GALVESTON ISLAND STATE PARK DESIGN AND MASTER PLAN

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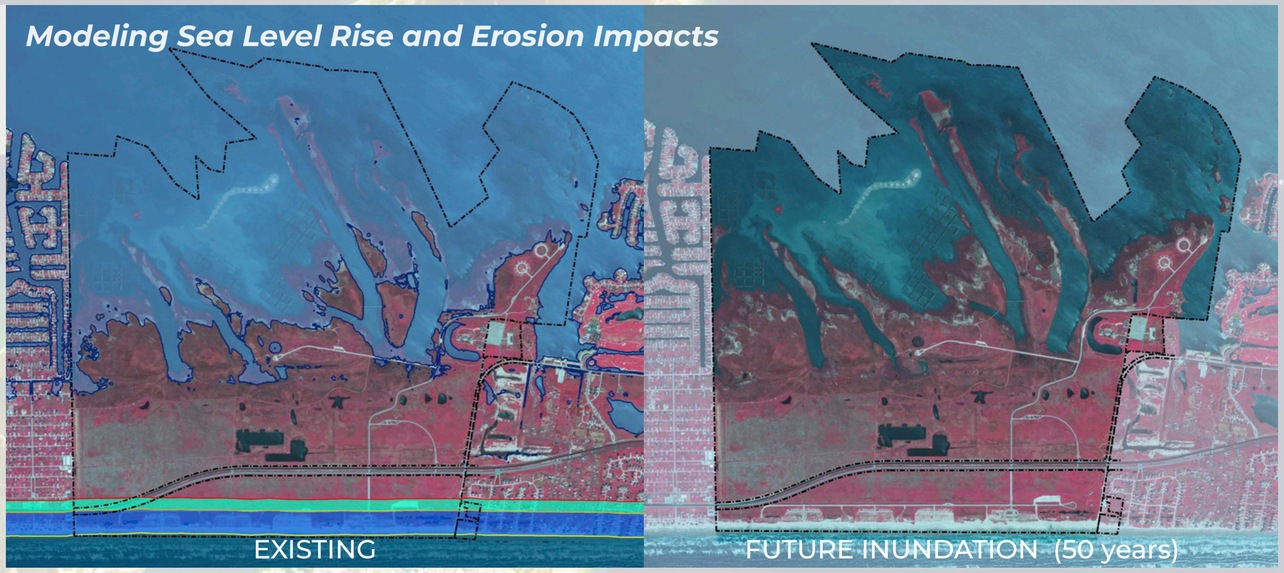
Galveston, TX

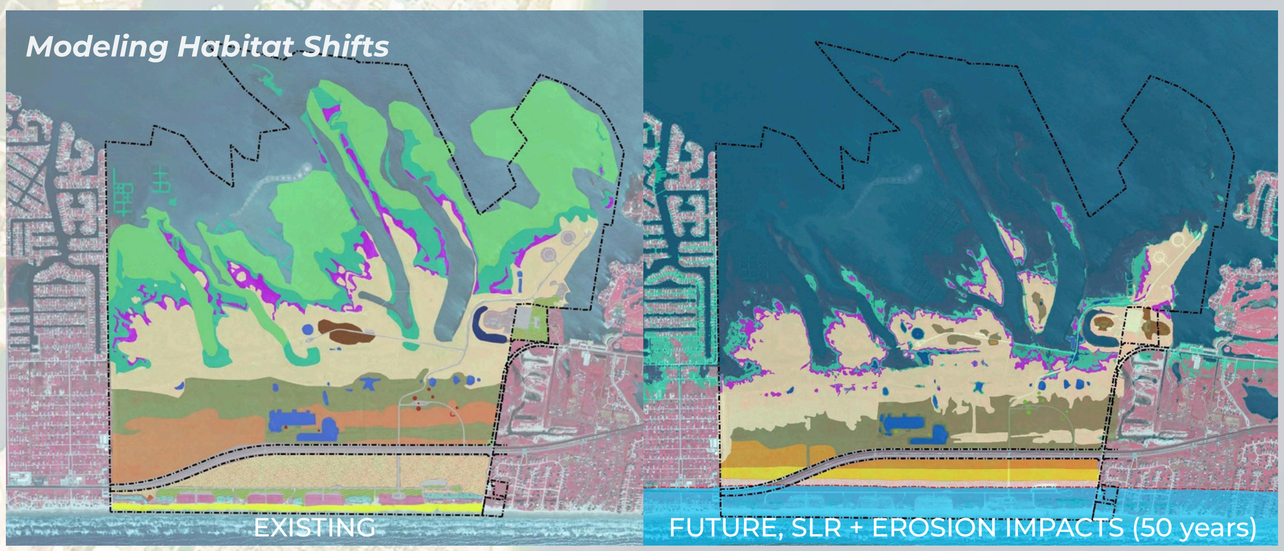
This 50-year plan helps protect Gulf Coast natural resources in the face of climate change while providing valued outdoor recreation.

