

NATURAL CAPITAL

Wetlands provide services we can't live without. These living systems are forms of natural capital and have economic and social values.



WHAT SERVICES DO WETLANDS PROVIDE?

Wetlands exhale oxygen, soak up carbon dioxide, nurture fisheries, cleanse polluted water, buffer against floods, and soothe the human psyche. They also support seafood harvesting, tourism, transportation, and recreation.



Salt marshes provide “passive use” services, such as habitat for wildlife, water quality improvements, and aesthetics. Households in Texas are willing to pay \$30 per year to support conservation of salt marshes and the services they provide.



In Texas, salt marshes provide \$171.5 million per year in protection from extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, and hurricanes.



By soaking up carbon dioxide, salt marshes reduce costs associated with damages from carbon emissions. Salt marshes in Texas provide \$200 per hectare per year in cost savings, or \$34.2 million annually statewide.



The recreational value of Texas salt marshes is estimated to be approximately \$411,225 per year.



By integrating the value of nature into decision-making, we can motivate greater investment in the conservation and restoration of “natural capital” and ultimately improve the well-being of both people and nature.



WETLANDS ARE NATURAL CAPITAL

STRATEGIES FOR INVESTING IN NATURAL CAPITAL

Blue Carbon

Using wetlands as a carbon-storage tank and possibly generating revenue. The goal is to generate carbon “offsets” to sell into a voluntary or regulatory market.

Green Bonds

Investing in projects that have sustainably-minded or green goals. The goal is to create incentives for private industry or investors for green projects.

Mitigation Bank

Restoring marshes or stream banks to compensate for impacts from development in nearby areas. The goal is to help those that need to mitigate for impacts to wetland areas and facilitate restoration.

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