



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

AMOUNT

\$1,731,493

PARTNERS

National Audubon Society

The Nature Conservancy

LOCATION

Jackson, Harrison and Hancock Counties, MS

AWARD DATE

November 2013

STATUS

Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE:

Conservation planning, design, and implementation strategy for on-the-ground restoration in urban area streams has been completed. Final reports have been submitted. This project is now closed. (February 2019)

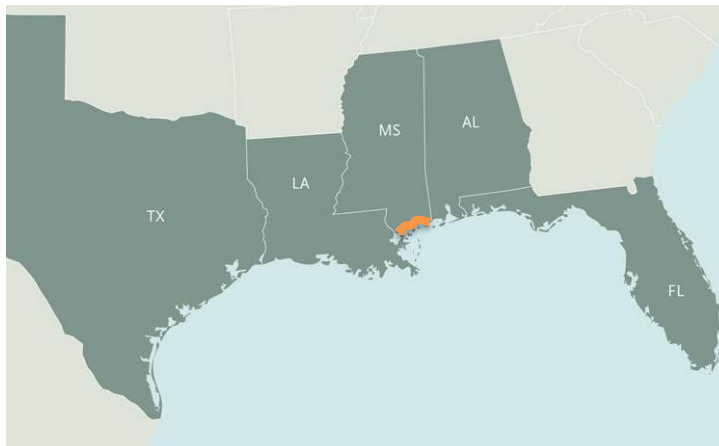
The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about NFWF, go to www.nfwf.org.

MISSISSIPPI

Coastal Stream & Habitat Initiative

The Coastal Stream and Habitat Restoration and Management Initiative will create strategies and restoration designs to abate threats to priority coastal streams and restore associated habitat. In partnership, Audubon and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), will use funding to complete Phase I of the initiative and generate conservation and restoration design plans for nine coastal watersheds in communities along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. These plans will be implemented as future funding opportunities become available. Audubon and TNC will be carrying out the planning work in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties in conjunction with local governments and citizens.

The Coastal Stream and Habitat Restoration and Management Initiative is focused on the tidal creeks, bayous and spring-fed streams that flow directly into the Mississippi Sound, in large part through urban areas. Many of these streams are highly altered systems yet retain some level of environmental and historic value, particularly as green corridors across the urban landscape. As such, these areas have great potential for restoration that greatly enhances their ecological value while directly engaging local communities and citizens in conservation actions. Restored streams help to manage stormwater runoff, erosion and sedimentation, which negatively impact coastal marshes, beaches, and oyster reefs, and provide quality habitat for birds and wildlife negatively affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.



Rhodes Bayou at Moss Point and Turkey Creek (above) are two of nine coastal streams undergoing restoration planning to identify and design projects that improve water quality and habitat in all three coastal Mississippi counties.