



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Escambia County, Florida

AMOUNT

\$11,032,300

LEVERAGE

\$2,183,000

PARTNERS

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Emerald Coast Utility Authority

City of Pensacola

LOCATION

Escambia County, Florida

AWARD DATE

November 2014

STATUS

Active

PROGRESS UPDATE

Design and permitting have been completed. Construction continued for Beach Haven Stormwater, Jones Creek, and Jackson creek restorations. (February 2019).

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.

FLORIDA

Bayou Chico Restoration

This suite of projects will reduce sediment and nutrient loading to Bayou Chico, reduce turbidity, increase water clarity, and improve light penetration for photosynthesis to enable expansion of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat. SAV provides habitat to fish, shrimp, crabs, and other estuarine species that were negatively affected by the oil spill. The projects will continue implementation of the overall restoration of Bayou Chico and will complement or accelerate planned restoration activities identified in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Basin Management Action Plan for the Bayou. The projects include both stormwater treatment and stream restoration elements, and complement a proposed living shoreline project to be funded under Natural Resource Damage Assessment Early Restoration.

The Bayou Chico watershed, located in southern Escambia County, represents a 10.36-square-mile drainage area into Pensacola Bay. Much of the area surrounding the bayou is urbanized, consisting of older, well-established residential subdivisions and industrial- and commercial-use areas. Expected outcomes of these projects include restored and improved benthic habitat quality, increased biological diversity and productivity, and improved overall water quality in the Bayou Chico watershed.



Credit: Florida DEP



Restoration of Bayou Chico is a high priority conservation action identified by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Escambia County.