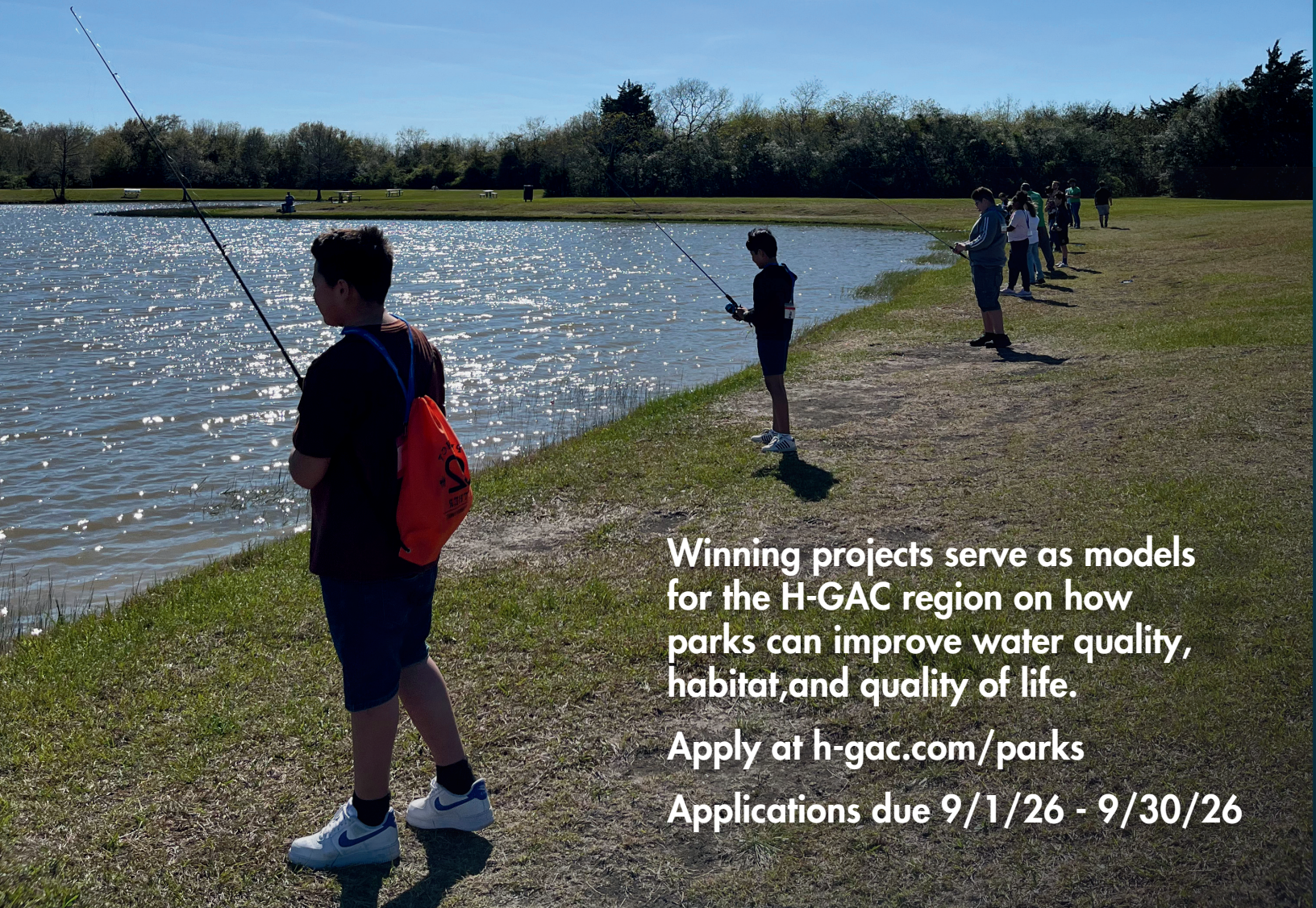




Parks and Natural Areas 2026 Awards

Parks and Natural Areas Awards

APPLY NOW!



Winning projects serve as models for the H-GAC region on how parks can improve water quality, habitat, and quality of life.

Apply at h-gac.com/parks

Applications due 9/1/26 - 9/30/26

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE 2026 AWARDS

WHERE TO APPLY?

Applications must be completed online at h-gac.com/parks. Click on the "Parks Awards Program" tab. No paper submissions will be accepted.

Projects in Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Harris, Galveston, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties are eligible.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Any public, private, or nonprofit organization may apply. There is no entry fee. Submittals in any category must be for activities completed between September 1, 2022 and August 31, 2026.

By submitting a project, the applicant agrees all materials may be used in presentations and publications developed by the Houston-Galveston Area Council without further acknowledgment. Selected projects may be featured on the H-GAC website.

WHEN ARE APPLICATIONS DUE?

Applications must be received by noon, Wednesday, September 30, 2026. Applicants will receive e-mail confirmation of receipt.

Winners will be notified in December 2026 and honored in February 2027.

WHAT TYPE OF PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

Examples of types of activities include:

Planning Process

- Plans: Comprehensive and Policy Tools, Regional, Visioning, Master
- Natural Areas Studies
- Environmental Studies
- Planning and Design
- Public Involvement
- Land Use Policies
- Resolving Multi-use Conflicts
- Conservation Easements
- Protective Codes
- Deed Restrictions
- Acquisition
- Operations/Maintenances

On-the-Ground Projects (Small, Medium, and Large)

- Preservation and/or Restoration of Natural Areas
- Neighborhood, Community, or Regional Parks
- Pocket Parks, Greenways, Hike and Bike Trails
- Interpretive Signage and Environmental Graphics
- Information and Educational Centers
- Multi-use of Detention Facilities
- Demonstration Gardens

Programming

- Education and Training
- Tree Plantings
- Special Environmental Education Events



Houston-Galveston
Area Council

About the Houston-Galveston Area Council

H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials from the 13-county Gulf Coast planning region, which includes an area of 12,500 square miles and more than 7 million people. H-GAC works to promote efficient and accountable use of local, state, and federal tax dollars; serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local governments; and helps analyze trends and conditions affecting the region. For more information, visit h-gac.com.