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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Galveston Bay Foundation Acquires Over 100 Acres
of Coastal Habitat in Brazoria County**

Land to be Preserved as Natural Habitat

Houston, TX – September 16, 2016 – Today, Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) purchased more than 102 acres along Chocolate Bayou in Brazoria County, TX. The property will remain in an open and natural state forever due to GBF’s conservation efforts. Natural habitats found onsite include tidal marshes, freshwater wetlands, and coastal tallgrass prairie. The acquisition was made possible with the financial support of the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), Texas General Land Office, US Fish and Wildlife Service.

“Permanently protecting this tract of land will ensure that critical resources will remain for waterfowl, wading birds, and neotropical migrants as well as provide essential habitat for coastal fisheries including fish, crabs, and shrimp,” said Bob Stokes, President of GBF.

Approximately \$675,000 of Coastal Impact Assistance Program and GBEP funding was utilized to acquire the Chocolate Bayou tract, which contains almost half a mile of frontage along the tidally influenced Chocolate Bayou. The property is located less than three miles from the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge and within an area rated as a high conservation priority by GBEP’s Conservation Assistance Program, which selects projects based on high quality habitat and importance to water quality for Galveston Bay. Chocolate Bayou is one of the primary sources of freshwater for West Galveston Bay.

Galveston Bay Foundation is an accredited land trust and has permanently protected more than 8,000 acres of coastal habitat within the Galveston Bay watershed. GBF protects land using traditional real estate acquisition methods and conservation easements, voluntary agreements with private landowners that restrict future land uses on their property. Conserving natural areas helps ensure clean air and water, food security, scenic landscapes and views, recreational opportunities, and habitat for local and migratory wildlife.

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About Galveston Bay Foundation

The mission of the Galveston Bay Foundation is to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural resources of the Galveston Bay estuarine system and its tributaries for present users and for posterity. The Foundation was incorporated in 1987, and is a non-profit organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. GBF is located at 1100 Hercules Ave. Suite 200 in Houston, Texas. For further information, contact GBF at 281-332-3381 or visit the website at www.galvbay.org.

About Galveston Bay Estuary Program

The mission of the Galveston Bay Estuary Program is to preserve Galveston Bay for generations to come. As a non-regulatory program administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, it is charged with implementing The Galveston Bay Plan — a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for Galveston Bay.

Photo and Map of Property at Chocolate Bayou



