



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

City of Destin, Florida

AMOUNT

\$3,593,600

LEVERAGE

\$50,000

LOCATION

Okaloosa County, Florida

AWARD DATE

November 2014

PROGRESS UPDATE

Engineering, design, and permitting were completed for Indian Bayou, Sandalwood Drive, Spring Street and Whippoorwill Avenue, Juanita Avenue and Snapper Drive, and Maltezos Street sites. Construction was contracted for the Calhoun Avenue site. (February 2018)

FLORIDA

Destin Harbor, Joe’s Bayou, and Indian Bayou Water Quality Improvement

This project includes six projects in three focal areas included in the City of Destin’s Master Stormwater Management plan to improve surface water quality in Destin Harbor, Joe’s Bayou, and Indian Bayou that directly feed into the southwestern portion of Choctawhatchee Bay. As part of the project, the City of Destin will establish roadside swale systems to provide treatment for shallow aquifer recharge prior to discharge, construct exfiltration systems to provide stormwater treatment, and repair poorly performing culverts. Choctawhatchee Bay is a 27-mile-long estuary that supports diverse aquatic and wetland habitats.

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) habitat decline is a significant limiting factor for the overall productivity of the Choctawhatchee Bay, and efforts to improve water quality through the reduction of sediment input into the bay is anticipated to improve the viability of SAV in the western portions of the bay. Seagrass beds in Choctawhatchee Bay support diverse populations of fish and invertebrates, including many recreational and commercial species such as shrimp, eastern oysters, spotted seatrout, gulf menhaden, red drum, blue crab, gulf flounder and mullet. This work is complementary to additional stormwater treatment projects being supported through other oil spill settlement funds.



This suite of projects will complete the actions identified in the City of Destin’s Master Stormwater Management plan.

The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about NFWF, go to www.nfwf.org.