



of the Katy Prairie Preserve

More than 30,000 acres of coastal prairie land, including over 18,000 acres on the Katy Prairie Preserve, are protected by the Coastal Prairie Conservancy; these lands provide significant economic benefits for residents in the Greater Houston area.

Local Agriculture

The Katy Prairie Preserve supports local agricultural production, including cattle, corn, rice, and other crops. By keeping portions of the Katy Prairie Preserve in working lands, we help support biodiversity, preserve a way of life for farmers and ranchers, help tackle climate change, and diversify the local economy.



A BENEFIT
ESTIMATED AT

**\$177
MILLION**

Flood Prevention

Undeveloped lands on the Katy Prairie Preserve provide natural detention and retention storage ponds that help reduce downstream flooding. The storage capacity provided by 20,000 acres of lands on the Katy Prairie is estimated to be 10,700 acre-feet (2,500 acre-feet of retention storage and 8,200 acre-feet of detention storage). The equivalent economic value of this storage, or what would cost to construct such ponds to provide the same benefit, is an estimated \$177 million.



BOOSTING RECREATION

The native grasslands and migratory bird habitat on the Katy Prairie Preserve provide many recreational opportunities for residents and attract tourists from all over the country. Outdoor activities such as hunting, birding, and hiking, which are dependent on access to nature and an abundance of wildlife, help fuel our economy and enhance life in our communities.

1

Travelers to the central coast portion of the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail (of which the Katy Prairie Preserve is a part) spend an average of 31 days per year viewing wildlife on the trail and spend an average of \$78 per person per day while traveling along the trail.

2

Nearly 23% of Gulf Coast region visitors participate in nature-related activities, such as visiting parks or viewing wildlife.

23%

3

According to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, \$6.2 billion was spent in 2011 in Texas on wildlife-related expenditures, including \$4.4 billion in hunting and fishing expenditures and \$1.8 billion on wildlife-watching; up to 6.3 million people, including residents and nonresidents, participated in wildlife-related recreation in Texas.



ECONOMIC BENEFITS (continued)



Potential of Unrestored Native Prairie

There are areas of native prairie that could be restored to native tallgrass prairie or wetlands, particularly areas that have been used for row crops, are overgrazed, or are overrun by invasive species. The restoration of 8,000 acres of such lands on the coastal prairie would not only improve wildlife habitat, but also improve flood reduction benefits by adding an additional 14,300 acre-feet of storage. The equivalent economic value of this storage is an estimated \$237 million.



PROPERTY VALUES

Protection of natural spaces leads to increased property values for neighboring lands. It has been shown that the value of property is up to 20% higher when located near of adjacent to parks and green spaces. This results in a positive economic impact to local government from greater tax receipts, which may be reinvested in improved public amenities.

HOW THE KATY PRAIRIE PRESERVE BENEFITS HOUSTON'S ECONOMY

Provides a cost-effective solution for flood damage reduction

Boosts nature tourism and outdoor recreation industries

Improves quality of life, an important factor in attracting and retaining employees

Increases property values for neighboring communities



Young creative workers, particularly those in high-technology fields, now consider lifestyle factors, such as environmental and recreational quality, more heavily than the job itself when choosing where to live.

Sources:

Applied Ecological Services, Inc. (AES), "Ecosystem Services Valuation for the Katy Prairie Conservancy and Adjacent Lands Waller & Harris Counties, Texas," April 2019.

Crompton, John, "The Impact of Parks on Property Values: Empirical Evidence from the Past Two Decades in the United States," *Managing Leisure*, October 2005.

Crompton, John, "Bayou Greenways – A Key to A Healthy Houston," August 2011.

The Trust for Public Land, "The Economic Benefits of the KPC Lands," November 2018.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.



Since 1992, the Coastal Prairie Conservancy has been helping sustain a resilient Texas by preserving coastal prairies, wetlands, farms, and ranches to benefit people and wildlife forever.

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