



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Texas General Land Office

AMOUNT

\$2,489,200

LOCATION

West Bay of Galveston Bay,
TX

ANNOUNCEMENT DATE

November 2013

STATUS

Monitoring

PROGRESS UPDATE

Year 1 monitoring is complete. Monitoring activities for year 2 will begin in summer 2019. (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

The project includes two components: creating 70 acres of marsh via dedicated dredging and placement of appropriate sediments within the Carancahua Cove area and engineering and design of rock breakwaters within the Carancahua and Dana Cove areas. The created marsh is expected to provide high quality habitat for resident and migratory birds in the area as well as for important fish and aquatic invertebrate species. This project is located within the Galveston Island State Park in the back-bay marsh of Galveston Island.

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. Each of the habitats on barrier islands is dependent on the health of the adjacent systems. This project will restore and sustain the physical and hydrological connections required to maintain optimum health of the habitats and will protect those habitats from additional loss. The project area has been identified as “critically eroding” by the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program, indicating that a large portion of intertidal marsh in this area could be lost within five years without further protection and restoration actions. The marsh creation component of this project will supplement a previous 198.5 acre project completed in 2010 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The breakwater

engineering and design will advance efforts to replace two prior failed projects in the area and protect fragile marsh shorelines. Restoration of this habitat on Galveston Island is a component of the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program’s Galveston Bay Plan and the Texas Coastal Management Plan.



This project is expected to restore 30 acres of wetland habitat and associated shallow water, providing critical habitat for fish and migratory birds.