



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENTS

The Trust for Public Land

AWARD AMOUNT

\$1,199,125

PARTNERS

Texas Parks and Wildlife
Department

LOCATION

Brazoria County, Texas

AWARD DATE

November 2016

STATUS

Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE

Both target tracts were acquired and transferred to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 2017. Project is complete and final reports were submitted. (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

Follets Island Land Acquisition and Conservation Program – Phase I

This project will acquire and permanently conserve 227 acres of pristine coastal dune and wetland landscape on Follets Island, a Texas barrier island southeast of the densely populated Galveston Island. Once acquired, these three tracts will expand the existing 441-acre "Follets Island Conservation Initiative" tract, acquired by Texas Parks and Wildlife in 2014. Additionally, protective measures will be taken to limit human vehicular activity from negatively impacting the critical habitat.

Follets Island is a barrier island on the upper coast of Texas that borders Christmas Bay. Described as a bay of uniquely high quality with minimal alteration by human activity, it is located at the southern end of the West Galveston Bay. The land north of and adjacent to the bay is the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. The project's coastal strand prairie and associated palustrine wetlands provides habitat to a wide range of migratory species such as shorebirds, waterfowl, butterflies, neo-tropical song birds, grassland birds, and raptors. The island's beaches have also seen an increased number of nesting endangered sea turtles in recent years.



The project will protect sensitive habitat lands along the Gulf of Mexico and the Christmas Bay Coastal Preserve, and will expand the existing 441-acre "Follets Island Conservation Initiative" tract.