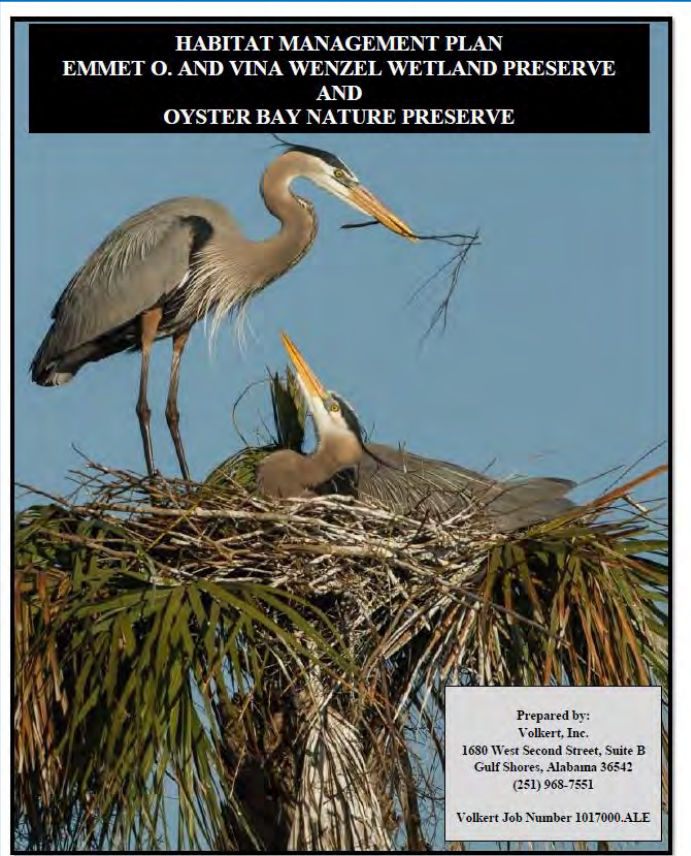


Gulf Shores Nature Preserves

In 2017, the City of Gulf Shores purchased 836 acres of critical habitat in the Bon Secour River watershed with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund. The purpose of the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund is to support projects that remedy harm to natural resources resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.



- The City was awarded \$9.8M in NFWF funding for the acquisition, conservation, and restoration of the property.
- The five-year habitat plan restoration work will improve conditions and encourage habitat utilization by fish and wildlife, eliminate or control invasive species, and continue maintenance of the habitats through best management practices.
- Adaptive management strategies will be used during implementation of the restoration/management project to achieve the best results. Monitoring will be conducted during implementation to record the progress of the restoration/management activities.
- The City will work to provide passive recreational opportunities that foster an understanding and appreciation of the areas natural resources.



Gulf Shores Nature Preserves

Project Background

Vision

The mission of the grant that provided funds to purchase the Wenzel and Oyster Bay Tracts is to eliminate or reduce the risk to Gulf Coast natural resources that were affected by the 2010 oil spill. Each Preserve is being established to protect wetland resources and habitat.

The City will endeavor to manage habitats to enhance them in order to support wildlife and migratory birds, while providing opportunities for citizens and visitors to enjoy the natural resources for passive recreation.

Habitat, Fish & Wildlife Management

Goal:
 Enhance the natural resources and ecological functions of the different habitats.

Objectives:

1. Enhance habitat composition and structure to improve conditions and encourage habitat utilization by species.
2. Eliminate or control invasive species.
3. Continue maintenance of the habitats through best management practices to manage habitats to enhance them in order to support wildlife and migratory birds, while providing opportunities for citizens and visitors to enjoy the natural resources for passive recreation.

Public Use

Goal:
 Provide recreational opportunities for the public. But focus on understanding and appreciation of the resources of the gulf coast.

Objectives:

1. Provide passive recreational opportunities that foster an understanding and appreciation of the resources, while protecting the natural resources.
2. Provide passive recreational opportunities that foster an understanding and appreciation of the resources of the gulf coast.

Guiding Principles

- Create a regional destination and outdoor recreation activity center that highlights local ecology, culture, and history.
- Promote the protection and restoration of critical coastal habitat.
- Provide local citizens, families and the general public with the opportunity to enjoy nature.
- Connect adjacent neighborhoods through trail facilities to the preserve.

