

Houston Ship Channel Expansion - Project 11

The Environment

The Houston Ship Channel and the commerce that moves along it provides significant benefits for the national and regional economies and job markets. Delivering these benefits can have a cost in terms of the environment, wildlife or the air around us. Port Houston is committed to offsetting those impacts and implementing positive solutions.

Building on our tradition of environmental stewardship and the successful program of using dredged material* for beneficial uses, Port Houston is working with its partners to help ensure that the next Houston Ship Channel expansion project once again provides significant environmental benefits – to wildlife, water quality and regional air quality.



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction of five bird islands creating 20 acres of new foraging and nesting habitat• Learning from past success: Evia Island, constructed as part of a previous expansion project, is now home to nearly 10,000 nests and 10 bird species• Possible bird species include Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Tricolored Herons and Brown Pelicans | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 376 acres of replacement oyster reef pads will be built in Galveston Bay• Oysters filter 20-50 gallons of water each day. Oyster reefs also prevent erosion, acting as barriers during storms• Over time, some reef growth will support harvesting and Galveston Bay's oyster fishery industry | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addition of 3 new marsh sites (up to 800 acres) that support wetlands and shallow open-water habitat• Habitat will be provided through a combination of planted grasses and natural recruitment and spreading of seeds• Marshes provide food and protection for wildlife, improve water quality and help mitigate flooding | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Channel expansion improves efficiency of vessel movements and avoids potential congestion, which reduces emissions• A deeper channel will allow for larger ships and result in fewer transits and reduced Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) emissions and other greenhouse gases• Emissions are expected to decrease by 3% initially and eventually up to 7% annually |
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*Material used as part of these environmental benefit projects has been and will continue to be tested in accordance to the requirements of the Clean Air Act for material placement.



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