



# NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

### RECIPIENTS

The Trust for Public Land

### AWARD AMOUNT

\$2,150,000

### PARTNERS

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

### LOCATION

Brazoria County, Texas

### AWARD DATE

November 2017

### STATUS

Contracting

### PROGRESS UPDATE

Project was recently activated. (January 2019)

## TEXAS

# Follets Island Land Acquisition and Conservation – Phase II

This project will acquire and permanently conserve an additional 410 acres on Follets Island, a Texas barrier island south of Galveston Island. As a part of the Follets Island Conservation Initiative, the proposed acquisition will result in a total of 1,237 acres of critical coastal habitat along the upper coast of Texas conserved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and The Trust for Public Land. To date, 823 acres have been acquired on this pristine stretch of beach dune and coastal habitat, utilizing a multitude of funding sources including privately raised funds from individual and corporate sponsors. Funding from GEBF will leverage funding from the Natural Resource Damage (NRD) program. Additional NRD funding is expected to result in expansion of the Initiative by another 200-plus acres in 2018.

Follets Island is a barrier island in the mid coast of Texas that borders Christmas Bay, described as a bay of unique quality, unaltered by human activity, located at the southern end of the West Galveston Bay. The land north of and adjacent to the bay is the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. The project's coastal strand prairie and associated palustrine wetlands provide habitat to a wide range of migratory species such as shorebirds, waterfowl, butterflies, neo-tropical song birds, grassland birds, and raptors. Follets Island's beaches have also seen an increased number of nesting endangered sea turtles in recent years.



Credit | USFWS



Follets Island provides important nesting habitat for many species injured by the oil spill, such as the roseate spoonbill, pictured above.

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](http://www.nfwf.org).