

# GRAVELINE BAY MARSH RESTORATION FACTSHEET

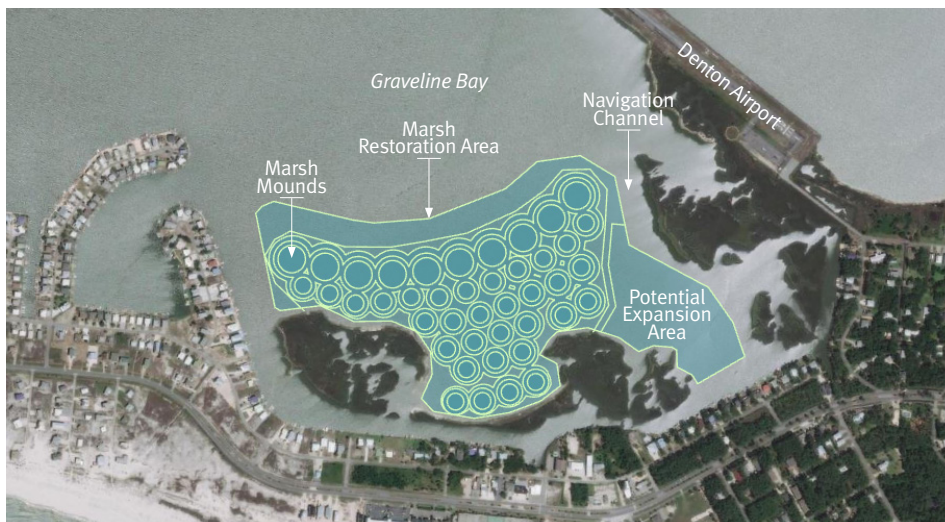


# #3

## SUMMER 2021

The Graveline Marsh Restoration Project, funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (NFWF GEBF), will restore 45+ acres of back-barrier marsh ecosystems that provide diverse habitat for fish and wildlife and buffer the island habitats during coastal storm events.

Within Graveline Bay, it is estimated that as much as 40% of the marsh habitat has been lost since the 1950s. The Town of Dauphin Island contracted Moffatt & Nichol, a coastal engineering firm, who has spent the last six months conducting engineering, design, and permitting tasks.

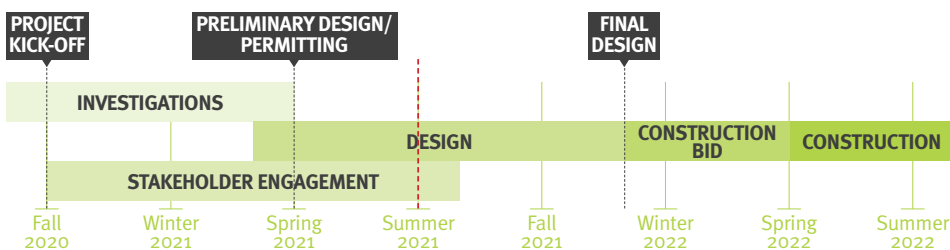


## LATEST NEWS

The project team conducted field investigations in winter 2021 including bathymetric surveys, cultural resource assessments, and geotechnical sampling. Coastal engineers and scientists analyzed the data to develop a preliminary marsh design to meet project goals and to address stakeholder input. This preliminary design was used to apply for a USACE permit.

The preliminary design includes the construction of marsh mounds that maximize marsh edge habitat for fish, crabs, shrimp, and other wildlife. The material to build the mounds will be dredged from a borrow site just north of Graveline Bay and west of the airport. Larger mounds will line the north side of the project area protecting the smaller marsh mounds to the south from the predominant north winds. The mounds will be planted with the same species of marsh plants currently at the site. Once the plants grow, these mounds will look much like the remaining marsh habitat with a mosaic of tidal creeks and ponds amongst marsh. Construction of the project is estimated for spring/summer 2022.

## TIMELINE



## PROJECT GOALS

The goal of the project is to restore marsh habitat and associated species that were injured by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. This project will also help to protect the channel and the shorelines along the Bay from erosion, and assist in preventing potential breaching and further degradation of the island in this vulnerable location.



Contacts: Town of Dauphin Island, 1011 Bienville Blvd, Dauphin Island, AL 36528 | Tel: 251-861-5525 or Meg Goecker, Project Manager, 11 N. Water Street, Suite 20220, Mobile, AL 36602 | Tel: 251-378-9006 | Email: mgoecker@moffattnichol.com