



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Artist Boat, Inc.

AMOUNT

\$2,632,500

PARTNERS

USFWS

Texas General Land Office

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Galveston Bay Estuary Program

LOCATION

Galveston Island, Texas

ANNOUNCEMENT DATE

November 2014

PROGRESS UPDATE

Data collection, such as water quality, GIS, photographic, and general monitoring continues. A protocol for benthic sampling of aquatic habitats was written, habitat was treated for fire ants, and equipment was purchased. Additionally, 1,000 prairie plants were planted. (August 2016)

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

Coastal Heritage Preserve Initiative: Bayside Acquisition and Easement

This project will acquire 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 will protect and enhance 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 tract to be conserved 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 will join 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 will provide 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 will complete the 360-acre goal of the Coastal Heritage Preserve Initiative and protect essential habitat for finfish, shellfish, upland and protected bird species.