

By: Middleton

S.R. No. 374

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join in celebrating the grand reopening of Galveston Island State Park, which is taking place on March 31 and April 1, 2023, during the centennial year of Texas State Parks; and

WHEREAS, Along with many other areas on the Texas Gulf Coast, Galveston Island State Park suffered catastrophic damage in 2008 as a result of Hurricane Ike and its aftermath; the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has worked diligently since that time to restore the park, and with the aid of state and federal funding, the valuable assistance of partners including Friends of Galveston Island State Park and Texas Master Naturalist, and the dedicated efforts of numerous volunteers, the park was able to reopen for limited access just six months after Hurricane Ike, and today celebrates its grand reopening; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the park's restoration, the Galveston Island State Park Beach Redevelopment project has served to focus and lead recovery efforts while working to conserve and protect the park's natural and cultural resources; the redevelopment project was realized through \$10.6 million in funding provided through the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resources Damage Assessment Phase III Early Restoration program by its Texas trustees, and the project's funding leveraged money from the state's sales tax on sporting goods to design and rebuild the

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park with the goal of preservation and greater resilience against extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, The Galveston Island State Park Beach Redevelopment project has demonstrated Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's ongoing commitment to conserving the endangered Coastal Prairie habitat located within Galveston Island State Park, and the department's concerted efforts to restore and protect our state's natural resources continue to ensure that Texas residents and visitors and future generations of Texans will have the opportunity to experience and enjoy the state's treasured outdoor spaces and its enduring natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, In celebration of the successful efforts and hard work of all who have contributed to the park's restoration, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department invites the public to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, March 31, to commemorate the park's reopening and welcomes visitors to the park on Saturday, April 1, to join in a day of celebration and to enjoy the park's unique natural setting and its numerous recreational opportunities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby recognize the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Galveston Island State Park Beach Redevelopment project and extend to all in attendance at the grand reopening of Galveston Island State Park best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable celebration; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this special occasion.