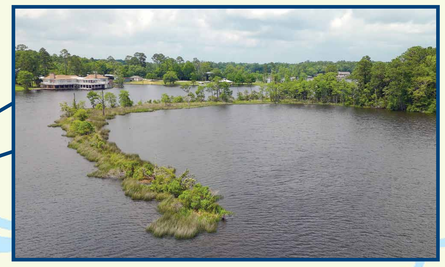
Fowl River Restoration: Coastal Spits and Wetlands Phase II

SHROUT

PEREZ

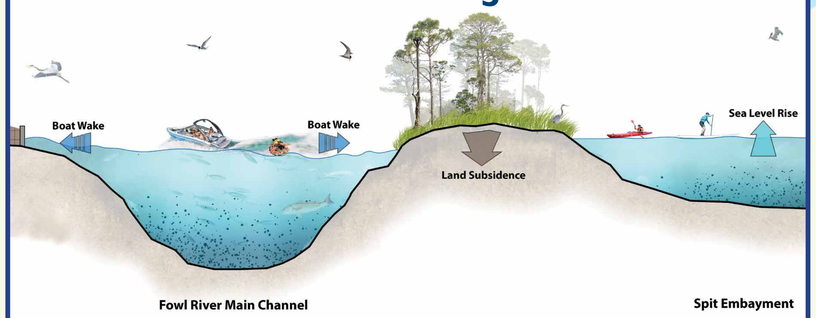
LIGHTCAP



TAPIA

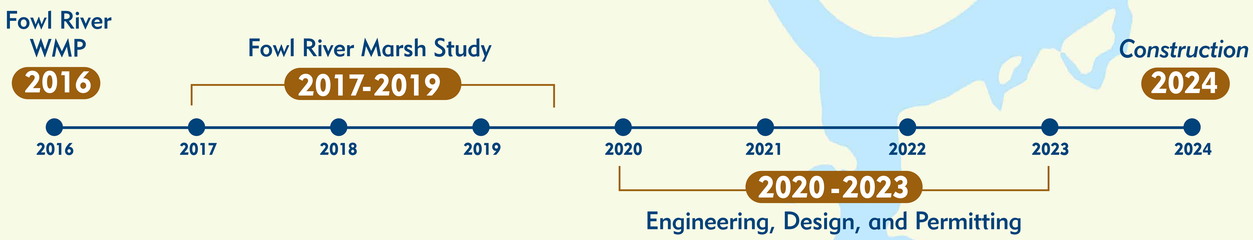
BELLINGRATH

The Challenges



The Protection

THE TIMELINE



The Project

Degraded marsh spits and breaching shorelines in lower Fowl River are high priorities for conservation in the Fowl River Watershed Management Plan (2016). The extent and health of these important features have declined due to stress from saltwater intrusion, sea level rise, subsidence, sediment starvation, and boat wakes. This project will maintain the integrity of the river by stabilizing and enhancing the marsh spits, safeguarding seagrass beds, and protecting these important habitats for fish and wildlife. Funding for this project is provided through the State of Alabama and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund.

What to Expect During Construction

Multiple components of this project will be constructed simultaneously to finish as quickly as possible. During this time crews, equipment, and new structures will be on the river. Construction activities will only occur Monday through Friday. There will be significant activity so please use caution when boating throughout the area. Temporary "No Wake!" signs will be posted to ensure everyone's safety.

Key Components

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

To account for past sea level rise and anticipate future impacts, a thin layer of sediment will be placed on each spit to raise the elevation in two phases. Phase 1 will add 6-8 inches of lift. Phase 2 will add an additional 6-8 inches. The quantity and type of sediment needed to replenish the spits is not available in Fowl River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is contributing sediment from the Mobile River which is suitable and has been cleared of any contamination for beneficially restoring these spits.

SHORELINE PROTECTION

To alleviate the impacts of boat wakes and protect expansive seagrass beds adjacent to these spits, timber wave screens will be installed at key locations along with limited riprap (in high energy low seagrass areas). Unlike bulkheads, these screens will attenuate wave movement through the structures to support fish and wildlife.

SCAN FOR UPDATES

FLOWCODE PRIVACY.FLOWCODE.COM

U.S. ARMY
US Army Corps of Engineers®
ESA

Permit Number - SAM-2019-01020-DCH
Photos courtesy of Kris Skoda and Sam St. John