

## **Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area Partners Coalition**

What is the role of the Partners Coalition for the Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area planning process?

### **Background**

Local business leader John L. Nau, III and former Secretary of State James A. Baker, III are leading a steering committee and the establishment of a partner coalition to help create a nationally significant coastal recreation area as part of a four-county approach to economic development and hurricane flood abatement.

The coastal recreation area concept is a locally proposed component of a broader hurricane flood abatement program being developed by the Severe Storm Prediction, Education and Evacuation from Disaster (SSPEED) Center at Rice University in association with the Houston-based non-profit organization Houston Wilderness. The national recreation area concept was identified by the SSPEED Center at Rice University under funding provided by The Houston Endowment. The SSPEED Center project proposed the idea as part of a structural and non-structural hurricane flood abatement framework. The concept is designed to offer flood protection, while also being capable of implementation in these difficult economic times.

### **Partners Coalition Purpose**

The Partners Coalition would comprise agencies, organizations, and individuals that are interested in becoming participating sites in the National Recreation Area and other stakeholders. This coalition will be invited to work with the Steering Committee to explore and shape the national recreation area concept, including the composition and function of its governing body. The Partners Coalition will also help facilitate stakeholder dialogues with local organizations, businesses, and communities, and help to identify other potential partners.

#### *Key Tasks:*

- Collaborate with the Steering Committee regarding the national recreation area concept, composition and function of its governing body.
- Facilitate dialogue with stakeholders throughout the four county area to elicit ideas and achieve commitment to the concept.

### **Process**

- Organizations, agencies, and individuals with potentially contributing sites and other stakeholders will be invited to serve on a Partners Coalition.
- These initial coalition members may choose to identify and invite others to participate in the Partners Coalition, with the goal of helping to define and then achieve support and federal designation for the area as a national recreation area.

## **Initial Tasks**

- The Steering Committee will coordinate with the Partners Coalition in order to develop concepts for the design and implementation of a national recreation area.
- The Partners Coalition will be provided relevant economic impact study results for their review.
- The Partners Coalition may help communicate with key local constituents and policy makers and build a coalition of supporters for designation.
- The Partners Coalition will coordinate with the steering committee in order to identify and assess funding opportunities