



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

TEXAS

Coastal Heritage Preserve Initiative: Bayside Acquisition and Easement

This project acquired 99-acres of critical bayside, barrier island habitat in the West Galveston Bay complex. As a part of the larger 360-acre Coastal Habitat Preserve Initiative, this investment protected and enhanced essential breeding, nesting, feeding and cover habitat for numerous avian and aquatic species, including protected migratory and endangered bird species injured by the oil spill. The larger conserved tract represents the essence of bay coastal margin with a full suite of habitats, including: salt, brackish, intermediate and fresh marsh; tidal flats; upland prairies; and open water.

The western end of Galveston Bay provides critical coastal and near-shore marsh habitat and coastal buffers. This key acquisition joins a mosaic of conservation investments in the larger 25,000-square-mile watershed of Galveston Bay, identified by regional conservation plans as high priority due to its ecologically productive and diverse habitat, as well as its position within a contiguous area of undeveloped land on Galveston Island. Additionally, the protection of this area provides an essential buffer from anticipated development as projected sea-level rise over the next century causes wetland habitat to migrate inland.



Credit | Galveston Bay Estuary Program



The 99-acre acquisition in West Galveston Bay completed the 360-acre goal of the Coastal Heritage Preserve Initiative and protected essential habitat for finfish, shellfish, upland and protected bird species.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:

Artist Boat, Inc.

AWARD AMOUNT:

\$2,632,500

PARTNERS:

USFWS, Texas General Land Office, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Galveston Bay Estuary Program

LOCATION:

Galveston Island

AWARD DATE:

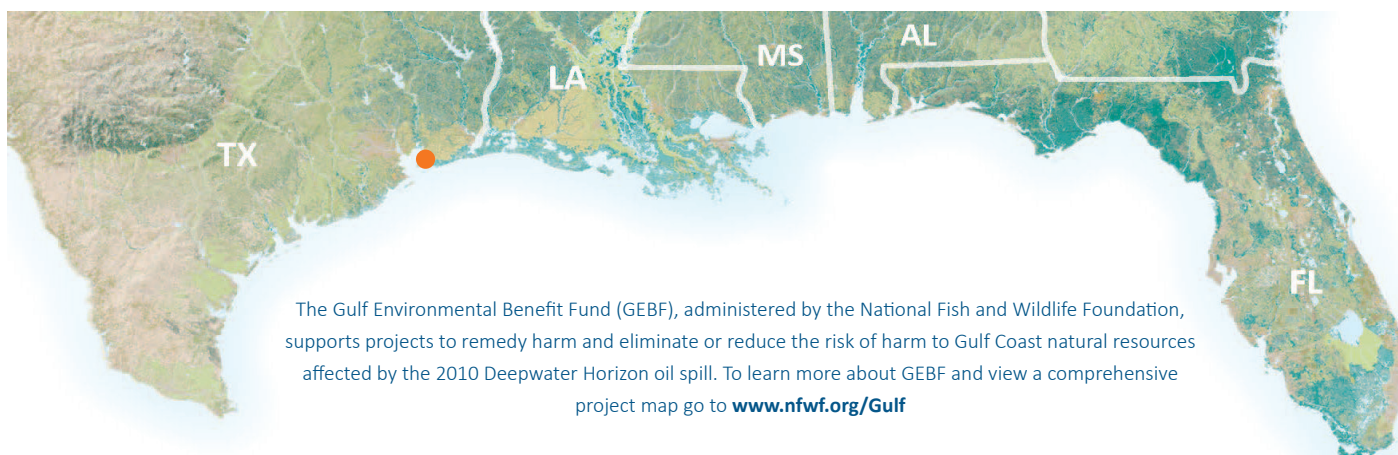
November 2014

STATUS:

Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE:

Project closed January 2019.



The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF), administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 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 GEBF and view a comprehensive project map go to www.nfwf.org/Gulf