegetation. In an inspiring example of what can be accomplished when industry and government work together. Their support enabled Armand Bayou Nature Center to begin the process of eliminating invasive species in 20 acres of estuarine wetlands in 2021.

"Chevron Pasadena Refinery is pleased to partner on this project with Harris County and Armand Bayou Nature Center, to manage this Pasadena, Texas, treasure for the benefit of Gulf Coast ecosystems and enjoyment of the public", said Rajni Yadav, Chevron Pasadena Refinery, corporate affairs manager. "Chevron employees enjoyed participating in the restoration of this cherished habitat by helping plant 3,700 native grass plants on a sunny afternoon in October. It was both fun and gratifying to make an immediate improvement to this absolute gem of a wilderness preserve", added Rajni Yadav.

"What drives me every day is working to guarantee that Precinct 2 is the best place to live, work, and play for everyone. This means protecting the natural treasures bestowed to us. For people to thrive, our natural environment must also thrive but most importantly, it must also be protected. Armand Bayou's Nature Center does an exemplary job of being good stewards of this incredible ecosystem in our region and Precinct 2 is proud to join Chevron Pasadena Refinery in supporting the nature center to restore this beautiful estuarine habitat." Commissioner Adrian Garcia

Over the last 20 years, Armand Bayou Nature Center has planted more than 26 acres of estuarine marsh grasses to restore the edges of Armand and Horsepen bayous. One of the greatest threats to Armand Bayou Nature Center's ongoing work is an invasive species known as elephant ear (*Colocasia esculenta*), which easily invades wetland edges, swamps, streams, and riverine forests. Elephant ear, also called wild taro, is a popular landscape plant that has escaped cultivation and has now spread to our local waterways. The rapid spread of elephant ear threatens vital nesting and foraging habitat for birds of national and state conservation concern: including least bittern, little blue heron, tricolored heron, green heron, snowy egret, sedge wren, wood duck and wood stork.

"It is so important that local government, local industry, and local nonprofits work together to save our environment. Commissioner Garcia and our friends at Chevron understand that the environmental and economic health of Galveston Bay is dependent on healthy estuaries like Armand Bayou." Executive Director of Armand Bayou Nature Center, Tim Pylate

On an unseasonably warm Friday afternoon in December 2021, Commissioner Adrian Garcia of Precinct 2 and Rajni Yadav of the Chevron Pasadena Refinery journeyed along Armand and Horsepen bayous on ABNC's electric pontoon boat. During this pontoon cruise they were able to see firsthand the critical difference their support has made in ABNC's efforts to manage the invasive elephant ear plant.

Without their support in reducing this invasive species along ABNC's waterways, elephant ear would have quickly dominated the existing bulrush marsh which ABNC spent two decades planting and restoring.

### **About Armand Bayou Nature Center**

Established in 1974, Armand Bayou Nature Center is one of the largest urban wilderness preserves in the United States. From fields of waving prairie grasses to forested wetlands to unspoiled bayou systems, Armand Bayou Nature Center is a place like no other. At the crossroads of three vulnerable gulf coast ecosystems, ABNC protects and restores 2,500 acres of rich ecological habitat. The survival of these ecosystems is important for the wildlife that depend upon them, for people seeking the wonder and comforts of nature, and for the range of ecosystem services they provide, including carbon sequestration, storm water retention, flood abatement and water quality improvement. ABNC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, relying on funds raised through visitor services, fundraising events, grants, donations and corporate partnerships to continue our crucial preservation and education efforts.

To learn more about Armand Bayou Nature Center please visit [abnc.org](http://abnc.org).

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