



CONTACT: Emily Demmeck  
281-332-3381, x213  
edemmeck@galvbay.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Galveston Bay Foundation Announces Galveston Bay as a National “Great Water”**  
*National Great Waters designation signifies Galveston Bay’s  
national significance and importance*

**March 24, 2011, Webster, TX** –Galveston Bay has been designated as one of nine new “Great Waters” by America’s Great Waters Coalition. The Coalition works to ensure the restoration of America’s Great Waters to protect people, wildlife, and the economy by advocating for adequate funding for restoration efforts and raising awareness about the challenges facing our nation’s Great Waters.

The Galveston Bay Foundation (“GBF”) will make the announcement of this national designation at Trash Bash at Armand Bayou in Bay Area Park on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. “We will have over 700 volunteers picking up trash around and along Armand Bayou that morning. Those volunteers already know in their hearts that Galveston Bay is a “great water,” but it will be nice for them to hear that we have received the official designation from the Great Waters Coalition,” stated GBF President Bob Stokes.

While the Great Waters across the nation vary in physical characteristics, they are plagued by similar problems such as pollution, altered water flows, habitat loss, invasive species, and more. However, across the country, restoration efforts funded in large part by the federal government are producing on-the-ground results. “The health of Galveston Bay has indeed improved over the last twenty years. Much of this can be traced back to restoration efforts that have been primarily funded by federal dollars. Those dollars directly benefit the health of both the Bay and our local economies and we need to continue making those investments to maintain those benefits,” continued GBF President Bob Stokes.

America’s Great Water Coalition is working to ensure the health, safety, and livelihoods of the millions of Americans that depend on our Great Waters. It is important to continue to prioritize restoration efforts not only because of their environmental importance, but because they are instrumental to health of our local economies.

**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 17330 Highway 3 in Webster, Texas. For further information contact GBF at 281-332-3381 or visit the website at [www.galvbay.org](http://www.galvbay.org).

**About Great Waters Coalition**

The Great Waters Coalition is uniquely positioned to illustrate to the American public and decision makers that our water resources must become a national priority for the security of our economy and way of life. Three main goals drive the Coalition's work: (1) making the restoration of our Great Waters a national priority, (2) securing sustainable dedicated funding for restoration, and (3) enacting and ensuring sound implementation of restoration. To learn more about the Great Waters Coalition, and to view a complete list of America's Great Waters, please visit [www.nwf.org/greatwaters](http://www.nwf.org/greatwaters).

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