



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

TEXAS

Port Aransas Nature Preserve Debris Removal

The project will restore essential coastal wetland habitat at the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center within the Port Aransas Nature Preserve, which suffered damage from Hurricane Harvey. The Port Aransas Nature Preserve is located along the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail and provides habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other migratory birds. Hurricane Harvey destroyed two miles of boardwalk and uprooted significant stands of wetland vegetation in the preserve that settled as debris, smothering existing wetland vegetation and causing significant degradation of coastal marsh habitat. The debris has prevented the regrowth of marsh vegetation and limited the flow of freshwater to the area, further limiting wetland functionality. Project activities will remove invasive species from the impacted wetlands at the Birding Center and will restore the habitat with native vegetation. Wetland restoration activities will repair the coastal marsh habitat and hydrology, allowing re-establishment of marsh plants and restoration of wetland function.

The Port Aransas Nature Preserve provides habitat for a number of Gulf Coast birds harmed by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Wetland restoration activities will restore habitat for these birds and restore ecosystem function to the coastal habitat within the preserve. The funding requested will be used as match for FEMA funds for this specific debris removal expense.



Credit | Jon Porthouse



Credit | City of Port Aransas

Significant amounts of vegetative debris has altered the pre-storm flow. The images above show the damaged boardwalk and vegetation debris which will be removed.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:

City of Port Aransas

AWARD AMOUNT:

\$100,000

LOCATION:

Port Aransas Nature Preserve ,
Nueces County

AWARD DATE:

August 2018

STATUS:

Active

PROGRESS UPDATE:

Invasives removal and
treatment work is ongoing.



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