



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENTS

Texas General Land Office

AWARD AMOUNT

\$5,000,000

PARTNERS

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

LOCATION

Galveston County, Texas

AWARD DATE

November 2017

STATUS

Active

PROGRESS UPDATE

The 30% engineering design plans were provided to the Texas General Land Office. Documents and monitoring were completed in preparation for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit. (January 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.

TEXAS

Galveston Island State Park Marsh

Restoration & Protection – Phase III

This project will construct an additional 7,600 linear-feet of rock breakwater to protect approximately 87 acres of existing estuarine emergent marsh, 12 acres of existing sand and mud flats, and 311 acres of shallow open water, a portion of which supports sea grass beds critical to Galveston Bay. This proposed phase of the project will add to earlier phases funded by the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund which designed and constructed breakwaters and provided for the placement of much needed sediment to support and sustain coastal marsh. The total impact of these investments will protect over two miles of fragile shoreline and 150 acres of estuarine emergent marsh.

Galveston Island State Park is one of the last remaining strips of land on Galveston Island that represents a complete beach to bay transitional ecosystem commonly found on barrier islands. This project is critical to all of Galveston Bay, which has lost over 35,000 acres (20%) of emergent wetlands and 1,800 acres (70%) of its seagrasses since the 1950s. Historical subsidence coupled with shoreline erosion has greatly impacted these areas, converting marsh to open water and threatening important habitat and feeding grounds for dozens of species of birds and estuarine-dependent species including shrimp, red drum, and blue crab. The breakwaters will provide protection for emergent marsh as well as provide hard substrate habitat, similar to that of oyster reefs, an important estuarine habitat that support diverse biological communities.



Credit | Texas General Land Office



Rock breakwaters, similar to the above photo, will be constructed to protect critical habitat on and around Galveston Island State Park.