



NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

**RECIPIENTS**

Houston Audubon Society

**AWARD AMOUNT**

\$239,800

**LOCATION**

Galveston County, High Island, Texas

**AWARD DATE**

November 2016

**TEXAS**

## Smith Oaks Bird Sanctuary Rookery Island Restoration and Enhancement

The project will create two rookery islands and enhance existing colonial waterbird nesting habitat for thousands of birds that utilize the globally significant habitat at the Smith Oaks Bird Sanctuary in High Island, Texas. The two nesting islands will be constructed using the channel dredge material from adjacent water bodies which will result in deeper trenches creating a barrier preventing access to the islands by predators. Additionally, water control structures will direct freshwater runoff into ponds that are critical foraging area.

High Island, specifically the Smith Oaks Sanctuary, supports upwards of 13,000 breeding pairs and roosting birds. The sanctuary is situated along the upper coast of Texas, between Anahuac and McFaddin National Wildlife refuges, nestled amid Gulf prairies and coastal marshes. This project will enhance critical habitat to the most ecologically rich and most important rookery along the entire upper coast of Texas.



Great egret: Credit iStock



Roseate spoonbill: Credit iStock



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](http://www.nfwf.org).

The creation of two rookery islands will provide additional habitat for key species, such as the great egret (left) and roseate spoonbill (right).