

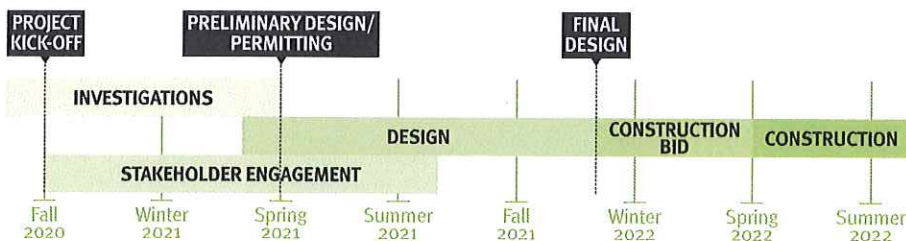
GRAVELINE BAY MARSH RESTORATION FACTSHEET

WINTER 2021

The Town of Dauphin Island has successfully secured funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (NFWF GEBF) to conduct an engineering and design phase to restore approximately 25 acres of back-barrier intertidal marsh habitat in Graveline Bay. This project was identified as a priority in the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) *Final Alabama Barrier Island Restoration Assessment Report, 2020*. Back-barrier marsh ecosystems provide diverse habitat for fish and wildlife and buffer the island and inland 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. Moffatt & Nichol, a coastal engineering firm, has been contracted to conduct the engineering and design phase, which includes public outreach, engineering and design specifications and drawings, and permitting.



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.



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LATEST NEWS

The project team will be conducting field investigations in winter 2021. Property owners along the Bay may see small boats conducting bathymetric surveys, cultural resource assessments, and geotechnical sampling.

Coastal engineers and scientists will use the data collected during the field investigations to develop a marsh design over the next six months to meet project goals and to address stakeholder input.

The Town will apply for a USACE permit in approximately six months, in which a formal public comment period will be available; however, we encourage and welcome questions and inputs during these early stages of the project (see contacts below).

Construction of the project is estimated for spring 2022. When construction is complete and vegetation has established, landholders along the Bay can expect their view-shed to include more of the same marsh habitat that is currently in the Bay.



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