



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

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Wallisville Lake Project Partnering for Birds

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Wallisville Lake Project, and the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide for cooperation between the two agencies in protecting an important habitat for birds in the southeast Texas area along the Trinity River.

Key components of the agreement are the development of management plans to provide enhanced habitat for migratory and other species of birds, the encouragement of bird monitoring, and the provision of birdwatching opportunities for the visiting public. Working together under the Memorandum, the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory plans to help develop a bird monitoring program and a bird checklist for visitors to the Wallisville site. They will also assist in the placement of nesting boxes for resident wood ducks.

The Wallisville Project is located near the mouth of the Trinity River in Chambers and Liberty Counties, 40 miles east of downtown Houston via Interstate 10. The beautiful marshes, lakes, woodlots, and bottomland forests can be view from a system of trails, boardwalks, and platforms. "With just over 23,000 acres, the Wallisville Lake Project is a hidden jewel that has been set aside with only limited development allowed. The habitats within the Project are of great importance to a large diversity of bird species," says Ian Hartzler of the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. "This Project plays a unique role in providing habitat for migratory birds, and we are excited to help protect it."

The JJ Mayes Wildlife Trace, a particularly appealing section of the area, is open daily to the public from 6 AM – 6 PM, and is located at the first exit west of the Trinity River, south of I-10 (between mile markers 805 and 806). "Habitat enhancement and the provision of birdwatching opportunities go hand in hand at the Wallisville Lake Project," says Richard Long, Park Manager of the Houston Project Office. "We want to be as accessible as possible, all the while preserving the natural beauty and the species that inhabit the Project."

For more information on the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory and how you can help protect important bird habitat, please visit our website at www.gcbo.org or contact the Observatory at 979-480-0999.

For more information about the Wallisville Lake Project come by the Visitor Center just off I-10 on Lock and Dam Road in Wallisville or call 409-389-2285.