



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Florida Department of
Environmental Protection –
State Parks

AWARD AMOUNT

\$2,503,000

PARTNERS

Atlanta Botanical Gardens

LOCATION

Deer Lake State Park, Walton
County

AWARD DATE

November 2018

STATUS

Active

PROGRESS UPDATE

Project recently awarded.
(February 2019)

FLORIDA

Restoration of Florida's Coastal Dune Lakes - Phase II

This project will complete the restoration of wetland habitats on an additional 90 acres within Deer Lake State Park, part of Florida's unique coastal dune lakes system. Phase I is supporting restoration of 220 acres of degraded herbaceous wetlands in the park. Restoration of the additional 90 acres of remaining degraded wetlands will complete the restoration to historical habitat succession across the entire Deer Lake coastal dune lake watershed as well as a significant portion of the watershed of adjacent Camp Creek Lake located within the State Park boundaries. This project will continue improvements to water quality and quantity flowing to the coastal dune lakes and the Gulf of Mexico.

Florida's coastal dune lake habitats are unique, and their conservation and restoration is a high priority for the state of Florida. The coastal dune lake systems exist as a natural estuarine transition between the Gulf and upland areas and provides unique habitat for a wide variety of fish and wildlife, in particular beach nesting shorebirds and estuarine fish species. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory has classified Florida's coastal dune lakes as imperiled and vulnerable to extinction. Addressing water quality improvements in watersheds that feed these lakes through improved fire management and vegetation control will provide significant improvements to the water quality within these systems and to the Gulf of Mexico.



Credit | Florida State Parks



Credit | FL Department of Environmental Protection



Mechanical clearing and prescribed fire will be used to remove invasive vegetation that will contribute to restoring freshwater flows to the unique coastal dune lakes in the Florida Panhandle, as pictured in the above image on the right.

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.