

## The Wetlands Center

The Wetlands Center, located on the banks of Goose Creek, opened on January 26, 1998. Eddie Gray, a member of the Goose Creek Stream Greenbelt Development Committee, sought the committee's permission to purchase an abandoned bowling alley and turn it into a wetlands center. In 1996, after the land was purchased, the Committee applied for and received a \$350,000 matching grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to develop the center. Lee College and Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District (GCCISD) also entered into agreements to support and use the facility. Each contributes funds annually. The center property encompasses six acres. The 14,000 square-foot building includes staff offices, meeting rooms, a science lab, a computer lab, and a 9,000 square-foot exhibit area. The Wetlands Center is open six days a week.



The Wetlands Center

THE EDDIE V. GRAY WETLANDS  
EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTER  
1724 MARKET STREET  
BAYTOWN, TX 77520



## Educational Field Trip Programs

### The Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center



1724 Market Street  
Baytown, TX 77520  
281-420-7128

*Where indoor education  
meets outdoor recreation*

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Education lies at the heart of the Wetlands Center's mission. The center currently offers day-long educational field trips for every fifth and seventh grader in the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District. The programs consist of indoor instruction at the Wetlands Center and outdoor, hands-on activities at the nearby Baytown Nature Center.

Each summer *Wade Into Wetlands Summer Science Camp* attracts students from grades one through ten for week-long experiences of fun-filled learning and off-site educational field trips.

Other educational offerings include *The Wetlands Wagon* outreach program taken to schools, libraries, clubs and businesses.

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts may earn badges during Wetlands Center programs tailored to their requirements.



Seining at the Baytown Nature Center

### Wetlands Ecology Program

*The basic wetlands educational program is designed for fifth grade, but can be tailored to suit your educational needs for four year olds through high school. For a full-day program students will also visit the Baytown Nature Center in the afternoon. Handouts for students and teachers are included.*

#### Program activities include:

- Introduction to wetlands video and visual presentation on wetlands functions
- Games on wetlands food web species; environmental issues impacting habitat
- Microscope activities in the Science Investigation Lab using live aquatic insects
- Tour of Robert M. Craig Exhibit Hall including Gator World with live juvenile alligators; Land of Milk and Honey with indoor bee hive; Coastal Connections Room with aquatic animals in touch tanks; and the Nature Discovery Room

### Liquid Science Program

*This program is designed for students in sixth through tenth grades. Students explore the hydrologic cycle, watersheds and human impact on aquatic ecosystems. For a full-day program students will also visit the Baytown Nature Center in the afternoon. Handouts for students and teachers are included.*

#### Program activities include:

- Introduction to hydrologic cycle video
- Non-point source pollution model activity and watershed discussion
- Importance of different water types in relation to Blue Crab life cycle and anatomy
- Abiotic factors and water analysis, testing for pH, salinity, dissolved gases and dissolved nutrients
- Biotic interactions with live animals including snakes, alligators and coastal species

#### Extended activities available at the Baytown Nature Center:

- Lunch can be eaten at the Brownwood Marsh Educational Pavilion overlooking three bays and San Jacinto Monument
- Marsh seining demonstration to catch and examine juvenile fish, shrimp and crabs
- Nature walk to identify bird, insect and plant species. Binoculars are provided for birdwatching



Gator World Exhibit

### Fees and Registration

- \$5 per student for basic program
- \$2.50 per student for additional activity at BNC
- Information and registration contact: Jina Faith, Education Coordinator @ 281-420-7140 or Jina.Faith@baytown.org

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