



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Galveston Bay Foundation

AMOUNT

\$1,200,000

LEVERAGE

\$610,000

PARTNERS

USFWS

NOAA

Texas General Land Office

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

CCA Texas

Restore America's Estuaries

LOCATION

West Galveston Bay, Texas

ANNOUNCEMENT DATE

November 2014

PROGRESS UPDATE

Marsh grass planting work has begun at the project site. Two small volunteer groups completed work in June 2016. A large community-based planting event originally scheduled for a date in the end of April 2016 was rescheduled due to inclement weather. This work will now take place in September 2016. (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

Oyster Lake Shoreline Protection and Restoration

This project will protect 4,700 feet of fragile shoreline and critical coastal marsh habitat in West Galveston Bay. It is estimated that since 1944, nearly a 1,000 feet of shoreline between the Oyster Lake and West Bay has been lost. The persistent erosion has placed seagrass bed and critical coastal marsh in imminent threat of breach and conversion of Oyster Lake to open bay water. The installation of hard structure breakwaters will reduce wave energy affecting the shoreline, impede the pending breach between the lake and the bay, and allow sediment to accrete behind the breakwaters to facilitate the restoration of fringe marsh habitat.

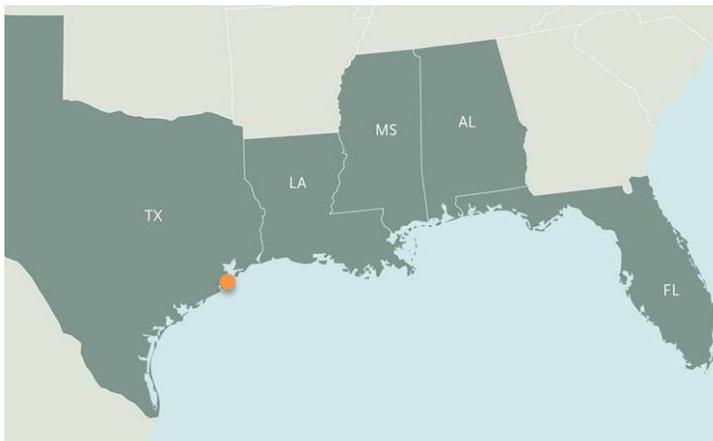
Overall, applying a structural approach to protect this vulnerable shoreline will protect important coastal and marine habitat in West Galveston Bay. Additionally, the project will protect the calm waters of Oyster Lake within the 44,000 acre Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge Area, which provide essential habitat for sea grass and oyster beds and that are threatened by the potential breach. The Galveston Bay system has lost over 35,000 acres of intertidal wetlands since the 1950s, all critical habitat and feeding grounds for dozens of species of birds, and estuarine-dependent species including shrimp, red drum, and blue crab.



Credit: Galveston Bay Foundation



Credit: Galveston Bay Foundation



This project aims to protect and restore coastal wetlands within Oyster Lake and West Bay by reducing wave energies and restoring marsh.