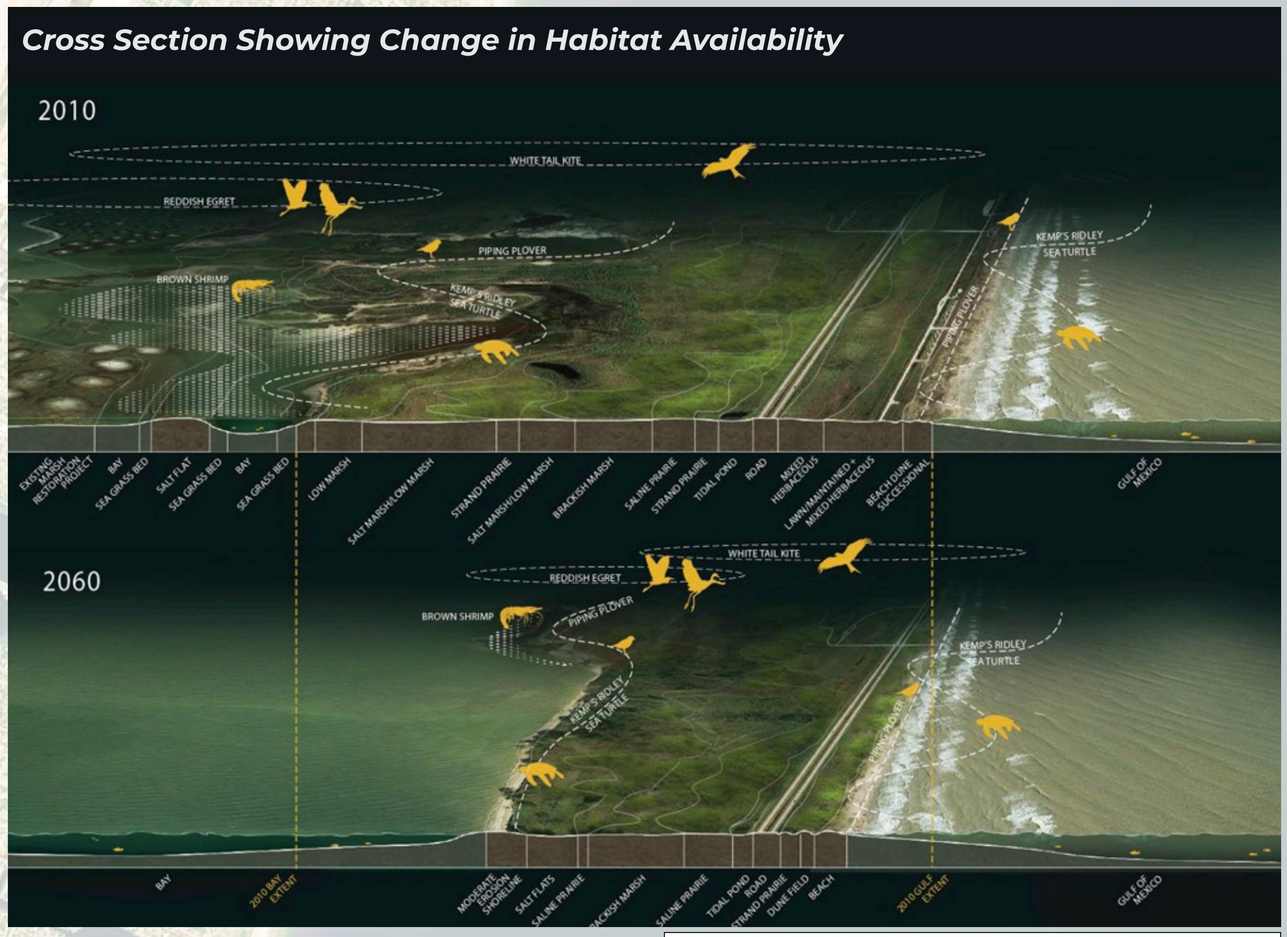
Hurricanes often have dramatic effects on barrier islands, and the impact of 2008's Hurricane Ike on Galveston Island, Texas was no exception. Yet the hurricane left in its wake a keen awareness of the need to address the consequences of such storms and their dramatic effects on the island. It also catalyzed a master planning effort to guide the redevelopment, management, protection and restoration of Galveston Island State Park, a treasured natural and recreational resource that is bordered by the Gulf of Mexico to the south and West Bay of Galveston Bay to the north. Despite being surrounded by developed land, this 2,300-acre park is home to a variety of natural habitats, including beach and dunes, coastal strand prairie, tidal marsh and seagrass beds.

Biohabitats, as a key member of the planning team, produced a plan for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that looks out on a 50-year horizon. The plan addresses not only immediate concerns of coastal storms, land use, and infrastructure needs, but also projected sea level rise and morphology changes. After conducting an inventory and assessment of the park's natural resources, spatial modeling informed the projected impacts of sea level rise on the landscape, and how habitats might shift accordingly. Ultimately, this information was incorporated into a plan to guide the restoration and management of park habitats.









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