



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Galveston Bay Foundation

AWARD AMOUNT

\$10,500,000

PARTNERS

Katy Prairie Conservancy

LOCATION

Brazoria and Galveston Counties

AWARD DATE

November 2019

STATUS

Awarded

TEXAS

Chocolate Bay Wetland Habitat Acquisition

This project will permanently protect nearly 5,000 acres of coastal habitat on West Galveston Bay in Galveston and Brazoria counties. The subject property, the former Alatar Ranch, contains a wide array of coastal habitats: extensive coastal wetlands, tidal flats, and rare coastal prairie habitats, as well as 13 miles of frontage along coastal waterways. Permanent protection of this pristine stretch of Texas coast will preserve water quality and provide habitat for estuarine fisheries and wetland dependent wildlife. In the Galveston Bay ecosystem, adverse effects from subsidence, erosion, and shoreline development have led to a loss of more than 35,000 acres of coastal wetlands since the 1950s. Acquisition and subsequent protection of this large, intact property would preserve, restore, and enhance native habitats to benefit wildlife and water quality.

As one of the few remaining intact tracts of land in West Galveston Bay, the proposed property has been prioritized for acquisition through the West Bay Conservation Initiative and a number of Galveston Bay watershed plans and initiatives for coastal wetland conservation. Acquisition and permanent protection of the proposed property will expand the conservation value of other habitat protection projects in the nearby Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge and marsh restoration and creation projects in West Galveston Bay.



Credit | Galveston Bay Foundation



This acquisition will permanently protect coastal habitat on Galveston Bay, like the tidal marsh 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.